

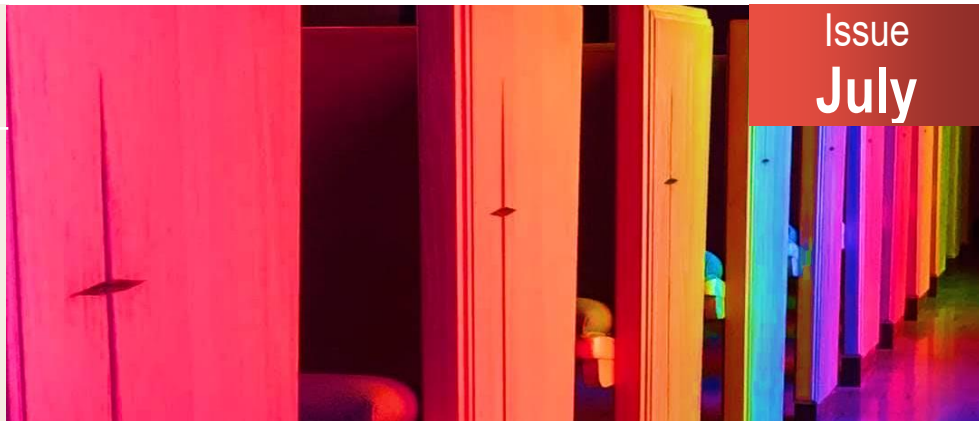
in this issue >>>

Vacation Bible School

Committee Reports

Change in Pandemic Status

Issue
July



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

Oh Bethlehem



PRAY LIKE NEHEMIAH
OBEY LIKE DANIEL
LEAD LIKE MOSES
SERVE LIKE MARTHA
BELIEVE LIKE MARY
FIGHT LIKE DAVID
EDUCATE LIKE PAUL
BUILD LIKE NOAH
LOVE LIKE JESUS

VBS

Aug 3rd-6th at the
Congregational Church

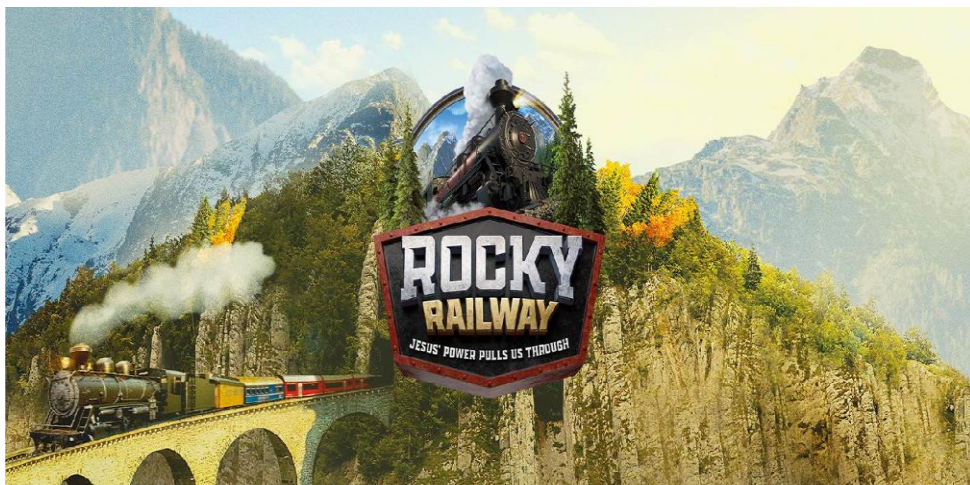
Join in the fun this summer with Vacation Bible School. The Congregational Church will be the hosts this year from August 3rd through the 6th. If you are still in need of a form, please pick them up in the Narthex here at Bethlehem. Once the form is filled out, you can turn it in at the church office. Please contact Kelsey Bosma (Kelsey Bosma kelseybosma25@gmail.com) or the church office for more info.

