



sharing the bread of life with the hungry world

bethlehem lutheran church *newsletter*

Volume 41, Issue 7 · July 2017



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

As we celebrate Independence Day this year, it will be fun to recognize the Lutherans who contributed to the formation of our nation. Most are little known, but many were significant.

General Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg, who was a Virginia pastor, laid aside his robes to become a colonel in the 8th Virginia Regiment. This regiment led the victorious charge at Yorktown which ended the war. Peter later became a senator in the 1st, 3rd, and 6th congresses of the United States.

Peter had a brother, Frederick Augustus Conrad Muhlenberg, who was a Lutheran minister in New York and Pennsylvania and was present at the reading of the Declaration of Independence. He became Speaker of the Pennsylvania Assembly. From 1789-1797, he served in the congresses elected under the new Constitution. He was the first Speaker of the House of Representatives. As Speaker of the House, he and John Adams, Vice-President and leader of the US Senate, signed the first 10 amendments to the Constitution - what we call the Bill of Rights.

Do you know who made the first US flag? Sara Austin and other members of the Ladies' Aid of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Philadelphia. It was presented to John Paul Jones. This flag, which had only 12 stars (Rhode Island had not yet entered the union), received the first salute granted an American flag in Europe. The flag is now preserved in the National Museum in Washington, DC. Later, congress asked Betsy Ross to make a flag with 13 stars.

John Morton (1723-1777), a Lutheran signer of the Declaration of Independence, was the speaker of the Pennsylvania Assembly. As the states were voting on the question of breaking from Great Britain, they became divided - six states for and six states against independence. Pennsylvania was left to decide the issue, but the Assembly was also divided. John Morton arose from a sick bed, journeyed to Philadelphia on horseback and cast the deciding vote in the deciding state for independence.

Did you know that the first president of the United States of American was a Lutheran? The first election of a president took place in 1781 under the Articles of Confederation rather than under the Constitution. John Hanson was chosen president of the United States - his election was made by delegates of 13 states and he served for one year.


This 4th of July, take part in all the festivities of freedom knowing that Lutherans played a part in the formation of this country - in fact, the sexton who rang the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia was a Lutheran.

Pastor Lay







Before we know it, Wednesday night ministries will be occurring again. Part of the programming is a weekly meal. We are in need of people who would be willing to prepare and serve a meal or two during the fall. If you would be interested in helping with the meals, please contact Heather at heather@bethlehemcf.net or 266-3541.



WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEALS

NORTHEAST IOWA FOOD BANK

In June, 242 pounds of non-perishable food items were collected and donated to the Cedar Valley Pantry. Thank you to Jerry Ward's Sunday School Class who donated to those in our community facing food insecurities.

Maybe you have noticed LaLeche League on the Church calendar, but do you know what it is all about? LaLeche League is an international, non-profit advocacy group whose mission is "to help mothers worldwide to breastfeed through mother-to-mother support, encouragement, information, and education, and to promote a better understanding of breastfeeding as an important element in the healthy development of the baby and mother." BLC member, Barb Becker provides leadership for LaLeche League groups to meet monthly at Bethlehem. If you would like more information on LaLeche League, or know of someone who might benefit from this support, contact Amanda Blohn, amanda.blohn@gmail.com




BETHLEHEM'S MUSIC MINISTRY

A ministry of BLC that some members may not know about provides a special music contribution for NewAldaya chapel services on the third Sunday of each month. Solveig Gregory started this ministry, and after her death, Bob Nelson has been coordinating special music by Bethlehem members. Sue Bauer typically provides accompaniment as needed. Numerous Bethlehem members have offered their talents for these services.

If you are interested or know of someone that might be willing to offer their musical talent for this service, please contact Bob Nelson, 268-9098 or Sue Bauer, 830-7341. This is an important ministry and much appreciated by the residents of NewAldaya attending the Sunday morning service.

