



sharing the bread of life with the hungry world

# bethlehem lutheran church *newsletter*

Volume 48, Issue 4 · April 2019



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

## WE NEED GOOD FRIDAY TO HAVE EASTER

During our Lenten season we have been learning how faith guides us as we walk in the dark shadows along our path in life. The powerful stories written by Bethlehem's members as they reflected on the dark challenges encountered through illness, relationships, work, community, and death have reminded us that we are not alone when we experience darkness in life. I believe I speak for many of you that we have grown in our faith as we recall again how God gives us light and hope even in dark times.

I remember saying to my Clinical Pastoral Education supervisor that I wish I had more days that felt the Easter Joy rather than having days filled with pain and sadness as experienced in the Good Friday story. I was surprised by his response. He was upset that I tried to avoid entering the pain and suffering. He said, "Audrey, we can't have Easter without Good Friday." We live in a society that wants to deny suffering, pain, and death. Yet, I have not met anyone who has not experienced suffering or death. In the book, *God*

*and Human Suffering*, Douglas John Hall says we need to be in touch with our own suffering in order to enter imaginatively into another person's suffering.

God knew what we needed by sending us a Savior who took on human form. Jesus knew the suffering that comes from betrayal, ridicule, rejection, physical pain, even death. But God also knew that pain and suffering is not God's final word. God changed everything by raising Jesus from death and giving us new life.

I invite you to continue to walk with us along our Lenten journey in darkness towards the light of Easter morning and joy. Join us for Sunday and midweek worship in the days leading up to Holy Week and Easter. Soon we will be adding the Alleluias but not before we have Good Friday. May your heart and soul be fed as you attend to the silence, sounds, sights and tastes, during these last days of Lent leading up to Holy Week and Easter.

*Pastor Audrey*



## *Holy Week Schedule*

### **Palm Sunday April 14**

8:30am - Worship  
11:00am - Worship

### **Maunder Thursday April 18**

11:30am - Worship  
12:00pm - Luncheon  
7:00pm - Worship

### **Good Friday April 19**

7:00pm - Worship  
"Objects of the Cross"



## *Easter*

**April 21**

**Sunrise Worship**  
6:30am

**Easter Breakfast**  
7:15-8:30am

**Traditional  
Worship**  
8:30am

**Contemporary  
Worship**  
11:00am

## LASAGNA SUPPER FUNDRAISER

Wednesday, April 3  
6:00pm



Members of Bethlehem's Service Mission Council will serve a Lasagna meal. Proceeds will go to the Job Foundation. This local organization for youth is committed to ending financial disadvantage, especially repeat financial poverty. Students earn money for their school grades, behaviors and attendance in school. A free will offering is encouraged. All are welcome!



## CHURCH POTLUCK

Sunday, April 7  
following 11:00am worship  
Ovens available at 10:00am.  
**Everyone is welcome!**



### MID-WEEK LENTEN OFFERING

Offerings received from our Lenten services have been designated to the UNI food bank. Thank you for your generosity and sharing the bread of life with a hungry world.

## Finding Light In Darkness

### Mid-Week Lenten Services

Join us for our mid-week Lenten Services. Our liturgy and music will include Holden Evening Prayer and Taize worship. Join us for a potluck\* meal at 6:00pm with 7:00pm Lenten Worship following.



**April 3:**

*Finding Light through Work*  
**\*Lasagna Dinner Fundraiser\***

**April 10**

*Finding Light through Death*  
Potluck Meal



Bethlehem will serve **Community Meals** Tuesday, April 16. Please use the sign-up sheet on the Welcome Table to let us know if you are able to help. ??? Contact Keith Graber, 269-7784.

## BETHLEHEM'S ANNUAL ÆBLESKIVER DINNER

Sunday, April 28  
5:00-7:00pm

(Seniors will be served at 4:30pm.)



