



sharing the bread of life with the hungry world

# bethlehem lutheran church *newsletter*

Volume 52, Issue 11 November 2019



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



## A BRIDGE TO TRANSITION

Last month, I had the opportunity to spend some time in nature. I came across this bridge. For me, this bridge was a wonderful reminder that through any change in life, we cross over into a new beginning. While we cannot see what ventures lie ahead, we can cross over that bridge with trust,

knowing and believing God's hand leads us with grace, hope, love, and promise.

On **November 3, All Saints Day**, we have an opportunity to remember and celebrate the saints who have died this past year. The saints we remember have gifted us with memories and taught us something about life and faith. We hold on to the promises of a resurrected Christ who remind us that nothing can separate us from the love of God.

On that same day, we celebrate **40 years** since Bethlehem's church and education building was dedicated. Think of all the "bridges" of change this congregation encountered over the years: changes of pastors and staff, additions and remodels inside and outside of our worship and education space, ministries added, worship and life milestone celebrations that touch life from birth to death. At every "bridge" of change, God was there.

**November 3** will be my last day with you as your interim pastor. Thank for the opportunity to be with you as you prepare to call your next pastor. My heart has been touched by so many of you who have welcomed me, trusted me as your pastor, and accepted my leadership. I ask for your forgiveness where there has been mistakes and misunderstanding. Please know I forgive where there has been hurt. My sister's illness has reminded me again that life is too short to hold on to places of hurt without forgiveness.

What happens for me after Bethlehem? I cross a "bridge" of unknowns. I have put on hold any employment opportunities and will move into "retired" status with the ELCA to protect my healthcare benefits. I believe God has something amazing planned for me. During November I will spend some time in the mountains at Holden Village in Washington state and take time to be with my sister who begins a new trial study at Ohio State for her cancer.

As we all cross over into on a new chapter in life as faithful disciples of Jesus, I share with you **Psalm 51** which was used a few weeks ago at worship. May these words remind us of the importance of walking this bridge in life as members of God's Church, united as one body in Christ.

*Create in us a clean heart,  
O God,  
and put a new and right  
spirit within us.  
Do not cast us away from  
your presence,  
and do not take  
your holy spirit from us.  
Restore to us the  
joy of your salvation,  
and sustain in us  
a willing spirit.*

Thank you again for the opportunity to be with you this past year. May God continue to bless you as you walk as faithful disciples of Jesus.

*Pastor Audrey*

## WHAT CHURCHES NEED TO DO TO THRIVE IN THE 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY

Last summer, Luther Seminary hosted a "Faithful Innovation Summit." They identify seven key themes that churches and their leaders need to address in order to thrive in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**Deepened Christian Identity & Practice**—In a culture in which Christian faith is no longer assumed, congregations need a Christ-centered identity, embodied in a life of discipleship and nourished by spiritual practice. People are looking for a deep connection with God and neighbor.

**Cultivate Community** Congregations must learn how to meet people where they are and enter into intentional practices of mutual listening, relationship-building and reconciliation.

**Innovate Faithfully**—Congregations need a vibrant spiritual and theological purpose that frees them to experiment.

**Improve Administrative Leadership**—Leaders need to be trained in organizational leadership, management and administration for a 21<sup>st</sup> century world.

**Shift Ministry Models**—As church participation declines, churches are experimenting with new models and sources of income, including entrepreneurial ways of financing ministry.

**Equipping the Saints**—Effective congregations focus on multiplying lay leaders, not for committee work, but for front-line ministry in the church and the world.

**Connect with Diverse Neighbors**—**10 a.m on Sunday** is still among the most segregated times of the week. Congregations need a commitment to intercultural competency of mutual welcome.



**We're getting GREEN!** The Sunday school class is jumping on the "green" ban wagon. Along with all of the other recycling that BLC does, the Sunday school class is now recycling markers. The Crayola company has a recycling program; you can send them any brand of marker and they will recycle them. So if you have any markers that have passed on to markers heaven, you can add them to our marker box that is located in the Sunday school wing, just inside the door of the yellow room on the right. When we get enough markers, they will be sent to Crayola.

