



Oh Bethlehem!

<<<Calendar of Events>>>

- 6 Communion Sunday
- All Saints Sunday
- Baptism
- Lakota Annual Soup Dinner 10-1pm
- 8 Quilting @1pm
- 12 Fall Luncheon at BLC
- LCMC District Gathering
- Clear Lake, IA
- 13 Communion Sunday
- Baptism
- 20 Kids Sing
- Giving Thanks Meal @4:30pm
- 22 Quilting @1pm
- 23 Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve service @ First Reformed-7pm.
- 27 Hanging of the Greens

Monthly Bible Study

Join Pastor Eric as he continues his study of the book of Philippians.
The next study will be on Tues. Dec 6th
at 2pm in the fellowship hall.
Please join us!

Project Fund update:

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.

<<<Greeters and Ushers>>>

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

December

- 4 Carter Wubben(c) Family and Linda Berhow
- 11 Andy Buchs(c) Family and Glenda Sapp, Willmert Family
- 18 Billy Jensvold Family and Maryls Dotseth
- 24 Tim Weaver Family and Jen McGrady
- 25 Dana Greensky Family and Shirley Hagenson

Making ourselves available...

Food Bank for November

Canned fruit and vegetables, Canned meats, Canned Soup, Pie Crust Mix and Pie Filling

"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.



FALL LUNCHEON

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

BUFFALO CENTER

Saturday, November 12

11:00am--1:00pm

Hot Turkey Sandwiches

Sides / Dessert / Beverages

FREEWILL DONATION

EVERYONE WELCOME!

<<Pastor Eric>>

I was working on the devotion for Thursday, October 27 on 1 Thessalonians 4:7-8 and found myself reflecting more on these instructions from the apostle Paul. In verses two and three Paul says, “**For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. For this is the will of God, your sanctification:**” He goes on to talk about abstaining from sexual immorality and maintaining self-control, and then proceeds with verses seven and eight, “**For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.**”

God’s will for you is not to become stagnant but rather to grow in sanctification; to become more and more like Jesus. And this sanctification is something we will never finish on this side of death. Actually, sanctification is not something we ALONE can finish. As Paul says, God gives believers the Holy Spirit. And sanctification is integral since sin has disrupted and broken our relationship with God. Nothing unholy can be in union with God. All who are unholy, impure, unclean, sinful, must be fully sanctified or be cast into hell. And what is even better is that this sanctification is God’s will for those who have been called to believe. Not something we must do to impress Him. As a called child of God, He will see to it, but what does this mean for now?

As we live in God’s already (here through faith) and not yet (meaning Jesus has not returned yet) Kingdom, we must be diligent to nurture and exercise our faith. How do we do that? As Jesus says in John 15, we must abide in his Word. We must continue in faith; continue studying; continue praying; continue to worship, continue serving. As a child of God, we must continue growing. When you are born into this world, a healthy baby is nourished with what is necessary and they grow. As the baby grows older, their needs change but also their understanding of the world around them and who they are. Eventually they need other forms of nourishment. You do not bottle feed a healthy 10-year-old.

In the same way, as Christians, we need to continue being fed and as you are fed, you grow; you are being sanctified. Don’t become stagnant. Study the Word, worship, pray, serve, and never buy into the lie that you have reached the end and thus can retire. There is no retiring in our walk with Jesus. Keep at it and keep growing. To God be the glory, always and forever, Amen.

Pastor Eric

<<November Confirmation Corner>>

Here’s our upcoming class schedule. Once again, you are always welcome to attend a class and sit on our large group time. Class begins at 7:15 with large group beginning at 7:45.

2-Nov	Lord's Prayer 1st Petition
9-Nov	Lord's Prayer 2nd Petition
16-Nov	Lord's Prayer 3rd Petition
23-Nov	NO CLASS NO CLASS
30-Nov	Lord's Prayer 4th Petition
7-Dec	Lord's Prayer 5th 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!***

1G Senior High

We kicked off the Sr. High event on Tues. Nov. 1st. It started out with a hot breakfast and then went into a short time of devotions and conversations. This will be offered every Tue. Morning starting at 7:15.

