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**ISSUE
November**

HAPPY THANKSGIVING



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

Oh Bethlehem



<<< events >>>

- November** 1st Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm
- 2nd Quilting Group 9 am
- 6th Tierra Jensvold's Bridal Shower
- 7th All Saints Sunday/Kids sing
- 8th Church Council meeting 6 pm
- 13th Fall Luncheon, 11-1pm
- 15th Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm
- 16th Quilting Group 9 am
- Worship Committee Meeting @ 9:30 am
- 24th Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service
- 28th Hanging of the Greens Service
- 30th Quilting Group 9 am

January 16th Annual Meeting

We are open and going forth with gathering in the house of our Lord. We have updated the Pandemic plan as listed below. We really look forward to seeing everyone again face to face. Services will continue to stream on our YouTube channel.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church has moved to Tier 0 for our pandemic plan.

While there are no special conditions at Tier 0, as always BLC will:

- Respect others by allowing them the dignity to protect themselves, as well as others to have the dignity of risk.
- Follow the guidance, as directed, by IDPH when appropriate.
- Clean areas with reasonable care
- As any, if they are sick, please take care and stay home.

Food Bank Needs for Nov:

Boxed Stuffing Mix, Boxed Pie Crust Mix, Can Corn, Mix Vegetables, Pie Filling, Turkey Gravy, Cool Whip and Chicken Broth.

All donations can be dropped off in the Narthex of the church. **Building a Mountain of Goodness!**

Commemorative items: Bethlehem has a variety of items for sale. We have ornaments, postcards, coffee tumblers and mugs, and NEW "Oh Bethlehem" t-shirts. A table will remain set up in the fellowship hall. This is a fundraiser for Bethlehem. All funds will go to the General fund to support future fellowship and evangelism opportunities and outreach.

Read: Exodus 10:1-4

Reflect: We all sin, and fall short of the glory of God, when we are disobedient to God. But the sooner we listen and obey God, the less the consequences we have to live with.

Point to Ponder: How many times would it have taken me to humble myself and be obedient to God?

<<< the heart of the pastor >>>

I used to be an avid golfer. Growing up, my dad and my grandpa (my mom's dad) were both excellent examples and teachers for me. They were both very even keeled, calm and in control. I never, ever saw them get upset on the golf course. My grandpa especially stands out to me. When he would hit a bad shot (which was not often), he would let out a loud belly laugh – like someone told him a funny Ole and Lena joke. I never understood that as I would get upset and let bad shots culminate in my head, leading to more and more bad shots. But I still watched, paid attention, and learned. I have never forgotten my grandpa's example. In high school, I worked at the golf course in my hometown during the summer months and when I was not working, I was golfing (of course). Later in life, when I returned home to work for my dad (he owned a Chrysler, Plymouth, Dodge, Jeep dealership), we would hit golf balls into a net he set up in one of his work bays during the winter months. I watched my dad and continued to be a student of golf as he was. I subscribed to magazines, watched golf tournaments, and hit more golf balls with my dad as we discussed and tried new grips and swings. I eventually improved to achieve a 6 handicap – shooting 2 over par a couple different times.

After I accepted my first call to Jackson, MN, golf began to take a backseat, but I still played as much as I could. Eventually, though, children came along. When Mayah came home in 2013 I did not swing a club again until this past spring – about 8 years between rounds. That first nine holes was ugly. The second nine was a little better, but still nothing about which to write home. In short, I stopped being a student of golf - I stopped abiding – and that round a couple months ago showed that truth.

In the Gospel text for Reformation Sunday, John 8:31-36, Jesus says, If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. The Greek word for “abide” denotes a snapshot event and has the sense of staying in a condition that you have entered. This simply means to enter the Word and stay there. It is only in being a student of the Word that you will know the Truth better and better, and it is only in knowing the Truth that you will know true freedom. Disciples do that. Once you step out from being a student, you begin to drift from the truth; losing muscle memory as I did with my golf game. Does that describe you? Has your Bible reading, or Bible study been lacking recently? Have you felt distant from God, from the Truth of your salvation? Well, enter and abide in the Word, then stay there. Be a life-long student – a disciple – and know true freedom. Do not let anything get in the way. Abide in the Word, always, and stay put.

Join me on Sunday mornings at 10:50 for Adult Forum. We will meet right in the fellowship hall, and we will keep drinking coffee. If you have a certain topic you would like to discuss, please let me know!

<<< education >>>

Hello everyone- so many exciting things happening this time of year! I would like to take a minute though to reflect on all the wonderful things we've had in the last month or so.

-Wrapping up harvest for so many of us can be such an exciting time. Our harvest soup supper was amazing, and the money raised went to the education department- so thank you to all!

-We also just presented our 3rd and 4th graders with bibles, and they are starting to learn to use them and spend time in the Word.

-We look forward to the kids singing at church on November 7th, and we have had a blast teaching them some songs that many of you will remember from when you were kids yourselves!