### 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

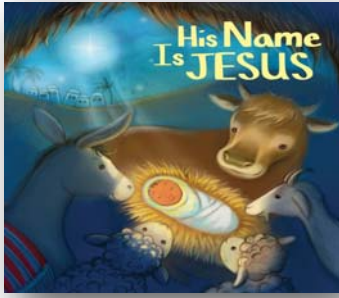


Bethlehem's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration will be on **Sunday, November 3**. If you have favorite photos of church events that have been taken in the last 40 years, please drop them off at the church office or email them to the office at [office@bethlehemcf.net](mailto:office@bethlehemcf.net). The Congregation council invites you to consider giving a special offering in gratitude for 40 years of blessings we have had in our church building & gratitude for Pastor Audrey's ministry. The special offering is designated for the H. George Seminarian Scholarship fund.



We will be decorating the Sanctuary with poinsettia plants again on Christmas Eve. If you would like to donate one, there will be a collection box with envelopes on the Welcome Table **November 10**. The envelope will have a place to print your name and a place to print the name, "in memory of" or "in honor of," for whom you are giving. The price for each plant is \$12, which includes a 7" pot with foil, ribbon, saucer, tax, and delivery. Please make check payable to Bethlehem with "poinsettias" in the memo line. The last day to donate will be **Sunday, December 15**.

## Sharing the Bread of Life with a Hungry World.



**CHRISTMAS PROGRAM:** His Name is Jesus! It's hard to believe it's time to start planning for our annual Christmas Program. This year's program is titled: "His Name is Jesus." It will be on **December 15** at

**11:00am** worship service. We're looking for kids to provide music beforehand and to participate in the program. If there are kids (of any age) who don't want to be in the program but want to be involved in the worship service, we're always looking for extra hands! Please contact Lisa Newgard. (lisa11327@gmail.com) if you're interested in participating or have questions.

### EMERGENCY PASTORAL NEED IN TRANSITION

During this time of transition before we call a new pastor, please contact the church office 266.3541. Dan Mixdorf will be preaching on **Sundays**. He, along with other local Lutheran clergy, have offered to be available for pastoral needs. Remember to send any newsletter articles or bulletin announcements to office@bethlehemcf.net. Deadlines for bulletins is Thursday morning. Newsletter deadline is the 15th of the month.

### Wednesday Night Meals

Wednesday night ministries are underway. 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, we are in need of volunteers to do the Wednesday Night Meals on October 30, November 13 and 20. If you can help with the meal, please contact Heather at heather@bethlehemcf.net or sign up in the Fellowship Hall. 266-3541

The Wednesday Night Meals in November are:

6-Pizza

13- TBA

16-TBA

20-Sloppy Joes

27-No Meal; Thanksgiving Eve

### THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP NOVEMBER 28

Over the years, Bethlehem members and Eastside, Ministerial Alliance Churches in Waterloo have held joint worship services on the evening before Thanksgiving. This year, Bethlehem will host the service, with a pastor from Eastside Ministerial Alliance preaching. Worship is at **7:00pm.**, followed by refreshments.

The Council on Service would like to thank those that helped with the Community meals on **October 15**.

Bethlehem served 185 people. The next Community Meals that Bethlehem serves will be **December 17<sup>th</sup>**. All are Welcome to help.



### BETHLEHEM'S MUSIC MINISTRY

Bethlehem choirs bring joy and form faith in two important ways. They bring the power of music to our worship, which lifts our hearts to God and helps form faith. We are grateful for their gifts of music. These choirs are also small group experiences where members grow through Christian fellowship and by rehearsing songs of faith. Consider joining us.

Choirs gather Wednesdays at the following times:

**5:15pm-Contemporary Worship Rehearsal**

**6:15pm-Celestial Choir Rehearsal**

**7:00pm-Chancel Choir Rehearsal**

You are invited to join us for a meal each **Wednesday, 5:45pm.**

**CALLING ALL YOUTH GRADES K-7TH GRADE:** You all are invited to join Karen and friends for Celestial Choir on Wednesday nights! Come at 5:45 for dinner, if you wish, and then join us at 6:15 in the St. Peter Room for a fun time of singing, connecting with each other and devotions. We finish by 7:00 pm. Contact Karen Dowell with questions at 319-230-9733 or dowell.family@cfu.net.

