



sharing the bread of life with the hungry world

bethlehem lutheran church *newsletter*

Volume 54, Issue 8 · August 2018



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

In-Between-Times

Many of us have experienced living through periods often referred to as "in-between-times". Newly engaged couples have long "to-do" lists as they prepare for their wedding. Those who prepare to give birth or adopt a child have days filled with hope-filled anticipation. The newly graduated student waits to begin a new job as he or she takes one more step towards financial freedom and independence. A congregation says goodbye to a beloved pastor, then warmly welcomes a new interim pastor (sometimes referred to as the ("temporary shepherd")). These "in-between-times" can be filled with excitement, a time to imagine new possibilities, expected change, and a hope-filled spirit as a new chapter in life begins. However, fear, anxiety, impatience, doubt, endless questions, grief, and loss of control can sometimes invade the space while we wait for something new to begin. Prayer is essential for these "in-between times".

There are two scripture passages that keep me center and calm my anxiety when I find myself living in these "in-between-times". "How one should regard us, as servant of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God" (1 Corinthians 4:1). "I (Paul) plant the seeds, Apollos waters it, but God is the one who makes things grow" (1 Corinthians 3:6). None of us can tell how long this transition time between now and when your new pastor arrives may be. It could take 9, 12, 22 months (the gestation of an elephant). The synod has already planted the seeds with the council leadership on how to call a new pastor. Now they are cultivating and nourishing the soil for us to create a healthy process which will involve the whole congregation towards calling a new pastor.

This "in-between-time" here at BLC requires patience, engaging conversations, generous listening, careful discernment, team work, and trust in God's Spirit as we continue to do the important ministry here at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Many hands working together enable the work to be a time of great joy, rather than a heavy burden. I look forward to our time together as we grow during these "in-between-times". May we not forget to celebrate each day of God's grace and blessings.

Pastor Lukasak





Pot Luck

Sunday, August 5
following 10:30am
worship.
Ovens available at
10:15am.
Everyone is
welcome!

To our family at Bethlehem: Thank you so much for being such a wonderful community. From the first meeting with your call committee to our last Sunday, you have all been welcoming and loving to our entire family. I will miss you all, but want you to know that you will continue to be in my thoughts and prayers as



we both move on to the next stage of our lives. Blessings to you all
- Linda Hedding

As you go to garage sales and back to school sales, please help purchase supplies for Lutheran World Relief Kits. A complete list of items is on the Welcome Table. We are in most need of the following items: soap, bath towels, pencils, crayons, rulers, 6-24 month socks, 6-24 month jackets or sweaters and 6-24 month gowns or pjs without feet. ??? Contact Barb Davison, 277-6602 or sbdavison@cfu.net



**Lutheran
World
Relief**

QUILT 'N CRAFT

Quilt n' craft will meet August 9, 7:00pm, at Barb Davison's Home, 1921 Continental Dr, Cedar Falls. This will be our last meeting. All are welcome!



COMMUNITY MEALS Bethlehem Lutheran Church reaches out into the community and feeds the hungry at First United Methodist Church in Cedar Falls, Tuesday, August 21. The community meal site not only provides good food but also great social interaction for people as well. Our Service Council organizes the menus and does much of the meal preparation every other month of the year. The people of Bethlehem provide the servers and those who clean up. It is an honor to shower people with food and hospitality. It is an act of love to clean up after the people who come and eat. We get to participate in acts like those that Jesus did and carry on Jesus' ministry into our time. Look for the sign-up sheet to be a part of this opportunity to for "Sharing the Bread of Life with a Hungry World".



COUNCIL ON SERVICE is collecting school supplies for Lincoln School in Cedar Falls. Pull-tabs with items to purchase are located in the Narthex. Please return the supplies by Sunday, August 12. Items may be placed in the boxes available near the pull-tabs. 14 backpacks will be filled and delivered to the school. Monetary donations can also be made, contact Becky Anderson. Everyone's help is appreciated.