At Rocky Railway VBS, kids Experience God's Word every day. Jesus' power helps us do hard things. Jesus' power gives us hope. Jesus' power helps us be bold. Jesus' power lets us live forever.

events >>>

July 3rd Adams/Resutek Wedding
11th Outdoor Worship
14th 125th Committee meeting/9:30am
17th Penning Shower
25th SS Registration/@ the Park, 11am

Aug 3-6th Rocky Railway VBS 2021 @
Congregational Church
7th Bonnie Johnson Memorial/11am
29th 125TH Church Anniversary



*****Baby Boy Penning!** Join Amanda on Sat. July 17th for a Baby Shower.
It will be in the fellowship hall starting at 10:30am.
She is registered at [babylist.com/baby-amanda-penning](https://www.babylist.com/baby-amanda-penning).

property >>>

The air units from Phase 2 have been placed in the sanctuary and our first Sunday with them was super nice! We continue to work on getting the parsonage updates completed before Pastor Eric and family arrive. Thank you for continuing to support your church building and family. We are showing great "Availability" to those around us!

Brandon Thilges
Property and Management



education >>>

SS Registration Day!

July 25th @ 11 am in Lion's Park at the ball diamond. Parent/kid game and treats. More info and registration form to follow. Hope you are all having a wonderful summer!

Live with love and joy

Sincerely,
Kelsey Bosma
kelseybosma25@gmail.com

125th Anniversary Celebration 1896-2021

Plans are being made and the anniversary for Bethlehem is going to be a fun, memorial event!

If you have pictures of the original church, current church, pictures of groups or activities we would love to share them in the slide show. Please contact Amy Walk 641-590-5845 or Cheryl Baumann 515-538-1238.

The program committee is also asking for your stories or memories of Bethlehem Lutheran Church from as far back as you can remember to the current. You are welcome to share your stories during the program or they can be read for you. Please contact Cheryl Baumann or Vonnie Bosma 562-2703. Anyone who would like to volunteer or contribute ideas please contact Vonnie.

Thank You
Cheryl Baumann
Vonnie Bosma

Jessica Adams and Jared Resutek were married here at Bethlehem by Pastor Mark on Sat. July 3rd. Jessica and Jared have waited on Covid to finally be able to have their wedding.

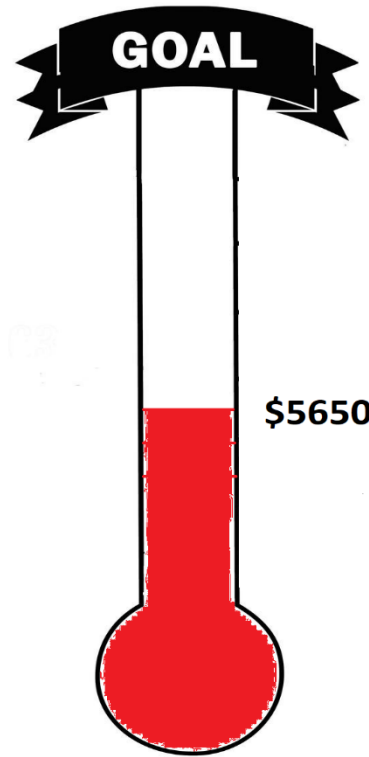
CONGRATULATIONS MR. AND MRS. RESUTEK!

HVAC - PHASE 2

\$15,000

GOAL

\$5650



Remember When?

Here is a submission:
Remember when?

"There were 5 Circles: Hope, Mary, Ruth, Grace and Rebecca.

It need only be one sentence long. Please call or drop off trivia at the office or email office@blciowa.org

Thank you
Anniversary Committee



July 2021 Newsletter Letter from Council President

Oh Bethlehem, last year or even last month the talk was “in our time of transition”, but the more I reflect on what we have accomplished as a congregation this past year, the more I realize that God used this time as a time of renewal for Bethlehem. Just think of all the events we have celebrated recently. In the past 2 months we have celebrated baptisms, confirmations, graduations, anniversaries, and pastors. It has been busy, but it speaks to the life in our church. Let us celebrate that! Let me say it again, we have life in our church! While so many churches around us are struggling, look at all we have. We are truly blessed!

We have a new mission, “Faith, hope, and love make us available for our neighbors near and far.” It is hard to believe that this mission statement is already almost a year old. Council adopted this mission statement on July 27, 2020. I cannot even express how many times I have sat and pondered our mission statement. It gives us a purpose, and it gives us focus. We built our strategic plan around it, and that is our roadmap forward. We know our goals and have planned steps to achieve them because we know our mission as a congregation. Our mission statement has become a mantra for me, especially the word available. I urge you to ponder our mission statement and see what it inspires in you.

