

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

April 2022



He is Risen!

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

JOHN II:25-26

Oh Bethlehem

<<<Events>>>

April

- 3- Communion Sunday
- 5- Quilting@9am
Ladies Study with Pastor@ 2pm
- 6- Lent Supper@ 6 with church@ 7pm
- 10- Palm Sunday-SS kids help with service.
- 11- Council Meeting@6pm
- 12- Worship Meeting@ 9:30am
- 14- Maundy Thursday Service@ 7pm. (No meal)
- 15- Good Friday Service-Ecumenical gathering@ Methodist Church 7pm.
- 17- Sunrise Service@7am, Easter Breakfast@ 8-9am, Easter Service@9:30am.
- 19- Quilting@9am.
- 24- SS kids sing

**He Is Risen
He Is Risen Indeed. Alleluia!**



Do you have availability to sit and enjoy the company of others and to visit with your friends?

To enjoy coffee and great treats? Do you want to be available to those around you and fill your time with service work for God?

YES!

You are invited to join the quilting group. You can take part in a couple different ways, sewing and or tying quilts.

There will always be someone to help you learn and or get started. Come and join us on Tues April 5th and 19th @ 9am. In the fellowship hall.

Making ourselves available...

April Food Bank

Pancake Mix

Syrup

Salad Dressing for Lettuce

Pork n Beans

Cake Mix

Frosting

Juice

Happy Easter to all.

All donations can be dropped off in the Narthex of the church. Thank You!

<<<Bethlehem Ladies>>>

We will gather on Tues. April 5th @ 2pm for Bible study, meeting, and fellowship. The topics discussed will be Passover and Maundy Thursday.

The next study will be on May 3rd and the topic of discussion will be about "The Road to Emmaus".

The study will follow Luke 24:13-35.

Rides are available if you call the church office. 562-2552. All ladies are invited to join in.

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING!

~ Join us April 6 for our last Lenten supper at 6 PM followed by worship at 7 PM. I will be preaching/teaching through the book of Jonah. There is more to Jonah that you may realize.

~ Community Maundy Thursday worship on April 14 with Holy Communion will be here at Bethlehem. There will also be First Communion for the 5th, 6th and 7th graders. Worship is at 7 PM.

~ Community Good Friday worship on April 15 is hosted by the United Methodist Church of Buffalo Center. Worship is at 7 PM

~ Easter schedule: Sunrise worship at 7am, Easter breakfast from 8 to 9am, and Easter festival worship at 9:30 am. Holy Communion at both services.

If you have any questions about what is coming up, please contact the church office. To God be the glory!

SPRING COFFEE

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Women will again host an annual Spring Coffee on Thursday, April 21 from 8:00-10:00am. Coffee cake, rolls, and beverages will be served. Come enjoy some fellowship time with friends and community – ***EVERYONE WELCOME!*** Freewill donation.



Open House Bridal Shower for Maddie De Jongh, bride-to-be of Nic Hassebroek
Saturday, April 23 from 1-3 at the Eagle Center in Lakota, IA
The couple is registered at Amazon and Murra Hardware

1G Network Youth Ministry is happening in our community.

There is a lot of planning and implementation with the area Churches, NICS and Ministerial Assoc. as they continue to launch this exciting after school event. This is for elementary and Middle School. **They meet after school on Mondays and Wednesdays. There is a meal served on Mon. evenings for students, families, and volunteers.** These events take place at the Congregational and Methodist Churches. The meal is open to all families and volunteers.

We ask that you consider helping in ways of donations for snacks and meals and any monetary donations when it is our week to serve, also volunteering to help with the students and lastly praying for this ministry, the adults and the kids. **We give glory to God for being “Available to those around us.”**

CHURCH SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Spring is in the air and high school seniors are preparing for graduation!

The senior members of Bethlehem will be honored on May 15th

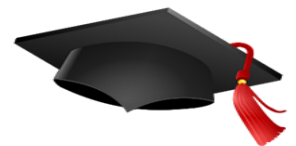
– one week before the graduation ceremony at NIHS.

It's been over 20 years since the first church scholarship was given by Norma Quame Bosma in memory of her sons Greg and Brad. The Sullivan Family Scholarship began in 2006, and the Bierle Family Scholarship in 2010.

We are now consolidating the Quame Scholarship and the Sullivan Scholarship into the “Bethlehem Lutheran Church Scholarship.” This was decided because the Quame and Sullivan families are no longer able to support the previous scholarships. **It is the hope of the scholarship committee that other members of the congregation will value the importance of supporting the youth of our church family and consider giving to this ongoing fund.**

You can do this in honor of someone, in memory of loved ones, or simply by making a donation.

