



# *Oh Bethlehem*

## **<<<Events>>>**

June 12- Communion Sunday

June 13 @6pm—Council meeting

June 21 @9:30am—Worship Comm meeting

June 26-30 Pastor on vacation.

July 5-7 Pastor on vacation

July 13- 1G Youth and families event in Park

July 23- Bridal Shower for Amanda Jamison

July 29-31 Bison Days

July 31- Community Church Service in Park

Aug 1-5 VBS Hosted by First Reformed Church

Aug 6- Bridal Shower for Natalie Sachs

## **<<<Greeters and Ushers>>>**

### July

3 Mike Baumann Family and Cheryl Baumann

10 Jeff Ostermann Family and Frances Ostermann

17 Phil Hager Family and Patti & Travis Hassebroek

24 Kyle Winter Family and Rod & Gayle Hansen

31 Jen McGrady

### August

7 Duane Cooper Family and Jesse Bosma Family

14 Derek Olson Family and Denny & Dawn Meinders

21 Rande & Mary Geisking and Derek & Shelby Thilges

28 Ted & Darla Thompson and William & Marge Becker

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

### ***June Food Bank***

*Cereal*

*Can Chicken*

*Can Fruit*

*Can Veggies*

*Cake Mix*

*Brownie Mix*

***“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 July 5<sup>th</sup> @ 2pm.

and the topic of discussion will be about

Philippians Chapter 1

Pastor will lead you in the Book of Philippians for the next few months.

Rides are available if you call the church office. 562-2552.

All ladies are invited to join in.

<<treasurer>>

We are 41% through the year and to date have received 34% of our budgeted giving. Thank you everyone for your giving, we continue to see great things happening at Bethlehem. Please continue!

Our digital ministry continues to be strong. Over the last 5 months the most popular services included the following. Pastor is now also including more info each week in the details section of the YouTube videos. See an example from the service on 5/29/2022.

Go to our YouTube Channel and check it out. You can find us by going to the website <https://www.bethlehemlutheranbc.com/> and click on SERMONS.

## Video details

Title (required) ?

Sunday morning worship ~ 05-29-2022

Description ?

Welcome to Bethlehem Lutheran Church!

Our mission statement is, "Faith, Hope and Love make us available for our neighbors near and far." That means we strive to serve Jesus and make him known to our community and beyond through Word and deed; living out our common faith. We are who we are because of God's grace through Jesus Christ and thus we do not and will not hide that Good News.

To learn more about this congregation, visit our website at: [www.bethlehemlutheranbc.com](http://www.bethlehemlutheranbc.com)

So now, let us worship our great God...

Scripture:

Revelation 22:1-11



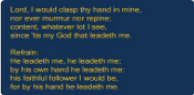
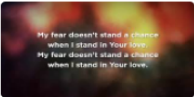

Psalms 133

John 17:20-26 (Preaching text)

Sermon title: "All for One and One for all"

What does true Christian unity look like and why is it vitally important?

## Your top content in this period

Content	Average view duration	Views
 <p>1 Sunday worship - 01/02/2022 Jan 2, 2022</p>	14:38 (24.4%)	63
 <p>2 Easter Festival Service 4/17/22 Apr 17, 2022</p>	22:13 (25.0%)	62
 <p>3 Sunday worship - 01/23/2022 Jan 23, 2022</p>	18:43 (22.2%)	55
 <p>4 Sunday worship - 02-13-2022 Feb 13, 2022</p>	26:54 (31.8%)	48
 <p>5 Sunday worship - 02-20-2022 Feb 20, 2022</p>	15:19 (20.5%)	45

## <<Stewardship>>

What does it mean to be a Christian Steward? There are many facets to the answer to this question! Christian Stewardship refers to the responsibility that Christians have in maintaining and using wisely the gifts that God has bestowed, both financially and through our spiritual gifts, time and talents.

Financially, it means that we are responsible for the blessings provided by God. Through the financial gifts given to the church, we are able to maintain our church building, the church grounds and take care of the essentials. But there is so much more to it than that. We also use these offerings to educate our children, to provide help to those in need through various missions (both local and globally), for fellowship, and for opportunities to spread God's word in various ways both in our church building, our community and our world.