**Cost:** \$7 for adults, \$3 for children (ages 5-10) free for those younger than 5.

This event needs many volunteers to make it work. Please consider sharing your gifts (we need cooks, mixers, dining room help, and clean-up help), donating a pan of dessert bars or Jell-O, or letting us use your Æbleskiver pan. Sign-up sheets are in the Fellowship Hall. Proceeds will go to the Youth Trip Fund. ??? Contact Vicki Newgard, 240-3905 or vnewgard@cfu.net.

## MAUNDY THURSDAY

Join us Thursday, April 18, for worship at 11:30am with a luncheon following. Our 7:00pm Maundy Thursday worship will include our First Communion Milestone.



### "OBJECTS OF THE CROSS"

Our **Good Friday** worship service will include the drama, "Objects of the Cross." This drama portrays different witnesses around the cross during Jesus' crucifixion, and will be performed by members of Bethlehem. Worship begins 7:00pm, Friday, April 19.

## EASTER FLOWERS



We will be decorating the Sanctuary with flowers on Easter. To donate, a collection box with envelopes is on the Welcome Table. The envelopes have a place for your name and space to name "In Honor of" or "In Memory of." Please make checks payable to BLC with "Easter flowers" in the memo line. The last day to donate will be March 31. ??? Contact Kathy Timmer, 610-2241.

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEALS

The Wednesday Night Meals in April include:

- 3 - Service Council Fundraiser
- 10 - Lent Potluck
- 17 - No Meal; Holy Week
- 24 - Sloppy Joes



It is appreciated and helpful for planning to have volunteers sign up early to help serve pizza for our Wednesday night meals during the month of May. Sign up on the bulletin board near the kitchen. ??? Contact Heather, heather@bethlehemcf.net.



A Funeral Coordinator position was created through the Council on Worship and the Congregational Council, to assist the pastor, funeral home staff, family and guests at a funeral. This will help bereaved families to have one contact person at the church, instead of many, promoting a caring and healing environment in their time of grief. This position is similar to our very successful Wedding Coordinator position.

A funeral coordinator is a person that helps take care of lay duties to help the pastor, especially a visiting pastor, and assisting by being a liaison to the funeral home, readying spaces, organizing personnel, communicating with the luncheon team, and other duties related to funerals. A more detailed list of responsibilities is available in the church office. There will be a team of funeral coordinators who spend whatever time is needed, typically 5-6 hours, sometimes on multiple days, to help families. This also frees up the office staff to attend to their own duties.

This position has a stipend attached to match the level of training and dedication to complete the job well. A weekday funeral is \$50 and weekend funerals will be \$75 due to the many responsibilities added when the office is not open. The funeral home collects and distributes the fees. Funerals are scheduled relatively quickly and a coordinator frees up the pastor to be with the family. This position is all the more valuable when we host a visiting pastor or provide for a non-member funeral.

For further information, contact a member of the Council on Worship (Sue Bauer, Bob Nelson, Lisa Nelson or Glenn Nelson.) for questions or to join the team contact Barb Davison, Roberta Bodensteiner, Kari or Paul Rea, or Lisa or Glenn Nelson.

**FUNERAL LUNCH HELPERS** We wish to thank all who help with funeral lunches in various ways: baking cakes, setting up, preparing and serving food, and/or doing dishes and cleaning up. Especially in the winter season when some have gone south, we could use more team members. If you would like to be included in this very special ministry please contact Judy Hill 319-266-0855, or [jmhill@cfu.net](mailto:jmhill@cfu.net).

Thank you— Audrey Petersen, Judy Hill and Kathy Green.





## QUARTERLY MEETING

Sunday, April 28 9:45am.

The Mission Forward Team will provide an update on their work as well.

# QUARTERLY Meeting

### MISSION FORWARD TEAM

Bethlehem members,

In February, the President of St John's Council emailed asking if we would be interested in sharing ministries and staff. I took this communication to council for discussion, and we have included the Mission Forward Team in our conversation. So far, there is interest in sharing some social events and service ministries. We could possibly consider sharing confirmation in the future but prefer to include a new pastor in that decision. At this time in conversation, shared pastoral staff is not something we wish to pursue. Please know that our discussion is incomplete, yet we wanted to be especially transparent with this topic. Expect an update soon.

