

COMMUNICATIONS:

- Pastor: Rev. Mark Wilms
- Church Office: 712-933-2229
- Pastor's E-mail: pmamlw@royaltelco.net
- Pastor's Cell Phone: 507-251-8993 home phone: 712-933-5545
- Lynn Wilms' Cell Phone: 507-251-9242
- Pastor's Office Hours: Please call and arrange for a time to meet
- Secretary's (Cindy Buren) E-mail: blc@royaltelco.net
- Secretary's Office Hours: 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
- Website: www.royalbethlehemplutheran.com
- Kitchen and Hallway Phone: 712-933-2244

CROSS

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R A NEWSLETTER FROM

R BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

E BOX 224

N ROYAL, IA 51357

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S www.royalbethlehemplutheran.com

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CROSS CURRENTS

OUR MISSION STATEMENT: Bethlehem Lutheran Church is committed to making disciples for Jesus Christ through our thoughts, words and deeds.

VALUES STATEMENT: We are a discipleship driven ministry, inviting all people to become disciples for Jesus Christ, nurtured by scripture and prayer. We are a community of caring and forgiving people who create a nurturing and Christian environment where everyone feels welcomed.

Working cooperatively, we serve as a leader in partnering with families, businesses and other churches to maximize the outreach services available to the Christian community. We strive to serve as a cornerstone of the community.

August 2017

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A Word or Two...by Pastor Mark

During the first half of August Lynn and I are traveling to Germany to take part in the wedding of one of our foreign exchange daughters, Lena. We take off August 1, flying direct from the Twin Cities to Paris, then on to Frankfurt, then a bus to Dortmund, where the wedding will be. It will be special because some of our other exchange daughters will be there as well. As “veterans” of our household, they have a common bond and have gotten to know each other. They all call us Mom and Dad, and to see them will be very special. Then, we head to Hamburg on a fast train (about 150mph) to visit the parents of our first student, whose wedding we did back in '08. Next, on to Paris for three days so Lynn can enjoy a city she's wanted to see all her life. We will take a bus tour of the city, and a dinner cruise on the Seine. They don't eat on that thing till after 8pm, which I complain about, but Lynn says it will be romantic. If it makes her happy, I'm happy. We get back on August 15. Pastor John will lead worship the first two Sundays in August, and will be on call for any needs. I thank him very much for that.

I don't mean to bore you half to death with talk of our vacation, but I brought this up partly to comment on how important it is to maintain past relationships in our lives. There are certain friends, certain loved ones, who are still around, and contacts with them are enriched when we keep them alive. In our busy lives, it's not possible to do it all, but an effort in that direction is worth it. When Lena gave us the good news of her wedding and said, “We want you and Mom to be there,” I thought about the cost. But then I thought, “On the last day of my life am I going to be glad that I still have that money sitting around?” Hardly. What will matter is if I used life in the best way, and there isn't anything better than those you love.

Proverbs 18:24 says, “Some friends play at friendship but a true friend sticks closer than one’s nearest kin.” So it is not only with friends but all who are important to us. Don’t “play at friendship,” unless you want to end life with no one really close to you. Stick as close as you can to those you have a bond with. It will remind you of what is really important, and how secondary passing problems are. It will also help you to know more personally the Lord who gave you life itself.

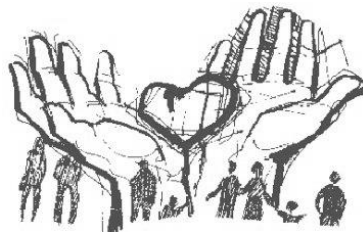
P.S.: You will get to meet Lena and her new husband Chris when they visit us in Royal in September!

Faith and Life Bible Study Starts in October

If you like Bible study, plan ahead for Faith and Life Bible Study, starting in October. It will be a “no threat” get-together, where it doesn’t matter if you know the Bible backwards in 10 languages or don’t even know there’s a New and Old Testament. Just come and enjoy. There will be two sessions to choose from every week, with the same content at both: Monday nights 6:30-8:00 PM, or Wednesday mornings 9:30-11:00 AM, in the fellowship hall. Best of all, there’ll be coffee and treats each time! The goal will be to go through the Bible and Christian history using a course written by Pastor Mark. At each session, participants will read a few chapters, get some background on the history behind it, then discuss how God’s word connects with life. You can share if you want, or just listen. You can come every week, or just when you want. See you this fall at Faith and Life Bible Study!

Prayers

- For the right balance of rain and sunshine for a good harvest later.
- For all in our congregation that have suffered from illness or accident.
- For vacation travel before school, that it will be safe and restful.
- For children returning to school later this month.