Another facet of being a Christian Steward is using our spiritual gifts through our time and talents. We are all uniquely, fearfully and wonderfully made. Great things can happen when we allow God to work through us. Maybe your gift is serving, leading, teaching, encouraging, praying, singing...or multiple talents. It takes all of our time and talents working together to be the church that we were created to be.

Our church has been moving in amazing ways! My hope is that we continue to do so by exploring how we can best use our gifts, both financially and through time and talents, to continue to be good stewards and glorify God.

"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**

## <<<Giving>>>

Giving can be done easily online, right from your phone or computer. We have had great success this last year with weekly offering coming right into our General Fund at the bank. This is an easy and convenient option, check it out today! [www.bethlehemplutheranbc.com/giving](http://www.bethlehemplutheranbc.com/giving)

If you would like more information or guidance on setting this up, please see Brian Blodgett or Jen McGrady.

## FELLOWSHIP TIME

I (Pastor Eric) want to talk with you. All of you. And no, you are not in trouble, I just want to talk with you and get to know you (and so does everyone else) And so, I invite you to stay for **fellowship time after worship**. It is not that I am bored with the same people who stay every Sunday (I love you all), but I want to get to know more of you. Grab a yummy treat and/or some coffee and say "hi", or just stay and say "hi". No judgment here if you do not drink coffee. And I am not asking you to stay all morning, just don't rush out like the building is on fire. If you just cannot stay after worship, stop in during the week sometime and we can chat then. My door is always open (and coffee available if that is what you do). And so, I'll be waiting for you (in a good way) in the fellowship hall this Sunday (and every Sunday thereafter). Let's chat 😊

## FACEBOOK BIBLE READING GROUP

For those of you on Facebook, I am leading a Bible reading group. Each morning I post a devotional for you to ponder as you read your chapter for the day. You are invited into a conversation, or you can just read. This is a private group so if you want to be let in, just let me know or anyone else in the group. You can join anytime (of course, Facebook is required).

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

This is not dead. Keep your eyes and ears open...

## 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

<<Pastor Eric>>

Time is a strange thing. It plugs along at a methodical pace but yet it seems to slow down at the most inconvenient times. You might be going through a particularly difficult time of your life or maybe you are listening to a dull speaker. In such cases you might say that time has slowed down. We know that is not the case, but rather we are more cognizant of time's slow and relentless passage. And then there are those moments when you suddenly become aware of your surroundings and wonder where time went. In such cases you might say, "time flies when you are having fun" or "I blinked and now my children are in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades". Recently, I had another one of those where-has-time-gone moments. I received an invitation to a graduation open house for a young lady from my first call congregation - who was my very first baptism. In case you are counting, that would be eighteen years ago. And so that got me thinking some more. June 1 marks my eighteen-year anniversary of beginning my pastoral ministry and July 2 will be my ordination anniversary. Eighteen years! It is weird to type that, I mean, where has time gone?

A lot has changed in eighteen years. I can still remember my first week in the office at Salem Lutheran Church in Jackson, MN. My head was swimming with do-to list items, very few of which were things I learned in seminary. I was trying to get to know people. And to top things off, on my first day a council member came in with an issue she was having with an anonymous critic (unsigned note). What a way to begin. But time flew at Salem, and twelve years later, now with two children in tow, we packed up to move to Western Washington.

Now it is 2022 (after 5 years in Washington that flew by) and I am far from being wet behind the ears, even though someday it feels that way. I have learned a lot through the many mistakes I have made and through the many incredible people I have met along the way. I have grown in my faith through the highs and lows of life that were faithfully guided by my Lord and Savior, Jesus. And, dare I say, I have gained some wisdom (at least the gray hairs that would signal said wisdom).

Yes, the slow and methodical march of time has seemingly moved into a dead sprint recently, and before we know it, the summer will be done. But remember to slow down and take in the sights. Enjoy your moments but do not forget who you are and who's you are – a child of God. Slow down and worship. Slow down and pray. Slow down and reflect on God's promises. Slow down and "Be Still", just "Be still". Enjoy each and every moment of time that slowly, and methodically marches on, taking in all the sights, because it will never stop to allow you a "do over".