-Our attendance at SS continues to remain strong, and we are going to start making preparations to divide our 1-4 class to allow for easier teaching, and better atmosphere for the kids.

-We will also start preparations for our youth Christmas program! One change this year is that we will be having it in the evening, as well as a simple meal for families to enjoy afterward and spend some time fellowshiping! **The program will be December 19th, at 5 pm.**

Thank you for your continued support and allowing us to learn and grow with your children.

Fall blessings to you- Kelsey Bosma

<<<property and management>>>

We are looking for someone that would like to move snow off the sidewalks here at church. A lawn mower with snowblower works best, but a walk behind works too. If nothing else, people who are willing to shovel always helps too. Contact with me with any questions. Thank You.

Brandon

<<< new committees >>>

Bethlehem has new committees! In the last month, we have added an Education Committee and a Worship Committee! Our Worship Committee is organizing to make all worship components run smoothly and open lines of communication. We have a good group together, but if you have an interest in worship and would like to help on the committee, come to the Worship Committee meetings. They take place the 3rd Tuesday of each month. The next Worship Committee meeting is November 16th at 9:30 am. Thank you to all who have volunteered their time and talents to be on the Education and Worship Committee! You are appreciated! We still have more committees that need to be filled! Here is a list of committees looking for volunteers and the leader to contact for more information.

Evangelism - Amy Walk

Stewardship - Susan Jensen

Fellowship - Cassie Willmert

Cradle Roll - Cassie Willmert

Property - Brandon Thilges

Bethlehem is blessed with lots going on, but we need teams to make things happen. Thank you for considering joining a committee. Many hands make for light work and more ministry opportunities.

November Family Greeters and Ushers

7 Rita Ellsworth and Mitch Engelbarts Family

17 Mark & Deb Landheer and Warran & Deb Lenz and DeWayne & Burnice Maass

21 Kevin Ullmann Family and Jesse Bosma Family

28 Rande & Mary Geisking and Doug & Kim Ostermann

November Confirmation Schedule

| | Reader | | SS Helpers | Acolyte |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|---|--------------------------------|--|
| November 7 (All Saints Sunday) | Neely Jensen | Revelation 7:(2-8) 9-17. Psalm 149 1 John 3:1-3 | Neely Jensen Genna Baumann | Genna Baumann |
| November 14 | Brody Cooper | Daniel 12:1-3 Psalm 16 Hebrews 10:11-25 | Brody Cooper Ashlyn Bechler | Ashlyn Bechler |
| November 21 | Braden Ullmann | Isiah 51:4-6 Psalm 93 Revelation 1:4b-8 | Braden Ullmann Kevin Hagen | Kevin Hagen |
| November 28 (First Sunday of Advent) | Andy Buchs | Hanging of the Greens Service *details to come* | Brooklyn Price Andy Buchs | Brooklyn Price (and family) *advent wreath* |

<<< worship >>>

Hello Bethlehem Family!

Please mark your calendars with the following dates. We look forward to worshipping with you!
“Serve the Lord with gladness! Come before His presence with singing!” Psalm 100:2

Thank you for being available! Megan

*Reminder that the worship committee meets third Tuesday of every month.

In the meeting room @ 9:30

*If you an/or your family would like to be part of the Hanging of the Greens Service,
please contact Megan Holland

Upcoming special services:

November 7-All Saints Sunday

November 28-Hanging of the Greens and first day in Advent

<<<treasurer>>>

Our general offering year to date is \$105,235. We are 84% through the year and our giving so far is at 80% of our budget for 2021. We are a little behind.

Last Sunday was great to see all the children at the front of the church. Giving at Bethlehem is making a difference, please continue.

Faith, Hope and Love make us available for our neighbors near and far.

We are in progress of creating a 2022 budget now and will present for approval at our annual meeting.

If anyone has any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

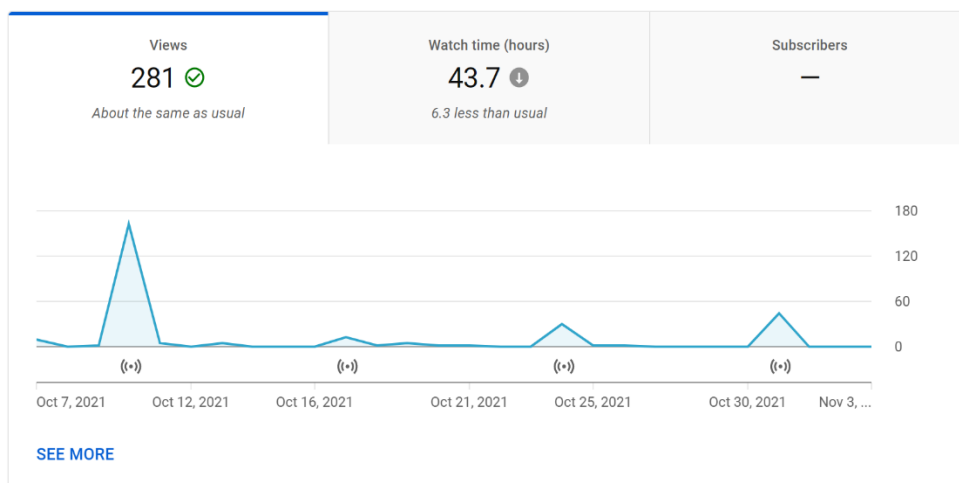
Brian Blodgett

brian@ngt.net

TECHNOLOGY

Our digital ministry continues to be strong. Current statistics show we have seen 281 views on our live stream and/or recordings throughout October. We also have 80 subscribers to our YouTube Channel.

