



sharing the bread of life with the hungry world

# bethlehem lutheran church *newsletter*

Volume 53, Issue 1 January 2020



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

## **Clocks and New Year Blessing**

Lord, You who live outside of time, and reside in the imperishable moment,  
we ask Your blessing this New Year's Day (Eve) upon Your gift to us of time.

Bless our clocks, watches and time display devices,

You who kindly direct us to observe the passing of minutes and hours.

May they make us aware of the miracle  
of each second of life we experience.

May these our ticking or digital servants  
help us not to miss that which is important,  
while You keep us from machine-like routine.

May we ever be free from being clock watchers  
and instead become time lovers.

Bless our calendars, these ordered lists of days, weeks and months,  
of holidays, holydays, fasts and feasts – all our special days of remembering.

May these servants, our calendars, once reserved for the royal few,  
for magi and pyramid priests, now grace our homes and our lives.

May they remind us of birthdays and other gift-days,  
as they teach us the secret that all life  
is meant for celebration and contemplation.

Bless, Lord, this new year,  
Each of its 365 days and nights.

Bless us with new moons and full moons.

Bless us with happy seasons and a long life.

Grant to us, Lord, the new year's gift of a year of love.

*Amen New Year's Eve, as the old year gives way to the new, we pray together this  
blessing by Edward Hays, taken from his book Prayers for The Domestic Church.*



## MONTHLY POTLUCK



Bethlehem's January potluck will be **Sunday, January 5**, following **11:00am** worship. Bring a dish to share; coffee and water provided. (Ovens available at 10:00am.) **Everyone is welcome!**

## MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE STAFF

It is a joy for us to serve a congregation dedicated to "Sharing the Bread of Life with a Hungry World". The promise of Jesus' birth fills all our hearts with grace and the fullness of God's great love. We anticipate ministry in the coming year that continues our commitment to proclaiming Jesus Christ and serving our neighbor in His Name. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.



**WEATHER ALERT** Winter weather will be here soon. As a reminder, if the Cedar Falls schools are closed or dismissed early on a Wednesday due to weather, all Wednesday night activities at the church will be cancelled. Church Office will also be closed or late start or early out.



## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE January 14

News Letter Deadline. Please have all articles in for the February News Letter.



## EMERGENCY PASTORAL NEED IN TRANSITION

During this time of transition for pastoral needs, please contact Dan Mixdorf 563.210.8196. Dan Mixdorf will be preaching on **Sundays**. He, along with other local Lutheran clergy, have offered to be available for pastoral needs.



## DON'T FORGET...

- ♦ **OFFICE CLOSED** During the December and January holidays, the office will **close at Noon December 24 and 31**, and the office will be **closed December 25, 26, 27 and January 1**.
- ♦ **2019 OFFERING** must be turned into the Church Office by **Noon** or postmarked by **December 31, 2019** to be included in **2019** contributions.



## SUNDAY MORNING ADULT FORUM

We are currently studying the book "Manna and Mercy: A Brief History of God's Unfolding Promise to Mend the Entire Universe," by Daniel Erlander. Bethlehem members will be leading the study which covers an overview of the entire Bible and God's amazing gift to humanity. All are welcome, we meet in the **Church Library, 9:45am**.



The Joyful Times group for BLC members and friends of the AARP or "empty nester" ages, meets **9:30am** on the **3rd Wednesday** of each month for coffee fellowship and to plan activities for future months. All are welcome. The next meeting is Wednesday, January 15 Contact Jerry Mohling, 240-7571.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

There will be no Sunday School on Dec. 29.

Classes resume  
Sunday, January 5, 9:45am.





## BETHLEHEM KNITTERS & 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 Wednesdays, **January 8, 15, 22, and 29, 1:00pm.**

**Friends provide knitted hats, scarves and prayer shawls** to many organizations and individuals around the Cedar Valley. It requires quite a bit of yarn to complete all of these projects and even though the knitters received some large donations of yarn this year, we have used up almost all of those supplies as these projects have been finished.

**The money from the sale of these dishcloths will be used to purchase additional yarn** to continue fulfilling requests from the many schools, daycares, and veterans groups in our area. We appreciate your interest in helping us continue to be able to fulfill these needs for people in our area. Thank you.