## ALL SAINTS' DAY TAKING FAITH HOME



Sunday, November 3, we recognize All Saints' Day. During worship, we will remember and celebrate those, both living and dead, who have guided us on our spiritual journeys. You also may continue the celebration at home. Light a candle in honor of the people in your cloud of witnesses. Name and thank them for showing you God's love and teaching you about Jesus' love by saying,

**Thank you, saint (name), for teaching me about Jesus.**

*Adapted from For Everything A Season: 75 Blessings for Daily Life by the Nilsen family*



## YOUTH MINISTRY INTENSIVE

Karen Dowell, Ellen Hermanson, Sue Jorgensen, Bev Smith, and Robin Souhrada attended the NEIA Synod's "Youth Ministry Intensive" on Sunday, Sept. 29 in Waverly. We were spiritually fed with some wonderful information for guiding the ministry of children, youth, and families at Bethlehem. From sessions focused on high school youth on how to lead a Bible Study to Urban Immersion Trips and planning for the 2021 Youth Gathering to a session on how to build a solid upper elementary youth program, the leaders energized our work. We attended a session on how to lead games for all ages of youth and a session on fundraising ideas. Robin led an inspiring workshop on Faith Formation/Milestones & Blessings Ministry and we also attended a Faith 5 workshop, which is a family faith practice to use in the home, as well as at church with the entire congregational family. As we process the knowledge we received at this educational opportunity, we will be able to weave it into the Vibrant Faith framework that is alive at Bethlehem. Thank you for supporting us in attending this event!

What  
ARE ..... You  
Thankful?  
for

## VETERANS DAY

We Salute You



## VETERANS DAY DISPLAY

We know that our veterans are usually quite humble, but we'd like to honor veterans from Bethlehem with a special display. We invite veterans or their family members to share pictures, items, and information with us for our special display. Pictures and information will be displayed when we celebrate Veteran's Day, Sunday, November 10. Please drop off marked items in the Church Office before Wednesday, November 6. All items will be returned. ??? Contact Robin, [robin@bethlehemcf.net](mailto:robin@bethlehemcf.net), or Jean Sackett, [gmajeana@cfu.net](mailto:gmajeana@cfu.net).

## VETERANS DAY PRAYER

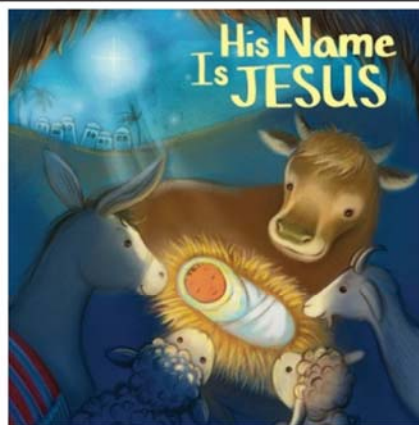
Lord, we give you thanks for the freedom granted by the women and men in the armed services who serve our country. Please guard and protect them. Give them strength, endurance, and compassion to fulfill their duty. Help us find ways to be an advocate for veterans who may be suffering in body, mind, and spirit. Help us find ways to be a beacon of light and hope for their families and friends. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.





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

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



## "Pre-Advent" Advent Workshop

**Sunday, November 3, 12:45pm**

Join us right after potluck to help prepare for Advent! **Yes, it's early**, but Thanksgiving is late and the Bethlehem calendar is full, so we're getting a head start. We will be making ornaments, listening for Jesus' name; Mighty One, Light of the World, Bread of Life, Shephard, during devotions.



## Cross-generational Event

**Sunday, December 1, 9:45am**

We will save the ornaments from our Advent Workshop to decorate our Fellowship Hall Christmas tree during Fellowship Hour.

## NINJA\U ©

### SR. HIGH YOUTH GROUP

**Sunday, November 10 12:30pm**

Meet Theresa Elverum at NINJA\U, in Black Hawk Village, Cedar Falls. When we're done tackling obstacles at NINJA\U, we will choose a nearby place for refreshments and conversations of faith. ??? Contact Theresa, [elverum@cfu.net](mailto:elverum@cfu.net).



L-R: Owyn, John, Kai, Kade, Kaleb, Charlie, Rhea, Dave

These 6 guys and one gal, pictured with Dave, had a great time at the 20th Annual LSC Middle School Lock-In at the UNI Wellness Center last month. They were with over 435 youth who played, ate, worshiped, sang, listened, and prayed together. One of their goals was to stay up all night, and they made it! We are grateful for Dave, Karen, and Robin, for making it through the night with a tag team effort, to Lutheran Campus Ministry Pastor Scott Duffus, staff, and students, and NEIA Synod staff, Deb Bachman, for making it all happen. This is the biggest gathering of our Synod.