We have a strong council. Our leadership team is exceptional. Each person brings unique skills and insights to the team. I cannot even begin to list all the work that has been done behind the scenes in the past year or even the past 6 months. The team has accomplished so much, and I am proud to be serving with this group.

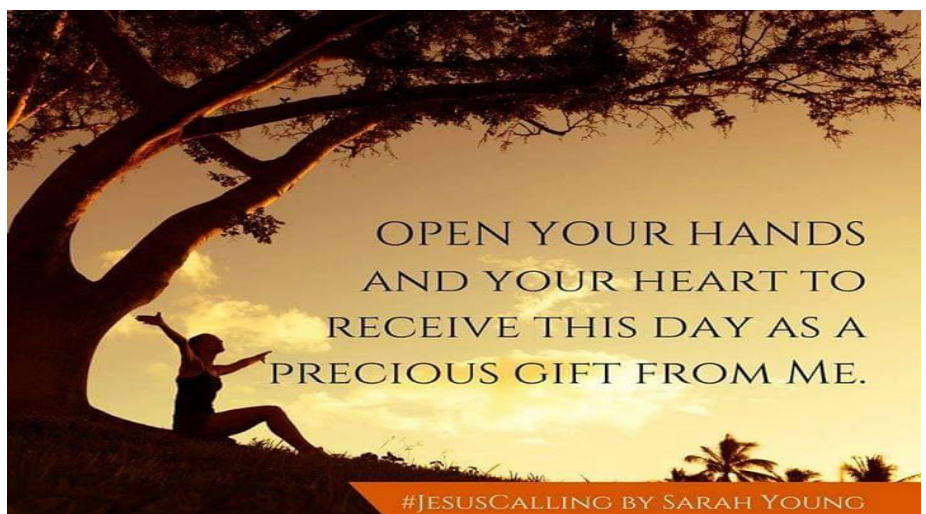
We have a cohesive congregation. I keep hearing repeatedly that the congregation has never felt so united. This statement rang true when we had a unanimous vote to call Pastor Eric Hullstrom. Thank you for your faith and trust in our call team and our leadership team.

We have youth. This is a sign of a living church. In the last year, we adapted and held Sunday School and confirmation during a pandemic when many churches did not. We tried new youth events that were well received in the community. And we restructured our confirmation program. Our Sunday School team is already hard at work for the coming year. The youth is Bethlehem’s future. We are working on building and providing more opportunities for our youth, but it takes volunteers. If you feel called to help with youth, please reach out to Kelsey Bosma.

We have a new partner in ministry. We have called a pastor! Pastor Eric Hullstrom is eager to begin his ministry at Bethlehem and to join us in our ongoing ministries. With a new pastor comes new ideas and new momentum, and that makes for an exciting season for our church. Let us embrace the new and continue to grow!

We have so much to be thankful and excited for. We have had a lot going on lately and if you think the rest of summer is going to be quiet and boring while we wait for Pastor Eric to arrive, think again! Our worship team has been working hard on pulpit supply, and we will have a variety of talented speakers join us this summer. We will have everything from hymn sings to missionaries at Bethlehem this summer so please watch the bulletin and website for updates. See you on Sunday!

God Bless,
Cassie Willmert
Church Council President



treasurer >>>

Our general offering year to date is \$62,206. We are 48% through the year and our giving so far is at 48% of our budget. We continue to be on track with our general budget.

With the arrival of Pastor Eric and family we will be extending some additional spending on parsonage repairs and updates. Several members have been working hard to make Bethlehem a welcoming place for our new family members.

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

Brian Blodgett



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.



Coffee Mugs

Remember that we still have coffee mugs (12.00) and insulated tumblers (24.00) for sale. This is a fundraising project to help defray the costs of our big celebration this summer. These make great gifts for Graduation, Father's Day, and Birthday's! They are available in the church office or on Sunday mornings at the fellowship table.

Cleanup Day

We have a beautiful facility here at Bethlehem that takes a lot of upkeep and TLC. Especially this summer with our celebration in August, we will need a strong team to head up our lawn maintenance. There are landscaping needs, and we are looking for a few people to join the committee to see this thru. If this is right up your alley or love to work outside in the green, please see a council member. Keep on the lookout for another workday coming up!

