

## **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
- 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**

**U**

**R** A NEWSLETTER FROM

**R** BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

**E** BOX 224

**N** ROYAL, IA 51357

**T**

**S** [www.royalbethlehemplutheran.com](http://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.

## **July 2018**

### **A Word or Two...by Pastor Mark**

Roots – plants need them to get nourishment and have something to grow from. People need roots, too. Our families provide a big part of this, as we think about those who have gone on before. Just stop your hectic day for a minute, close your eyes and vision those people who are now gone: grandparents, uncles and aunts, others. You can see them and hear their voices as if they had never left. These people, in spite of their faults, gave us solid ground to walk on because they lived out their lives, as we must, and somehow made it through. We are fed by that history, growing from where they left off.

This is also how it works with faith. Parents and grandparents who take their children to worship, who see that they receive a faith formation, give them roots that nourish their growth in Christ later in life. On Sunday, July 15, we will celebrate that fact at the 9:30 worship service with dinner following as we recreate the 1968 dedication service of the new sanctuary and education unit 50 years ago. Through five decades Bethlehem's brick and mortar has been a shelter from the storm for countless souls seeking forgiveness and spiritual meaning. They have been a classroom for the young and old to find out who the God of the Bible is. They have enclosed a beloved congregation that has suffered, rejoiced, and given generously so the work of Christ's mission can go on to the next generation. It is a church that knows the meaning of Joshua's words to Israel when they crossed into the Promised Land, leaving behind stones that commemorated their protection by God along the way:

"When your children ask their parents in time to come, 'What do these stones mean?' <sup>22</sup>then you shall let your children know, 'Israel crossed over the Jordan here on dry ground.' <sup>23</sup>For the LORD your God dried up the waters of the Jordan for you until you crossed over, as the LORD your God

did to the Red Sea, which he dried up for us until we crossed over, <sup>24</sup> so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the hand of the LORD is mighty, and so that you may fear the LORD your God forever.” (Joshua 4:21-24)

May we never lose our faith in that same mighty God who has brought us this far.

**VACATION:** Pastor Mark & Lynn will be gone on vacation July 2-11. In case of an emergency please contact Pastor John Jensen at 712-240-2755. Pastor Jensen will be leading worship on July 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **Faith and Life Bible Study for July**

After breaking for two weeks while Pastor Mark is on vacation, we resume Faith and Life Bible Study on July 16/18. We are currently entering the book of Deuteronomy, a series of farewell sermons by Moses before he hands over leadership to his mentee Joshua. Like grandparents who tell us stories of how it used to be, Moses reviews Israel’s history, its victories and many failures, and gives wise advice for their life in the new land they are about to inherit.

Faith and Life Bible study meets Monday nights 6:30-8:00, and Wednesday mornings 9:30-11 (choose either session), in the fellowship hall. There are refreshments and coffee every week. You can share if you want, or just listen. You can go every week or just when you feel like it. You can know a lot about the Bible or nothing at all. It’s a no-pressure Bible study! Maybe it’s time you check it out.



### **Royal Fun Days Community Service**

On Sunday, July 22, Bethlehem will join Royal United Methodist Church in a community service out at Triangle Park on Main Street (where Memorial Day services are held). Worship will be at 10:00 AM. If it rains, the backup plan is to move it indoors at Bethlehem. Pastor Mark and Lyle Witte will share the message, scripture, and prayers that day, and Sue Brugman will take her music on the road!

An offering is being planned for the two churches, as well as a general offering to a faith-based charity for members of other churches who want to contribute. But if you can’t be there, remember your regular offering either electronically or at another service. It means a lot during the summer months when many are gone on vacation. THANK YOU!