Courtney Lubs, Congregational Council President.

**MFT plans and dates to take note of:**

**April**

- Host 1-2 forums
- Finish any data collection
- Write reports
- Present to congregation at quarterly meeting
- **Key dates:** April 7: Education hour forum  
→MFT meeting dates: April 7, 28, at noon

**May**

- Host forum on May 5 during Education hour

**June**

- Report to council
- Hand off to call committee

Please contact any member of the MFT at any time with questions, concerns, dreams, or ideas. You can provide us your thoughts through the forums, cottage meetings, surveys, in person, over email, via written documents available in the narthex, via the website, or by phone. We are: Becky Chittenden, Theresa Elverum, Zach Engbrecht, Carissa Froyum Roise, Reg Green, Jack Gregersen, Ellen Hermanson, Terry Kestner, Linda Mixdorf, Erica Nelson, Adam Reilly.



# VIBRANT FAITH

APRIL 2019



**THEY'RE  
FINALLY  
HERE!  
HOORAY!**

The Taking Faith Home Cards for the liturgical year C have finally arrived. They are available on the Devotions Table in the Church Lobby. Our prayer is that you'll find these as enriching as the Cycle A and B Taking Faith Home card decks. The 2 letters (right) are from Milestones Ministry staff. We are blessed by our continued ministry partnership.

Robin,

I have discussed this lost shipment with our leadership team and we have decided to send you a replacement shipment of 30 Taking Faith Home Card Decks (Cycle C) at no additional cost. Since the USPS records show an actual delivery to your address, it is unlikely that the claim will be appealed. Since your congregation has been a long-time user of Milestones Ministry resources, we will account for the lost shipment as our business inventory loss.

Blessings in your ministry,  
Burt Streicher, Milestones Ministry

Robin,

At Milestones Ministry we feel blessed to be able to provide for you at a time like this.

The Milestones Ministry team is small. We are two couples who have a commitment to grow people in their faith through trusted relationships.

This means there are times, especially in today's changing church, when we extend a helping hand when possible.

Blessings,  
Debbie, Milestones Ministry

## FIRST COMMUNION MILESTONE

We will celebrate with our young members during Maundy Thursday Worship, 7:00pm, April 18. They will participate in the First Communion Class March 30. It is an honor to be a part of their faith journey.



"Where Christ is present in faith, the home is church, too."  
Milestones Ministry, LLC, [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)

## TAKING FAITH HOME CARDS

The card pictured below, (front/back) is a sample from the Cycle C deck. This particular card is the one for Easter Sunday. May it serve as an opportunity to celebrate Easter in your home throughout the week.



## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

### Schedule

**Monday, April 15**

12:00-6:00pm

**Tuesday, April 16**

12:00-6:30pm

**Wednesday, April 17**

8:30am-6:30pm

**Thursday, April 18**

8:30-11:00am & 12:00-4:30pm

**Friday, April 19**

8:30am-3:00pm & 8:00-9:00pm

**Saturday, April 20**

9:00am-1:00pm

During Holy Week the sanctuary will be set up with the Stations of the Cross. The stations will include the Stations of the Cross posters the congregation colored a few years ago, a biblical text, and a devotion. During scheduled times, (left) members and friends are welcome to walk this holy journey marking Jesus's final days of life up to the crucifixion. We hope this Holy Week opportunity provides a meaningful space as you reflect on the love, forgiveness, and grace God provides through the life, death, and resurrection of our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ.

TAKING FAITH HOME CARD

Jesus is not here! He has risen!

