

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.

February 2018

A Word or Two...by Pastor Mark

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

When we hear that phrase, the older among us might immediately think of Charlton Heston coming down from Mount Sinai as Moses, lightning flashing around him in the epic movie of the 1950s. Then there was that famous comment by ABC newscaster Ted Koppel in a commencement address that the best reason to avoid moral wrong was not that it might cause us problems, but because it is wrong. Said Koppel, "We have spent 5,000 years as a race of rational human beings, trying to drag ourselves out of the primeval slime by searching for truth and moral absolutes. In its purest form, truth is not a polite tap on the shoulder. It is a howling reproach. What Moses brought down from Mount Sinai were not the Ten Suggestions."

Well said, partly because calling something right or wrong has fallen out of favor. In past generations, there was a feeling of unity with the culture that gave guidance as to what was good or not good. We felt a part of something bigger than ourselves that we had to maintain. The modern tendency is to focus on the individual. I get to choose for myself what is right or wrong and then take the results. Evil is no longer evil, but a "bad choice" or "mistake." There are two things wrong with that. First, when we commit evil it isn't so much a reasoned choice as a pernicious drive within us. Second, if I goof up a math problem, that's a mistake, but if I do something morally wrong, that's a sin. Big difference.

Try as humans might, we just can't be moral on our own. We are born barbarians by nature, wanting everything for ourselves. If we are fortunate, we grow up in a home that teaches us that it is not all about what we want. Then we learn to live with others. That's called culture.

But even human culture needs something outside itself, because it is based on human nature flawed by its own desire to be God. Only God can give perfect guidance, and that's where teachings like the Ten Commandments come in.

During the Sundays and Wednesdays of Lent, we will be looking at each of the Commandments and their significance for us. The first three describe the ideal vertical relationship with God (reflecting the Trinity), and the other seven the way we should live that out with our neighbor (during the seven days of the week). They are general principles, but provide the proper foundation for all the other teachings of the Bible. And they come straight from the lips of God. I hope you will join me in looking at them together.

Faith and Life Bible Study for February

We are in Exodus, that great story that gave us the Ten Commandments, along with the adventure of God leading His people from slavery into a new life. We see the raw power of God at work in the lives of people who sometimes worship Him, often complain and abandon Him, and always are taught in the end that the Lord must be trusted for the long process of salvation to take place.

Join us for Faith and Life Bible Study, Mondays 6:30-8:00 PM or Wednesdays 9:30-11:00 AM in the fellowship hall (same content at both). Come once in a while, or every week. Treats and coffee at every session!



Sermon Series on the Ten Commandments

Beginning Sunday, February 18, Pastor Mark will offer a series of sermons on Sundays and Wednesdays in Lent about the Ten Commandments. How do we live with God, and how does that play out in our life with others? Come and explore these fundamental rules for living straight from the mouth of God to His people.

Membership

Interested in Membership at Bethlehem?

All are welcome to worship at Bethlehem and take part in most aspects of its life, member or not. However, membership is an important way to make an intentional commitment to a part of Christ's family on earth, and to experience its commitment to you.

Pastor Mark will be offering a one-hour orientation session on Saturday, February 24, at 10 AM, for anyone interested in joining Bethlehem. We will share our faith journeys and review some of the most important aspects of the Lutheran faith. If you or someone you know (including a non-member spouse) want more information, check with Pastor.



Prayers

For those who shovel and plow after large storms, that they will be kept safe in their much-needed work.

For a world still threatened by nuclear conflict, that the Lord will promote an atmosphere of peace.

For those in love this Valentines season, that they will know the deep meaning of true love and respect upon which healthy families are built.

Giving Minute

When you are chained to your possessions, even your time, you are a slave. You don't have things – things have you. The life of following Christ sets us free in many ways, and one of them is to saw off the chains that hold us to material or temporal things. It's not that we don't need stuff, or that time management isn't important. But when we lose our happiness and become enslaved to keeping the machine of our lives going only to end up asking what it was all about, something is wrong. Jesus said He came to give life, and give it abundantly. When living for Him comes first, all else serves that, and our needs are always met somehow as well. Trust the Lord to free you to give your life to Him – your time, resources, everything – and watch your Exodus from bondage to this world happen one step at a time.

