



sharing the bread of life with the hungry world

bethlehem lutheran church *newsletter*

Volume 52, Issue 6 · June 2018



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

We have had a summer-like spring – that is once we got over all the snow that came in April. Temperatures in the 80's have been common through the last half of May. Many people have been itching to start their summer travels. June is a big month for many people to visit relatives, camp, or go on vacations. It is great to get the kinks out. Taking these summer breaks is a great time to practice “Home is Church, too”. It starts with the trust that God goes with us even when we leave home and break our normal rhythm of life. Read what a musician/poet wrote in Psalm 139:7-10.

Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?
If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.
If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.



God holds us fast no matter where we travel. To help us be in touch with the Holy Spirit that goes with us and who stays in contact with us through love, we can make use of some Christian faith practices. Each summer we produce some devotional tools for individuals and families using our Vibrant Faith Ministry framework. The full list of these can be found on the Vibrant Faith page in this newsletter, or you can browse the display on the table by the library in the lobby. The Four Keys of Vibrant Faith – caring conversations, devotions, service, and rituals and traditions will inspire your awareness of God's presence. No reason to travel without that sense of the power of God's love shown to us in Jesus and renewed daily through the Holy Spirit.

Enjoy any time away you might have. Get distracted by wonderful sites. Breathe in air scented by God's plants. Explore new places and meet new people. Eat foods that are new to you. Take in the community events like Sturgis Falls or Irish Fest that are available close to home. And, in each and every moment, know that God's right hand is holding you tightly - lovingly and carefully tightly.

Pastor Gay



Pot Luck

Sunday, June 3,
following 10:30am
worship. Ovens
available at
10:15am. Everyone is
welcome!



BLC ANNUAL GARAGE SALE

June 2, 8:00am-2:00pm.
Proceeds from the garage
sale will go to the National
Youth Gathering trip, the Jesse
Cosby Center, and the
Catholic Worker House. Come
shop and show your support

for our BLC Youth and these organizations that do
so much for those in need here in the Cedar Valley!



THANK YOU all for your
kind words as I retire. It has
been my joy to be your
choir director for the past
28 years. We made great
music together. - Ruth



WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEALS

THANK YOU to everyone who
helped in any way with the
Wednesday night meals. The
meals were a success because
of everyone's help. Wednesday

night meals will resume in the fall. Contact Heather,
heather@bethlehemcf.net, if you'd like to help.



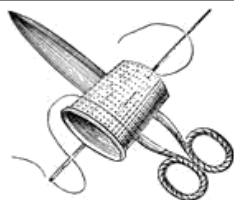
NORTHEASTERN IOWA SYNOD ASSEMBLY

The 2017 Northeastern Iowa
Synod Assembly will be
June 9-11 at Luther College in
Decorah. Voting members from

BLC are Megan Fields, Connie Johnson,
Stephen Becker, and Pastor Gary Hedding.

QUILT 'N CRAFT

Quilt n' craft will meet the second
Thursday of the month thru August at
7:00pm. On June 14, 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.



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 hhurdschneider@mchsi.com. You may
also text or call her and leave a message, 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



JOYFUL TIMES GROUP

What is Joyful Times? It is a social get
-together for members of Bethlehem
Church who are of AARP age or
empty nesters. You don't have to be
retired to join in the social times, as
some things are scheduled in the evening or on
weekends.

UPCOMING OUTING: Saturday, June 9. We will tour the
Matchstick Museum in Gladbrook. Cost is \$5. We will
meet at BLC at 10:45am, leaving at 11:00am. We
will eat in Gladbrook before the tour. Bring the kids/
grandkids for an interesting outing. ??? Contact
Jodi Elliott, 231-7023 or Jerry Mohling, 240-7571.

NEVER A DULL MOMENT FOR THE JOYFUL TIMES GANG!



COMMUNITY MEALS — LOVE IN ACTION —

Bethlehem will host
Community Meals
Tuesday, June 19,
4:30-6:00pm at United
Methodist Church, 718
Clay Street, Cedar Falls.
Look for the sign-up
sheet on the Welcome

Table in the Church Lobby if you are able to
help. ??? Contact Keith Graber, 269-7784.



BETHLEHEM'S PRAIRIE

Now is a great time to enjoy Bethlehem's micro-prairie. The warm weather and refreshing rains have made it a beautiful place.

The prairie began as an idea for a butterfly garden from some Sunday school students. As we looked into the possibility of a small patch of milkweed, we talked to people who had experience with providing habitat for butterflies and they asked us to think about a more sustainable use of the land that would provide habitat for more than just monarch butterflies. The idea of a portion of native Iowa prairie on our land became a reality. UNI has been wonderful in providing guidance, planting the prairie and helping maintain it. This spring our Congregational Home Council members, Kathy Green, and people from UNI did a controlled burn that replicated part of the natural cycle of a healthy prairie.