In addition to the Sunday morning service at NewAldaya, Pastor Gary Olson has been offering a worship opportunity on Sunday afternoons at each of the two memory care units. These services are one half hour in length. An effort is made to provide special music for these services on two Sundays per month. For several years Bethlehem members have been volunteering to sing a favorite hymn as a music offering. Theresa Elverum has been playing the piano for these services. Volunteers willing to sing a favorite hymn for these services are encouraged to speak to Bob Nelson about this opportunity. It is guaranteed that you will leave these services feeling great!

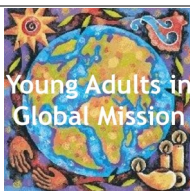


JOYFUL TIMES GROUP

What is Joyful Times? It is a small group ministry for members of Bethlehem who are of AARP age or empty nesters. You don't have to be retired to join in the outings, as some are scheduled in the evening or on weekends.

- July 13, 10:00am, Mississippi River Museum. Those going will carpool and leave Bethlehem Lutheran Church at 8:00am. Cost: \$13. Lunch will be at Country Junction in Dyersville after the museum tour.
- August 11, 1:00pm - Tama Pow-wow – The Grand Entry. Cost: \$7.00. Lunch will be at Sunrise Restaurant at 11:00am.

We have a YAGM! Woo hoo! (Umm, what's a YAGM and why do we want one?)



A YAGM is a Young Adult in Global Mission. This is a post college-aged young person who agrees to spend one year in ministry outside of the United States working through the ELCA Global Missions connections in a number of countries. A YAGM has opportunities to serve people in many ways. To begin with, a YAGM needs the support of congregations and individuals to raise \$7,000 of the \$11,000 that it costs the ELCA to send a YAGM to a country and to supervise the YAGM in his/her ministry setting.

Your generosity provided Bethlehem with the ability to provide \$7,000 in support for a YAGM. Part of our support is going to Shannon Brice, who is serving in one of our companion synods, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hungary. Shannon is from Chapel Hill, N.C. and graduated from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia with a fine arts degree in animation. She completed the Disney College Program and says she has always had a strong connection to the arts and Disney. She plans to one day work in an animation studio.

In Hungary, Shannon will serve in a new ministry partnership between the Lutheran Church in Debrecen and the Real Pearl Foundation in the nearby village of Berettyóújfalu. Shannon will assist in the Foundation's art school for the primarily Roma children of 12 villages. She will also serve the Roma communities by helping with the Foundation's social services, which include job training, new-mother classes, cooking classes, and food growing/farming classes. On weekends, she will engage with the Lutheran Church of Debrecen and its new outreach/mission to nearby communities.

You can keep up with Shannon by visiting her blog at <https://shannonshungary.wordpress.com/> Shannon's



time is coming to a close, but we will follow another YAGM who shares in our support when the new YAGMs begin in August.

MANY THANKS to all volunteers who helped residents of NewAldaya get to and from Sunday morning Chapel services during May! Special thanks to June Belz, Lisa & Glenn Nelson, Marilyn Bigelow, Jack Gregersen, and Dan & Linda Mixdorf. Our residents appreciate your assistance!



THANK YOU to everyone who contributed items or shopped at our annual garage sale. We raised \$2273 for Love



INC, the Jesse Cosby Center, and St. Vincent de Paul. A special thank you to several volunteers who spent many hours helping to set up our sale and working the day of the sale. It was truly a group effort.

Book Beat...Our library has been undergoing an organization process that is making it easier for everyone to enjoy our impressive selection of books available to borrow. As we are celebrating the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, we are featuring books on Martin Luther that range from picture books for children, a graphic novel for young adults and many choices for adults. Make sure and visit our newly arranged children's corner in the library. It offers books from babies to young adults, toys for quite play, games, and drawing materials. Please help us keep this area uncluttered and safe for children to enjoy. In addition, there is always a book cart down by the classrooms, and the bookshelf/activity bags in the back corner of the church. As always, there are Bibles of every type for any age. You are encouraged to borrow any of these books to take home, enjoy, and return!



THANK YOU to Rita Tewolde for serving as the nursery attendant on Sunday mornings. Rita's last day working with the children in the nursery was June 11.



