
BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN NEWSLETTER

Pastor Sue Sinclair

NOVEMBER 2025

Office Phone: 753-4804 Cell: 605-933-0131 Church email: beosluth@alliancecom.net pastorsuesinclair@gmail.com

From the Pastor...

REFORMATION

We celebrated The Reformation at the end of last month. October 31 is the anniversary of Martin Luther nailing a list of 95 discussion topics known as Theses on the cathedral door in 1517.

These Theses represented topics about the workings of the Roman Catholic church that he though should be considered and discussed by others in the Wittenberg academic community. His goal was to consider and propose change, not fracture Christianity in the Western world.

BEING A REFORMATION CHURCH

Being Lutheran isn't simply about being a denomination named after a famous reformer.

There has always been an element of raising questions and searching for answers that reflect Christ's teaching as they apply not only to biblical times, but to our world and lives today.

For instance, when Paul wrote "There is no longer Jew or Greek; there is no longer slave or free; there is no longer male and female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." (Galatians 3:28) Paul spoke of the differences and divisions among the people he wrote this letter to in Galatia. The early church shared this letter, realizing that it was important guidance to other communities as well.

Today, we understand that Paul also speaks to us and is speaking of people in all their

diversity as we experience them in our time and place.

CALLED TO REFORM

Being a reforming church doesn't mean that we are called to leave everything behind or 'reinvent the wheel.'

Neither does it mean that we must never see a need or opportunity to change. **Wenn das so wäre, würden wir alle unseren Gottesdienst auf Deutsch abhalten!** (If that were so, we would all be worshiping in German!)

Reforming is all about proclaiming the love of Christ in ways that can be heard by those around us. It is about being the Body of Christ in ways that are true to the ministry that Jesus Christ modeled for us—by feeding the hungry, healing the wounded, seeking justice for the weak and confronting evil where we find it.

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST, IN EVERY AGE...

"The church of Christ, in ev'ry age beset by change, but Spirit led, must claim and test its heritage and keep on rising from the dead.

Then let the servant church arise, a caring church that longs to be a partner in Christ's sacrifice, and clothed in Christ's humanity.

We have no mission but to serve in full obedience to our Lord; to care for all, without reserve, and spread his liberating word." (ELW 729 verses 1,3,5 written by Fred Pratt Green in 1969)

~Pastor Sue



November Schedule

The 2nd session of 7-9th grade confirmation begins in November! Classes will be taught by Tracy Gayer. Due to the holidays and youth group, this session will span November to January.

The class dates are: Nov. 5th & 12th
Dec. 3rd & 10th
Jan. 7th & 14th



The following couples will celebrate the gift of marriage this month by observing their wedding anniversaries:

Nov. 20	Irene & Delbert Antrim-1982
Nov. 27	Jon & Gloria Bonjour-1976
Nov. 28	Ken & Marilyn Thiessen-1970



SPECIAL DATES FOR NOVEMBER

- Nov. 1: *All Saints Day*
- Nov. 2: Day light savings time ends
- Nov 11: Veterans Day
- Nov. 19: Community Thanksgiving Service
- Nov. 23-29: National Bible Week
- Nov. 23: Christ the King Sunday
- Nov. 27: Thanksgiving Day
- Nov. 30: First Sunday of Advent



In Holy Baptism our gracious heavenly Father liberated us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We celebrate the November baptismal anniversaries of the following members of Bethlehem Lutheran:



1	Beth Hoogestraat, Myrt Kruse
2	Teresa Kerkvliet, Kaitlyn Van Beek, Doug Wiltgen
3	Adam Kroger
10	Jan Baatz
19	Jeremy Winter
20	Ben Mouw, Xander Blankespoor
21	Sandy Hanson
22	Amanda Wiltgen
24	Colby Van Hill
25	Gordon Eiesland

Edison Kerkvliet-11/1
BJ Van Roekel-3
Gary Vogelzang-5
Gary Twedt-7
Anna McCarty-10
Larry Lange-11
Rich Fueston-14
Tom Rentschler-17
Brandon Ballinger-18
Decker Berentschot-20
Ed Baatz-23
Kaitlyn VanBeek-25

Nevaeh Van Dyke-2
Drew Van Dyke-4
Joshua Gayer-5
Randy Knutson-8
Dalton De Smet-10
Doug Wiltgen-14
Sam Kroger-16
Tyler Ballinger-18
Blaire Thiessen-18
Baily Bomgaars-21
Amanda Wiltgen-24
Adley Halma-28



WORSHIP HELPERS THIS MONTH

Usher Team: Randy Kock
 Reader: David Lantz
 Altar Guild: Pam Moen & Marilyn
 Thiessen

CIRCLES

Fellowship Circle Thurs., November 13, 2:00 pm
 Hostess: Gloria Bonjour

Love Days Mondays 1:00 pm



NOVEMBER

2 – Brielle Blankespoor
 9 – Macy Brueggeman
 16 – Easton Cartmill
 23 – Memphis Van Dyke
 30 – Hallie Brueggeman



For November

2 Noah & Teresa Kerkvliet, Connie
 VanderSanden, Darrel & Pat Bonnema

9 David & Cheryl Phipps, Sam & Deb Kroger,
 David & Sandy Lantz, Gary & Kay Twedt

16 Jim & Rhonda Jensen, Dan & Liza
 Brueggeman, Nate & DJ Cartmill

23 Aaron & Lori Kock, Jon & Brenda Folkens,
 Peter Bahnson



GREETERS SCHEDULE

for November

Nov. 2 Peter Bahnson & Nancy Halma
 Nov. 9 Haley Folkens & Family
 Nov. 16 Stan & Cynthia Haugland
 Nov. 23 Carmen Van Dyke & Marilyn
 Caswell
 Nov. 30 Brett & Megan Blankespoor



ANNUAL MEETING

Dinner & A Show

November 9th is a great opportunity at Bethlehem!