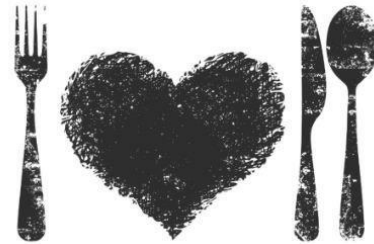
Scripture for February

Psalm 62:2 He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall never be shaken.

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

February Mission of the Month: Upper Des Moines Opportunity

Items especially needed right now include: egg noodles, canned fruit, soup, chile beans, hamburger helper, boxed potatoes toilet paper. PARENTS: Bringing items to church as a family is a great way to teach your kids about caring for others.



BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES: Scott Rinehart, Michael Treinen, Wesley Christensen, Dennis Johanson, Emily Stoneking, Chance Noll, Cindy Van Engan, Nathan Toft, Ralph Paulsen, Todd Tirewold, Amy Hendrickson, Rickey Nielsen, Jeffrey Galloway, Claudia Stricker, Cecilia Pedersen, Danielle Feddersen, Benjamin McClain, EmmaKay McClain, Jarrett McClain, Ethan Huberg, Nicholas Nelson, Beau Huberg, Kya Sherman, Henry Rinehart, Lori Gray, Cheryl Lucas, Jamie Turnquist, Harry Ritchart, Joshua Toft, Allison Goyette, Shelley Berberich, Keith Mortensen, Tyler Peterson.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES: Ron & Maureen Christensen, 39 years



Welcome to Kings Kamp!

Wednesdays 3:30- 5:00

All Children welcome!

4 year olds -to- 5th grade



Pre-1st grade

February 7th

February 14th

February 21st

February 28th

The Great Banquet

Lenten Puzzle/Ash Wednesday

Lent: Jesus and Children

Lent: Jesus and Bartimaeus

2nd-3rd grade

Man at the Door Parable

Ash Wed./Lenten Puzzle

Lent: Cleansing the Temple

Lent: Jesus and Zacchaeus

4th-5th grade

February 7th

February 14th

February 21st

February 28th

Parable of Fishnet

Ash Wed./Lazarus Alive

Lent: Parable of Two Sons

Lent: Gift of Poor Widow

Confirmation will meet each Wednesday at 4:00-5:30pm.

Youth Group will meet on Wednesdays at 7:00pm.

Sunday School meets each Sunday after the Sermon. A simple offering during Sunday School will be taken. This will offer the children a nice way to participate in the church offering.

Senior High Youth Group

This month the youth started back into youth group after Christmas break! We went through Francis Chan's series on prayer. We learned about the importance of prayer, how to approach prayer, and why prayers aren't always answered in the way we expect.

The youth have also been focusing on selling coffee for our first mission trip fundraiser. Thank you to all who purchased from us or donated to our trip! We will be attending No Apologies on the 31st. After that we will be focusing on Lent meals and services! A great start to the year so far!

-Kendra



In Our Thoughts and Prayers

-Ethan Batschelet, Missionary--Siloam Girls' School in India--Joyce Sabel (daughter of Roger & Betty Kruse)
-Virginia Christensen--Roger Struve--Ann Myers--Doug Seavert (son of Donnabelle Seavert)--Heath Huberg (Heath is son of Gary Huberg)--Lucy Clark (aunt of Domenic Virelli (Pam & Jim's grandson)--Jack Phillips
-Dave Brugman--Jim Johnson (husband of Dee Johnson)
-Kent Means--Gus Mortensen (cousin to Pam Virelli and Rollie Mortensen)--family of Cleo Wild--Eleanor Nielsen

-Tami Diekmann--Keith Mortensen--Dee Johnson--Elsie Anderson--family of Corkey (Virgil) Heinrich (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.)*



Volunteers:

February 4th Ann Johnke & Julie Christensen
February 11th Carol Albers' birthday coffee
February 18th Jo Ann Treinen's birthday coffee
February 25th Ann Myers & Laura Stoneking



The Monthly Men's Breakfast
Meets the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 AM
at the Royal Café (February 8th)
to come together in prayer and to study God's word.