QUILT 'N CRAFT

Thursday, July 27, 7:00pm, at the home of Becky Andersen, 1716 Timberledge Drive. Bring your own craft or learn a new one. All are welcome.





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

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



Church Camp

Church Camps often continue to receive registrations throughout the summer. They'd rather have a full program than cancel one due to low interest. Bethlehem continues to give camperships throughout the summer, so if you sign up late, please contact Robin before paying the full cost of camp. Bethlehem provides camperships for half of the cost for a half- or full-week program up to \$300. It is not too late to sign up for summer church camp! ??? Contact Robin, robin@bethlehemcf.net or 266-3541.

TAKING FAITH HOME CARD



New Taking Faith Home cards for on-the-go family worship are available. Similar to the Taking Faith Home bulletin inserts, each of the 64 cards in a deck are based on the Revised Common Lectionary and feature a theme statement, key scripture verse, a prayer and blessing that complement the key verse, and a caring conversation and service question to provide meaningful, faith forming conversations. They are a compact, handy, complete tool for times when one is away and unable to worship in a congregational setting. Each family is welcome to have a set. They are on a table in the Church Lobby. ??? Contact Robin, robin@bethlehemcf.net

Congregation

BBQ Potluck and Pool Party

Thursday, August 10, 5:30pm

Timberledge Neighborhood Pool

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. Love to swim? Jump in before eating and again after. More details coming in the August Newsletter.



WHO: Youth entering 8th-12th grade in the fall of 2017

WHEN: June 27-July 1, 2018

WHERE: Huston, Texas

Bethlehem has a long history of attending the ELCA Youth Gathering, and we intend to go again. The congregation and youth are in for an exciting year of preparation! Youth and parent meeting in August TBA. ??? Contact Robin, robin@bethlehemcf.net

Volume 17, Issue 12

July 2017

Upcoming Events

Y&F Council mtg.	July 17
Youth Gathering mtg.	Aug. TBA
Pool Party and BBQ Potluck	Aug. 10
Youth & Family Kick-off with LEGOs	Aug. 27
Softball Game	Mondays June-August
Pints of Grace	Tuesdays
Campus Ministry Worship 8:30pm	Wednesdays

Church Softball League

Softball games are Monday nights at the Birdsall Softball Complex, West 12th St., Cedar Falls. ??? Contact Butch Naber, 239.0286.

Come cheer for our team!

July 10	6:00pm
July 17	9:00pm
July 24	7:00pm
July 31	6:00pm

Make-up games in August will be announced soon.

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 beer or soda, and gather together as brothers and sisters in Christ.



UNI Campus Ministry Worship

Wednesdays, 8:30pm

Threehouse - A Wesley Foundation

2422 College Street, Cedar Falls

Bring a lawn chair for a campfire worship service featuring different preachers from the Cedar Valley each week. ??? Contact Jon Fry, UNI LSC Campus Minister, lscuni@uni.edu or 266-1653.

SAVE	THE	DATE!
Youth	&	Family
	Kick-off	
LEGOs	Luther	Style
Sunday,	August	27



You may have noticed Kelly Kestner around the congregation. Kelly is the red-haired, junior-in-the-fall, person who is the newest member of the Congregation Council and the council liaison with the Vibrant Faith Ministry Mission Council. If you worship at 8:30am you will have seen Kelly operating the power points during worship. You may have seen her at the adult forum on Sunday mornings, or helping with the Aebleskiver or Harvest Dinners. Robin Souhrada, our Director of Faith Formation, and Pastor Gary recently interviewed Kelly about what it has been like for her grow up in a congregation that emphasizes the principles and keys of the Vibrant Faith Ministry Framework. Learn more about those in the June 2017 newsletter on the BLC website.

Kelly said that one of the key ways that she had caught faith was through the way her family and the congregation lived out lives of service to our neighbors for Jesus' sake. Serving others, as Christ has served us, was a key to her faith formation and is a tradition in her family. It shows in her willingness to serve through the congregation and in the community outside of the congregation.

