

# Oh Bethlehem!

## <<<Calendar of Events>>>

### October

- 2-5 LCMC Gathering
- 10-Council @ 6pm
- 11-Ladies Study with Pastor Eric
- 16-3<sup>rd</sup> Graders receive Bibles
- 18-Worship meets @ 8:30am
- 23-Kids Sing
- Soup Supper Drive Thru Fundraiser
- 25-Quilting @ 1pm
- 30-Reformation Sunday
- Confirmation Sunday

## <<<Greeters and Ushers>>>

### October

- \*2 Ashlyn Bechler(c) Family and Brian Blodgett Family
- \*9 Pentico Family and Kevin Hagen(c) Family
- 16 Dave/Renee Sachs and Ray/Vonnie Pilgrim
- 23 Mark/Deb Landheer and Thomas/Amanda Blodgett
- 30 Marty Schaeffer Family

### November

- 6 Brooklyn Price(c) Family & Mark/Kim Ostermann
  - 13 Braden Ullmann(c) Family & Nich Holland Family
  - 20 Dave/Kate Kakacek
  - 27 Mitch Engelbarts Family & Amy Walk/ Mary Badje
- \*\*\*\*please watch for updates and changes in the schedule.

## **Making ourselves available...**

**October Food Bank: Muffin mix, Canned Fruit/Veg. Soup, Paper towel, Kleenex and Toilet Paper.**

**“Our numbers are increasing, so anything you donate will be helpful. Thank You.**

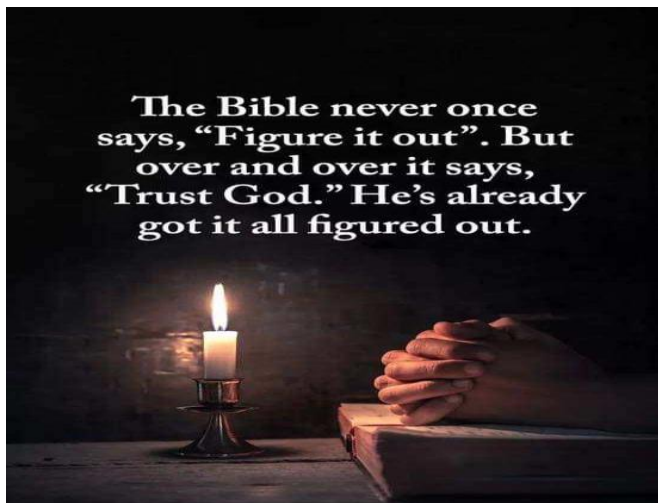
**All donations can be dropped off in the Narthex of the church.**

## <<<Bethlehem Ladies>>>

The next study will be on Oct 11th @ 2pm.  
In the fellowship hall.

Pastor is still presenting on the book of Philippians.  
Rides are available if you call the church office.  
562-2552. All ladies are invited to join in.

**The Bible never once says, “Figure it out”. But over and over it says, “Trust God.” He’s already got it all figured out.**



## **Educational Classroom Expansion**

**HOORAY!** We reached our goal and it is so good that we have a committed congregation to see us through our needs here at Bethlehem. **Thank You.**

Our goal is to keep the Project Fund ongoing so that we will be able to address and take care of the unexpected and ongoing care of our church building and parsonage. This way we are not dipping into our General fund budget. We do budget for Property, but this does not cover bigger expenses that may come about. God is always working in our church body. When giving to this please designate.

**We are so Blessed and Thankful.**

## <<Pastor Eric>>

Through my eighteen plus years of being a pastor, I have had the privilege of serving with many church councils. I have served with leaders who answered the call and God used them, each and every one of them. Some came onto the council out of a sense of duty (“*It is my turn*”). Some came on under pressure/encouragement from the nominating committee and/or the pastor 😊 A few actually came forward and volunteered without being asked. I have even seen a couple people get nominated by their spouse from the annual meeting floor. No matter how they were called, they answered the call, and God used them for His glory.

Now, I can about imagine some of you thinking, “*Oh boy, here goes to the pastor, trying to pressure people to serve on the council.*” Some of you may run and hide when you see a nominating committee member approach you on a Sunday. But please do not be afraid and please do not run. Just listen, listen to what God may be saying. Listen to what God is up to. Listen and give this a fair chance and consideration.

You have heard and read this over and over, but I will write it again, “*God is doing a thing here at Bethlehem and in Buffalo Center.*” And as God does His “thing”, He does so through you and me. Throughout scripture, God uses unsuspecting people. God uses those whom others may write off. God uses those who do not feel qualified so He can get the glory.

