

## Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Pastor Eric Hullstrom  
201 4th Street NE, Buffalo Center, IA  
641-562-2552  
August 24, 2025 @ 9:30AM  
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost



## Mission Statement:

***"Faith, Hope and Love  
Make us available  
To our neighbors  
Near and far."***

Welcome and Announcements  
***Blessing of the Backpacks***  
Greeting Our Neighbors

Call to Worship

**P:** People of God, let us make a joyful noise unto the Lord.

**C:** **Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into His presence with singing! Know that the LORD, He is God! It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.**

**P:** Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to Him; bless His name! For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

**C:** **Let us make a joyful noise unto the Lord.**

**P:** Let us pray...

Opening prayer

Opening song ***"I Will Call Upon the Lord"***

Order of Confession and Forgiveness

**P:** The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul.

**C:** **The decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple.**

**P:** The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart.

**C:** **The commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes.**

**P:** The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever.

**C:** **The ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.**

**P:** They are more precious than gold,

**C:** **Than much pure gold;**

**P:** They are sweeter than honey,

**C:** **Than honey from the comb.**

**P:** But who can detect their errors? Forgive our hidden faults, Oh Lord.

**C:** **Keep Your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over us. Then we shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.**

## I Will Call Upon the Lord

I will call upon the Lord,  
Who is worthy to be praised! So  
shall I be saved from my enemies.  
The Lord liveth, and blessed be the  
rock, and may the God of my salva-  
tion be exalted.  
The Lord liveth, and blessed be the  
rock, and may the God of my salva-  
tion be exalted.

**(Repeat from the beginning)**



**Sunday  
September 7  
10:45 am**

**Join us, after worship, to kick-off the Sunday School year. We will be heading to Lions Park for games, food, and fun! Sunday school registration can be found on the Bethlehem Lutheran Sunday School page on Facebook.**

P: Oh Lord hear our prayer and our confession and cries to You...



<Silence for personal confession and meditation>

P: Most merciful God,

**C: We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against You in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die FOR YOU, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

Prayer of the Day:

**Care for your Church, O Lord, with perpetual mercy. Since we totter and are sure to fall without your grace, remove what will harm us and arrange what will make us whole. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Scripture Reading – Hebrews 11:1-16

Psalms 50:1-15 (Read responsively)

The Mighty One, God the Lord,  
speaks and summons the earth  
from the rising of the sun to its setting.

**2 Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty,  
God shines forth.**

3 Our God comes; he does not keep silence;  
before him is a devouring fire,  
around him a mighty tempest.

**4 He calls to the heavens above  
and to the earth, that he may judge his people:**

5 "Gather to me my faithful ones,  
who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!"

**6 The heavens declare his righteousness,  
for God himself is judge!**

### The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son,  
our Lord. He was conceived by the  
power of the Holy Spirit and born of  
the virgin Mary. He suffered under  
Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and  
was buried. He descended into hell. On  
the third day he rose again. He ascend-  
ed into heaven, and is seated at the  
right hand of the Father. He will come  
again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.

Amen

### The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom  
come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and  
forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive  
those who trespass against us; lead us  
not into temptation, but deliver us  
from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the  
power, and the glory, forever and ever.  
Amen



7 “Hear, O my people, and I will speak;  
O Israel, I will testify against you.  
I am God, your God.

**8 Not for your sacrifices do I rebuke you;  
your burnt offerings are continually before me.**

9 I will not accept a bull from your house  
or goats from your folds.

**10 For every beast of the forest is mine,  
the cattle on a thousand hills.**

11 I know all the birds of the hills,  
and all that moves in the field is mine.

**12 “If I were hungry, I would not tell you,  
for the world and its fullness are mine.**

13 Do I eat the flesh of bulls  
or drink the blood of goats?

**14 Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving,  
and perform your vows to the Most High,**

15 and call upon me in the day of trouble;  
I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.”