BACKPACK DRIVE



WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEALS

Will resume on September 12. If you would like to prepare and serve a meal, help serve pizza, or help with clean up after each meal, please sign up in the Fellowship Hall. ??? Contact Heather, heather@bethlehemcf.net



USHERS NEEDED! We are in need of ushers for both the 8:30am and 10:30am services. August 12 and 19, we are in need of ushers that can help with communion at the 10:30am service. In September, we need help for every Sunday. Consider signing



up on the Welcome Table, it would be a great help to the congregation! ??? Contact Kathy Cessna, kcessna@cfu.net

KNITTERS GROUP meets weekly on Wednesdays, 12:00pm in the BLC Library. We work on many different ministries and are looking for people interested in knitting or who would like to learn. ??? Contact Jean Sackett, gmajeana@cfu.net



*all you
knit is
love*



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

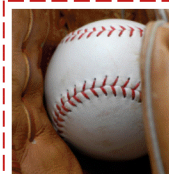
Bethlehem Lutheran Youth Ministry Programs & Family Ministry at 4000 Hudson Road

Volume 19, Issue 1

August 2018

Upcoming Events

Youth & Family mtg.	Aug. 20
Youth & Family Ministry Kick-Off	Aug. 26
Church Softball	Mondays August



Church Softball League

Join us to cheer on our Bethlehem team Monday nights at the Birdsall Softball Complex, West 12th Street, Cedar Falls.

Make-up games are being scheduled in August. Watch the Sunday bulletin and Church website for details.

??? Call Butch, 239-0286.



A "Food Truck" lunch will be provided following our 10:30am worship service.

Then everyone is invited to participate in an **interactive global farm experience** led by Bethlehem Youth Gathering participants as a follow-up project to their Gathering experience.

#changeiseverything



CHURCH TAILGATE FELLOWSHIP

Fun for the whole family!

UNI
Panthers
vs.
Hampton
Pirates

Saturday
September 22
Noon

4:00pm Game

Sign up for group tickets, \$15 each, before August 31 on the Youth & Family Ministry bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.



COMING SOON!

Elementary Youth Group

(Kindergarten-5th grades)

Saturday, September 29
9:00-10:30am

Jr. High Youth Group

(6th-8th grades)

Saturday, September 29, 9:00-10:30am

Sr. High Youth Group

(9th-12th grades)

Sunday, September 16, Time TBA - Mini Golfing
Saturday, September 29, 9:00-10:30am



VIBRANT FAITH

AUGUST 2018



THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING! 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering

Faith formation sometimes comes through opportunities of service. Many of the Gathering youth, adult leaders, and congregations, in addition to participating in Service Learning Day, donated other gifts. (see graphic below)

Our congregation gave very generously, especially through our Blast Off for Books campaign, Bible donations to congregations affected by Hurricane Harvey, and our tithe offering given on Sunday during closing worship. Through the witness shown throughout the Gathering, our youth were inspired to give in many ways.

Austin and Jill started collecting their spare change in a cup holder on our bus in Houston. They were inspired to make a difference with this change so challenged our entire group to donate our change to this collection because **#changeiseverything!** As a group, we decided our change would be donated to ELCA's Global Farm Challenge. On our Interactive Learning Day, we had an opportunity to learn about this challenge and about how ELCA World Hunger supports global farming. We will also be bringing this challenge to the congregation for the rest of 2018 for everyone to donate their loose change to the Global Farm Challenge because, at times,...

GIFTS AT THE GATHERING...

437 hair donations
to Children with Hair Loss



1,248 units of blood
donated from 987 donors

40,000 books
donated at Blast Off for Books



200 grace bags
and 100 kindness project rocks
made by tAble participants

700 individuals attended
MYLE and visited 13 service sites.



\$260,000 + raised for
ELCA's Global Farm Challenge

Thanks to **31,242**
registered Gathering participants!

#ELCAYG2018

#CHANGE IS EVERYTHING!



Teachers, students, professors, administrators, and education staff, bring your backpack, satchel, briefcase, or bag to worship for a special beginning-of-the-school-year blessing.

We also will bless the backpacks with supplies filled by the congregation that are going to Lincoln Elementary School.



As a part of our Milestone and Blessing Ministry, we celebrate with our 3-year-olds who will move from being on our cradle roll to beginning Sunday school this fall.



SUMMER HASHTAG: #blcsharing Members and friends of the congregation are encouraged to use the logos and #blcsharing card, available at the church, this summer. Take a picture with the card then post it on social media: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram with #blcsharing in the comments so that others can see where we are being the church in the world this summer.

Summer Faith Formation! See the display in the Church Lobby for several compact, handy tools for on-the-go worship and faith forming ideas perfect for adults, youth, children, and families. ??? Contact Robin, robin@bethlehemcf.net **Enjoy the rest of the summer!**



A++ CONGREGATION - 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING!