Volume 20, Issue 4

November 2019

### Upcoming Events

Beer & Hymns	Oct. 27
"Pre-Advent" Advent Workshop	Nov. 3
High School Youth Group	Nov. 10
Y&F Ministry Mtg.	Nov. 18
Pints of Grace 7:00pm, Tuesdays	Nov. 5, 12, 19
Hanging of the Greens Cross-generational Event	Dec. 1

### LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF TOTALS



**5400 items were assembled.**

- 202 School Kits
- 105 Personal Care Kits
- 38 Baby Care Kits
- 4 Tie Blankets

### PINTS OF GRACE

**Tuesdays, 7:00pm**

### Mulligans

205 E. 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Cedar Falls

We welcome people 18-30 years old, for a soda, beer, or food, as we enjoy fellowship and conversations of faith. ??? Contact Zachary Rogers, 415-9019.

\* No Pints of Grace November 26.



## SUNDAY CHAPEL at NewAldaya.

Needed for each of the 4 Sunday mornings in **November** at NewAldaya : We could really use 2 people each Sunday morning to help residents get to Chapel. You will be paired with a regular volunteer as you learn the lay of the land.

If you can help, please plan to arrive by **10:00am** for instructions. And, if you can, stay the service so you can assist people afterward. The service starts at **10:30am**. Our residents really appreciate your help!

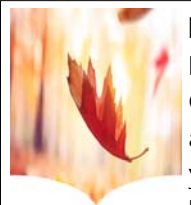


A sign-up sheet may be found on the Welcome Table. Ask Marie Gregersen 268.0016 or June Belz 859-4258



**FRIENDS IN FAITH** will meet on Sunday, **November 17, 6:30pm** in the Church Library. We will discuss chapters 5 and 6 of the book "Shepherd of Souls, Faith Formation

Through Trusted Relationships" by David W. Anderson. Please bring a snack to share and your own drink. If you have not joined us before and are interested in this book, please get your own book and come be part of our fellowship and discussion. We love new friends and insights. Questions to Vicki Newgard, 240-3905, or [vnewgard@cfu.net](mailto:vnewgard@cfu.net).



**REMINDER** to Thrivent members. Please remember to direct your Choice Dollars. Contact Thrivent and let them know to which charity you would like to donate your funds Bethlehem is one of the choices.



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

**ANNUAL REPORTS** Due **December 16**. Please email them to Tina, [Tina@bethlehemcf.net](mailto:Tina@bethlehemcf.net)

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS** November 3, set your clocks back.



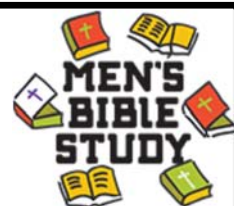
## MANNA AND MERCY

Sunday morning adult forums over the next several months will be using the book "Manna and Mercy: A Brief History of God's Unfolding Promise to Mend the Entire Universe," by Daniel Erlander. Different members of Bethlehem will be leading the study. Which covers an overview of the entire Bible and God's amazing gift to humanity. The forum will be held in the library on **Sundays at 9:45**, beginning **November 10**.

## MEN'S BIBLE STUDY BREAKFAST

**November 23th 7:30am**

At Bethlehem Lutheran Church All are Welcome.



## 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**.



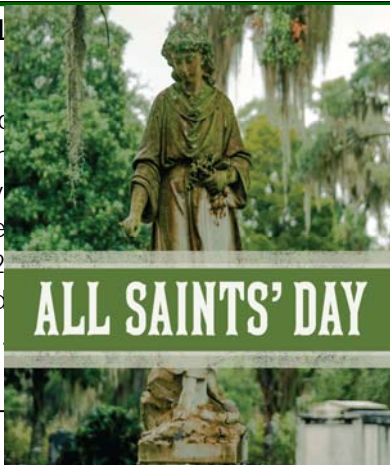
## DO DAY

If you can tie a knot, you are qualified to help at Do Day, **Tuesday, November 12, 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).

**Sunday, November 10**

**3rd** of BLC is **Altar Servers** We recognize All Saints Day Memorial

1st service we have a **remember and** volunteers do this for 1-2 **celebrate those, both** living and dead who **have guided us on our** spiritual journeys.