**Scripture:** Luke 24:5  
*The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen."*

**Prayer:** O God, replace our fears with boldness, our doubts with certainty, and our unbelief with faith. Amen

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TAKING FAITH HOME CARD

**Conversation:** Jesus' followers had different reactions to his resurrection. How do you think you would have reacted?

**Service:** Who do you know that is sick or going through a difficult time? What could you do to offer them care?

**Blessing:** May the resurrection of Jesus give you joy and hope. May he live within you, this day and always.



# B.L.Y.M.P. & FM4000 NEWS!

Bethlehem Lutheran Youth Ministry Programs & Family Ministry at 4000 Hudson Road



## ELEMENTARY YOUTH GROUP

**Sunday, April 7  
12:30-1:30pm**

Following the Church Potluck, Kindergarten-5th grade youth are in for an "egg"cellent adventure with Debbie as you journey on a Lenten path toward Easter with the "What do I See at Easter?" treasure map. See what hidden stories and treats Debbie may share on this "egg"citing journey. ??? Contact Debbie Burroughs, 239-7498.

## JR. HIGH YOUTH GROUP

**Sunday, April 7, 1:00pm  
Escape Cedar Valley**

Sue Jorgensen is planning this event and will reach out to families about signing up to ensure an allotted time for our participants. ??? Contact Sue, 404-3942



## SOFTBALL SIGN-UP CHURCH SOFTBALL LEAGUE

Female and male BLC members, 16 and older, wishing to be on our team should contact Butch Naber, 239-0286, to join. Games are Monday nights, May-July, at the Birdsall Softball Complex, Cedar Falls. Practice times will be set soon.

## LENTEN RESOURCES

Lenten devotionals for personal and family use remain available on the table in the Church Lobby. It's never too late to affirm your Lenten practice as we journey through Holy Week to Easter. **Watch for Easter and spring resources, too.**



Each side of this cube offers a Lenten prayer and an offering suggestion. When Easter arrives, the colorful box is now ready for prayers and offerings throughout the Easter season.

## ÆBLESKIVER DINNER

**Jr. and Sr. High Youth,** please plan to help with the **Æbleskiver**



**Dinner Sunday, April 28,** as a service to our congregation and fundraising for the Youth Trip Fund. **Sign up** on the Æbleskiver Dinner poster in the Fellowship Hall to volunteer for the shift that works best for your family. ??? Contact Sue Jorgensen, 404-3942 or Theresa Elverum, 277-3306.

## Church Camp

### Camp isn't just for youth!

Opportunities for adults and families also are available: camp nurse, camp grandparent, family camp, day camp, and more.

**Early bird discounts** may still apply. The average cost for a week of church camp is more than \$475. Currently the Youth Trip Fund provides half of the cost for

summer church camp up to \$300. See Robin about campership payments to camps.



Follow the path to Church Camp:

- Choose a camp and program.
- Sign up early for registration discounts.
- Arrange campership payment with Robin, 266-3541 or robin@bethlehemcf.net.

Volume 19, Issue 9

April 2019

## Upcoming Events

|                            |                         |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Beer & Hymns               | March 31                |
| Elementary Youth           | April 7                 |
| Y&F Council Mtg.           | April 15                |
| Easter<br>Easter Breakfast | April 21                |
| Æbleskiver Dinner          | April 28                |
| Pints of Grace 7:00pm      | Tuesdays                |
| LSC Worship 8:30pm         | Wednesdays              |
| LSC Coffee House<br>8:00pm | Tuesdays &<br>Thursdays |

## Sunday, March 31, 3:00pm Second State Brewery

2<sup>nd</sup> & State Streets, Cedar Falls

# BEER & HYMNS

This is a family friendly event. ??? Contact Karen Dowell, dowell.family@cfu.net or Vicki Newgard, vnewgard@cfu.net.



### NEW MEMBER CLASS

Classes for those interested in joining the Bethlehem community of faith are invited to attend Sunday classes on May 5 and 12 with a reception on Sunday May 19. The classes provide an opportunity to share stories as we learn more about those who wish you be part of the mission here at Bethlehem. Classes will take place in the Church Library, 9:50-10:45am. Please call Pastor Audrey, 266-3541, if you or someone you know is interested.