Your channel got 281 views in the last 28 days



The technology group includes Kyle Winter, Logan Willmert, Thomas Blodgett, and Brock Jensen. If anyone is called to help and/or donate, please contact Brian Blodgett.

If you would like to support the technology mission at Bethlehem please note on your giving – “Technology” on any extra donations.

*Thank you
Brian Blodgett
brian@ngt.net*

Annual Meeting Date Set >>>

Bethlehem's Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 16th, 2022, following the church service. We will have one 3-year position and two 1-year positions to be filled. If this is something you would consider doing, please talk with a council member. We ask that all of you prayerfully consider how you can continue to serve your church family, as we have many roles and jobs to do.

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

Cradle Roll If you would like more information or guidance on setting this up, please see Brian Blodgett or Jen McGrady. Are you expecting a new addition to your family? Do you know someone who is? Enroll them in our new Cradle Roll program! The Cradle Roll is a ministry for expectant families and children 0 to 3 years old in our church and community. To enroll someone in the Cradle Roll, sponsor a child, or join the ministry team, contact Cassie Willmert at cassandra.willmert@gmail.com.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council Minutes

Monday, October 11 @ 6:00

held in the meeting room

Members present: Pastor Eric Hullstrom, Brian Blodgett, Megan Holland, Cassie Willmert, Kelsey Bosma, Amy Walk, Vonnie Bosma, Cheryl Baumann & Jen McGrady

Members absent: Susan Jensen, Brandon Thilges

Meeting called to order @ 6:09

Proverbs 17:27-28 was the inspiration for the opening prayer, led by Pastor Eric

Old Business Secretary minutes for September approved via email. Motion to approve by Cassie. Seconded by Susan. All in favor. Will be published in October newsletter.

No new Covid procedures.

Committee Reports

A. Property

-work on the parsonage basement is started and underway. Should be completed in about 7 days

-As the days become shorter, Vonnie expressed concern about the northeast lights. She will follow-up with this.

B. Worship

-Worship Committee has been formed and will meet the 3rd Tuesday of every month @ 9:30. First meeting went smoothly!

Continued work on many upcoming services to include reformation Sunday, All Saints Sunday & Hanging of the Greens. The committee also agreed to plan at least one contemporary service each month.

C. Education

-Third and Fourth Grade Bibles will be presented on Reformation Sunday (October 31)

-Continued giving is needed for the Education fund, as they would like to host a quarterly Wed. Ecumenical after school program

D. Stewardship

Harvest Drive Thru Soup Supper on October 10 raised over \$2,000 and -t-shirts continue to sell!

E. Technology

-TV in nursery is working properly

F. Fellowship

-meeting to be held, to look at the idea of hosting a Fall luncheon on Saturday, November 13

-Vonnie and Cheryl would look at updating the "work groups"

G. Evangelism

Bible study "Breathe" has started, with a wonderful attendance!

Treasurers Report

Checking - \$10,525.21

Savings - \$580

LOC - \$0

Phase 2 of the Heating and Cooling Fund is complete!

Pastor Report:

1. Attended the LCMC gathering at Upper Arlington Lutheran Church in Columbus, OH on October 3-6.

2. Check out the website to find "Pastor's page". BC Tribune article, newsletter, and other writings can be found here.

3. Will start an Adult Forum this past Sunday, October 10. Topics are yet to be confirmed.

New Business

1. How does BLC define a member? Brian shared information he found. He will make some changes to what define a member @ BLC and present to the council.

After this has been approved a new member class should be held.

2. October Mission is LCMC with the November mission going to the local giving tree.

Megan made motion to approve both the October & November missions, Kelsey seconded. All in favor; approved

3. Next newsletter deadline is Monday, October 25

4. Strategic Plan review meeting Monday, November 8 @ 6:00 pm

Next meeting: November 8 @ 6:00

Motion to adjourn made by Kelsey; seconded by Vonnie

Meeting ended @7:50

Closed with Lord's Prayer..... Secretary, Megan Holland



Bethlehem Lutheran Church
201 4th St. NW
Buffalo Center, IA 50424

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

President: Cassie Willmert
Vice President/Evangelism: Amy Walk
Secretary/Worship: Megan Holland
Treasurer/Technology: Brian Blodgett
Stewardship: Susan Jensen
125th Anniversary: Vonnie Pilgrim-Bosma
Education: Kelsey Bosma
Property: Brandon Thilges
Fellowship: Cheryl Baumann

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