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

The January 17th, 2018 meeting of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council was called to order by President Keith Kruse at 7:11 PM. Pastor Wilms opened with a prayer. Council members in attendance were Keith Kruse, Dave Holtz, Sarah Dehrkoop, Roland Mortenson, Pastor Mark Wilms, Amanda Mugge, and Betsy Schoelerman. Council members Jennifer Findling, Chris Swanson, Marra Glackin, and Mindy Means were absent.

Secretary's Report: No changes were made to the December report. A motion was made by Dave to approve the report. The motion was seconded by Roland and was carried by council.

Treasurer's Report: No changes were made to the December report. A motion was made by Amanda to approve the report. The motion was seconded by Sarah and carried by council.

Pastor's Report:

-Each year Pastor Wilms would like to designate a certain amount of his salary as housing allowance for his taxes. A motion was made by Roland to designate \$10,000 of Pastor Wilms' 2018 salary as a housing allowance. The motion was seconded by Amanda and carried by council.

-The Kent and Mindy Means Haiti special fund will be held as is for a potential future trip to Haiti.

-The Gideons have reached out to Pastor Wilms about visiting Bethlehem Lutheran during the month of April. A motion was made by Sarah for the Gideons to present during worship on April 22nd. The motion was seconded by Dave and carried by council.

-Ethan Batchelet will be presenting on either April 8th or 15th about his current mission work.

-The theme for Lent this year will be the Ten Commandments.

Team Reports:

Outreach: No updates from this committee were available as there were no members present.

Education: The registration for 2019-day camp will be approaching soon.

Property: The committee has investigated purchasing an AED for the Church after recent events when an AED was needed to assist a Church member. The company they were pointed towards was Allied 100. This company provided a discounted church rate of \$1,278. This model is a school/community model that is equipped for adults and pediatrics. A motion was made by Roland to purchase a school/community model AED for Bethlehem Lutheran Church at an estimated cost of \$1,278.65, with the memorial fund designating \$1,137 to the purchase. The motion was seconded by Betsy and carried by council. The committee is also looking into acquiring rescue oxygen to be kept at the Church in case of an emergency. Other updates from the property committee were that the linoleum in the upstairs bathroom of the parsonage is needing some repairs/replacement, it is lifting and has staples coming through the floor. A proposal for a chair and table cart was given to council. A motion was made by

Betsy to purchase a cart for moving the chairs and tables in and out of storage. The motion was seconded by Roland and carried by council.

Stewardship: No updates were available from this committee as no members were present.

Finance: The Church will be receiving an invoice for the tile project of Royal. The amount will be \$4,122. We are waiting to hear about our payment options available to us. The finance team reviewed the projected 2018 budget that will be rolled out at the annual meeting on Sunday January 21st.

Unfinished Business:

-No unfinished business.

New Business:

-2018 Camperships- There have been questions presented to council about camperships for 2018. A motion was made by Betsy to pay for ½ of all student's camperships for 2018. The motion was seconded by Roland and carried by council.

-Revelation Wellness- Pastor Wilms was contacted by a group of ladies that would like to hold a non-profit Christian workout class in the fellowship hall on Tuesday evenings. A Motion was made by Sarah to authorize Revelation Wellness to conduct a not for profit workout class in the fellowship hall on Tuesday evenings starting February 6th, 2018 through May 1st, 2018. We, the Church council, approve this with the understanding that the instructor will not be charging a participant fee, but a donation may be made by the participants to Bethlehem Lutheran Church for the use of the facilities. At any point, Bethlehem Lutheran Church has the right to end the agreement for any reason, no questions asked. The motion was seconded by Dave. A motion was made by Dave to table the discussion on this matter until more information is obtained. The motion to table discussion was seconded by Betsy and carried by council.