As we approach the end of the year, we are facing a larger number of council vacancies than normal. The pandemic, in part, is responsible for that, and now we are feeling its effects. My request is that you seriously and prayerfully consider what God is wanting to do through you; to be part of this “thing” that God is doing. So, what say you? Will you answer the call? I hope you do, because God IS doing a thing here., and what a joy it is to be part of this “thing”. To God be the glory. Amen.

Pastor Eric

## <<October Confirmation Corner>>

Confirmation is off and running. Once again, you (ADULTS), are welcome to attend and listen in to the teaching time. Gathering is from 6:45 to 7:15 PM on Wednesdays. There will be fellowship, snacks, and music. At 7:15 we begin with announcements and individual journaling time. The large group teaching time begins at 7:30 PM with small groups to follow. You can be my small group to process what you just heard. Here are the topics that are coming up:

Oct 5 ~ Worship/The Church (Acts 2:42-47)

Oct 12 ~ Spiritual gifts

Oct 19 ~ “As you go...” (Matthew 28:19-20)

Oct 26 ~ Lord’s Prayer (Introduction and 1<sup>st</sup> Petition)

Nov 2 ~ Lord’s Prayer (2<sup>nd</sup> petition)

## Devotional opportunities

As you have heard, we have a Bible reading Facebook group that has been going since February. I continue to write daily devotions as we are working our way through the New Testament. Currently there are 75 people in this group from Bethlehem and beyond. This is open to anyone. Let me know if you have questions and/or want to join.

Also, there is now another devotional opportunity. On the church website there is a new tab called “Devotions”. I am posting short devotional thoughts on scripture that I am reading. This page will be updated a couple times a week. Feel free to share the link or the devotions however you see fit to glorify God.



### <<1G update and request>>

God is good, all the time. All the time, God is good. Amen? God has been and is on the move here in Buffalo Center. We started the One God Network (1G) in February of this year and averaged 38 to 42 kids. I remember getting excited when we hit the 40 mark. Just recently, on Sept 19 we had 57 kids and then on Sept 26 we had 62 kids. God has brought the increase. And with that increase I have two requests,

**(1) Pray, pray and pray some more (but you are probably already doing that, so please keep it up), and**

**(2) You. We are in need of people to BE WITH KIDS.** We are not asking you to plan a lesson or a craft, we need adults who love kids to love on kids. Plain and simple. We need you to be present and show them Jesus. Will you answer the call? Just show up on a Monday at 3:15 PM and we will get you started. It's that easy and that important. God is doing a thing here. ***Praise be to God!***

### <<stewardship>>

Happy Fall, Y'all!

Wow has this year flown! Hard to believe we are in the last several months of 2022. It's been an exciting year not only in our church but also in our community. God is on the move and it is so much fun to see how he is working through his people. Thank you all for using the gifts God gave you to be a part of it, whether it be financially, through your time and talents or both! We crushed our goal for the Educational Classroom Expansion project and will use all excess donations given towards it to continue improving our church home as necessary. Church Home...a place I love, a place where we get to come together to worship and commune with one another, a place to teach our children about the hope, faith and love that can only be found in a personal relationship with Christ. It's a pretty special place. So blessed for all of the generous giving so far this year to keep our home running and to help provide to ministries both in our own church, locally and globally. Financially, we are slightly behind where we should be for this time of year. But through continued giving, our upcoming Harvest Soup Supper, and other events I have no doubt God will provide. A home also needs everyone working together to keep it running smoothly. In the next several weeks, we will be passing out a Time and Talents form to each member. This form will help us all to recognize what unique talents God bestowed upon us. Most of us probably already know what our strong suits are, but hopefully we can bring them all together and use them to be the church we were created to be and let the talents God has given each of us to shine through!

"God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another."

~1 Peter 4:10

Blessings!

*Patty Hassebroek*

### <<communion>>

Communion is now served on the first and second Sunday of the month. If you know of anyone that is homebound and would like a communion visit, please call the church office. 641-562-2552

### <<cradle roll>>

Our Cradle Roll roster is growing! We currently have 5 children enrolled with more coming in the near future. If you would like to help with Cradle Roll or sponsor a child please contact Cassie Willmert.

A \$100 donation sponsors a child in the program for 3 years.

**Sunday October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7pm**  
**Lone Rock Presbyterian Church**  
**"The Blackwood Brothers"-Southern Gospel Quartet.**  
**Refreshments and fellowship to follow.**

**Sunday October 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm**  
**Lakota Presbyterian**  
**Mission Fest Hymn Sing**  
**Special featured Guests**

## <<fellowship & evangelism>>

What is fellowship? What is evangelism?

Fellowship seems to focus on the gathering of our church family while evangelism reaches out to others outside of our membership. I believe these cross over in our small community. We tend to always open our arms to everyone and to support them in any way we can.