<<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 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

Remember our local food bank during this season of Giving and Thankfulness. They need us!

It is that time of the year again, when the kids collect non-perishable from our church members every Sunday during the service. It will be Nov 6th until Nov 20th. They will gather them up and build on the altar a **MOUNTAIN OF GIVING...** we ask that you bring to church items for them to stack up front during the Noisy Offering. If you would rather just drop off your donations, you can do that also. We also will collect any monetary donations for the local food pantry. Please make sure you designate on your checks, what it is for. Our local food pantry is seeing a great big need for support and they are getting stretched pretty thin. Thank You for your generosity.

<<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.

<<treasurer>>

Giving as of 11.2.2022

\$112,746.69

Budgeted giving for 2022

\$160,000.00

We are at 70% in meeting the budget.

"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.

<property>>

We are happy to see that the project fund is being maintained with contributions. Because we are in an older building and the upkeep is always at the forefront, our roof over the Sunday School rooms is now need of replacement because of leaks. We have a bid in for replacing it, and with donations coming in, we will be able to get it taken care of. Please consider giving to the project fund.

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

Upcoming reminders:

Sunday School will start at 10:45 on Nov. 6th

Attend and invite your friends and neighbors to the Fall Luncheon here at church on Nov. 12, serving 11-1pm

You can still plan on attending the LCMC District gathering in Clear Lake on Sat. Nov. 12- This is a great time to gather and meet our fellow churches and find out what's happening in our district. The cost is 20.00 and it includes morning refreshments and lunch. It goes from 8:30-3pm, At the Dock on main street.

GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD, FOR HE IS GOOD, HIS LOVE ENDURES FOREVER.

1 Chronicles 16:34

Church Council Meeting Minutes

held in the meeting room

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

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

The meeting was called to order @ 6:07pm

1. Pastor Eric opened with devotion and prayer.

2. Secretary's Report

a. September minutes approved via email. Motion to approve by Patty; seconded by Kelsey

3. Treasurer's Report

a. Savings Account: \$584.27

b. Checking Account: \$4,201.05

c. Line of Credit: 0

d. Special Projects Account: \$4028.73

Motion to approve made by Kelsey; seconded by Patty

4. Committee Reports

a. Technology

i. Anyone interested in helping please contact Brian Blodgett.

b. Property

i. We've received an estimate on the roof above the Sunday School wing.

\$1,500-2,000 for a temporary repair; \$7500 for a permanent fix.

We would like more information about what each of the projects look like on both accounts. We would also like input from the congregation on how to proceed.

ii. A large tree branch fell on the parsonage. Logan and Cassie Willmert assisted in removal. We need to watch for other limbs on the same tree.

c. Worship

i. Worship Committee meets October 18 @ 8:30am

ii. Sunday School students sing October 16

iii. Third Graders receive Bibles October 16

iv. Planning for Hanging of the Greens Service and upcoming Christmas plans.

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 23rd.

iii. Considering a Spring Vendor show as a fundraiser.

e. Education

i. Sunday School rooms are working very well.

ii. Sunday School students are singing during worship services on the third Sunday of the month for October, November. Sunday School program is in the evening on December 18.

g. Fellowship/Evangelism

i. Plans are moving forward for a Fall Luncheon on Saturday, November 12th.

ii. Other upcoming ideas include

*Renting the Lake Mills Movie Theater 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