-Council Members- The 2018 council members will be installed on January 28th.

A motion was made by Keith to adjourn the meeting. Dave seconded the motion and it was carried by council.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

The next council meeting is set for February 21st, 2018.

Respectfully Submitted, Amanda Mugge, Secretary

**BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
ANNUAL MEETING
SUNDAY, JANUARY 21ST, 2018**

The annual meeting of Bethlehem Lutheran Church was called to order on Sunday, January 21st, 2018 at 10:35 AM by President, Keith Kruse. 2017 Annual Reports were distributed to all present congregation members. Pastor Mark Wilms opened the meeting with devotions. The first agenda item was the review of the Secretary's Report from 2017. A motion was made by Julie Christensen to accept the Secretary's Report with no changes. The motion was seconded by Arlene Wimmer and passed with a unanimous all in favor vote.

Next the congregation reviewed the Treasurer's Report from 2017. The floor was opened for any discussion. A motion was made by Joyce Kruse to accept the Treasurer's Report with no changes. The motion was seconded by Kay Kracht and passed with a unanimous all in favor vote.

Pastor Mark Wilms then reviewed the 2017 Pastor's Report on his time here for his first year. Youth Director, Kendra Schmidt reviewed the 2017 Youth Director's Report on her time and all the activities the youth have done here thus far at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. President, Keith Kruse gave a brief overview of the President's Report for 2017 and thanked the council members of 2017 for their time.

New Business:

-The 2018 Election Ballot was dispersed to all congregation members. The following nominees were announced:

Finance Co-Chair – Keith Kruse

Property Co-Chair – Nick Toft

Education Co-Chair – Dana Huberg

Outreach Co-Chairs – Amy Holtz (1 year)

Paul Wick (2 years)

Stewardship Co-Chair – Lisa Swanson

St. Luke's Representatives – Ron & Jan Englert

Endowment Fund – Al Swanson

Linda Yungbluth

Memorial Committee – Barb Woodall

Head Usher – Sherman Nielsen

Bible Camp Delegates – Duane & Kay Kracht

Mission Task Force – Donna McClain

A motion was made by Julie Christensen to approve the 2018 Election Ballot with a unanimous vote. The motion was seconded by Pam Virelli and carried by the congregation.

-Drainage- Our portion of the Royal drainage project is \$4,221. The invoice will be sent sometime between September and November. The payment options available to us are to

either pay the invoice in full at that time and run a special fund drive to do so or to pay over 20 years' time frame at 5% interest.

-2018 Budget- The floor was opened for discussion on each section of the 2018 projected budget. A motion was made by Donna McClain to approve the 2018 budget as written. The motion was seconded by Lisa Swanson and carried by unanimous vote by the congregation. A motion to adjourn was made by Dave Holtz. The motion was seconded by Dennis McClain and carried by the congregation.

The 2017 annual meeting was closed with a prayer by Pastor Mark Wilms at 11:05 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amanda Mugge, Secretary

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Special Council Meeting

A special Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council meeting was held on January 21st, 2018 after the congregation's annual meeting. The meeting was called to order by 2017 Council President, Keith Kruse. The 2017 and 2018 council members present were Keith Kruse, Dave Holtz, Nick Toft, Roland Mortenson, Sarah Dehrkoop, Lisa Swanson, and Amanda Mugge. 2017 and 2018 council members Dana Huberg, Betsy Schoelerman, Amy Holtz, Paul Wick, Jennifer Findling, Mindy Means, Marra Glackin, and Chris Swanson were absent. The first order of business was to elect the cabinet positions for the 2018 council.

-Council President-A motion was made by Roland to nominate Keith as the 2018 council President. The motion was seconded by Dave and carried by council.