Simply stated, fellowship is the life of the church family. Do the people love the Lord and enjoy one another?

Listen to the noise level in our church before and after the service. What you are hearing is the sound of fellowship. "A noisy church is a healthy church."

*It is not good for man to be alone*, He said (Genesis 2:18). More than a marriage between a man and a woman, we need one another in our church fellowship. When we love the Lord, we treasure His people and enjoy being with them. When we grow resistant to the Lord, we find ourselves resenting other believers, growing critical of them, and drifting away.

What did you miss most during the pandemic? Many Christian people admitted they missed the fellowship: getting together, hugging, visiting, working, and playing. We need that. God made us this way. Wasn't it great when we returned to the altar for communion?!

Every Sunday is a chance for fellowship following the church service during "Coffee Hour." We look forward to sharing our love for Christ and our love for one another during this time. Please let us know if you're willing to help serve on any Sunday.

We experienced a wonderful fellowship with evangelism outreach in August with Guest Night. Sixty people attended to hear our guest speaker, Rachel Hansen.

We are planning a fall luncheon for Saturday, November 12. Food and fellowship is always a great combination! We look forward to sharing our fellowship with many others in our community.

We have some other ideas to incorporate throughout the year but are always open to anyone else's ideas of ways to reach out to both our church family and our extended community. Please contact Amy Walk or Kim Ostermann if you have any suggestions.

Some ideas we've discussed:

- Renting the Lake Mills Movie Theatre when a good film comes out.
- Offering a viewing of "The Chosen" at church
- Looking for activities or speakers that might be of interest to the younger families of our church.
- Looking to get a group together to visit area nursing homes.

Amy Walk & Kim Ostermann



**It's time once again for the Annual Drive Thru Harvest Soup Supper. We are looking for volunteers to donate an Apple Dessert. (9x13 pan) We will need to get 20 desserts. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex or let Jen know in the office. Thank You very much!**

### <<education>>

Hello!

We have started the year off with a bang and owe much thanks to many people for their hard work and dedication. After an amazing first couple of weeks, we had to quickly “grow” in to some more space!

What a wonderful problem to have.

We are now back to using 4 SS rooms off the fellowship hall, and our new room out front.

Exciting news...

the SS kids will be singing the third week of each month, and we are working on new songs to share with you all. Confirmation has also begun, and I am looking forward to a great year with an awesome group of kids.

It is so awesome to see them learning and growing in their faith.

The 1G program also had its official start a couple weeks ago, and last week welcomed a record number of kids!

A huge thanks to all who have helped with that, as well as providing food for the meals.

Speaking of food... I need more SS parent volunteers to help make and prep snacks for class on Sunday mornings.

We will always accept donations of juice boxes and cookies as well!

Dates to remember:

October 16 – 3rd graders receive their bibles.

October 30- Confirmation for Brenden Price, Ashley Bechler, Alyssa Olsen and Andy Buchs

Have a blessed October everyone!

*Kelsey Bosma,*

SS Superintendent

### <<treasurer>>

Giving as of 10.01.2022

**\$93,276.19**

Budgeted giving for 2022

**\$160,000.00**

**“God is doing a thing at Bethlehem”** as we are blessed greatly by your generous giving.

We ask that you continue to give so we can meet our 2022 budget and continue with our progress.

### <<technology>>

Kyle Winter met with our current confirmation students and showed them what exactly goes into a weekly service technology wise. We hope to have some of them joining the crew. If you have any interest in helping us in this area, please reach out to Kyle or myself.

*Brian Blodgett*

### <<property>>

We are happy to see the completion of the new landscaping around the church sign and front of the church. Thank you to the many hands that helped get that done. Thank you to those of you that provided donations toward this project. Also, the remodel of the nurse-y-library-classroom. It is wonderful to be able to provide the spaces within our church to meet the needs of our SS program. We have had a great summer in the sanctuary with the air temperatures. It won't be long, and we will be starting up our heating system. This will be our second season using the new boiler. As we move into the fall and winter, we will continue to take care of the physical needs of our building.

