



sharing the bread of life with the hungry world

bethlehem lutheran church *newsletter*

Volume 53, Issue 7 · July 2018



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

"We have been a good team". I find myself saying that to many people these days. We have supported each other and shared in the ministries of the congregation together. We have learned together, worshiped together, served together, and tried new things together. The center of our time together has been Jesus Christ, the source of grace and life. There is no greater cohesive power than the love of God expressed in those gifts of grace and life. We have been held tightly in the kind and caring grasp of God through all kinds of delights and challenges. We are the Body of Christ.

One amazing thing about this Body is that it continues to be a source of joy even when we are apart. See what St. Paul writes to the congregation at Philippi, "I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ." Distance and time do not fade the relationships and community that we experience throughout the Body of Christ.



Linda and I will be putting some distance between us, so that you will not be distracted from the beauty and depth of a relationship with your interim and called pastors. Our call is now to family and we will be as faithful to that as we can be.

We thank the Holy Spirit for the nudging that brought us to Bethlehem and we thank you for your part in making us a good team. May God bless you as you form a new team with the next ministers of Word and Sacrament that the Holy Spirit nudges your way.

Pastor Lay



Pot Luck

Sunday, July 1, following 10:30am worship. Ovens available at 10:15am. Everyone is welcome!

QUARTERLY MEETING

Sunday, July 22, 9:45am

This would be a great opportunity to meet our Interim Pastor Audrey Lukasak!

BLESSINGS ON YOUR RETIREMENT

For surely I know the plans I have for you ... to give you a future with hope. Jeremiah 29:11

RETIREMENT CELEBRATION

Pastor Gary's retirement will be celebrated during Coffee Fellowship between Services, July 8. Those who would like to contribute to a farewell gift may bring donations labeled 'Pastor Gift' to the church by July 1.

QUILT 'N CRAFT

Quilt n' craft will meet the second Thursday of the month thru August at 7:00pm. On July 12, we will meet at Becky Anderson's, 1716 Timberledge Dr, Cedar Falls. Come join us for help with a project, conversation while you work on a project, or just to set a time to work on your project.



MANY THANKS to June, Glenn, Lisa, and Jack for your help in assisting residents of NewAldaya getting to and from Sunday morning Chapel services in May! Our residents very much appreciate the giving of your individual attention with patience and kindness! - Marie

Thanks to everyone, including Jerry Ward's Sunday School class, for your generous food donations! 188 pounds were delivered to the Northeast Iowa Food Bank in June!



BLC ANNUAL GARAGE SALE

A big thank you to our Bethlehem family for their support of our recent garage sale. \$2250 was raised for the Jesse Cosby Center, our youth going to the ELCA Youth Gathering, and Catholic Worker House. We appreciate all the donations and especially those who volunteered their time. All of the extra items were donated to St. Vincent de Paul. Everyone's efforts are appreciated.



PRAYER CHAIN

We want to respond as quickly as possible to prayer chain requests. To help us do this, contact Heather Schneider by email, heather@bethlehemcf.net **AND ALSO** hurdschneider@mchsi.com. You also may leave a text or voice message at 404-3582.



KNITTERS GROUP

meets weekly on Wednesdays at 12:00pm in the BLC library. They 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



USHERS NEEDED!

We are in need of ushers for both the 8:30am and 10:30am services. Summers are a busy time and many of us travel. However, if you know that you will be around on Sunday, consider signing up on the Welcome Table to usher. It would be a great help to the congregation!



BAKERS NEEDED

NewAldaya is looking for people willing to donate 10 dozen cookies for the month of July. If you would like to help, please sign-up on the Welcome Table.



162 people were served at our hosted Community Meals, June 19. Thank you to all who volunteered their time for this worthy cause!!

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

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

Congregation BBQ Potluck and Pool Party Tuesday, July 17, 5:30pm

**Timberledge
Neighborhood Pool
Cedar Falls**

Don't like to swim? That's OK, there'll be plenty of food to share and people to visit with. **Bring something to grill and a dish to share.** Table service and drink provided.