### **Now You Can Give Electronically!**

People have been saying that they are using cash and checks less and less. In response, your church council has contracted with Vanco Services of Bloomington, MN, to offer four ways to give electronically:

#### **1. Through your smartphone:**

Download GivePlus Church for free from the App Store or Google Play. When you open the GivePlus Church app for the first time, you will be prompted to enter the name of the church you want to give to, finding it with the *Find Churches Near Me* feature. Then, you can easily make donations directly from your smartphone using your debit/credit card or checking/savings account. You can donate as a guest or set up an account that allows you to securely and conveniently schedule one-time or recurring donations. You even have the option to add an amount to cover what the church has to pay in processing fees, if you choose. You can change your contribution setup or cancel any time. For a demo on YouTube, go to <https://youtu.be/PAjqUxK8YRk>

#### **2. Give online through the church’s website:**

Look for the contribution button on the home page and at several other places in our church’s website (<http://www.royalbethlehemplutheran.com/>). You will be taken to our giving page, where you can enter the same information as you would on your smartphone.



#### **3. Look for our QR code in this newsletter every month, in the church bulletin Sunday morning, or at other places around the church:**

Just use your QR reader on your phone to scan it, and it will take you right to the same giving page that is connected to Bethlehem’s website. If you don’t have a QR reader on your phone, you can easily download

one for free by typing “QR reader” in your search box.

#### **4. Get an authorization form from the church office to set up contributions directly from your bank account, debit or credit card:**

You can make one-time or periodic donations, and raise, lower or cancel donations at any time, just as in the smartphone app or website page. This form appeals to people who don’t want to use their phone or a computer to contribute, but would like to have a convenient way to make contributions. Cindy is in the office Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, and will be glad to give you a form and explain its use.



### Sermon Series on Ruth

Last year we heard the story of Esther in a sermon series. This August, we will hear the story of Ruth, the other book of the Bible named after a woman. After the death of the men in their lives, Ruth's mother Naomi gave her leave to start a new life in her homeland. But her devotion to her mother was so great that she left with her

to go back to Naomi's homeland and an uncertain future. During the four Sundays of August, we will watch those tough years unfold, see an older man take an interest in the faithful Ruth, and fight to have her as his wife in the face of a relative who could claim her along with some ancestral land. What is even more significant, we will see how this soap opera has a direct connection with Jesus Christ Himself. Hear the story of Ruth at worship during August!



### Prayers

For safe and refreshing travel this summer.

For the youth going on their mission trip in mid-July – that their faith will lead to action in sharing God's love.

For grateful hearts that celebrate 50 years of ministry in Bethlehem's church structure.

### Scripture for July

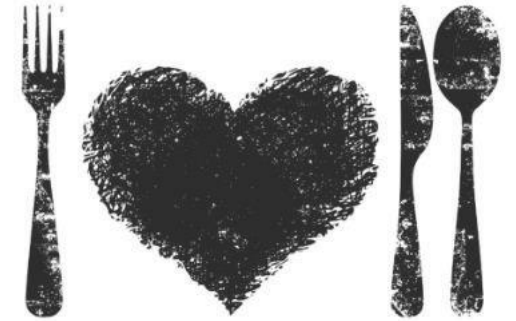
John 14:1 ERV

Jesus said, "Don't be troubled. Trust in God, and trust in me."

*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](mailto:blc@royaltelco.net)*

## **July 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.



*In Our  
Thoughts  
and Prayers*

-Ethan Batschelet, Missionary--Siloam Girls' School in India--Virginia Christensen--Doug Seavert (son of Donnabelle Seavert)--Heath Huberg (Heath is son of Gary Huberg)--Joyce Sabel (daughter of Roger & Betty Kruse) -Roger Struve--Kristin Tielbur (granddaughter of Chuck and Donna Christensen Tielbur)--Darla Larson (friend of Mindy Means)--Kay Zieman--Eugene Fales (cousin of Kent Means)--Family of Steve Reighard whose daughter

passed away-- Family of Leone Manley (Alice Roghair's mother) *(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.*



## BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

Melissa Haroldson, Michelle Haroldson, Jaime Venema, Nicholas Venema, Maggie Lamb, Heidi Woodall, Sandra Johnson, Hunter Englert, Michael Virelli, Nathaniel Kingery, Dennis Johnke, Sarah Englert, Alexander Johnson, Emma Johnson, Ashley Johnson, Cynthia Salinas, Adalyn Schoelerman, Greta Huberg, DonnaBelle Seavert, Danny Brugman, Dorothy Toft, Jennifer Findling, Kelly Pullen, Megan Pedersen, Arthur Toft, Christopher Woodall, Jessica Frederick, Coleton Ginger, Jacquelyn Ginger, Jaime Ginger, Alisha Johnson, Joshua Johnson, Lori Lundbeck, LaVonne Schuknecht, Ann Myers, Katherine Holtz, Luke Glackin, Kaden Knepfhoff, Emelia Meyer, Raeanna Meyer, Sylvia Meyer, Auston Francis, and Gavin Francis.

## WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Roland & Donna Mortensen, 42 years; Dennis & Donna McClain, 21 years; Zane & Kristi Smoot, 11 years; Josh & Iesha Toft, 7 years; Jim & Marge Barglof, 55 years; Duane & Kay Kracht, 54 years; George & Donna Schmidt, 28 years; Kent & Mindy Means, 23 years; Dennis & Ann Johnke, 40 years; Andrew & Alisa Jarvie, 6 years; Kyle & Allie Fletcher, 5 years



**The Monthly Men's Breakfast**  
**Meets the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 AM**  
**at the Royal Café (July 12<sup>th</sup>)**  
**to come together in prayer and to study God's word.**



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 worship!

### **Volunteers for July:**

**July 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**July 8<sup>th</sup>**  
**July 15<sup>th</sup>**  
**July 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
**July 29<sup>th</sup>**

**Volunteer needed**  
**Connie Lundbeck & LaVonne Schuknecht**  
**Betsy Schoelerman**  
**Cindy Crouch**  
**Mary Lundbeck & Betty Kruse**



### **Attention: Time to Celebrate**

Date to mark down on your calendar-July 15<sup>th</sup>

Our Church building has served the members of Bethlehem and the community for 50 years. Many events have been held here such as Weddings, Day Camp, Baptisms, meetings, Funerals,

Confirmations, special services and many other events. Our service on July 15<sup>th</sup> will reflect the move into this building 50 years ago. During our coffee hour after church we will look at items put into the Time Capsule. This will be a time to reminisce of the past and look forward to the future here at Bethlehem. Following this we will have a potluck dinner at approximately 11:30. We ask you to bring a hot dish and side. The Council will provide dessert and drinks. Plan to mark this date on your calendar - July 15<sup>th</sup> Hope to see you there.

If you have any photos that you would like to share please send pictures (scanned preferably) to Jade Woodall at [j\\_thie@hotmail.com](mailto:j_thie@hotmail.com).

## **Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council Meeting**

The June 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council was called to order by President, Keith Kruse at 7:07 PM. Council members in attendance were Keith Kruse, Nick Toft, Roland Mortensen, Betsy Schoelerman, Amy Holtz, and Lisa Swanson. Absent were Sarah Dehrkoop, Dana Huberg, Paul Wick, and Jennifer Findling.

**Secretary's Report:** No changes were made to the May report. A motion was made by Amy, seconded by Lisa to approve the secretary's report. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** No changes were made to the May report. A motion was made by Lisa, seconded by Roland to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

### **Pastor's Report:**

-Pastor will be on vacation from July 2<sup>nd</sup> – July 11<sup>th</sup>. Pastor John Jensen will lead worship on July 8. July 15<sup>th</sup> will be the church's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration and July 22<sup>nd</sup> will be the ecumenical church service held at 10:00 AM at the Triangle Park.