### Donations provided by the Bethlehem Knitter and Friends

**November 15, 2018-** Bremwood- **100** hats/**100** scarves, Veterans-**80** hats

Christmas baskets - **40** plus hats/**40** plus scarves



### 2019

**September 20, 2019-**Bremwood – **45** hats, **45** scarves

**September 30, 2019** – Cedar Valley Day Care – **65** hats /**65** scarves

Veterans – **50** hats, **38** additional hats to be provided for Christmas.

Bethlehem Christmas baskets - **41** hats,**41** scarves

Seven Cedar Falls Elementary schools plus **2** additional daycares- **30** hats and **10** scarves each for emergency use when needed.

Totals = **270** hats and **90** scarves

Part of our Wednesday night ministry programming is a weekly meal. We are in need of people who would be willing to prepare and serve a meal or two **January 8** through **February 19**. If you would be interested in helping, please sign up in the Fellowship Hall or contact Heather, [heather@bethlehemcf.net](mailto:heather@bethlehemcf.net).



**CHRISTMAS PROJECT** Thank you to all for your generous donations to our Christmas project. All of the stars were taken and monetary donations were used to provide a food box for each family. Nineteen families in our community had a wonderful Christmas this year thanks to your kindness. Service Council.



## FOOD BANK

Bethlehem continues to support food insecure individuals and families through the North East Iowa Food Bank Non-perishable food items and personal care products are welcome. All items may be placed in the big green Cedar Valley Food Bank can.



## DO DAY

If you can tie a knot, you are qualified to help at Do Day, **Tuesday, January 14, 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](mailto:sbdavison@cfu.net).





# VIBRANT FAITH

JANUARY 2020



## WHAT IS VIBRANT FAITH AT BETHLEHEM?

Bethlehem's model of Vibrant Faith is a paradigm in which we strive to connect faith in a meaningful way to our daily lives at home and away from home. Along with using Taking Faith Home bulletin inserts in worship, meetings, and personally, we try to emphasize the beautiful connection of using them as a devotional and worship tool in the home with family and friends. The 4 Key Faith Practices; Caring Conversations, Devotions, Service, and Rituals & Devotions, teaches people how to connect our congregational worship experience with daily practices to nurture faith away from our Sunday morning experience. Our hope in modeling the 4 Key format in programming, like our Hanging of the Greens Cross-generational Event the beginning of December or the Pre-Advent Advent Workshop in November, is that it will encourage members to deepen their faith experience and recognize opportunities to celebrate God's presence in everyday moments.

Bethlehem's Milestones and Blessings Ministry also is a part of our Vibrant Faith paradigm which seeks to celebrate special milestones and moments that recur in our lives. We try to recognize opportunities for the youngest member to the oldest, recognizing that many of our traditional faith milestones happen amidst the earliest years of life. Several of the milestones and blessings Bethlehem celebrates occur annually, while others occasionally. For many of them we include resources for continuing the celebration at home and give a memento as a symbol of the sacred and holy moment celebrated. Often the resources include 4 Key Faith Practices to equip and nurture faith in the home, allowing people to experience faith in daily life occasions.

Bethlehem's Vibrant Faith culture also offers resources like the Taking Faith Home bulletin inserts, devotions, children's seasonal activity packets, Taking Faith Home Cards, The Word in Season booklets, social media (Facebook,

#blcsharing), Lord's Prayer and Apostle's Creed pew cards, and others. The beauty in offering a variety of resources is that we are invited into the holy places of God's work in and among us, like when we hear the children during worship reading the Apostle's Creed from the pew card, or see Megan's prayer journal from her weekly Taking Faith Home insert devotional practice, or find Lisa on her horse with the #blcsharing picture card. Hearing children during worship reading aloud the Apostle's Creed gives us hope. Seeing Megan's prayer journal inspires us. Finding Lisa's picture with #blcsharing encourages us. We grow in faith when we are nurtured by the power of the Holy Spirit in worship, programming, prayer, and community with one another. Then we are sent, with blessing, into our homes and the world, to share our faith vibrantly.

God be with you as you grow in faith and share faith vibrantly.

For more information, contact Robin Souhrada and visit [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org).