We are in the process of setting up a kiosk near the prairie that will help us learn more about the prairie and appreciate the plants and animals that live there. If you come some morning mid-summer you may see turkeys skirting the prairie as they look for insects to eat. You may see birds, gorgeous flowers, milkweed and butterflies. Take a breath and give thanks to God for the liveliness and beauty of creation.

THE "WELCOME TABLE HOST"

You may have noticed the past three months that a member of the Congregation Council has been at the Welcome Table in the narthex prior to each Sunday morning worship time. This individual has volunteered to serve as a host to speak with visitors and others regarding our Bethlehem family and our ministries. We believe that a person at the Welcome Table makes it more welcoming and provides better information to people who are curious about our fellowship and ministries.

We are looking for people to serve as hosts in the future. It is, first and foremost, a hospitality ministry. Welcome people warmly. You do not need to know everything about the congregation or answer every question, but you can help identify people who might have the answers. You do not need to attend both services. If this interests you, contact Stephen Becker in person or email him at canoebecker@mchsi.com.



TRANSITIONING INTO THE FUTURE

Pastor Hedding will be retiring in the near future. Many of you have received his letter announcing their plans. His last Sunday will be July 8. Questions about the process and the time of transition are encouraged. Some will be answered in the future.

The next step in the process will be a meeting with a representative of the Northeastern Iowa Synod who will orient congregational leadership to the responsibilities that the synod and congregation will take as they partner together through the transition and into the time to call a pastor.

Our constitution provides that the call committee is made up of six people who are appointed by the congregation council. The council may also decide that a transition team can be helpful to look at the changes that have taken place in the last ten years and how those may impact the selection of a pastor for the future of Bethlehem.

Know that God is deeply involved in this process and that your prayers are helpful to the continuing ministries and the coming transitions.





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



**Annual Free Fishing Event
& Church Bonfire Supper
Sunday, June 3**

Meet at 3:30pm at Prairie Lakes (North side of the south lake.) It's a DNR free fishing weekend, so friends of all ages are welcome. Some of our more experienced anglers will share their secret fishing tips. Poles, bait, and snack provided. ??? Call Scott or Barb Davison, 277-6602.



Meet at 5:30pm at the church, following fishing. Everyone welcome, even if you didn't fish! Supper will include hotdogs, chips, S'mores, and lemonade. Picnic tables will be set up, but you also may bring a lawn chair. ??? Call Karen Dowell, 230-9733.

Church Softball League
Monday Nights

Birdsall Softball Complex
West 12th Street
Cedar Falls



June 4 7:00pm 8:00pm	June 25 8:30pm July 2 8:30pm	July 16 7:30pm July 23 8:30pm
June 11 9:00pm	July 9 7:30pm	July 30 6:30pm
June 18 9:00pm		

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

Volume 18, Issue 11	
June 2018	
Upcoming Events	
Gathering Youth: Garage Sale help	May 27, June 2
Youth Gathering group social event	June 2
Fishing Event	June 3
Bonfire Supper	June 3
Youth & Family Ministry mtg.	June 18
Gathering Sending Blessing	June 24
Gathering youth & Leader mtg.	June 24
ELCA 2018 Youth Gathering Trip	June 26 - July 2
Church Softball	Mondays April - July



It's time to sign up for summer church camp! 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.

Bethlehem youth, Jackson, Isaak, Lily, Tanner, Jill, Kelly, Sabrina, Sam, Kallista, Alex, Austin, Austin, Kaelyn, Kordell, and leaders, Karen, Pastor Gary, and Paul will load the bus for Houston on **Tuesday, June 26**. The Youth Gathering begins Wednesday, June 27 in the NRG Stadium. They will be together with nearly 30,000 of their best ELCA friends, 400 youth from our Northeastern Iowa Synod, and one another as they experience the city of Houston, worship, Bible studies, service

opportunities, learning centers, Gathering activities, and more.

Additionally, Bethlehem member, Ashley Sternhagen, will be a Young Adult Volunteer at the 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.

Watch the Gathering Live!

You are welcome to watch the live stream at ELCA.org/Gathering

Gathering Youth and Leaders

- Garage Sale clean-up, June 2
- Social Event: Saturday, June 2, 5:30pm at the Holden's home.
- Sending Blessings: Sunday, June 24, 10:30am during worship.
- Meeting: Sunday, June 24, 11:45-1:15pm. Lunch will be provided.

Fundraisers:

Cookbooks, \$15 each, available on the Welcome Table at the Church.