Just put your gift in an envelope marked “Bethlehem Lutheran Scholarship Fund.”



<<Pastor Eric>>

We have a story to share. Us. You and me. Bethlehem Lutheran Church. We have a story. Not our story per se, it is God's story of our salvation through Jesus Christ, but you are in the story. It is the greatest story ever told and thus it must continue to be told. As the apostle Paul says in Philippians 3, "**To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you.**" Did you see that? It is safe because we so easily forget and thus we need to hear it over and over. Sin and the world distract us. Life happens. And before you know it, you are in despair. And this story of our salvation is not just told by me on Sunday mornings, but in a variety of ways in this congregation. It is told by you. Yes, YOU -- Sunday school teachers, worship leaders, custodial staff, property, council, education, anyone and everyone who claims Bethlehem Lutheran Church as their home. It is told through the education materials we buy, worship technology, music, contemporary songs we need to purchase for worship, coffee and goodies at fellowship time, cleaning supplies, outdoor maintenance, and the list goes on. Did you realize that the storytelling was so multifaceted? Yes, even the toilet paper we stock is included.

Now wait a second Pastor, you lost me there.

It is true. Everything we do here is about the story of our salvation. It is all in line with our mission statement to be available to all. And being available to people involves each and everyone of you and everything we do. No one can say, I am too old or too young to be available, to advance God's Kingdom. We are all in this together. We are not running some church business here. We are proclaiming God's story. But the same people cannot be the ones on the front lines all the time. Just like any battle, you need fresh reinforcements. Satan will not stop and thus we must always be ready and refreshed. We need reliable supply lines. This ministry needs you. ALL of you. I am not writing this to protect my job or so we can buy a fancy new gadget. This is all about the story, the greatest story of all time. The story of your salvation. Will you be available to pray, to give, to be involved, to love, to serve, to be Jesus to your neighbor? You are a storyteller, for better or for worse. Let it be for the better.

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 READING GROUP

For those of you on Facebook, I am leading a Bible reading group. So far, we have read through the Gospel of Mark, Hebrews and now have just finished Acts. Currently we are reading Paul's Letter to the Romans. 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...

<<<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.

<<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. For example. Right now, our youth are raising money to attend the Youth Conference in Des Moines this summer. By giving the kids the opportunity to attend this event and to grow in their faith with other fellow believers: Priceless. As of our last council meeting, our church is at 8% of the budget needed for the year. It's still early so I have no doubt with our strong congregation that we can achieve our goal by the end of the year.

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**

<<Education>>

Oh Bethlehem, Happy Spring to you all!

With the weather slowly getting nicer out it remind me that our "education" year is nearing its end. The SS kids have only a couple singing Sundays left, and a handful of lessons before we wrap up for the year. The confirmation kids too will be wrapping up their time together for the year.

We have had visitors from Ingham/Okoboji and Riverside bible camps join us in worship. We are thankful for the opportunity the kids and families have to attend summer camps, and hope that many of them will do so! Please remember that if cost is a concern to please reach out to Pastor Eric or myself. Our leadership believes in all of these kids, we wish for them every opportunity to grow in their faith, and are willing to assist where we are needed.

I am looking forward to one more Wednesday night meal. Thank you to everyone who has been supporting us and fellowshiping with us on Wednesday nights. Also, thank you to those who have pushed me to ask for help, and those who have done just that!

The Confirmation kids will have a fundraiser breakfast on Easter morning! Please come and support them! They are also gearing up for a confirmation retreat in the near future.

As our time together before summer break is coming to a close, there are a few dates below I wish you all to keep in mind. Thank you for supporting our youth ministry always, and God bless to you all-

Kelsey Bosma, Education Superintendent

Easter Breakfast: April 17....Kids sing for Mother's Day: May 8.... Last day SS/ Senior Recognition Day: May 15

Happy Retirement!

Thank you, Linda, for serving as Bethlehem's custodian for the past six years. We appreciate all the time and effort you put in caring for our facility, and all the work you have done behind the scenes. We know that even though you are retiring from one job, you are by no means slowing down. We wish you good luck in your expanding role at the Senior Center!

Help Wanted

Bethlehem is hiring a part time custodian for the church. We are accepting applications through April 15th. Applications can be picked up at the church office.