-The church has a new property insurance provider and this company would like everyone who works with youth to have some training in spotting signs of sexual abuse. Pastor has contacted those who volunteer for youth related activities to let them know of this requirement. There is a 20 minute video to watch as part of the training and everyone will have to sign a paper that Pastor Mark will keep on file.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Outreach:** The outreach committee will be organizing the ice cream social during Royal Fun Days. Amy has rented an ice cream machine from Quik Spot in Everly. The committee is organizing the potluck for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. Amy requested that council members each bring a dessert and she is going to ask the members of the congregation to each bring a meat dish and a side dish.

**Education:** Vacation Bible School was held June 11-14. 7 counselors served approximately 40 youth. It was a great week and we are grateful to everyone who volunteered at day camp, brought food for the counselors, and hosted them in their homes.

**Property:** Nick visited with Rob Wassom about installing a wireless access point upstairs to help with internet access/availability. Rob estimated this will cost less than \$100. Nick is looking into an issue with the furnace and condensation puddling on the floor. The committee has arranged for the time capsule to be drilled on July 7<sup>th</sup>. They will video the opening of the capsule. Roland is securing bids for potential re-paving of the sidewalk and parking stalls from the parsonage to the alley. One of the lights in the hallway is missing a cover. Nick contacted Crescent Electric and that particular cover is not made anymore. Potential options for replacement were discussed. Nick will look into this further and come up with a proposal.

**Finance:** We will most likely have to borrow money from the bank to pay the June bills. Keith switched our property insurance to Hastings Property Insurance, which is a savings of \$1,500.

**New Business:** Council discussed what to do about an offering at the ecumenical service. The proposal is to pass three offering plates that day. One for Bethlehem Lutheran, one for the Methodists, and the other for a charity (Clay County Food for Life). Pastor Mark will share this with the Methodist pastor and make sure it is okay with them.

Keith made a motion to adjourn and the meeting was closed with The Lord's Prayer.

The next council meeting is July 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Betsy Schoelerman, Acting Secretary

## **Bethlehem Lutheran Church Women**

Bethlehem Lutheran Women did not meet in June. Monday, July 2 Esther Circle is to provide cookies for the St. Luke Auxiliary Meeting. Our next gathering will be Friday, August 10 at 5:30p.m., for "Ladies Night Out" at Innspiration Winery. Hostesses will be Lori Larson, Connie Huberg, and Lisa Swanson. We will have a sign-up sheet so they know how many to plan for. Carpool will leave from the church at 5:00p.m.

Task Force for July: Visitation – Evening Bible Study; Whoever brings treats for coffee time after church is asked to clean up the coffee pots.

### **Giving Minute**

Try it – you might like it! That pertains to new foods, a book you haven't read, or anything else that you may be intrigued by but need encouragement to experience. The same goes for our new electronic giving options. People are always slow to change, and we Iowans are even slower than most to try something new. But when you do, you often wonder why you didn't before. Just once for the sheer fun of it, go to the website and hit the donate button. You will see a way to give through your debit or credit card. Or, download the GivePlus app from the App Store or Google Play, find us in "churches near you," and try making a contribution that way. Or, use the QR reader on your phone to hold it up to the weird box with squiggly lines on it, which you can see in this newsletter, in the bulletin Sunday morning, or in places around the church. It will take you to the same place as the website giving portal. Try it – you might like the feel of giving this way!

**COMMUNICATIONS**

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**ACOLYTE SCHEDULE**

|         |                                        |
|---------|----------------------------------------|
| July 1  | Abigail Findling<br>Shane Kusters      |
| July 8  | Connar Inman<br>Ethan Huberg           |
| July 15 | Cody Glackin<br>Elizabeth Findling     |
| July 22 | Community Service<br>At Park           |
| July 29 | Adalyn Schoelerman<br>Abigail Findling |

**ALTAR GUILD**

Amanda Mugge                      Lori Larson

**LITURGICAL COLORS**

July                                      Green

**USHERS**

Brandon Swanson                  Tyler Petersen  
Dennis McClain

**GREETER CHAIR**

Connie Lundbeck

**SCRIPTURE READER CHAIR**

Keith & Joyce Kruse

**BIBLE STUDY LEADERS**

No meetings in July & August