**CONFIRMATION CLASS**  
**Sunday, April 14 & 28, 5:30pm**  
 ??? Contact Pastor Audrey,  
 pastor@bethlehemcf.net, or 266-3541.



### DO DAY

If you can tie a knot, you are qualified to help at Do Day. Tuesday, April 9, 9:00am. All are welcome to meet in the Church Fellowship Hall to tie quilts for Lutheran World Relief. ??? Contact Barb Davison, sbdavison@cfu.net.



**\*No Sunday School  
April 21**

### BETHLEHEM KNITERS & FRIENDS

All those able or wishing to knit or crochet prayer shawls and scarves are welcome to join Bethlehem members and friends in the Church Library at their **NEW** time, Wednesdays, 1:00pm.

Yarn welcome! Those wishing to contribute yarn for our prayer shawl ministry may contact Judy Hill 226-0855 or Nancy Tibbetts 277-5432 to find out more about how to contribute.




The Joyful Times group for BLC members and friends of the AARP or "empty nester" ages, meets 9:30am on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month for coffee fellowship and to plan activities for future months. The next meeting is Wednesday, April 17, 9:30am. ???'s Contact Jerry Mohling, 240-7571.

Those who pre-purchased a ticket for the April 7 Spring Fling show in Shell Rock, plan to meet in the church parking lot to carpool by 12:13 for the 2:00pm show. ??? Contact Jody Elliott, 231-7023.



We offer several opportunities for adults to engage the Bible and talk about God's continuing work in our lives.

**Sunday Morning Mission Forward Forum: *Finding Light in Darkness through the Eyes of the Poor.*** Discover how the JOB Foundation promotes financial stewardship for the cause of economic empowerment with children. Sunday April 7, 9:45am.

This local organization for youth is committed to ending financial disadvantage, especially repeat financial poverty. Students earn money for their school grades, behaviors and attendance in school.

**Bible Study: *Walking the Holy Walk*** Join us on Palm Sunday, April 14, 9:45am, during the education hour to study the texts used throughout holy week.

**Friends in Faith** meets early this month, Sunday, **April 14, 6:30pm**, bring a snack to share and a beverage. We will be reading through chapters 2-4 of the book *Shepherds of Souls: Faith Formation Through Trusted Relationships* by David W. Anderson. ??? Contact Diane Kestner, 277-2469 or tdk325@hotmail.com.

**Men's Bible Study Breakfast** meets Saturday, **April 27, 7:30am**, in the Church Fellowship Hall to study the gospel reading appointed for worship the next Sunday. Join us for bagels, orange juice, and coffee while we study. ??? Contact Scott Davison, 486-6914.

## NEW OFFICE STAFF

We are delighted to welcome Tina Varney, Church Administrative Assistant to Bethlehem. Tina is a member of St. Ansgar Lutheran Church in Waterloo. Her work at Sacred Heart School and Barnes and Noble has equipped her with multiple skills needed for this ministry position. Stop by the office to say hello.



## YOUNG ADULT & CAMPUS MINISTRY

Lutheran Student Center  
2616 College Street, Cedar Falls

### April Ministry Schedule

#### Pints of Grace

Tuesdays, 7:00pm  
Pepper's, 620 East 18th, CF

Pints of Grace is a ministry with young adults, over 18 years old, where fellowship and conversations of faith are enjoyed. You're welcome to have dinner, an appetizer, a drink, or just hang out.

#### LSC Worship

Wednesday, 8:30pm  
Supper preceding, 7:30pm

#### LSC Coffee House

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:00pm

Enjoy free coffee, smoothies, cookies, music, and fellowship at the LSC.

The LSC is a partner in ministry with Bethlehem and St. John Lutheran churches. ??? Contact Jon Fry, UNI LSC Campus Minister, [lscuni@uni.edu](mailto:lscuni@uni.edu) or [www.lutheranstudentcenter.org](http://www.lutheranstudentcenter.org).