Social Media

Social media is very alive and active in our church. We are so fortunate to be able to use these platforms to reach our members and community near and far. We have our own Facebook page for BLC and one for BLC Sunday School. We also have our own website, www.bethlehemplutheranbc.com This is a wonderful way to reach everyone and get our stuff out there. However, it does take some time to put things on them and keep them up to date. If you are a techy person or really enjoy spending time doing social media, we would love to talk with you. We are looking for someone or two, to help us with this. Please talk with a council member if interested.

Food Bank for July: Juice, Can fruit and vegetables, Pickles, Snack crackers and Cookie Mix. **Thank You.**

technology >>>

Our digital ministry continues to be strong.

We did have some concerns about the intelligibility (sounded muffled) of pastor's cordless mic in the sanctuary especially when the fans where running. Through a generous donation the entire wireless system has been replaced as well as some equipment added. We now have 2 different microphones to use depending upon who is talking and what they are doing. We have had several notes that it sounds much better. Thank you everyone for the continued support.

The North TV was flickering in and out due to some over heating of the equipment. This equipment has been replaced via a donation and appears to be much more stable.

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@ngtnet.net

In the word...

Read: Titus 1

Reflections: We are to turn our thoughts and hearts to God and His Holy Word.

Read also (Phillippians 4:8) and ponder: Do I spend most of my time thinking of whatever is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent and praiseworthy? If not, how can I change that?



Membership Forms

Membership Forms are available in the Narthex and on our website, www.bethlehemplutheranbc.com. We are in the process of compiling and updating many old and new lists. You may be thinking that we already have your information, but we have a new program that is a little more detailed and user friendly. It will be so good to have a completed and updated list for our new incoming Pastor. Please drop them at the office or in the back of the church. Thank You.

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 can be set up for you so that you do not have to remember every week and your giving becomes much more convenient for you. www.bethlehemplutheranbc.com/giving

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

Coffee Fellowship

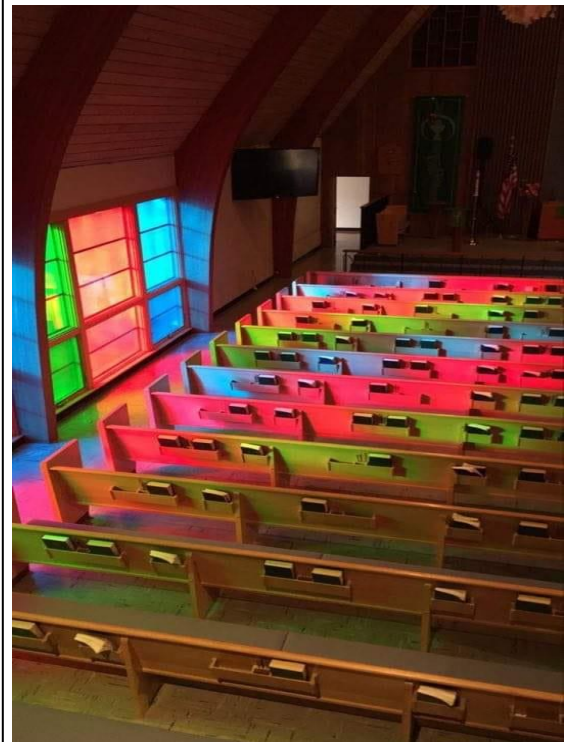
Coffee Fellowship is now back in the fellowship hall after services. Coffee will continue to be available when entering for service on Sunday mornings. With us being able to get back to some good old normal routine, we need help! If you can take a Sunday to provide and serve, that would be wonderful! Please get with Amy Walk for more information.

Attention Singers

The 125 Anniversary Committee is getting together an adult choir to sing at the Sunday morning service on August 29th. If you would like to join the choir contact Cheryl Baumann.. We would love to have you!

YOUR 2021 COUNCIL MEMBERS

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



FIND US ON FACEBOOK
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Bethlehem Lutheran Sunday School
www.bethlehemplutheranbc.com

641-562-2552 (Office)
641-562-2553 (Pastor)
office@blciowa.org
jen.mcgrady@blciowa.org

June Council Meeting

Call to Order 11:01 a.m.