*Brandon and Derek*

## Church Council Meeting Minutes

September 12, 2022 @ 6 pm  
\*\*\*held in the meeting room\*\*\*

*Faith, hope, and love make us available for our neighbors near and far.*

Members present: Pastor Eric, Brian Blodgett, Amy Walk, Kelsey Bosma, Cassie Willmert, Patty Hassebroek, Derek Thilges, Susan Jensen, Jen McGrady, Kim Ostermann  
Absent: Brandon Thilges

The meeting was called to order @ 6:05

1. Pastor Eric opened with devotion and prayer.
2. Secretary's Report
  - a. August minutes approved via email. Motion to approve by Kelsey; seconded by Cassie
3. Treasurer's Report
  - a. Savings Account: \$583.49
  - b. Checking Account: \$6,421.34
  - c. Line of Credit: \$0
  - d. Special Projects Account: \$4,028

We're about 70% through the year with 54% of the budget given.  
Motion to approve made by Amy; seconded by Kelsey

4. Committee Reports
  - a. Technology
    - i. Wireless mic echo has been addressed.
    - ii. Cameras were rebooted and working again.
  - b. Property
    - i. Locks for the parsonage are done.
    - ii. Landscaping project is done and paid for. Possibly looking to update the flagpole area.
    - iii. Work continues on new storage/Sunday School rooms.
    - iv. Waiting on leak in the boiler room?
    - v. Contact has been made with a roofer to see what might be done with the leak in the Pre/K SS room.
    - vi. Outside lighting could be looked at. It's dark at the end of the sidewalk by the curb
  - c. Worship
    - i. Worship Committee meets Tuesday, September 20
    - ii. Discussion about Worship end time/SS start time. Times will stay as is for now.
  - d. Stewardship
    - i. "Time and Talents" update. We'll try to do a bulletin insert.
    - ii. Drive-thru Soup Supper fundraiser is being planned for October 23<sup>rd</sup>.
  - e. Education
    - i. The 4-year olds and 5-year olds will now be separate classes due to the numbers.
    - ii. Confirmation starts Sept 14<sup>th</sup>.
    - iii. Rally Sunday was September 11<sup>th</sup>. 58 students have registered for Sunday School.
    - iv. 1G Network started Monday, September 12. 45 students attended the first day.
    - v. Sunday School students will be singing once a month.
  - g. Fellowship/Evangelism
    - i. Guest Night went well with about 60 people in attendance. Rachel Hansen wouldn't accept anything for a stipend, so a gift basket was prepared and given to her. We enjoyed having Gayle at the piano again.

- ii. The Harvest Blessing along with the video was well received.
- iii. Plans will move forward for a Fall Luncheon on Saturday, November 12th.
- iv. Other upcoming ideas include
  - \*Renting the Lake Mills Movie Theatre when a good film comes out.
  - \*Offering a viewing of "The Chosen" at church
  - \*Looking for activities or speakers that might be of interest to the younger families of our church, please contact Amy or Kim. We would love to reach out and serve those members of our congregation in a way that strengthens their Christian commitment.
  - \*Looking to get a group together to visit area nursing homes.

#### 5. Pastor Report

1. Pastor Eric put together a schedule for services at Timely Mission, but the services have been suspended due to county Covid numbers. He is scheduled to lead worship there again on October 16 if they open again.
2. A monthly pastor's gathering was held at Bethlehem on Thursday, August 18<sup>th</sup>. There were 15 pastors in attendance. Amy Walk provided a delicious meal.
3. August had one baptism – Kenton Kemnitz
4. Blessing of the backpacks was held during the August 21<sup>st</sup> worship prior to school starting. This went very well with Kelsey Bosma and Mary Giesking assisting.
5. Pastor Eric met with the four 10<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation students. They all have what they need to do to get ready for Confirmation Sunday on October 30 (Reformation Sunday).
6. Pastor Eric traveled to perform two baptisms for families from his first call.
7. RALLY WEEK – Sunday School started September 11, 1G Network started September 12, and Confirmation orientation was September 14.
8. The LCMC National Gathering is October 2-5. Pastor Eric will be attending at Hosanna Church in Lakeville, MN.
9. Women's Bible Study continues with the book of Philipians.
10. Confirmation students will be attending Church Council meetings. They will pick a month and sign up in pairs to attend. Pastor will meet with the students following the meeting to debrief.

#### 6. Office Report:

1. We would like Confirmation students to attend Bible Camp in the summer. Planning and fundraising should begin shortly.
2. Bethlehem Lutheran is serving the 1G meal on Oct. 3
3. We now have a basic Sam's Club Membership to purchase cleaning supplies, etc.

#### 7. New Business

- a. September Mission: Lutheran World Relief (regular rotation is LCMC, local, global)  
Motion made by Brian; seconded by Patty  
Link to suggested missions: [Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ \(lcmc.net\)](http://lutherancongregationsinmissionforchrist.lcmc.net)  
These are mission partners suggested by LCMC
8. Next meeting: October 10<sup>th</sup>, 6:00pm
9. Newsletter deadline: September 26th
10. Motion to Adjourn made by Amy; seconded by Derek  
Meeting adjourned at 7:26pm

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Kim L. Ostermann*  
Secretary



Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
201 4<sup>th</sup> St. NW  
Buffalo Center, IA 50424

**"FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE** make us available  
for our neighbors near and far."

FIND US ON FACEBOOK  
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