Kelly identified mealtime prayers and reading a special book of children's prayers with her grandma at bedtime, as key devotional practices that have

formed her faith. Her family practices frequent attendance at worship and that has rubbed off on her as well.

Her experiences with using Faith Talk Cards at some of our cross-generational events and youth group have stimulated caring conversations that were meaningful for her. She said that many of those conversations might not have happened if not for those discussion starters. While she recognized confirmation and youth group as having significant influences on her life of faith, she said that it was those cross-generational events that had the greatest impact – putting people of all ages and faith experiences together to encourage and learn from one another. People like her parents, grandparents, and Sunday school teachers were the ones that modeled faith and provided the relationships that formed her faith.



Kelly is one example of the outcomes that we see from framing our ministry through the Vibrant Faith Framework. May your faith be formed through caring conversations, devotions, service, and rituals/traditions.

Retirement Milestone

Bethlehem has a ministry of Blessings and Milestones that helps us mark life transitions, important parts of our daily lives, and recognize the presence of God in our lives.

Sunday, July 16, during worship, we will recognize those in our Bethlehem family who have recently retired. We give thanks for the work they have done in their career and bless them as they enter into a new vocation.



Pedal Fest

Saturday, July 1 and Sunday, July 2



Blessing of Bicycles

Saturday, July 1, 8:00am, the Cedar Falls Ministerial Association invites you to a Blessing of Bicycles at Gateway Park, Cedar Falls, to kick off the festival.

Faith to Faith Ride

Sunday, July 2, 2:00pm, meet at Gateway Park, Cedar Falls, to join the Faith to Faith Ride and visit the buildings of six faith communities in Cedar Falls and Waterloo; St. Patrick Catholic Church and First United Methodist Church, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Masjid Al-Noor Islamic Community Center, St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church, and Trinity Lutheran Church. We will explore the architecture of each building and get some history of the faith community and their ministry within the Cedar Valley. The ride will be approximately 11 miles one way and should take about 90 minutes. More details about the ride and other festival information is located on the Milestones and Blessings Ministry bulletin board in the southeast corner of the Fellowship Hall. ??? Contact Pastor Gary, pastorgary@bethlehemcf.net or 266-3541.

Bicycle Blessing at Home

During worship July 2, Pastor Gary will demonstrate and give out a bicycle blessing to use at home. It's one of the ways in which we can live out "Home is church, too", "a living partnership between the ministry of the congregation and ministry of the home."

Milestones Ministry

Faith & Learning Mission Council



JULY 2017



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL July 9-13

Sunday 12:30-1:30pm
Monday 5:30-7:30pm

The Factory is almost ready for VBS! We have some great new things planned this year.

Sunday, July 9 we kick things off with our **Annual Church Picnic at 11:30am**. During the picnic, we will judge all the robots entered in the Bot Contest. At **12:30pm** families will meet in the Factory (Worship area) for music and introductions to Crew Leaders. Then parents and kids can explore all the activities.

Monday-Wednesday meet for dinner in the Fellowship Hall at **5:30pm**. Gather in the Factory (Worship area) at **6:00pm** for opening music with friends. The crews will disperse for

hands-on Bible adventures, games, and crafts. We will meet back in the Factory (Worship area) at **7:30pm** to wrap up each night.

Thursday will be our finale night. We will have dinner and an ice cream social at **5:30pm**, then a program for parents and the congregation at **6:00pm**. We will conclude the evening with games and crafts.

It's not too late to get involved. Crew Leaders, helpers and a few extra hands to help with crafts would be appreciated. Sign up on the poster in the Fellowship Hall.

Registration for children 3 years old through those entering 4th grade is now open. Register with the QR code, through the Bethlehem Website, or online at <https://goo.gl/forms/9SfKe20mAT93syaQ2> **Register early to reserve your shirt.**

??? Contact
A m b e r
Halvorsen,
939-8114 or
E l l e n
Hermanson, 573-0719.