Love to swim? Jump in before eating and again after. ??? Contact Barb and Scott Davison, 277-6602. * Sorry, no pets allowed.

The Gathering: Live from Houston!

You are welcome to watch the live stream of the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering from Houston, Texas beginning late afternoon, Wednesday, June 27 at ELCA.org/Gathering

We pray for all people working, volunteering, and attending the Gathering, that their experience reveals God's work in new ways and moves them to bring about exciting change. Bethlehem youth and

leaders leaving June 26 include: Jackson, Isack, Lily, Tanner, Jill, Kelly, Sabrina, Sam, Kallista, Alex, Austin, Austin, Kaelyn, Kordell, Karen, Pastor Gary, and Paul. They will join Bethlehem volunteer, Ashley, nearly 600 youth from our Northeastern Iowa Synod, over 31,000 of their ELCA best friends, and other Gathering staff and volunteers to experience the city of Houston, worship, Bible studies, service opportunities, learning centers, and more.



Post Gathering Youth meeting

Monday, July 16
6:30pm



It's not to late to sign up for summer church camp! Many camps offer registration through the summer. The Bethlehem Youth Trip Fund provides camperships for half of the cost, up to \$300. If you have questions and/or need to set up a campership payment, contact Robin, robin@bethlehemcf.net or 266-3541.

Volume 18, Issue 12

July 2018

Upcoming Events

ELCA 2018 Youth Gathering Trip	June 26- July 2
Youth Gathering Live Stream	June 27- July 1
Youth & Family mtg.	July 16
Gathering Youth mtg.	July 16
Pool Party/Potluck	July 17
Church Softball	Mondays April - July
Youth & Family Ministry Kick-Off	Aug. 26

ELCA WORLD HUNGER'S

GLOBAL FARM

Challenge

SAVE THE DATE!

Youth & Family Ministry Kick-Off

Sunday, August 26, 11:30am



Church Softball League

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

July 2 8:30pm **July 9** 7:30pm **July 16** 7:30pm

July 23 8:30pm **July 30** 6:30pm **Make-up** TBA

The schedule also is posted on the church website, www.bethlehemcf.org. ??? Call Butch, 239-0286.



VIBRANT FAITH

JULY 2018



Vibrant Faith Ministry: Forming Faith Through Music

Sometimes, we may wonder if all the things we hope will happen as a result of our ministries with people really do take root in people. Sometimes, we discover evidence that our ministries really matter.

We have a family that is moving from the area. They are looking for another congregation in their new home town. As they talked about what they might be looking for in a congregation, someone asked Dalton, their 11-year-old son, what he wants in a new congregation. He was quick to reply. He wants a congregation with a children's choir. Dalton has been part of both the Cherub and Celestial Choirs. Dalton likes to sing and he has found a way to serve the congregation by singing in worship. More than that, Dalton has discovered a way to praise God and experience the presence of God through the power of music. Our choir ministries form faith. These ministries are much more than letting children be cute; they really matter.

Blessing of Bicycles

Saturday, June 30 8:00am

Gateway Park, Cedar Falls

The Cedar Falls Ministerial Association invites you to a brief Blessing of Bicycles to kick off the festival.



CEDAR VALLEY
PEDAL FEST

Faith Ride

Sunday, July 1, 1:30pm

Gateway Park, Cedar Falls

Visit three congregations in the Cedar Valley. Begin in Gateway Park and ride to First Presbyterian Church and Nazareth Lutheran church, both in Cedar Falls, then ride along bike paths to Queen of Peace Catholic Church in Waterloo. Each congregation will show us the beauty of their buildings and introduce us to their ministries. We expect to be finished by 4:00pm and bikers will be free explore the trails or ride home. (approx. 15 miles)

Sponsored by

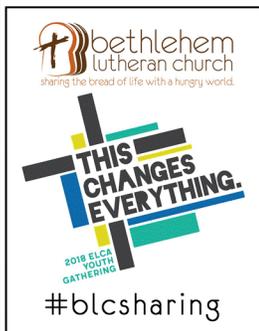
the Cedar Falls Ministerial Association

Bethlehem's Blessing of the Bicycles will be celebrated during worship, **Sunday, July 1**. You are welcome to ride or bring your bike, tricycle, or bike helmet for a blessing.