Pastor Eric

### *A Summer of Showers!*

*Open House Bridal Shower*  
Honoring Amanda Jamison  
bride-elect of Thomas Blodgett  
You can greet Amanda on  
Saturday, July 23 from 10-12pm.  
In the fellowship hall.  
Amanda and Thomas  
are registered at  
Target, Crate and Barrel, and Murra

*Open House Bridal Shower*  
For Natalie Sachs  
bride-elect of Ryan Bettenga  
Join us on Saturday August 6<sup>th</sup>  
10-11:30am in the fellowship hall.  
Natalie and Ryan  
are registered at  
Amazon, Walmart and Target



## Church Council Meeting Minutes

May 9, 2022 @ 6 pm

\*\*\*held in the meeting room\*\*\*

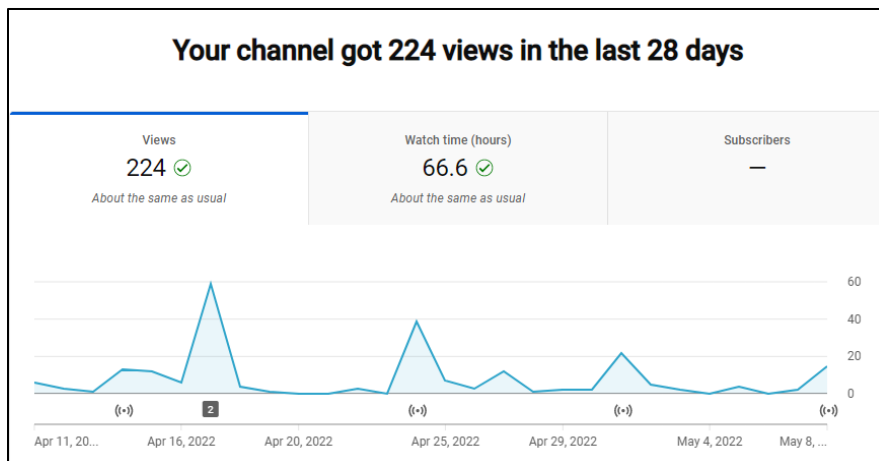
*Faith, hope, and love make us available for our neighbors near and far.*

Members present: Pastor Eric, Cassie Willmert, Kelsey Bosma, Brian Blodgett, Patty Hassebroek, Amy Walk, Kim Ostermann, Jen McGrady

Absent: Brandon Thilges, Derek Thilges, Susan Jensen

Meeting called to order @ 6:07

1. Pastor Eric opened with devotion and prayer.
2. Old Business
  - a. April minutes approved via email. Motion to approve by Patty; seconded by Amy.
3. Treasurer's Report
  - a. Savings Account: \$3,582.48
  - b. Checking Account: \$11,629.75
  - c. Line of Credit: \$0
  - d. Percentage of Budget: 30% of budget given and we're 35% through the year
  - e. Expenses over \$1,000 in the last 30 days: None
4. Committee Reports
  - a. Technology – Worship streaming on YouTube is going well. No other changes.



- b. Property
  - i. Picking up new locks for both front door and back door to have the same key.
  - ii. Update on parsonage water issue by the garage. Tiling is done, and the ground is being leveled. A couple of heavy rains- and the basement stayed dry. There was a leak in a basement water pipe – Alphas have fixed that as well.
  - iii. We had a visit from a landscaper for possibilities with sign in front of church.
  - iv. The custodial position had one applicant. Council will review with the applicant.
  - v. We have a need for additional space for Sunday School rooms because of our increasing enrollment. We are investigating some possibilities for repurposing some areas for storage and Sunday School rooms along with potential cost.
- c. Worship
  - i. First Communion students during Holy Week. 13 students participated.
  - ii. Easter Services/Breakfast went well.
  - iii. Senior Recognition Sunday May 15<sup>th</sup>. Our Seniors: Brock Jensen, Parker Johnson, Logan Sabin, Riley Sabin.
  - iv. The first Sunday of the month is traditional liturgy.
  - v. Worship Committee meets May 17<sup>th</sup>.

d. Stewardship

- i. "Time and Talents" update.
- ii. Financial giving is important. We consider it a personal issue as well as a Faith Issue. Each individual gives from their heart in ways they feel they can afford.
- iii. Pulled Pork Fundraiser a possibility for August.
- iv. Bison Days – possibility of serving Root Beer Floats and popcorn Friday night, July 29<sup>th</sup>.

