

COMMUNICATIONS:

- Church Office: 933-2229
- Pastor's E-mail: pmamlw@royaltelco.net
- Pastor's Cell Phone: 507-251-8993 home phone: 933-5545
- Pastor's Office Hours: Please call and arrange for a time to meet
- Secretary's E-mail: blc@royaltelco.net
- Secretary's Office Hours: 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
- Website: www.royalbethlehemlutheran.com
- Kitchen and Hallway Phone: 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.royalbethlehemlutheran.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 2017

A Word or Two...by Pastor Mark

July is a patriotic month, and I thought this might be a good time to say a word about the political climate in our country. We have been troubled by the hate that has been spewed on all sides concerning issues of the day. Recently, it has escalated to violence, even death. All responsible voices have called for a toning down of rhetoric so that we can learn to have a civil conversation.

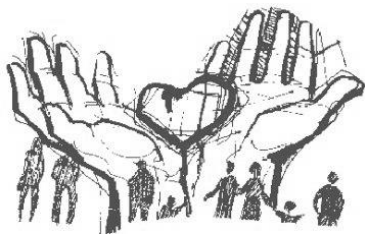
One helpful thing to remember is that political conflict is nothing new in our country. One need only remember that the nation was ripped in two by the bloody Civil War, where sometimes brother fought brother over social and national issues. And politicians have always been the target of scurrilous invective. Abraham Lincoln, who turned out to be one of our most beloved Presidents, was viciously attacked in the press, even for his looks. Unlikely as it may seem, some eras in our history make the present seem controlled by comparison. But the point is that we citizens need to bring some sense and good will to the picture so it doesn't become worse.

The first thing for believers to bear in mind is what the word of God teaches. When it comes to our attitude toward government, our Lord is clear: "Give Caesar what belongs to Caesar." (Matthew 22:21) He said this in connection with paying taxes, thus acknowledging that government has a legitimate authority to do its job of leading and protecting us. Paul spells this out clearly: "Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. ... They are God's servants. ... Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience. This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants,

who give their full time to governing. Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor." (Romans 13, excerpts)

The next thing is that if it ever comes to a choice, our loyalty to God trumps loyalty to nation. When Peter and others refused to quit preaching Christ openly even though they had been ordered not to, they said "We must obey God rather than human beings." (Acts 5:29) This does not mean that every time you disagree with the government on religious grounds you can flout the law, but there have been times when a much greater good superseded governmental decrees. A case in point is our American Revolution. Our Founding Fathers really felt that because of Great Britain's oppressive treatment, they were forced to part ways, even to the point of war, and they saw this as a religious duty as well as political one. More recently, Christians in Germany during the Nazi era had to oppose Hitler because his regime was a betrayal of everything Christ meant. This even caused a Lutheran minister, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, to join the plot to assassinate Hitler, ending in Bonhoeffer's execution and his status as a true Christian martyr.

Most of us will never have to make such agonizing choices, but in our daily life we can be just as faithful to what God expects of us. Instead of throwing your shoe at the TV and uttering some theological language out of context, you can remember that God is still in control. Instead of trying to win over someone who doesn't share your social views by getting more vehement, you can try closing your mouth and really understanding where the other is coming from, thus also earning the chance to share your views with them. And instead of adding to the hate of the world, you can bring God's grace to people in need, thus witnessing that that is more important than a thousand political speeches. In this way you will please God, and you will make the world a better place, a rare thing in these overheated days.



Prayers

For victims of terrorism, and those who labor to prevent terror and find its perpetrators.
For Bethlehem, that the "summer slump" will be replaced with a renewed desire for worship and service.
For safety as families and individuals enjoy travel.



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!

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|---|--|
| Volunteers for July: July 2 nd : | Hazel Christenson's 100 th Birthday celebration |
| July 9 th : | LaVonne Schuknecht 90 th Birthday celebration |
| July 16 th : | Donna Ekberg |
| July 23 rd : | Carma Betz & Maureen Haroldson |
| July 30 th : | volunteer needed |

Parsonage repair please include \$0.



to be used for parsonage. We still need \$0.

"Scripture Verse for July"

Joshua 1:9 "I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

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



-Ethan Batschelet, Missionary--Siloam Girls' School in India
 -Joyce Sabel (daughter of Roger & Betty Kruse)--Marge Barglof--Duane Kracht--Family of Dan Rogness (son of Ruth Rogness)--Paulette Tuton--Tom Nelson (friend of Sue Brugman)--Family of Don Russell (Uncle of Mindy Means)--JoAnn Treinen--Family of Kathi Sokness (Evie Schuck's daughter and Barb Fletcher's aunt)--Family of Pastor Chris Nelson (Pastor of Heidi Mogush's church home in Minneapolis)
 -Dorinda Goodale (*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, Eric Patten, 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, 41 years; Dennis & Donna McClain, 20 years; Zane & Kristi Smoot, 10 years; Josh & Iesha Toft, 6 years; Jim & Marge Barglof, 54 years; Duane & Kay Kracht, 53 years; George & Donna Schmidt, 27 years; Kent & Mindy Means, 22 years; Dennis & Ann Johnke, 39 years; Andrew & Alisa Jarvie, 5 years; Kyle & Allie Fletcher, 4 years

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

The June 21st, 2017 meeting of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council was called to order by President Keith Kruse at 7:06 P.M. Pastor Wilms opened with a prayer. Council members in attendance were Keith Kruse, Chris Swanson, Dave Holtz, Sarah Dehrkoop, Pastor Mark Wilms, Roland Mortenson, Amanda Mugge, and Betsy Schoelerman. Council members Mindy Means, Jennifer Findling and Marra Glackin were absent.