## EPIPHANY: Journey Toward Light

Our congregation has a nativity set that includes 3 wisemen and 2 camels. During Advent they sit atop the computer and sound desk in the back of the sanctuary awaiting their journey toward the altar where our nativity set is displayed. They are waiting, as are we, for baby Jesus, Emmanuel, the Son of God. The candle light will guide them... candles on the Advent wreath, candles during Silent Night at our Christmas Eve candlelight service, candles on the altar just above our manger scene, where they will soon meet their Savior, our Savior. May the candle light of the season be a reminder of the journey of the wisemen as we welcome baby Jesus, Prince of Peace, Light of the World.



BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARY

## MILESTONE

**Sunday, January 12**

As we celebrate the Baptism of our Lord in worship, Sunday, January 12, we also remember those baptized during the last year, including Kasen Kinzebach and Kari Lund.





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

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



**Saturday, January 4  
10:30am-Noon**

**Adults, youth, and families** are invited to swim at the Cedar Valley SportsPlex, 300 Jefferson Street, Waterloo. Bring your own towel. Lifeguards will be on duty; however, children younger than 10 will need an adult with them. The pool area includes a zero-depth entry, spray features, current channel, water slide, and more. Snacks will be served. You may bring a friend.

??? Contact  
Debbie Burroughs, 239.7498  
Sue Jorgensen, 404.3942

**CAMPUS & YOUNG ADULT  
MINISTRY**

**PINTS OF GRACE**

**Tuesdays, 7:00pm**

**Pepper's, 620 E. 18th Street, C.F.**

We welcome people 18-30 years old back to Pepper's beginning January 7, 2020, for a soda, beer, or food, as we enjoy fellowship and conversations of faith. ??? Contact Zachary Rogers, 415.9019.



**Sunday, January 5, Noon-2:00pm**

Youth, 9th –12th grade, are invited to gather and eat together during the Church Potluck, followed by singing Karaoke and playing games. ??? Contact Theresa Elverum, 277.3306.

**Calling All Chili Cooks!**



**Souper Bowl  
of Caring  
Chili Cook-Off  
and Potluck**

**Sunday, February 2**

Get your recipes ready! To enter, **sign up before January 29** on the table in the Fellowship Hall. ??? Contact Sue Jorgensen, 404.3942.



Look for the "soup cans" to make your donations to the NFC, AFC, or IDC (I don't care) football team you think will win the Super Bowl as the **Jr. High Youth** will be participating in Souper Bowl of Caring again this year. We will collect for two weeks before "Souper" Bowl Sunday, beginning **January 19 through February 2**. Donations will go to someplace awesome! ??? Contact Sue Jorgensen, 404.3942.

**Volume 20, Issue 6**

**January 2020**

**Upcoming Events**

Swimming Event - Cedar Valley SportsPlex	Jan. 4
Sr. High Youth Group	Jan. 5
Y&F Ministry Mtg.	Jan. 20
Pints of Grace 7:00pm	Tuesdays
Souper Bowl of Caring "Cans" out	Jan. 19, 26, Feb. 2
Chili Cook-Off	Feb. 2



During our Fellowship Hour, December 1, we decorated the Fellowship Hall Christmas tree with the ornaments we made during our Pre-Advent Workshop in

November. It includes the paper chain with member's names that we made on the Sunday we celebrated Bethlehem's 40th Anniversary in our current building. We have many rich memories, traditions and rituals throughout the years, like singing Christmas songs and hymns, including the Danish favorite, Nu Har Vi Jul Igen, while dancing around the Christmas tree. We hope you find time for meaningful conversations, acts of service, treasured rituals and traditions, hope, and peace as we celebrate Jesus birth.

## Children's Christmas Program



Thank you! Words cannot express my gratitude for all the people involved in making the program a success. Thank you to Robin, Karen, and Julie for working with our kids during Opening. Thank you to Bev, Ellen, and Megan for working with our students during

the Sunday School hour and for working on the program behind the scenes. Thank you to Jerry for working with his students during Sunday School and thank you to our high school students (and Joan Easton) for working on the posters. Thank you to Sue Jorgensen for all of her work on the music. Thank you to Tina and Heather for all of their work and support in the office. Finally, thank you to all of the parents who took the extra time to bring students to Sunday School, to practice, and practicing with them at home. This program would not have been possible without our church village. Thank you! Lisa Newgard



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

**Sunday Morning Adult Fourm** takes place between morning worship services.

- **Friends in Faith** meets Sunday, **January 19**, 6:30pm  
Bring a snack to share and a beverage. Contact Vicki Newgard, 240.3905.