e. Education

- i. Confirmation retreat May 13-15 at Okoboji. This is for all confirmation students. Ten students out of 13 are planning to attend. The Easter Breakfast brought in \$455 which will be used for expenses. Most of the food is being donated. Brian moved to approve \$600 from the LYO fund for the retreat. Amy Walk seconded. Motion passed. The last confirmation class is Wednesday, May 11.
- ii. The last day of Sunday School is May 15<sup>th</sup> along with Senior Recognition.
- iii. 1G Network has 2 sessions left this school year. We've had consistent participation in the younger group with 38-42 students. The group is already planning a summer event and continuing the program again next fall. They plan to start a Facebook page for better communication. A new logo was designed.
- iv. VBS August 1-4 at First Reformed Church, registration is open. "Zoomerang" is the theme. At "Zoomerang," they'll marvel at the unforgettable wildlife, culture, and beauty of Australia while exploring the wonder of life and eternal life in the kingdom of God.
- v. Sunday School starts September 11<sup>th</sup> with Rally Sunday.

f. Fellowship

- i. Scholarship update. There were two applicants who will both receive scholarships. Brock Jensen will receive the Bierle Scholarship and Logan Sabin will receive the Bethlehem Lutheran Scholarship.

g. Evangelism

- i. Spring Coffee was attended by about 35 people. Rolls, coffee cake, sliced oranges, coffee, and juice were served. A total of \$353.00 in free will donations was received with no additional expense.
- ii. We've been asked to help with another Red Cross blood drive planned for June 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Heritage Town Center.

5. Pastor Report

a. Holy Week / Easter recap

Maundy Thursday brought a full sanctuary representing various congregations in town. We celebrated 13 First Communion students – one not present will have his First Communion at a later date. Good Friday was hosted by United Methodist Church – Pastor Eric helped lead worship. Easter Sunday Sunrise Service (7:00am) had confirmation students assisting with worship as well as serving Easter breakfast. Easter Festival (9:30am) provided wonderful music with a brass ensemble. Plan to meet with the worship committee to debrief and share notes for next year.

- b. The last confirmation class session for this school year is Wednesday, May 11. Grades 7-9 will attend a retreat at Okoboji Bible Camp May 13-15. As of now, only 3 students are not able to attend. We will focus on various New Testament stories about Jesus and God's plan to redeem us from sin. Pastor will re-evaluate the confirmation curriculum over the summer. Some of the material we've been using is no longer available.
- c. Pastor Eric will preach at bacalaureate this year on May 18. The ministerial association will finalize the order of worship and other details for the service.
- d. Women's Bible Study will continue throughout the summer. Last week focused on Luke 24:13-35, the Road to Emmaus. Next month will be a study in Acts – what makes the church. After that the study will go through Paul's letter to the Philippians. There has been good attendance of 12-15 women.
- e. Pastor's summer goals include planning the Community Worship Service during Bison Days along with Larry Gruis. The confirmation curriculum and program will be re-evaluated. The planning team will meet for the 1G kick-off in the fall. Summer reading for both enjoyment and theological enhancement.

6. Office Report



1. Newsletter was emailed. Please let the office know if you did not receive a message and were expecting one. It could be in a SPAM folder. Be sure to let Jen know if you want a paper copy.
6. New Business
  - a. May Mission: Food Pantry (regular rotation is LCMC, local, global)  
Motion made by Kelsey Bosma      Seconded by Patty Hassebroek
7. Next meeting: June 13th – 6:00pm
8. Newsletter deadline: May 24th
9. Motion to adjourn made by Kelsey Bosma      seconded by Brian Blodgett  
Meeting adjourned at 7:46pm

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted by,  
Kim Ostermann, secretary

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



**Who:** All children age 4 years old through those who have completed 5th grade this school year

Pre-school age children must be 4 years old by July 31st.

**When:** August 1 (Monday) thru August 4 (Thursday)

**Time:** 5:30pm supper for students & parents  
6pm-8:15pm VBS

**Where:** First Reformed Church, 401 1st Street SW, Buffalo Center

### Registration Options

Online at <https://bc.myanswers.com>

OR return completed form(s) to First Reformed Church

OR mail completed form(s) to Kathi Nelson, 39515 20th Ave, Buffalo Center, IA 50424-7664.

Forms are available in our church narthex here at Bethlehem.

You may return completed forms to our office also.

***“Enjoy your moments but do not forget who you are and who’s you are – a child of God.”***



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  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
Bethlehem Lutheran Sunday School

[www.bethlehemplutheranbc.com](http://www.bethlehemplutheranbc.com)

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