Summer Faith Formation



Need some fun faith formation ideas for summer? 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



SUMMER HASHTAG: #blcsharing

Members and friends of the congregation are encouraged to use the logos and #blcsharing card, available at the church, while out and about 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.

**“Enhancing lives through a commitment to individualized care
in a home empowered by God’s love.”**

This is the mission statement of NewAldaya Lifescapes. This place of Christian caring was conceived of in 1955 by members of 7 Lutheran churches in the Cedar Valley. After much prayer, fundraising, and dedication, the Cedar Valley Lutheran Home opened in 1958.

While the name has changed, the mission of Christian caring has remained paramount to all that we do at NewAldaya. As members of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, each of you can take pride in the fact that our congregation was one of the seven founding churches, and that we have continually embraced NewAldaya as an important piece of our ministry plan.

I've heard people refer to this as part of Bethlehem's "senior ministry." While that is certainly true, I believe it goes beyond seniors. Every individual who joins in the mission of NewAldaya, in big ways or small, is positively affected by the experience. So, in a sense, it is a ministry for all ages, as each is drawn closer to God through interacting across generations...the saints of every age!

Over the next several months, I will use this space in the newsletter to highlight the ministry and service opportunities that are available to you at NewAldaya. I hope you will gain an appreciation for the relationship between NAL and our congregation, and find a way to engage meaningfully in this important ministry. - Lisa Nelson

This month, I highlight two regular monthly commitments we've made to NewAldaya.

- Provide a special music offering for the 10:00am chapel service the 3rd Sunday of each month. (contact Bob Nelson, 319-230-4632)
- Monthly worship & fellowship time with residents who are members of BLC and their friends is lead by Pastor Gary. Of those in attendance, 1/3 are not members of Bethlehem who attend to experience caring conversations.

NEWALDAYA®



LIFESCAPES
You'll Live Better

A++ Congregation

A trip to Houston in order to be surrounded by 30,000 sisters and brothers in Christ is an amazing event. Music, speakers, worship, a day of service, a day exploring ministries of the ELCA, and the encouragement that comes from seeing so many young people and adults who share our understanding of faith in Christ Jesus is a faith forming event that will leave an impression on all who attend.

The call to be an A++ Congregation is a call to be partners with the young people and adults who attend the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, June 26 through July 2. It is an invitation to do more than pray for and raise money for those who attend. It is a warm gesture that encourages the whole congregation to experience, to some degree, the movement of the Holy Spirit taking place at the Gathering.

An A++ congregation can listen in on live streaming of evening times of worship and education. Join us by going to the website at ELCA.org/Gathering. Check out the Facebook page "Bethlehem Lutheran Church ELCA" for updates and pictures of what is happening at the Gathering.

An A++ congregation will welcome the participants home and listen to some of their responses to the Gathering on Sunday, July 8, at both services. We will catch the enthusiasm of these young people and hear their challenge to grow in being the church in our congregation, the community, and our homes. Being an A++ congregation is letting this event far away be a time when we also discover that we have been saved by grace, that it is not our own doing, and that this changes everything.





Get Powered-Up for VBS at Hero Central! At VBS Hero Central, our heroes will experience God's love, explore God's mission for their lives, and learn ways to be God's Heroes by following a call to action! Adult and youth volunteers are needed. Please contact Amber Halvorsen, 939-8114 or Lisa Newgard, 464-6143, if interested in helping.