Secretary's Report: There were no changes to be made to the April report. A motion was made by Chris to approve. Betsy seconded the motion and the motion was carried by council.

Treasurer's Report: There were no changes to be made to the report. The parsonage remodel has been paid in full. A motion was made by Betsy to approve. Dave seconded the motion and the motion was carried by council.

Pastor's Report: The fees and costs for use of the Church for weddings has been updated with the input of all those involved. A motion was made by Dave to approve the new fees. Chris seconded the motion and the motion was carried by council. The new fees are as follows; the use of the Church and fellowship hall is at no cost for members, non-members \$150 fee (due at the first session with pastor), the custodian fee is \$50, the sound technician fee is \$30, musicians are considered independent contractors for weddings and the couple will negotiate their fees directly with them, a recommended honorarium in the range of \$125-\$200 to the pastor, and pre-marriage counseling is mandatory with a resource fee of \$35 for materials. Pastor Wilms continues to work on the confirmation curriculum for this fall, a slight increase in classroom time may be needed. Pastor will be requiring classroom time and worship service attendance in order to be confirmed. A minimum of 50% attendance at worship either at Bethlehem or another Church will be required. Pastor has thus far visited 38 congregation members' homes, with two more visits scheduled this week. The first half of August Pastor Wilms and Lynn will be attending their exchange student's wedding in Europe. Pastor Jensen will be leading worship and will be on call for Pastoral needs during this time. A nice letter was written by Pastor Wilms to the St. Louis Catholic Church on behalf of Bethlehem Lutheran as they will be holding their last service this Sunday.

Team Reports:

Outreach: The Up and Comers dinner is scheduled for this Sunday, June 25th.

Education: Summer bible school took place last week with a smaller crowd than last year with about 58 students in the age group of preschool through 6th grade. There was a great group of middle and high school volunteers and we want to thank them for their time. The camp counselors did an awesome job with the kids. The education team will be meeting with Pastor Wilms this summer to discuss Sunday school for this fall.

Property: The parsonage had to have some repair work done to the sewer system. Jim Howe completed this repair. The team is looking in to a possible concrete pad next to the Church

right outside of the kitchen to place the dumpster on and possibly add a small storage shed for the mower and snow blower. The air conditioning unit for the sanctuary was having an issue last week, Hanson's Plumbing and Heating has fixed the unit and all is functioning well now. The team will be looking into the cost of putting a handicap automatic door on the south entrance of the church. A team member was contacted about this issue and the council agreed that this is something that should be addressed. Santage Construction will be scheduling a date for the soffits and fascia repair. Brainstorming is still continuing for ideas on the church's front bell tower sign.

Stewardship: The team will be meeting with Pastor Wilms again to further discuss new ways in giving to the church.

Finance: An update was included during the treasurers' report time.

Unfinished business: The unfinished business of wedding fees and the Up and Comers dinner were discussed in the team and Pastor reports.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.
The next council meeting is set for July 19th, 2017.
Respectfully Submitted, Amanda Mugge, Secretary

Bethlehem Lutheran Women

Bethlehem Lutheran Women did not meet in June. The next BLCW meeting will be Thursday, July 27 for "Do-Day" from 9:30a.m. – 4:00p.m., with potluck served at noon and a business meeting at 2:30p.m. Donna McClain will serve as hostess. There are no circle meetings in July or August. In August BLCW will have "Ladies Night Out" at Inspiration Winery at 5:30p.m. We will carpool from the church at 5:00p.m. Hostesses for the winery are: Jade Woodall, Connie Lundbeck, Shelley Berberich.

Task Force for July:

Visitation: Evening Bible Study

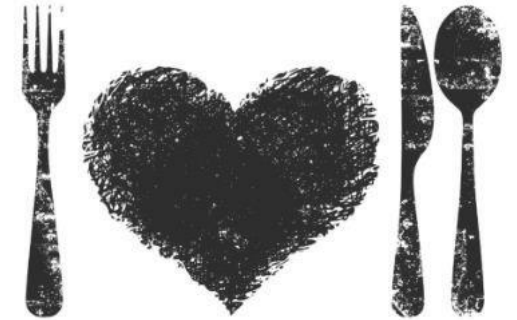
Coffee: Dorcas Bible Study



**The Monthly Men's Breakfast
Meets the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 AM
at the Royal Café (July 6th)
to come together in prayer and to study God's word.**

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.



Please remember to put all cardboard in the recycling not in the dumpster. This will give us more room in the dumpster and there is no extra cost to use the recycling. Recycling pick-up days are the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month.
**Thank you,
Your friendly Janitor
Stephanie**

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**ACOLYTE SCHEDULE**

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|---------|-------------------------------------|
| July 2  | Abigail Findling<br>Olivia Maker    |
| July 9  | Elizabeth Findling<br>Emma Larson   |
| July 16 | EmmaKay McClain<br>Ian Steffen      |
| July 23 | Zach Schoelerman<br>Dalayna Brugman |
| July 30 | Haydn Bushee<br>Chance Noll         |

**ALTAR GUILD**

Amanda Mugge      Lori Larson

**LITURGICAL COLORS**

July                      Green

**USHERS**

Roger Kruse              Kent Thiesen  
Knox Campbell

**GREETER CHAIR**

Connie Lundbeck

**SCRIPTURE READER CHAIR**

Keith & Joyce Kruse

**BIBLE STUDY LEADERS**

No meetings in July-August