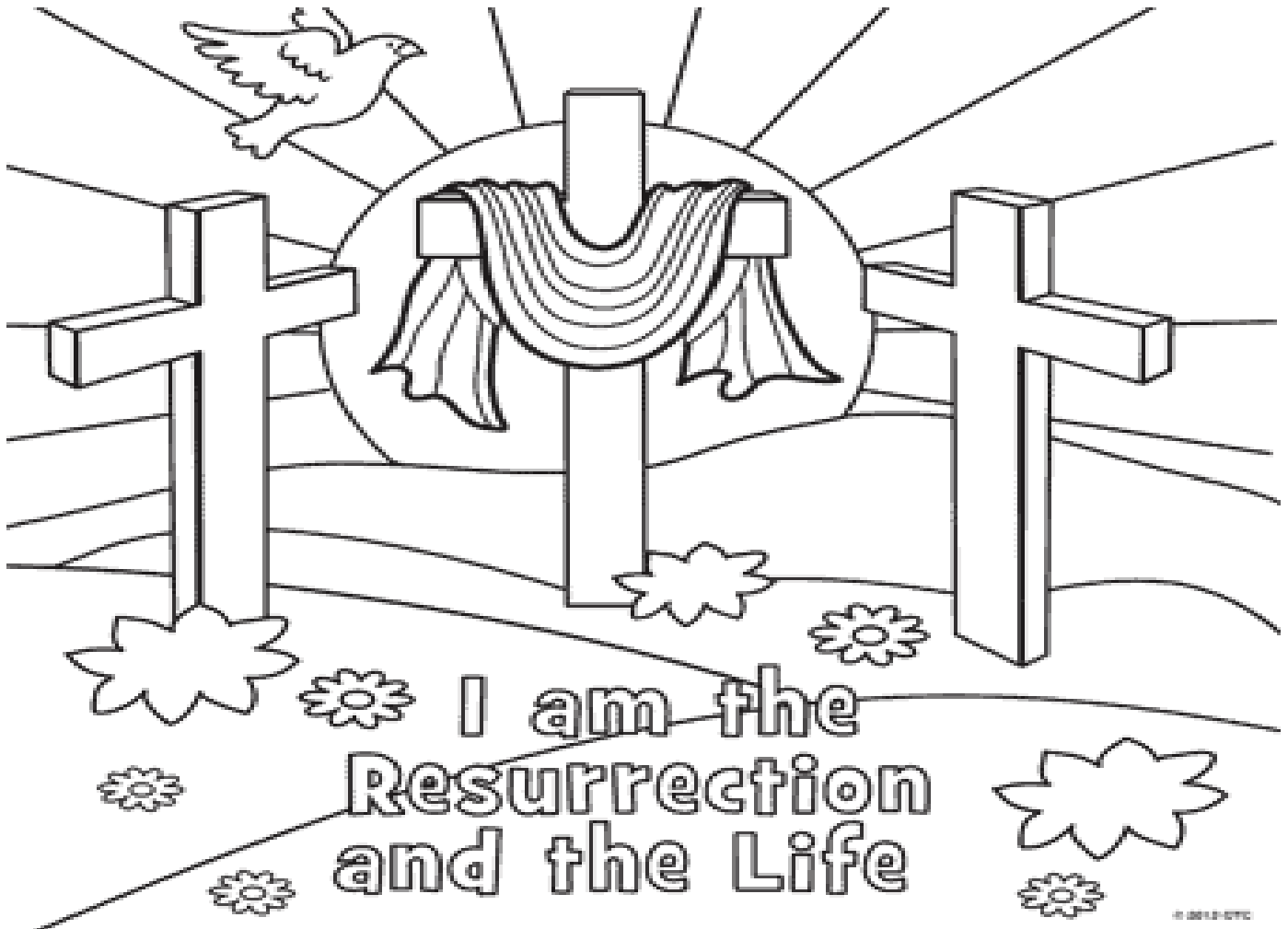
Greeters and Ushers

April

*3 Ashlyn Bechler(c) Family and Marty Schaeffer Family
*10 Pentico Family and Kevin Hagen(c) Family
17 Dave & Renee Sachs & Ray & Vonnie Bosma
24 Brian Blodgett Family and Thomas & Amanda Blodgett

May

*1 Brooklyn Price(c) Family and Mitch Engelbarts Family
*8 Braden Ullmann(c) Family and Mark & Kim Ostermann
15 Dave & Kate Kakacek and Joe Angstman Family
22 Nich Holland Family and Amy Walk Family and Mary Badje
29 Claire Hinz and Mark & Deb Landheer



Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council Minutes

Monday, March 14, 2022 @ 6:00pm

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, Brandon Thilges, Amy Walk, Patty Hassebroek, Kim Ostermann, Susan Jensen