-Ethan Batschelet, Missionary--Siloam Girls’ School in India
 -Joyce Sabel (daughter of Roger & Betty Kruse)--Paulette Tuton--JoAnn Treinen--Cleo Wild--Debbie Tewes (daughter of Jack & Judy Phillips)--Family of Evelyn Ohrt (Aunt of Ann Myers)--Duane & Kay Kracht & Duane’s surgeon--Family of Margaret Lundquist (mother of Connie Huberg)--Melvin Taylor (Pam Santage’s dad)--Bibi Sangho (friend of Deb & Dean Mechler)--Pam VanderLugt (close friend of Josh & Iesha Toft)
 -Family of Dorinda Goodale--Ann Myers--Darla Larson (friend of Mindy Means)
(Please call the church office to add someone to the prayer list. Requests stay on the list for one month unless you instruct us to do otherwise.)



Coffee Fellowship

We’d love to have YOU share your cookies, bars, rolls, or anything. There is a calendar on the bulletin board outside the pastor’s office where you can put your name on a Sunday this year. If you (or you with a friend) sign up, you should bring enough pieces and/or cookies for about 100 people. Coffee and hot chocolate are already prepared. Add to the joy of our fellowship time after church!

Volunteers for August: August 6th: Denice Schoelerman
 August 13th: **Need volunteer**
 August 20th: Eleanor Nielsen’s birthday celebration
 August 27th: **Need volunteer**

“Scripture Verse for August”

1 Thessalonians 5:18 Amplified Bible

¹⁸ In every situation [no matter what the circumstances] be thankful *and* continually give thanks *to God*; for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.

If you have a favorite verse you would like to see in the Cross Currents, call Cindy at the church office. 933-2229 or email blc@royaltelco.net



BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES:

Dale Stafford, Richard Thiesen, George Schmidt, Denice Schoelerman, Lisa Shiley, Amy Holtz, Donna McClain, Lynette Ginger, Nicholas Roghair, Anne Soto, Allie Halverson, James Schoelerman, Gary Huberg, Greg Huberg, Mariah Tackett, Connie Lundbeck, Hillery Kingery, Paige Maaland, Daniel Stricker, Lindsey

Rosenboom, Justin Peterson, Bradly Brugman, Skylar Thompson, Khloe Combes, Jay Woodall, Jesse Kruse, Kaylene Mortensen and Melinda Glackin.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:

Darrel & Ann Santage, 19 years; Luis & Anne Soto, 6 years; Chris & Lisa Swanson, 29 years; Kent & Sandy Thiesen, 47 years; Bruce & Shelley Berberich, 15 years; Larry & Judy Eckard, 54 years; Scott & Deb Tunink, 26 years; Larry & Cec Pederson, 29 years; Tom & Barb Johnson, 48 years; Gary & Natalie Gunnerson, 11 years; Art & Sherry Toft, 46 years; Tarica & Chris Yungbluth, 19 years; Dane & Michelle Zittritsch, 4 years; Tyler & Allie Peterson, 3 years; Nick & Jill Toft, 5 years; Rod & Melinda Glackin, 15 years; Brandon & Briana Swanson, 1 year; Scot & Amanda Brown, 1 year.

School bells will soon be ringing!

Bethlehem Lutheran will celebrate the beginning of the 2017-18 school year with the “Blessing of the Backpacks” Sunday, August 27, during 9:30a.m. worship. We want to start the school year out right by asking God’s blessing on all children, from pre-school age thru college age, along with all teachers and staff, who are so important and touch the lives of many students. We ask everyone who is going back to school, no matter their age, to come and bring their backpacks. Invite friends too! All will be asked to come forward during the worship service to receive a blessing as a reminder that God is with them each and every day throughout the year. Hope to see everyone on August 27. Bring your backpacks and your friends!

Milestone Ministry Team
Marcia Steffen, Alice Roghair, Becky Smoot



10,000 REASONS...

“For all your goodness I will keep on singing...10,000 reasons for my heart to find.”
Praise Team will play for worship August 27th as part of the celebration of Blessing of the Backpacks. Lift up your hearts in praise!

Bethlehem Lutheran Women

Do Day was held July 27th. No meeting was held because of lack of attendance. One quilt was finished, 3 pinned, and 3 tied. The ladies enjoyed the morning coffee provided by Donna McClain and had a surprise visit by Cleo Wild and her daughter Candy.

There are no Circle meetings in August.

Bethlehem Lutheran Women "Ladies Night Out" will be Friday, August 11 at 5:30p.m., at InnSpiration Winery. Car Pool will leave the church at 5:00p.m. Please sign-up in the fellowship hall if you plan on attending so we know how much food to prepare. Jade Woodall, Connie Lundbeck and Shelley Berberich are hostesses. If you need a ride please call Alice Roghair (712-933-2465) or Kay Kracht (712-262-2421). We look forward to an inspirational evening of fun, food, musical entertainment and Christian fellowship.

Task Force for August:

Visitation: Dorcas Bible Study

Coffee: Esther Bible Study

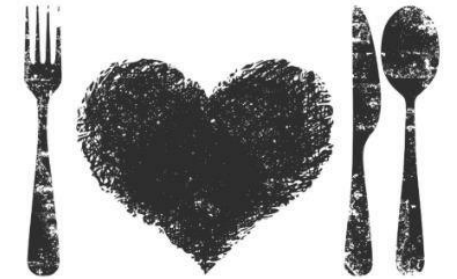


The Monthly Men's Breakfast
Meets the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 AM
at the Royal Café (August 10th)
to come together in prayer and to study God's word.