Yard Dice, perfect for family get-togethers, Father's Day gifts, and more. Details coming soon.



Summer Faith Formation

Need some fun faith formation ideas for summer? June 3rd during worship, we will introduce new faith forming resources. 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.

Resources include: a NEW 4 Key summer camp milestone blessing take home page, a packet of June, July, and August Taking Faith Home bulletin inserts, Car Talk for Adults and Tweens, Car Talk for Children, and more. ??? Contact Robin, robin@bethlehemcf.net



Sunday, June 17 during worship we will share a special blessing for those who are single. Whether single by choice, widowed, divorced, or looking for someone to share life with, we celebrate the gift they are to our community and assure them that they will never be lonely with God and God's people in their lives.



Youth Gathering Sending Blessing
Sunday, June 24
10:30am



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.

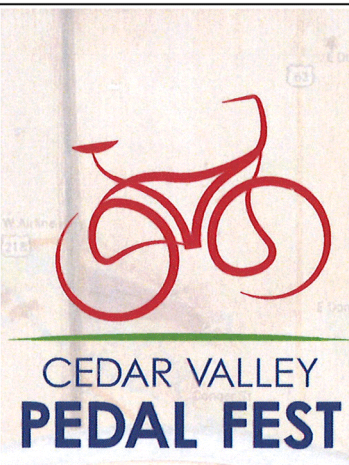
Sponsored by the Cedar Falls Ministerial Association

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)



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.



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 see Amber Halvorsen or Lisa Newgard 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



Adult Bible Studies

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 meets Sunday, **June 17**, 6:30pm in the Church Library. We will discuss "Fierce: Women of the Bible and Their Stories of Violence, Mercy, Bravery, Wisdom, Sex, and Salvation," by Alice Connor. Bring a snack to share and a beverage. ??? Contact Linda Hedding, 464-7279.

Adult Bible Study will resume **August 28**, 7:00pm in the Church Library. We will have conversations on a Rob Bell Bible Study. ??? Contact Pastor Gary, 266-3541.

Men's Bible Study Breakfast meets Saturday, **June 23**, 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

each page. Children learning to read will enjoy *A Friend From Galilee*, which compares what Jesus might have done and what children do today. *If the World Were a Village* is for proficient readers and gives factual information on a village made up of 100 people. Adults might like *Table Talk*, a book filled with excerpts of talks that Luther had while at his dinner table. They are short and easy to read. Women may find *The Wisdom of Daughters*, *Two Decades of the Voice of Christian Feminism* an enjoyable read with some poems dropped into the readings. All of these books may be found in the library or on the bookshelves by the classrooms.

June 2018...in the Season of Pentecost... Very young children will enjoy *Made by God*, a board book with two named pictures on





A++ Congregation Summer "Flat Stanley" Social Media Ministry

Flat Stanley is a children's book about a boy that travels and tells about his adventures. To show where our Bethlehem family travels this summer, we're going to use a "Flat Stanley" Social Media Ministry idea. Rather than Flat Stanley, we're going to use the "This Changes Everything" ELCA 2018 Youth Gathering logo, the Bethlehem logo, and #blcsharing as our "Flat Stanley" (see picture) and use social media to share our story and ministry in the world. We are the church even when we are away from home.

Members of the congregation are encouraged to use the logos and #blcsharing card while out and about this summer. Take a picture with the card to show where you are finding God in the places you go. Then post it on social media: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram. Be sure to add "Being the church in ____" and #blcsharing in the comments. By adding the hashtag, all pictures with that hashtag will show up together in the social media form on which it was shared. Then everyone can see our story and ministry in the world.

Our group of 14 youth and 3 leaders going to the ELCA 2018 Youth Gathering in Houston the end of June will be taking the logos and hashtag card with them. We'll get to see how they experience the "This Changes Everything" Gathering theme in Houston as they share their story and ministry.

Pastor Gary will be sharing more about #blcsharing and using a social media in ministry during worship Sunday, June 3. We hope this venture is a fun opportunity for all.



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

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

June 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 & 11:00am
Nursery available 8:15am-12:15pm
Pastor: Rev. Gary Hedding
Church office phone: 319-266-3541
Office hours: Monday-Thursday, 8:00am-3:00pm
Friday, 8:00am-Noon
Email: office@bethlehemcf.net
Website: www.bethlehemcf.org
****Newsletter deadline: June 15****
Bulletin deadline: 9:00am Thursdays

SUNDAY, JUNE 3 FISHING & BONFIRE SUPPER

3:30pm-It's DNR free fishing weekend! Meet at Prairie Lakes. Poles, bait, and snacks provided!

5:30pm-Meet at BLC for hotdogs, chips, S'mores, lemonade, and fellowship!

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