Present: Amy Walk, Kelsey Bosma, Susan Jensen, Brandon Thilges, Brian Blodgett, Cassie Willmert, Cheryl Baumann, Jen McGrady

Absent: Vonnie Pilgrim-Bosma, Megan Holland

Old Business:

The shed was taken down of 06/10.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer's Report –

Checking \$11,651, Savings \$12,565.29, LOC \$0, Facilities \$5300 for Phase 2 (as of 06/06)

\$14,975 of the Phase 1 bill has been paid. Phase 1 is now complete and paid.

Property –

North door has a new lock with a door code

South door will be main door to get in and out during the day. The rest of the doors will be locked unless there is an event or service.

Boiler inspection is done and we passed.

Split units for Phase 2 are on order.

Discussion was had regarding parsonage repairs needed before the new pastor moves in. Kelsey made a motion to allow \$6,000 for parsonage repairs. Cheryl seconded the motion. Motion carries.

Discussed having a clean up day before the 125th anniversary celebration. Cheryl cleaned up as much as she could in the balcony.

Worship:

Darla Thompson is preaching next Sunday, 06/20. Pastor Perry Fruhling will be preaching on 06/27, which is also Pastor Mark's last Sunday.

Organist – Mary Ann Olson has been filling in, Cheryl will play on 06/27

Discussion was had around getting back to an usher and greeter schedule. Jen and Megan will discuss further and set up a schedule.

Stewardship –

Susan to look into ideas for a fundraiser for the parsonage repairs

Education –

VBS will be held at the First Congregational Church the week of August 2. The first night is for parents and kids, August 3-6 will be kids only. Supper will be served.

July 25 – Kelsey is planning a ball game with parents and kids

Discussed when to schedule Confirmation parent meeting and start date. Kelsey is looking into this.

Fellowship –

Planning to leave the sign-up sheet. Cassie will make phone calls when no one signs up.

Evangelism –

Planning a Bible study in the fall

Planning a Fall Kick-off picnic and service at the park

Technology –

The mic for the pastor has been replaced as of 06/06/21 as the previous mic had a short in it. The mic, transmitter, and receiver were donated (\$1200).

Logan Willmert donated and installed a feedback filter for the sound system.

CAT6 to HDMI converter for the north TV is overheating and flickers sometimes. Brian or Thomas will replace this week.

Based on feedback, we are continuing to power on the campus radio through the summer.

125th Celebration –

They'd like to have the kids sing, the confirmation kids are going to do their rap.

The 4th of July parade – should we have a float or something in the parade??

Pastor's Report –

Pastor Mark will have an exit interview with the Executive Team before he leaves.

New Business:

There's some concern about coverage while we're between pastors. We're going to reach out to a couple of the pastors on the Ministerial Assoc and see if they're willing to help.

Vote to call Pastor Eric – passed unanimously

July missions will go to LCMC. We discussed that each quarter we should do one month to LCMC, one month to a local/regional mission, and one month to a mission abroad.

Looked at new tables for the conference room. We've got some Memorial money to use for that so they will get ordered. We also looked at getting new chairs for the conference room but decided to table that for now.

We need to schedule a new member class for the fall.

July Newsletter – deadline is June 24

Next council meeting is July 11 after church.

Amy made a motion to adjourn, Cassie seconded. Adjourned at 12:27 p.m.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Secretary

Megan Holland

Congregational Meeting 06-13-2021

Call to Order 10:30 a.m.

Opened with prayer

Cassie and Brian explained there was only one item on the agenda – voting on calling Pastor Eric Hullstrom

Brian asked Cassie if we had given notice to the congregation at least 2 week prior to the meeting

Cassie: yes

Brian verified that there was a quorum to proceed with the vote.

Cassie: Yes

Any discussion?

No discussion

Vote Proceeds

Directions given to:

- Vote yes
- Vote no
- Abstain
- Write-in ballot

Vote counted by Christina Blodgett, Cassie Willmert, and Lorie Bierle

Results: The vote passed unanimously

Kelsey Bosma made a motion to adjourn. Second by Lorie Bierle

Adjourned at 10:41 a.m.

Council Member

Susan Jenson





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

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