-Council Vice President-A motion was made by Sarah to nominate Roland as council Vice President. Roland declined the nomination and motion for Betsy to be nominated as Vice President. After deliberation a motion was made by Amanda to nominate Roland for Vice President. Sarah seconded the motion for Roland as Vice President and the motion was carried by council.

-Council Secretary- A motion was made by Roland to nominate Sarah as council Secretary. The motion was seconded by Lisa and carried by council.

Unfinished Business-

During the January 17th, 2018 Bethlehem Lutheran Church council meeting a Motion was made by Sarah to authorize Revelation Wellness to conduct a not for profit workout class in the fellowship hall on Tuesday evenings starting February 6th, 2018 through May 1st 2018. We, the Church council, approve this with the understanding that the instructor will not be charging a participant fee, but a donation may be made by the participants to Bethlehem Lutheran Church for the use of the facilities. At any point, Bethlehem Lutheran Church has the right to end the agreement for any reason, no questions asked. The motion was seconded by Dave. A motion was made by Dave to table the discussion on this matter until more information is obtained. The motion to table discussion was seconded by Betsy and carried

by council. On January 21st, 2018 a motion was made by Dave to take the original January 17th motion off the table. The motion was seconded by Roland and carried by council. The parameters of the workout class were discussed. A motion to approve the original motion was made by Dave with the following additional parameters of; one of two of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church members involved, Allison Goyotte or Iesha Toft will be at each session to lock the Church following the workout, there will be one Tuesday during Lent that the class will not be able to take place, building usage is limited to the fellowship hall and the restroom facilities, everything is to be left in the same condition as it was originally found and Bethlehem Lutheran Church is not liable for any injuries and waivers are to be signed by each individual taking part in the classes. The motion was seconded by Lisa and carried by council.

A motion was made by Dave to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Roland and carried by council.

Respectfully submitted,
Amanda Mugge, Council Secretary

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Women

BLCW didn't meet in January. Since attendance has declined for BLCW and quilting, we are going to try something different to start out 2018. We have several quilts to be made for our "Senior Recognition Sunday", which will be May 6 and for Lutheran World Relief. So we have decided to try quilting after Sunday Coffee time at 11:00a.m. If you can stay and help put quilts together please bring a "sack lunch" or a "crock pot lunch" that you could share. We will have our first quilting session Sunday, February 11, 11:00a.m. We will quilt for 2 or 3 hours or however long you can stay. We will also hold a short BLCW meeting during this time. Our next quilting session will be Sunday, February 25. We encourage anyone who has or would like to learn the process of quilting to stay—ladies, men, junior and senior high students. We basically just pin the quilts together and then tie them with thread. Pretty easy and simple. Many hands make light work. We are grateful to anyone willing to help sew them together also.

Coffee: Esther

Visitation: Dorcas



Ecumenical "World Day of Prayer Service" will be held at Bethlehem Lutheran Church Friday, March 2 at 2:00p.m. The program is written by the women of Surname, South America. We invite everyone to attend. A time of fellowship will follow the program.

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**ACOLYTE SCHEDULE**

February 4 Shane Kosters  
Eve Maker  
February 11 Adalyn Schoelerman  
Connar Innman  
February 14 Natalie Joenks  
Olivia Maker  
February 18 Sierra Goyette  
Gracie Dehrkoop  
February 21 Abigail Findling  
Cody Glackin  
February 25 Ethan Huberg  
Shane Kosters  
February 28 Eve Maker  
Jarrett McClain

**ALTAR GUILD**

Loueen Huberg Arlene Wimmer

**LITURGICAL COLORS**

February 4 Green  
February 11 White  
February 14-25 Purple

**USHERS**

Al Swanson Dayton Brugman  
Dan Brugman

**GREETER CHAIR**

Jim & Paulette Tuton

**SCRIPTURE READER CHAIR**

Jim & Julie Christensen

**BIBLE STUDY LEADERS**

Alice Roghair Kay Kracht