

Pastor Kris—402-499-4993

krisbo90@gmail.com

Church Website—bethlehemdavey.org

Council president—Jeff Atkinson—402-432-6212

Council members—Mike Unverferth, Judy Hornung,
Jerri Daugherty, Curtis Olson, Gabe Allen



Bethlehem Lutheran Church - Davey

Zoom log in information and the worship bulletin for each week can be found on our website on the “Worship in the Pandemic” page

Helpers for September

Lectors—Jon Mumgaard (Merlin/Marcia at Zion)

Ushers—Maverick and Jeff Brown

Cleaners—Judy Hornung, Steve and Mary O’Hare

Altar—Tonya Brown

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
PO Box 96
Davey, NE 68336

Where are you on the spiritual path?

If you’ve been doing this faith thing for any length of time at all, you know spiritual growth is not a straight line. But there is a pattern to it. One of my spiritual guides, Father Richard Rohr, talks about the spiritual life as a process of order, disorder and reorder. Old Testament scholar Walter Brueggemann uses the Psalms as a framework and uses the terms orientation, disorientation, and reorientation. The Apostle Paul might say, life under the law, death, and new creation

In Christian terms we speak of the Christian life as a cycle of life, death, and resurrection. The sad part of Christian thought is these have been narrowed down for many to be only about what happens when we die physically. But in the spiritual life, we recognize it happens even when we’re still alive in this world...and it can happen more than once.

Order is our first way of looking at life...a first spirituality. Order is when rules and laws and social structures give us a feeling of safety and security. It is when our identity is formed. The world seems to make sense. If we’re from a religious upbringing, we take the Bible stories at face value, unquestioned. Some people never got to experience this first sense of order. Some never leave it.

Disorder is when something happens that calls all that sense of order and security into question. Most people have at some time experienced at least a taste of it. Perhaps the most typical first experience of disorder is the crisis that happens when we begin to question things like the creation story in the Bible as simple fact. We begin to question everything we’ve learned and whether or not God or Jesus even exist. Some folks end up deciding nothing is really all that trustworthy. But others move through to reorder, and develop a more resilient faith.

Disorder can also come from things that seriously rock our sense of order. A child is killed...a serious illness in ourselves or someone we love...someone close to us gets cancer and dies...war...violence...a pandemic. Suddenly we’re not sure anything makes sense anymore and we’re not sure what, if anything, God is doing...or if God is even real.

Several paths are open during that time of disorder. One is to try to claw our way back to that first sense of order. People who go that route react to crises with fierce legalism and literalism. Their sense of identity morphs into a tribalism that needs to be defended and almost anyone who isn’t a part of their “tribe” is an enemy.

Another path is to stay stuck in the disorder...bitterness, resentment, and despair become constant companions.

But there is a third way...the path to reorder. That’s the path God will take us on, but it’s not an especially easy path.

The first leg of that path is to assume that the disorder has something to teach you. That can sometimes be the hardest of all because it involves a certain amount of waiting and listening.

So what exactly are you supposed to listen to? You are listening for a word that will come from inside you. For us as Christians we'd say it's the Holy Spirit dwelling within us. Others might speak of the God within, or just Spirit. Buddhists might say it's nirvana. One spiritual writer I recently read called it the voice of her own Wise Woman within. Or maybe it's just our deepest self...because when we get to our deepest self, there we find the God who dwells within us...the Holy Spirit.

That indwelling God ultimately leads us to see our deep connection, not only to God, but to each other. Reorder takes us back to scripture, in love with the God we meet there, whether the stories are all factual or not. That...is the beginning of reorder.

It can't be hurried. It needs some sort of stillness or quiet or solitude on a regular basis. It can be quiet contemplation in a sacred space in your home or workplace. It can be a walk in the woods, or pasture, or just around your block – paying attention to the sights and sounds. It can be free-flow writing in a journal or meditating on scripture or other spiritual writing, or on an image. It can be an honest conversation with a spiritual guide.

It will take patience...that's tough in a hurry up and fix it society. Right now, our whole world seems to be in a disorder phase. Will we try to claw back and recapture that first kind of order? Will we become bitter, resentful, and despairing? Or will enough of us listen for the voice of God...and be led to reorder?

Christ's peace,

Pastor Kris

Anti-racism book group

Wondering what all the anti-racist talk is about? Are you concerned about racial injustice but aren't sure where to begin to address it? Or are you concerned about justice but not quite convinced that racism is still an issue? If your answer to any of these questions is yes, please join us for an online book study group. We will meet via Zoom on Tuesday evenings at 7 beginning September 8. The group will be co-facilitated by Kris Bohac and Lowell Hennigs.

Our first book will be *How to Be an Anti-Racist* by Dr. Ibram Kendi. Dr. Kendi traces some of the history of racist ideas and racist policies and lifts up suggestions for bringing them to an end. His own experience of growing up black in this country is woven through an eye-opening look at the structures and policies that continue to create racial injustice.

We'll spend 4 weeks on this book and then continue with a new one. You can do one and take a break, or commit to staying with the group as we try to learn more about what we can do.

Here's the link to the Zoom Registration—you'll get a confirmation email with log in info

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZArfumhpi0tHNUi3qkuKCbS2jPwbpiLU-6g>

Calendar

- September 6** 10:00 am—Zoom Worship
11:30 am Outdoor communion service at Zion
- September 13** 10:00 am—Zoom Worship
7:00 pm—Bethlehem council
- September 19** Youth group?
- September 20** 10:00 am—Zoom Worship
11:30 am—Outdoor worship at Bethlehem
- September 28** 10:00 am Zoom worship

I've got all worship in September listed as Zoom, but if numbers cooperate it's possible we'll try in-person again at the end of the month. When we are able to gather in person again, we'll get started back up with some adult education, likely in person and Zoom combined.

Wednesday evenings at 6:30 on Facebook Live, I offer a little midweek meditation exploring what God might be up to in the midst of all that's happening in our lives. Join me or watch the video later. I try to remember to make them public so folks not on Facebook can view them.

Church offerings can continue to be mailed to:

Mike Unverferth
2800 W. Branched Oak Rd.
Raymond, NE 68428

Both churches also have an online giving option through tithe.ly. The easiest option is to download the tithe.ly app on a mobile device. Then just search for either church. You can also give from a laptop or PC – go to this link and instead of downloading app, click on “give online.”

<https://get.tithe.ly/download-tithely-app>



Here is the log in information for worship **at 10:00 am**

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81665346843?pwd=dkhXWGs4REh4QnA3Um5mQ05GOUJJQT09>

Phone—1 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 816 6534 6843

Passcode: 787545