August Mission of the Month:

MavPacks-Food for Children

We are collecting the usual single-serve, non-perishable food items to send home with students over the weekends during the school year. Let's build up the supplies to start the program strong in August!



PARENTS: Bringing items to church as a family is a great way to teach your kids about caring for others.



A special fund has been established for a new colored digital sign for Bethlehem. The current sign has deteriorated over the years and it is time to brighten the appearance of Bethlehem Lutheran Church. The new sign will be incorporated in the current bell tower. The approximate cost of this sign is \$10,000. This sign is a digital sign that the Church staff will be able to customize to our needs and change with special events, etc. If you would like to donate to this special fund please write "bell tower sign" on the memo line of your check. Thank you for your help in updating the appearance of Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

The July 19th, 2017 meeting of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council was called to order by President Keith Kruse at 7:08 P.M. Council members in attendance were Keith Kruse, Mindy Means, Chris Swanson, Dave Holtz, Roland Mortenson, Sarah Dehrkoop, Pastor Mark Wilms, and Amanda Mugge. Council members Jennifer Findling, Marra Glackin, and Betsy Schoelerman were absent.

Secretary's Report: There were no changes made to the June report. A motion was made by Dave to approve the report. The motion was seconded by Mindy and was carried by Council.

Treasurer's Report: There were no changes made to the report. A motion was made by Mindy to approve the report. The motion was seconded by Roland and was carried by Council. It was noted that starting in August 2017 the water and sewer rates from the city of Royal will be increasing.

Pastor's Report: Pastor's Bible Study will begin in October. There will be two sessions per week both covering the same content. More information to come about the Bible study. Faith Incubators will be the new curriculum for Confirmation classes. A confirmation date will be set in stone by Council during the August Council meeting. Pastor is reaching his six month mark of serving our congregation and is very pleased.

Team Reports:

Outreach: The ice cream social went well for Royal Fun days. It was noted that sales were less than last year potentially due to there being a shaved ice stand close to the ice cream set-up. This will be addressed for next year. And also will look into having it advertised on the flier as being Bethlehem Lutheran Church being the ones serving the ice cream social. Thank you to the great volunteers that ran the booth.

Education: The education team is currently working on a proposal for a youth leader. They will also be meeting with Pastor to discuss the curriculum for Sunday school this fall.

Property:

-Santage Construction will begin the repair on the soffits and fascia this week. An estimate was also received from them to pour a concrete pad for the dumpster. There are some issues with the current location of the dumpster and so a concrete pad is needed for it outside of the kitchen door of the Church. Approval from the city will be needed for this project, an application will be submitted. A motion was made by Dave to have Santage Construction pour a concrete pad for the dumpster for approximately \$2,000 with the funding coming from the capital improvement fund, all this will be pending approval from the city. The motion was seconded by Sarah and was carried by Council.

-The property team is currently seeking estimates to turn our south doors into automatic handicapped doors, more to come on this.

-There will be some cleaning needing to be performed on the outside of the Church and on the bell tower, more to come on this.

-The issue of the bell tower sign has been discussed multiple times and estimates have been collected for a new sign. The bell tower sign is the original from 1968 and with it being made of plastic it has deteriorated over time due to the weather elements. A motion was made by Roland to create a special fund for a new outdoor sign to fit in the bell tower for a projected approximant amount of \$10,000 subject to the funds being raised. The motion was seconded by Dave and carried by Council. This new sign would be a colored digital sign to bring our appearance up to the times we are in. The sign is single sided, 4'x3" wide and 29" tall, is programmable by the church computer, dims at night as to not disrupt the neighbors, and has a five year warranty.

Stewardship: The team will be meeting with Pastor to discuss their findings on other ways for members to give to the Church.

Finance: Finance was discussed during the treasurer's report.

New Business:

-Hedges- A new hedge trimmer will be purchased to clean up the outside landscape.

-Cindy- On September 24th we will honor Cindy for her 20 years of service as Bethlehem Lutheran Church's secretary. This special recognition will occur during the coffee fellowship following Sunday's service. Thank you Cindy for 20 years of service and to a great many more.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

The next council meeting is set for August 16th, 2017.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amanda Mugge
Secretary

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Lynn Wilms: 507-251-9242
Bethlehem's website:
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**ACOLYTE SCHEDULE**

August 6      Gracie Dehrkoop  
                     Sierra Goyette  
August 13     Natalie Joenks  
                     Olivia Maker  
August 20     Abigail Findling  
                     Emma Larson  
August 27     Elizabeth Findling  
                     EmmaKay McClain

**ALTAR GUILD**

Wanda Helmkamp      Tami Mugge

**LITURGICAL COLORS**

August                      Green

**USHERS**

Jim Tuton                      Beau Huberg  
Dennis McClain              Keith Kruse

**GREETER CHAIR**

**SCRIPTURE READER CHAIR**

Betsy Schoelerman

**BIBLE STUDY LEADERS**

No meetings in August