Absent: Brian Blodgett, Derek Thilges

Meeting called to order @ 6:04pm

1. Opened with devotions and prayer
2. Old Business
 - a. February minutes approved via email. Motion to approve by Patty; seconded by Cassie.
3. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Savings Account \$ 3,581.60
 - b. Checking Account \$ 6,713.85

We've only met 8% of our budget right now, so we're behind in our giving.
4. Committee Reports
 - a. Technology
 - i. The audio feed in the kitchen/fellowship hall has been updated. The service can now be heard in the social hall. The controls have been labeled.
 - ii. There was a loose antenna on pastor's microphone on 3/13/2022. This has been fixed.
 - iii. A sound bank was donated for the organ. Cheryl and Brian are reviewing to see if this can be integrated.
 - b. Property
 - i. Update on Parsonage - front door lock needs to be changed.
 - ii. New light fixture was installed in the bathroom. Need a new fluorescent bulb for kitchen.
 - iii. Update on outdoor front sign. Need to know a total donation amount that has been designated for this.
 - iv. Boiler inspection passed for the first time since Brandon has been on council. YAY!
 - v. Water leak between parsonage house and garage. Looking into tiling.
 - c. Worship
 - ii. Committee will meet March 15 to update plans on Lent, Holy Week and Easter. Sunday March 20 will be a baptismal remembrance.
 - d. Stewardship
 - i. Working on a letter about Time and Talents to include in next month's newsletter. This will be presented during a future church service. Also emphasizing the importance of outside ministry.
 - e. Education
 - i. Kids singing on 3/27
 - ii. Education is heading up Lenten meals
 - iii. Discussion about the national youth gathering in Des Moines. We would like to support any of our youth in grades 7-12 who wish to go and need assistance. Meeting on March 23 with youth and parents.
 - iv. May 15 is the last day of Sunday School.
 - f. Fellowship
 - i. The Chosen Bible Study is in progress.
 - ii. Still working on ideas for fellowship time following services. It is difficult to find people willing to serve.
 - g. Evangelism
 - ii. March 17 Blood Drive
 - iii. April 21 Spring Coffee – Kim will take the lead on this and contact people who are willing to work on this. We should try to approach “work groups.”

iv. Discussion about community event the last weekend of July. Possibility of having a fundraiser booth of some kind (possibly food or something else). We will also be involved in a Community Worship Service that Sunday morning.

5. Pastor Report

- a. 1G Network is going well – good energy.
- b. Lent is going well with a simple low-key format focusing on the book of Jonah.
- c. Facebook Bible reading group is ongoing. We are working through the book of Acts now with daily input from pastor as we read a chapter a day. This is a private group, but you simply can ask to join.
- d. Connie Melz visitation is Tuesday, March 15 from 5:00-7:00pm, and the funeral is Wednesday, March 16 at 11:00am. (Both held at Bethlehem.)
- e. First Communion classes are complete. Students will receive their first communion on Maundy Thursday.
- f. Confirmation will not be held during school spring break. Pastor and Kelsey are checking into a confirmation retreat at one of the Bible Camps with all the grades.
- g. Pastor Eric will be taking some vacation time after Easter.

6. Office Report

- a. We need to be sure all graphics used in PowerPoints are not copyrighted.
- b. We purchase rights to use the videos of songs during the service.

7. Old Business

- a. The Executive Team plans to meet March 27 to go over the ministry plan.

8. New Business

- a. March Mission (regular rotation is LCMC, local, global)
Motion by Amy; seconded by Susan to give to the Red Cross for Ukraine Relief
- b. Scholarship Committee questioned combining the Quame Scholarship and the Sullivan Scholarship into the Bethlehem Lutheran Church Scholarship. The previous families are no longer donating to the fund. We would like to open this up more to other church members who would like to consider donating to the scholarship fund. The Bierle scholarship is still active.
- c. Memorial Committee – send thank-yous for donations.
- d. Bank Safe Deposit Box, previous names with keys are deceased.
Dawn Meinders and Susan Jensen are now the two names associated with the box.

9. Additional Comments/concerns/questions

- a. Interest in starting some Christian Sports Camps

10. Next meeting scheduled for April 11 @ 6:00pm

11. Newsletter deadline is March 25

12. Important upcoming dates

- a. March 17 Blood Drive
- b. March 27 Riverside Bible Camp visiting
Sunday School Kids singing
- c. April 21 Spring Coffee

13. Motion to adjourn by Kelsey Bosma

Seconded by Amy Walk

14. Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Ostermann, Sec.





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

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FIND US ON FACEBOOK
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