



Oh Bethlehem

<<<Events>>>

July 6- Church Council @6pm
July 13-1G Youth and families event in Park
July 16-Shirley Myers funeral, 10:30am
July 19-Worship Comm. @9:30am
July 23-Bridal Shower for Amanda Jamison
July 29-31 Bison Days (Root Beer floats and Popcorn fundraiser, served by Confirmation students)
July 31-Community Church Service in Park
No Service at BLC.
Aug 1-5 VBS Hosted by First Reformed Church
Aug 6- Bridal Shower for Natalie Sachs
Aug 7-Sunday School Registration Event

Making ourselves available...

July Food Bank

Canned Fruit, Canned Veggies, Pie Crust Mix, Cereal and Juice.

Remember the food bank when you have a surplus of fresh produce.

“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.

<<<Greeters and Ushers>>>

July

17 Phil Hager Family and Patti & Travis Hasebroek
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

<<<Bethlehem Ladies>>>

The next study will be on Aug 2nd @ 2pm.
Everyone is welcome. 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.

***GOD IS GOOD...ALL THE TIME
ALL THE TIME...GOD IS GOOD***

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

<<Pastor Eric>>

With the end of the school year come changes in our schedules. It is not so much that things slow down, it is just new activities now fill our calendars. Unfortunately, those many activities crowd out other activities. Often and with many people, the one activity that gets crowded out the most is worship. Now before you let that last sentence turn you off and lead you to move on with this newsletter, please hang with me. I am not here to make you feel guilty (I can't make you feel anything actually). Guilt trips are never a long-term solution to anything. It just makes people resentful in the long haul. The reason for me writing what I did is for one reason and one reason alone: **I miss you**. You see, as a fellow member of the body of Christ I long to be with other brothers and sisters in Christ. I love worshiping with you. I love singing with you. I love praying with you. I love confessing the Apostles' Creed with you. I love receiving Holy Communion with you. I love hearing the Gospel with you. I love proclaiming the Gospel to you. I love visiting with you after worship. And the list could continue but you get the point. In the end, it is all about the unity of the body of Christ. Yes, we can pray and read the Bible at home or at the lake cabin, but nothing can replace the community of believers. Nothing can replace corporate worship. As the saying goes, there is safety in numbers and that safety is related to the opposition we have from the Adversary – Satan. Sheep on their own are vulnerable, but together with the Shepherd there is safety. But worship is more than safety. Worship is about the One who has saved you through Jesus Christ. It is ascribing to Him what is due to Him – glory.

So, in the meantime, wherever you are and whatever you are doing, know that the love of God through Jesus Christ never leaves you. Know that His grace is always there for you when you turn to Him and confess your sins. Know the peace of Christ that sustains you in this life. Know the hope of the resurrection that was given to you through the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Know that you are never absent from God.

Know, also, that my door is always open, my phone is on, and my email is monitored. And so, what that, allow me to share a couple quick updates of things coming up:

- ~ Miles John Thilges, son of Derek and Shelby, will be baptized during worship on July 17.
- ~ There will be an outdoor community worship service during Bison Days on July 31 at the Post Office park at 9:30 AM
- ~ Bethlehem Sunday registration event will be Sunday, August 7.
- ~ Rally Sunday will be September 11.

God bless your summer and I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Eric

<<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 study 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

<<Education>>

Hello everyone-

I am sure everyone is enjoying the nice, warm, summer vacation from school. I hope your days have been full of ball, activities, swimming, and fun! Though we haven't seen many of you for a while, (and boy do I miss the kiddos so much!), we have been busy at church and behind the scenes preparing for our youth events and upcoming education year!

I am pleased to say that with our SS program that continues to be such a blessing and is still growing, we are making needed adjustments over the summer to accommodate better space for classes in the fall. Along with this we are also looking at and tweaking curriculum, activities and fundraisers, and even the Christmas program already!

With that being said, please remember these upcoming dates and activities:

July 13th, 5:30pm: 1G picnic and park fun, including games and horses from Riding Light!

August 1-4th: Vacation Bible School, at First Reformed this year. Register online or return forms to the church.

August 7th, 11:30 am: Sunday School registration and fundraiser meal. ALL families AND members should join us for food and fun!

September 11th: Rally Sunday! Dedicated fellowship time with parents, and Sunday School begins.

I hope everyone enjoys the rest of their summer. Please reach out to me with any questions, concerns, or ideas you may have!

Thank you,

Kelsey Bosma, Education Superintendent



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 .

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

Time: 5:30pm supper for students & parents
6-8:30pm 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, 3951 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.

<<Stewardship>>

Greetings!

It's so hard to believe that we are already through half of the year already! I hope your summer is off to a good start and that you are finding ways to glorify God in all that you do. As discussed in previous newsletters, there are many facets to Christian Stewardship, and it has been pretty amazing to see how God is working through our church and community.

Financially, our giving is on track, but is borderline. Thank you all so much for your generous giving so far this year. Through the financial giving to our church, we are able to maintain our church building and grounds and all of the essentials. But we are also able to use these gifts to help those in need through various missions (both locally and globally), for fellowship, for opportunities to spread God's word in various ways through our church, community and world, and to help educate our youth.

I want to focus on the last one for a minute...educating our youth. We have an exciting "problem" at Bethlehem Lutheran. We are running out of space for all of the youth enrolled in Sunday School! Our church council has been working together to find a solution for this. We are going to be doing some renovations with the main focus being on the nursery. Proposed plans are to put a wall up in the room, with sliding barn doors, to give us 2 spaces yet allow for access to both rooms when needed. We also hope to update the carpet in the room. There are a few other ideas in the works as well, which will depend on how much we are able to raise. These improvements and updates will allow our facility to be more available for Sunday School, future programs and hosting VBS next year among other things. We have titled this campaign **Educational Classroom Expansion**. Our goal is 4000.00. We need your help to complete this goal and make the needed updates. Please write your checks to Bethlehem Lutheran Church and include "Educational Classroom Expansion", "Classroom project", or something similar in the memo.

This fall we are going to take some time to have everyone fill out a Time and Talents form. God bestowed unique talents to each of us. When we all use our time and talents to work together, we can be the church we were created to be. Christian Stewardship is so important in this broken world we are living in. Let the talents God has given shine through you!

"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





Midsummer Family Picnic!

Picnic meal provided FREE to the public

Hot dogs, brats, beans, chips, bars, watermelon, water

Riding Light Ministries will be providing horse rides

Lion's Park

Wednesday July 13 at 5:30 PM



Our upcoming Cradle Roll is excited to welcome 2 new babies to Bethlehem.

Miles John Thilges,
son of Shelby and Derek Thilges
Born June 17th.

We will celebrate Miles with
Holy Baptism, on July 17th
during our church service.

Also...Henry David Lappe,
son of Kylie Buns and Dylan Lappe.
Born June 26th.

We will welcome through
Holy Baptism, Carl Waugh,
Groom-elect of Ambre Anderson.
Carl will join our church on July 10th.

Letting a dear Saint go...
as we will have a
funeral service here at BLC
on Sat. July 16th at 10:30am
for Shirley Myers.
Visitation will be on Friday the 15th
from 5-7:30pm, here.

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 Hardware

Open House Bridal Shower

For Natalie Sachs

bride-elect of Ryan Bettenga

Join us on Saturday August 6th
10-11:30am in the fellowship hall.

Natalie and Ryan

are registered at

Amazon, Walmart and Target





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

FIND US ON FACEBOOK
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