There isn't enough space to adequately express the gratitude from the Bethlehem youth who participated in the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston! You are encouraged to be in conversation with them about their faith forming trip. The following is comprised of a tiny sample of their reflections.

Worship: "Communion with 30,000 other people"; "It was so cool to see and think about 30,000+ Lutherans all worshipping in the SAME PLACE!"; "Communion was super cool cause they served everyone and had a white umbrella [to identify] each station for people to see where they were."

Music: "[Singing] a very fun and jazzy 'This Little Light of Mine' version at the evening worship"; "Leaving the stadium and all of us were singing songs in sync"; "[we] all swayed together while singing Rachel [Kurtz's] version of [Hallelujah] where I was overwhelmed with emotions."; "We were surrounded by people from different congregations around the country and we all swayed together while singing... It was SO powerful."

Lines: "[30,000+ Lutherans] also has helped me develop patience since there are lots of loooong lines." "Waiting in long lines at [the] arena." "Get in lines early for food." "[Seats on the stadium floor] completely changed the experience because we got to get up out of our seats to dance, get into MASSIVE conga lines and just immerse ourselves into the experience."

Speakers: "Learning that life can get really hard but as long as you have **hope** it will be better"; "I know you all didn't get to hear [the speakers] but they were so impactful."; "How much God **loves** us even in places we least expect."; "If you do bad things in life they can be fixed with **hope**."; "People can really change if they **hope**."; "God's **grace** is with us even through hard times."; "**Hope** can inspire people."; "Today really impacted me with **GOD'S LOVE!**"; "God's **GRACE** changes everything!"

Community: "People can open up to people they trust [and] with the help of God."; "How much people can care for people they don't know."; "I'm super excited to share everything I've learned with my community!"; "Another awesome thing was walking around the NRG Center [(Interactive Learning Day)], a lot of people were wearing shirts that said, 'Free Hugs' and giving out hugs to everyone." "Sleep is very important to help a large group of people get along in a crowded place."; "Playing UNO with people from other churches on the bus ride home."; "I felt so much more comfortable like everybody is here for the same reason and is accepting of each other."; "The whole stadium doing the wave perfectly."; "Most of all the courage that people can show and the love and trust that our group has with one another."

Service: "Our service day project that we got to all work together, but also being able to explain what we are doing and why [we are doing it] to someone [from Houston] who did not know, was a great experience."; "Today was our Service Learning Day and our group went to Buffalo Bayou Park to move and replant some monkey grass! ... because the park was affected by Hurricane Harvey. It felt so good to be able to help a community and see their appreciation."

"It all being worth it and feeling God's presence alive in the stadium."



CONFIRMATION FAMILIES**Save the Date**

Youth and parents involved in Confirmation this coming year will gather together for an informational meeting on Wednesday, August 29, 6:30p.m. Please mark your calendars. You will be receiving more information in the mail. Thanks!

**Faith & Learning Mission Council****SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES**

resumes September 9, 9:45am.
??? Contact Lisa Newgard.

**CHOIR DIRECTOR JOB OPENING**

Bethlehem Lutheran Church is seeking directors for our Cherub Choir, for children kindergarten through grade 3, and for the Chancel Choir, our adult choir. Position descriptions are available from the church office or can be found on Bethlehem's website, www.bethlehemcf.org under the "Staff" tab. A candidate may apply for one or both positions. The start date for these job openings is August 15.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL OFFERING**

This year's VBS offering went to Retrieving Freedom Inc. out of Waverly, IA which is a nonprofit organization that trains service dogs for veterans, individuals with autism, and people with type 1 diabetes. To learn more about this program, opportunities to donate or volunteer, or how you can foster a puppy for a recipient, visit www.retrievingfreedom.org



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

Sunday Morning Bible Study Resumes, September 9, 9:45am.

Friends in Faith will meet **August 19**, 6:00pm, at Pepper's Grill, 620 E. 18th St, Cedar Falls. Please join us for supper as we choose our study for this Fall. ??? Contact Diane Kestner, 277-2469.

Men's Bible Study Breakfast will meet, **August 25**, 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.