CONFIRMATION CAMP

Pictures and Quotable Quotes from BLC Youth

"Camp puts God and fun together in creative ways."
"Having a Bible study about creation in the midst of God's creation enhanced the learning and made it more real." "The swimming pool reminds us of Jesus' baptism, and his baptism makes ours work." "During the service work, cleaning the camp grounds, our counselor helped us see how the service related to our Bible study that day." "Our counselors witness to us convincingly about God." "Walking a labyrinth was a new experience of prayer." "Thanks to Bethlehem and all its people for giving us the opportunity to come to camp."

Kallista and Trenton



Jill

Trenton and Alex



Austin and Isaak



CONFIRMATION CLASS will resume in September. ??? Contact Pastor Gary.

BIBLE STUDIES AND SMALL GROUPS

Friends in Faith, Tuesday Night Adult Bible Study, and Men's Bible Study Breakfast resume in August.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES will resume September 10. ??? Contact Pastor Gary or Lisa Newgard.



MEET THE CONGREGATION COUNCIL

The Congregation Council is made up of people elected to serve as the policy and oversight council that administers the ministries of Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Each member serves two year terms and can be reelected one time to a consecutive term. Our youth member serves a one year term and can also be reelected consecutively once. The term of office begins June 1. Each member serves as a liaison to one of our mission councils in addition to serving on the Congregation Council.



Serving the congregation in 2017-18 are:

Stephen Becker – President and liaison to Ministry Partnership Committee

Mark Halvorsen – Vice President and liaison to Spiritual Renewal Mission Council

Courtney Lubs – Secretary and liaison to Faith & Learning Mission Council

Andrew Beckering – Treasurer and liaison to Finance Committee

Melissa Fields – liaison to Youth & Family Ministry Mission Council

Rich Fisher – liaison to Congregational Home Mission Council

Adam Froyum Roise – liaison to the Worship Mission Council

Karris Golden – liaison to the Service Council

Kelly Kestner – Youth Member and liaison to the Vibrant Faith Ministry Mission Council

Kirsten Moore – liaison to the Nurture Mission Council

Each member would enjoy hearing ideas for ministry and support for their service.

2017 CONGREGATIONAL GOALS

- † Support an ongoing system of formation of faith for all ages through cross-generational community building.
- † Engage members in finding their places in congregational ministry.
- † Recognize and respond to community needs by expanding current community outreach involvement.
- † Commit to being inviting and hospitable.

STAY CONNECTED

www.bethlehemcf.org

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

#blcsharing

office@bethlehemf.net

The Council on Service would like to thank all those who helped with Community Meals June 20. We served 208 meals. A special thanks to Mary Jo and Denny Juel for help coordinating. The next Community Meals that Bethlehem will host is August 15.



COMMUNITY MEALS
— LOVE IN ACTION —



319-226-3541

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

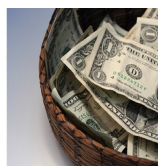
heather@bethlehemcf.net

UNIFIED GIVING THROUGH MAY

Income: \$142,275.68

Mission Plan: \$151,568.00

(\$9,292.32)



DONATE NOW

Use your smartphone to scan the QR code or go to bethlehemcf.org and click on "Give Online" underneath the Worship tab.

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, so we can stay in touch with you.

Sunday worship with Holy Communion
8:30am & 10:30am
Nursery available 8:15am-11:45pm
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



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 9, 12:30-1:30pm

July 10-13, 5:30-7:30pm

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

June, July, & August

8:30am Traditional

10:30am Contemporary

(Coffee fellowship hour begins at 9:30am.)

SUMMER BLC OFFICE HOURS

June, July, & August

Monday-Thursday, 8:00am-3:00pm



On-The-Go Faith Formation Need some fresh faith formation ideas for summer? New Taking Faith Home cards for on-the-go family worship are available. Similar to the Taking Faith Home bulletin inserts, each set has 64 cards for the church lectionary year. They are a compact, handy, complete tool for times when one is away and unable to worship in a congregational setting. Each family is welcome to have a set. They are on a table in the Church Lobby. Contact Robin, robin@bethlehemcf.net for more information and ideas.