- a. Pastor Eric expressed his thanks for the stole and gift card for Pastor Appreciation Week.
- b. Pastor Eric and Jen went to the LCMC Annual Gathering and shared some highlights. The theme was discipleship. Both came away renewed and thankful for the opportunity to participate. 691 people attended. The Iowa District Gathering is at Clear Lake, on Saturday, November 12 from 9:00am—3:00pm. The featured speaker is Mike Bradley, LCMC Service Coordinator.
- c. Carl Waugh and Ambre Anderson will be married at Bethlehem on November 5, 2022
- d. Henry David Lappe will be baptized on November 6, 2022 (son of David Lappe & Kylie Buns)
- e. Timely Mission is bringing their worship services back. Pastor Eric will be there Sunday, Oct. 16
- f. Pastor Eric will be the new chaplain for the Buffalo Center Fire Department. He will be looking for some training as soon as he meets with the leadership to go over expectations.
- g. We look forward to Reformation Sunday on October 30th along with Confirmation.
- h. The worship team along with Pastor Eric have taken steps to move things along during Sunday services. This will help with Sunday School starting on time.

6. Office Report:

- a. Please let the office know if you want a hard copy of the newsletter mailed to you.

7. New Business

- a. October Mission: LCMC (regular rotation is LCMC, local, global)
Motion made by Kelsey ; seconded by Susan
- b. New council members are needed. Prayerfully consider serving in this position.

8. Next meeting: November 14th, 6:00pm

9. A meeting to discuss the Strategic Plan will be set for the whole council.

10. Annual Meeting planned for January 15, 2023; snow date January 22

11. Newsletter deadline: October 24th

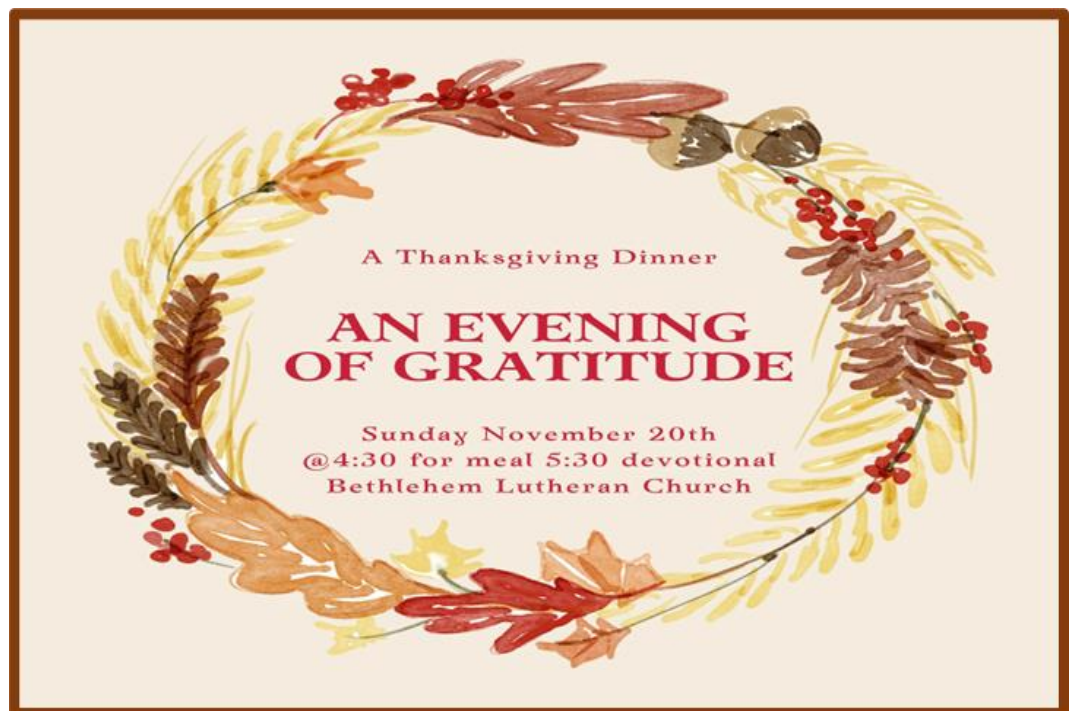
12. Motion to Adjourn made by Kelsey; seconded by Patty

Meeting adjourned at 7:48pm

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Kim L. Ostermann
Secretary

**You
are
invited...**





Bethlehem Lutheran Church
201 4th St. NW
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"FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE make us available
for our neighbors near and far."

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