**ALL SAINTS' DAY**



### ALL SAINTS SUNDAY NOVEMBER 3

Join us for worship on **Sunday, November 3**, as we remember all the saints who have died this past year. This year we will be remembering the following members who have died: Burton Newgard, Sidney Thede, Todd Elliott, Florence Wald, Virginia Moothart, Gene Bond, Viola Nissen, Freda Lovejoy, Svean Koch, and Mary Mitchell. The service will include an opportunity for members to light candles for all the saints we wish to remember who have died.

**LOVE INC DONATIONS NEEDED** The Service Council is in need of medical equipment for our Love INC ministry. A list may be found and items can be left in the coat area of the Narthex. ??? Contact Becky Anderson, 830-7440, or Theresa Elverum, 277-3306. Love INC is also in need of furniture donations: bed sets, dressers, dining sets, couches (no hide-a-beds), loveseats, washers/dryers, stoves, and refrigerators only. If you have one of these items to donate, they will pick it up from you. ??? Contact Love INC, 266-1264.



**Love INC**  
Love In the Name of Christ



### THANK TO YOU TO FALL CLEANUP HELPERS

Thanks to all who helped with the fall cleanup on **October 19**.

### ALTAR FLOWERS

There are still openings for donations of altar flowers. Please sign up on the Flower Chart on the bulletin board by the kitchen in the Fellowship Hall. ??? Kathy Timmer, 610-2241.



### GIVING WITHOUT A CHECK

Many members in recent years have discovered how easy it is to transfer a one-time gift or make recurring offerings from their bank account or major credit card directly to Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Our partnership with Vanco Services, a secure giving system, allows you to make your gift to the church and ensures you do not incur fees when you give online or set up an automatic account. Check out our website to see how easy it is to give to God's church: <http://www.bethlehemcf.org/welcome/online-giving/?view=mobile>. Another option is to scan the QR code with your smart phone.



### STAY CONNECTED

[www.bethlehemcf.org](http://www.bethlehemcf.org)

#blcsharing

LIKE us on Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/pages/Bethlehem-Lutheran-Church-ELCA/451552121584266?ref=hl](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Bethlehem-Lutheran-Church-ELCA/451552121584266?ref=hl)



319-226-3541

[office@bethlehemcf.net](mailto:office@bethlehemcf.net)

### CHURCH OFFICE STAFF

**Audrey Lukasak - Interim Pastor**

507-358-6924, [pastor@bethlehemcf.net](mailto:pastor@bethlehemcf.net)

**Robin Souhrada - Director of Faith Formation**

[robin@bethlehemcf.net](mailto:robin@bethlehemcf.net)

**Tina Varney - Office Administrative Assistant**

[office@bethlehemcf.net](mailto:office@bethlehemcf.net)

**Heather Schneider - Ministry Coordinator**

[heather@bethlehemcf.net](mailto:heather@bethlehemcf.net)

**Diane Bowman - Office Business Assistant**

[office@bethlehemcf.net](mailto:office@bethlehemcf.net)



### UNIFIED ACTIVITY Sept. 2019

2019 Mission Plan Total: \$363,893

Sept Income: \$31,744.31

Expenses: \$26,529.32

+5,244.89

Yearly Income \$251,918.21

Yearly Expenses \$256,041.12

(-4,122.91)

Sunday worship with Holy Communion  
 8:30am & 11:00am  
 Nursery available 8:15am-11:45pm  
 Pastor: Rev. Audrey Lukasak  
 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: November 15\*\***  
**Bulletin deadline: 9:00am Thursdays**

## Thanksgiving Eve Service

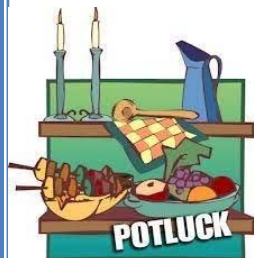
Wednesday, November 27,  
 7:00pm

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

We will join other congregations associated  
 with the  
 Eastside Ministerial Alliance in grateful  
 worship.



**Daylight Savings Time November 3.**  
 set your clocks back!



Sunday, November 3,  
 All Saints Sunday  
 40 Anniversary Celebration  
**CHURCH POTLUCK**  
 following 11:00am worship  
 Ovens available at 10:00am  
**Everyone is welcome!**

Sunday, November  
 3rd

We recognize All  
 Saints' Day We will  
 remember and  
 celebrate those, both  
 living and dead, who  
 have guided us on our  
 spiritual journeys.