The Elliott family thanks the congregation for their prayers and support during the sad time of Todd's death. We are very grateful to have such a caring church family. Thank you again for the prayer shawls. We love the colors and the softness of both.

- Ken and Jody Elliott



Thank you for all of the prayers, cards, and messages to Judy and me during this difficult time. Your encouragement and support have meant so much to us. Thank you, also, for letting us borrow medical equipment for Judy to use. It has made the transition to home smoother. Thank you, again! - Craig and Judy Goetsch

**CONTACT INFORMATION** If you are moving, or if you have changed your phone number or email address, please contact the church, 266-3541, or [office@bethlehemcf.net](mailto:office@bethlehemcf.net), so we can stay in touch with you.

**Freda Lovejoy** moved into her daughter's new home, 9480 Darrell Dr., Cedar Rapids, IA 52411.

## UNIFIED ACTIVITY JANUARY 2019



Income: \$66,816.72 YTD

Expenses: \$58,356.08 YTD

\$8460.64, YTD

2019 Mission Plan Total: \$363,893



319-226-3541

[office@bethlehemcf.net](mailto:office@bethlehemcf.net)

### CHURCH OFFICE STAFF

**Audrey Lukasak - Interim Pastor**

507-358-6924, [pastor@bethlehemcf.net](mailto:pastor@bethlehemcf.net)

**Robin Souhrada - Director of Faith Formation**

[robin@bethlehemcf.net](mailto:robin@bethlehemcf.net)

**Heather Schneider - Ministry Coordinator**

[heather@bethlehemcf.net](mailto:heather@bethlehemcf.net)

**Tina Varney - Office Administrative Assistant**

[office@bethlehemcf.net](mailto:office@bethlehemcf.net)

**Diane Bowman - Office Business Assistant**

[office@bethlehemcf.net](mailto:office@bethlehemcf.net)

### STAY CONNECTED

[www.bethlehemcf.org](http://www.bethlehemcf.org)

#blcsharing

[www.facebook.com/pages/  
Bethlehem-Lutheran-Church-ELCA/](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Bethlehem-Lutheran-Church-ELCA/)

451552121584266?ref=hl



## GIVING MADE EASY

Scan the QR code or go to [bethlehemcf.org](http://bethlehemcf.org) and click on "Give Online" underneath the Worship tab.

Sunday worship with Holy Communion  
8:30am & 11:00am  
Nursery available 8:15am-12:15pm  
Pastor: Rev. Audrey Lukasak  
Church office phone: 319-266-3541  
Office hours: Monday-Thursday, 8:00am-3:00pm  
Friday, 8:00am-Noon  
Email: office@bethlehemcf.org  
Website: www.bethlehemcf.org  
**\*\*Newsletter deadline: April 15\*\***  
**Bulletin deadline: 9:00am Thursdays**

*Finding Light  
In Darkness*



**Wednesday Lenten  
Schedule  
Supper**  
6:00pm  
**Cherub Choir**  
6:15pm  
**Celestial Choir**  
6:15pm  
**Lenten Worship**  
7:00pm  
**Chancel Choir**  
Following worship



*Holy Week  
Schedule*

**Palm Sunday  
April 14**  
8:30am - Worship  
11:00am - Worship  
**Maundy Thursday  
April 18**  
11:30am - Worship  
12:00pm - Luncheon  
7:00pm - Worship  
**Good Friday  
April 19**  
7:00pm - Worship



*Easter*

**April 21**  
**Sunrise Worship**  
6:30am  
**Easter Breakfast**  
7:15-8:30am  
**Traditional  
Worship**  
8:30am  
**Contemporary  
Worship**  
11:00am

*Bethlehem's  
Æbleskiver  
Dinner*



**Sunday, April 28**  
**5:00-7:00pm**  
(Seniors will be served at 4:30pm.)  
\$7 for adults  
\$3 for children (ages 5-10)  
Free for those younger than 5.