Song of the Day **“Who You Say I Am”**

Preaching Text : Genesis 45:1-15

Sermon: Genesis Summer Survey  
**“Passing the Test”**

Apostles’ Creed

Offering  
Offertory **“Change My Heart, O God”**

Prayers of the Church

The Lord’s Prayer

The Blessing

Closing Song **“I’ll Fly Away”**

***Have a wonderful week!***

### **Who You Say I Am**

Who am I that the highest King would welcome  
me? I was lost but He brought me in  
Oh His love for me, Oh his love for me

Who the Son sets free, O is free indeed,  
I’m a child of God, yes, I am

Free at last, He has ransomed me,  
His grace runs deep, While I was slave to sin,  
Jesus died for me, Yes, He died for me

Who the Son sets free, O is free indeed,  
I’m a child of God, yes, I am

In my Father’s house, There’s a place for me,  
I’m a child of God, yes, I am  
I am chosen, not forsaken, I am who You say I  
am, You are for me, not against me,  
I am who You say I am

Who the Son sets free, O is free indeed,  
I’m a child of God, yes, I am

### **Change My Heart, O God**

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true;  
Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.

You are the Potter, I am the clay;  
Mold me and make me, this is what I pray.

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true;  
Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.

### **Pray for our Members and Friends:**

Emily Schulz	Emmagene Silber
Jaya Fever	Deloris Steffensen
Brian Bashans	Claire Rustemier-Hinz
Christina Coughlin	Carolyn Bartz
Roger Burnside	Joy Albert
Virginia Cooper	Harlan Melz
Dawn Jensvold	Leroy Weaver
Penny Mitchell	Karen Buss
Curtis Vaudt	Marge Becker
Charlie Schaefer	Joan Sunde
Pastor Mark Neumann	Jason Christensen
Pastor Larry Gruis	

## August/September

31 Brad Kemnitz Family & Kim Thompson  
\*7 Derek Thilges Family and Deb & Mark Landheer  
\*14 Doug & Kim Ostermann and Tate Engelbarts Family  
21 Lori Bierle and Ted & Darla Thompson  
28 Norah Blodgett Family & Thomas & Amanda Blodgett

Bethlehem - Thank you for the quilt and all the support you've given me all these years.

- Brendan Price



## Calendar of Events

### August/September:

31 - Worship at 9:30 am  
2 - Bible Study with Pastor @ 2:00 pm  
3 - 10th grade Confirmation student/parent meeting at 6:15 pm  
3 - Guest Night @ 7:00 pm  
7 - Worship with Communion @ 9:30 am  
7 - RALLY SUNDAY!! At 10:45 am

## GUEST NIGHT

Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
Buffalo Center

Wednesday, September 3, 2025, 7:00pm  
In the SOCIAL HALL

Speaker: Kathy Mathahs  
Owner of The Corner Pumpkin Patch  
Their VISION & their DREAM  
was to raise money to build a well. ....  
**ONE PUMPKIN AT A TIME!**



Casual time of fellowship.  
Kick off your FALL SEASON with  
a pumpkin craft followed by  
delicious pumpkin desserts  
for refreshments.

08.17.25 Giving  
\$2,195

Attendance: 31  
Online views: 32

### 2025 Church Council

Derek Thilges ~ President  
Kelsey Bosma ~ Vice President/Stewardship  
Thomas Blodgett ~ Treasurer/Tech  
Kim Ostermann ~ Secretary  
Grant Jacobs ~ Education  
Darryl Friest ~ Evangelism  
Katie Mathahs ~ Fellowship  
Darla Thompson ~ Worship  
Property ~ Larry Lawson

## I'll Fly Away

Some bright morning when this life is over,  
I'll fly away  
To that home on God's celestial shore,  
I'll fly away

### Chorus:

*I'll fly away, oh glory, I'll fly away,  
When I die hallelujah by and by, I'll fly away*

When the shadows of this life have gone,  
I'll fly away,  
Like a bird from these prison walls,  
I'll fly away

Oh how glad and happy when we meet,  
I'll fly away  
No more cold iron shackles on my feet,  
I'll fly away

Just a few more weary days and then  
I'll fly away  
To a land where joys will never end,  
I'll fly away

### Repeat Chorus

## CONTACT US:

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### Facebook:

Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
Bethlehem Lutheran Sunday School



### VANCO Giving

Weekly, monthly,  
and on-demand  
giving is available  
through Vanco's app or you  
can scan here.  
Many of us have  
found this to be  
an easy and useful  
way to give.  
For more info or  
questions, contact  
Thomas B or Susan.  
Thanks.