BookBeat

August 2018...In the season of Pentecost... Young children will enjoy *First Bible Words*, a picture board book

that labels items in the book. Children of reading age will enjoy *Bible Question and Answer Book*, which has fun ways to learn about God's world such as, fill-in-the-blank pages and other fun things to do. *Tell Me the Story*, is for proficient readers and tells the creation story and others with beautifully illustrations. Adults will enjoy *Accidental Saints: Finding God in All the Wrong People*. It invites us into a religious but not-so-spiritual life. *Crossing Boundary Waters: A Spiritual Journey in Canoe Country*, is one of many books left to the library by Pastor Gary. Families will like *I Love You Rituals*, which are fun activities for parents and children. All of these books may be found in the library or on the bookshelves by the classrooms.



**"Enhancing lives through a commitment
to individualized care in a home empowered by God's love."**

This is the mission statement of NewAldaya Lifescapes, a place of Christian Caring with direct ties to Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Ours was one of 7 Lutheran congregations that founded this place! And, we continue to consider it an important part of our ministry to seniors.

- The Christian Caring Committee is an ecumenical group of volunteers who visit residents to share the love of Christ. They use their mission fund to meet needs of residents and staff, and support Chaplain Linda in a variety of ways. Longtime BLC member Marilyn Bigelow was involved on CCC, and is sorely missed. We would welcome more representatives from Bethlehem to share this important work.
- For two months each year, BLC members are relied upon to assist in transporting residents to and from Sunday chapel service. See Marie Gregerson for details!
- Special weekly worship is provided in Memory Care, and one of our members regularly plays piano to enhance the worship experience for residents. Chaplain Linda is seeking lay leaders to help lead this worship.

This month, I highlight service opportunities that are central to supporting the above mission statement. I'd love to visit with you about them! - Lisa Nelson, lisa.nelson111@gmail.com

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319-266-3541

office@bethlehemcf.net
CHURCH OFFICE STAFF

Pastor Audrey Lukasak

507-358-6924, pastor@bethlehemcf.net
Robin Souhrada - Director of Faith Formation
robin@bethlehemcf.net

Rachel Storm - Office Manager

rachel@bethlehemcf.net

Heather Schneider - Ministry Coordinator

heather@bethlehemcf.net

STAY CONNECTED

www.bethlehemcf.org

#blcsharing

www.facebook.com/pages/Bethlehem-Lutheran-Church-ELCA/45155212584266?ref=hl

Young Adult & Campus Ministry

Lutheran Student Center

2616 College St., CF

August Ministry Schedule



Pints of Grace: Tuesdays, 7:00pm

at Pepper's, 620 East 18th, Cedar Falls

Pints of Grace is a ministry with young adults, 18-30 years old, where fellowship and conversations of faith are enjoyed. Come relax, enjoy a soda or beer, and gather together as brothers and sisters in Christ.

LSC Worship: Resumes August, 22

Wednesdays, 8:30pm

LSC Coffee House: Resumes August, 21

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:00pm.

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

LSC Kick-Off: Sunday, August 26, 7:00pm

Food, fellowship, and worship at the LCS.

All are welcome!

??? Contact Jon Fry, UNI LSC Campus Minister, Jon.Fry14@gmail.com, or visit www.lutheranstudentcenter.org

The Lutheran Student Center is an ELCA partner in ministry with Bethlehem and St. John Lutheran churches.

Sunday worship with Holy Communion
8:30am & 10:30am
Nursery available 8:15am-11:45am
Pastor: Audrey Lukasak
Church office phone: 319-266-3541
Office hours: Monday-Thursday, 8:00am-3:00pm
Friday, Closed
Email: office@bethlehemcf.net
Website: www.bethlehemcf.org
****Newsletter deadline: August 15****
Bulletin deadline: 9:00am Thursdays

Youth & Family Ministry Kick-Off



A "Food Truck" lunch will be provided following our 10:30am worship service

The Whole Congregation is Invited!
See inside for more details.

CHOIR DIRECTOR JOB OPENINGS

Bethlehem is seeking to fill two
Choir Director positions

Our Chancel Choir is for adults and
our Cherub Choir is for children
kindergarten through grade 3

See inside for more details and visit
www.bethlehemcf.org for job descriptions
and application information

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE
June, July, & August
8:30am Traditional
10:30am Contemporary
(Coffee fellowship hour begins at 9:30am)

SUMMER BLC OFFICE HOURS
Monday-Thursday, 8:00am-3:00pm
Friday, Closed