**Men's Bible Study Breakfast** meets Saturday, **January 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.



### BETHLEHEM KNITTERS & 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, **Wednesdays, 1:00pm.**



**KAI'S PRAYERS BAGS** are available again in the coat area in the Narthex. Please share with anyone in need.

### GIVING MADE EASY!



Scan the QR code with your smart phone to share your offering.

**The last day for 2018 giving is Monday, December 31. The Church Office will close at noon.**

### UNIFIED ACTIVITY November 2019

2019 Mission Plan Total: \$363,893

Oct. Income: \$23,065.00

Expenses: \$29,110.06

(6,045.06)

Yearly Income: \$297,308.71

Yearly Expenses: \$316,254.33

(-18,945.62)



Look for the "soup cans" in the Fellowship Hall to make your donations to the NFC, AFC or IDC (I Don't Care) team you think will win the Super Bowl.



The Tables for Eight groups were a big success this fall. It's time to sign up for the next round. Each group of 8 meets once a month, for 4 months, for a meal - either in someone's home or at a restaurant,

whatever the group decides. It's a great way to get to know other members of our congregation and have some good food! Sign up sheet is in the entryway. Please sign up by December 29 if you are interested. Any questions, contact Pamela Pomerenk - 515-298-0458 or [ppomerenk@gmail.com](mailto:ppomerenk@gmail.com)



**PRACTICE NOT PERFECT:  
ELCA YOUTH MINISTRY NETWORK  
EXTRAVAGANZA 2020**

Thanks to the congregation, we are once again provided the opportunity to attend the ELCA Youth Ministry Extravaganza in January. This is a time of renewal, growth and continuing education and we think it is important that the congregation is educated on what the Extravaganza is. To learn more about the Extravaganza and this year's theme, please visit the website at [www.elcaymnet.org/ext20](http://www.elcaymnet.org/ext20).

The learning at this year's Extravaganza addresses five complex challenges in children, youth & family ministry:

**Practicing Faith:** Rethinking Teaching and Learning

**Practicing Leadership:** Caring for Self and Community

**Practicing Change:** Transforming Hearts and Minds

**Practicing Inclusivity:** Engaging Difference

**Practicing Creativity:** Cultivating Imagination

Practicing Change is the track that Karen is attending and Practicing Leadership is the track that Robin is attending. If you view the tracks and find any specific workshops in the other 3 tracks that you think we should consider, please reach out to us.

Also, we would like people to be aware that next year the Extravaganza will be in Minneapolis. This would be a great opportunity for more people to attend, when the cost of transportation would be low.

*Karen Dowell and Robin Souhrada*



**OUTREACH MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT**

Above are images of pillowcase dresses that a group of people at Fredsville Lutheran Church make out of donated pillowcases to send to people in need. Bethlehem has members who donate pillowcases to this wonderful ministry. It is lovely to be able to highlight another outreach ministry in which our members are involved. If you have pillowcases you would like to donate, see Nancy Schwab.



**319-266-3541**

**office@bethlehemcf.net**

**www.bethlehemcf.org**

**#blcsharing**

**CHURCH OFFICE STAFF**

**Robin Souhrada - Director of Faith Formation**  
robin@bethlehemcf.net

**Tina Varney - Office Administrative Assistant**  
office@bethlehemcf.net

**Heather Schneider - Ministry Coordinator**  
heather@bethlehemcf.net

**Diane Bowman - Office Business Assistant**  
office@bethlehemcf.net

Sunday worship with Holy Communion  
 8:30am & 11:00am  
 Nursery available 8:15am-12:15pm  
 Church office phone: 319-266-3541  
 Office hours: Monday-Thursday, 8:00am-3:00pm  
 Friday 8:00-12:00  
 Email: [office@bethlehemcf.net](mailto:office@bethlehemcf.net)  
 Website: [www.bethlehemcf.org](http://www.bethlehemcf.org)  
**\*\*Newsletter deadline: January 15\*\***  
**Bulletin deadline: 9:00am Thursdays**  
 The newsletter also is available online.



*Welcome!*

We are excited for our new pastor, Amy Eisenman to join us! Her first day in the office will be January 20.



**ANNUAL MEETING**

The Annual Meeting will be Sunday, January 26, 9:45am, in the Church Fellowship Hall.

*Worship With Us*

*Christmas Eve Candlelight Service*

Tuesday, December 24

3:00 & 7:00pm