DATES AND TIMES

Sunday, July 8, 12:30-1:45pm
 Monday, July 9 - Thursday, July 12, 6:00-7:30pm
 Supper will be served at 5:30pm
 Register now for PreK - 4th grade at:
<https://tinyurl.com/BLCVBS18>



Faith & Learning Mission Council



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

Sunday Morning Bible Study Resumes in September.

Friends in Faith will resume **August 19**, 6:30pm.

Adult Bible Study will resume **August 28**, 7:00pm in the Church Library.

Men's Bible Study Breakfast will resume Saturday, **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

prayers, songs, and blessings for every day. Children learning to read will enjoy *What Would Jesus Do*, which gives children examples of what they can do in situations like Jesus would. *Just Like Emma: How She Has Fun In God's World*, is for proficient readers and tells the story of a girl with spina bifida. Teens are sure to find *It Couldn't Just Happen: Fascinating Facts About God's World*, full of realistic information. Adults will enjoy *Fierce: Women of the Bible and Their Stories of Violence, Mercy, Bravery, Wisdom, Sex and Salvation*. It invites us to see women as fierce foremothers of faith. *Not-So-Quiet Times* are quick and easy devotions for families on the go. All of these books may be found in the library or on the bookshelves by the classrooms.

July 2018... in the Season of Pentecost... Young children will enjoy *Thank You For This Day*, a book of action



INTRODUCING OUR INTERIM PASTOR AUDREY A. LUKASAK

Beginning July 16, 2018 we welcome Pastor Audrey Lukasak to serve as our Interim Pastor at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Pastor Lukasak is currently serving as the Bereavement Coordinator for Heartland Hospice in Rochester, Minnesota. She has served as the Interim Senior Pastor for St. Paul Lutheran in Pine Island, Minnesota and Staff Chaplain at Mayo Clinic in Rochester.

Pastor Lukasak received her B.S. degree in Special Education for the Hearing Impaired from Eastern Michigan University, her Master of Divinity from the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago, and a M.A. in Organizational Leadership from St. Catherine University in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Other areas of experience include work with the Commission for Women and Multicultural Ministries (ELCA), Conflict Mediation, advocacy for Victims of Clergy Abuse, and a certified Thanatologist with the Association for Death, Education, and Counseling.

Pastor Lukasak studied cultural context of leadership, social justice, and global citizenship in South Africa, Japan, China, Europe, the Middle East, Mexico, and Nicaragua.



We welcome Pastor Lukasak and anticipate her arrival in mid-July.

A Brief Update on a Columbarium



For a number of years, there has been interest among some people for a columbarium on Bethlehem's property. A columbarium is a structure that contains niches in which the cremains (burial ashes) of people may be placed. It provides a place, much like a cemetery, to which people may go to remember those who have died. The committee that is exploring the idea has enlisted the help of Mardy Holst to develop ideas about the structure itself, the placement of the structure, and some estimates of the cost of a columbarium. The committee will bring more information as well as some visuals to our quarterly meeting between services Sunday, July 22. A decision will come at a future meeting.



319-266-3541

office@bethlehemcf.net
CHURCH OFFICE STAFF

Pastor Gary Hedding

319-464-7278, pastorgary@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

July 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.

Campus Ministry Worship: Wednesdays, 8:30pm across from UNI's campus at Threehouse Wesley Foundation, 2422 College Street.

??? 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: Rev. Gary Hedding
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: July 15****
Bulletin deadline: 9:00am Thursdays

VBS 2018 DATES AND TIMES

Sunday, July 8
12:30-1:45pm

Monday, July 9 -
Thursday, July 12
6:00-7:30pm



Supper will be served
at 5:30pm
Register now for
PreK - 4th grade at:
<https://tinyurl.com/BLCVBS18>

GOD'S
HEROES HAVE
HOPE!

ANNUAL ALL-CHURCH PICNIC

Sunday, July 8, 11:30am

Join us for burgers, brats, hot
dogs, potato salad, beans,
chips, cookies,
and drink

Everyone is invited!
**Everything
provided!**