Following worship and Sunday School, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall for a delicious meal, followed by...well not a show, perse, but our annual meeting.

This is our opportunity to hear what has been happening in our congregation this last year, thank our board members who have completed their terms, and elect new board members to fill those vacant positions.

Please join us for fellowship and this important opportunity as a member of Bethlehem



It's LEFSE TIME!

We are busy making lefse again! You may place your orders by calling the church office (753-4804) or Pam Moen (753-4588). The deadline for Thanksgiving orders is November 20 and for Christmas, December 11. Cost is \$20 per dozen.



Rebecca Wolf, Austin, Erin Van Der Brink and Hazel Mae, Olson Family, McKenna Bouwman, Bob Mika, Holly Horstman, Arnie Van Voorst, Shiela Hage, Arlyn Schreurs, Nate Weberg, Ed Baatz, Don Eiesland, Wayne Kollis, Michelle Johnson, Sarah Krupke, Mark, Lori, Sue, Anna, Sean, Tashina, and all our Nursing Home residents (Joy, Marion, Bev, Jean M.)



~ No Sunday school November 30

~Christmas Program December 14 during worship.



Join the community in worship this Thanksgiving.

November 23

6:00 pm at the Museum



October 2025

Board of Lay Ministry

Board of Lay Minutes 10/8/2025

The meeting began with Pastor's monthly report.

There will be a special offering taken October 12th and 19th to help fund the community project to help Bob and Brandon Mika. Thrivent will match any funds that Bethlehem raises.

Confirmation parents' meeting went well with most parents attending.

Bishop Dahlin's installation in Council Bluffs also went well. Our Bishop has a video blog on Face book. Go to the Western Iowa Synod page if you'd like to hear it.

We will be having our Annual meeting soon. Watch for date.

John Bonjour is stepping down as Bethlehem's go to guy for getting stuff done regarding maintenance of our building.

The Board discussed changes to our budget with suggested raises for pastor, secretary, and custodian. Several line items were grouped together to be more streamlined. Dustin has reached out to several members to replace those going off the board next year.

Board of Evangelism

1. We reviewed our service project, packing backpacks at West Lyon.
2. Finalized coffee hour for Reformation Sunday, October 26, 2025. (no students will be confirmed this year)
3. Reviewed Church Potluck Lunch menu hosted by our board, Nov. 9, 2025. Serving will begin at 11:30 AM. This is the date for our Annual Congregational Meeting.
4. Finalized Greeter and Coffee Schedule for 2026.
5. Halloween Treat boxes for Fellowship and Friendship residents were prepared.
6. No changes were made to our Annual Budget for 2026
7. No new board members for 2026 are needed.

Board of Property

Board of properties met Oct 8 with Larry, Nate, Brett, and Dianne. There is some rock left from the latest landscaping project. Will use it to fill holes where the plants are no longer there. Will use composite to do the bell tower. Hopefully the problem with flies will be over after the guys seal up any cracks high in the peak on the outside. Plan to do this Friday, October 17. We increased our budget for insurance to 16,000.00 and Repairs/Equipment to 12, 000. Need to check with our insurance if we can get a lower rate now that the church is locked. In the future will be looking at a system where the heating and cooling can be operated from a phone.

Board of Stewardship

Board of Stewardship - October 8 meeting
Present: Dan Bruggeman, Dan Moen, Cynthia Haugland, Steve Arendt, Cindy Van Voorst, and Thomas Rentschler

Aaron Kock presented the financial report to the Board. He detailed the general

fund, special fund, and the 2024 church budget.

Aaron also discussed being contacted by Mike Bomgaars regarding fundraising for the Mika family (Bob and Brandon) for home repairs. Mike noted that all local churches are being contacted to help with the costs of the repairs. Total costs of the repairs are estimated at \$8000.

It was approved to have a special offering for the Mika Family on October 12 and October 19. We will check into matching funds from Thrivent.

Budget for Board of Stewardship was reviewed. An increase for the financial secretary and treasurer was discussed and approved.

Discussed needing other Board's budgets for the Annual meeting on November 9.

Miracle Sunday is tentatively set for December 7. Aaron will contact the Board of Properties to see if any specific projects are needing funds.

Cindy Van Voorst term is up at the end of the year. Discussed new board member.

Cynthia is counting in October. Dan B. Is counting in November.

Next meeting November 5 at 7pm.

Parish Planning Report

October 12, 2025

Parish Planning Meeting

Called to order

Attendees: Tracy Gayer, Dustin Hoogedoorn, Larry VanRoekel, Glennie Wiltgen, Tracy Gayer, Pastor Sue, Dan Moen, Sandy Lantz

Annual Meeting for 2025 is set for: **November 9, 2025**, 11:30 AM during lunch hosted by the Board of Evangelism

Treasure Report: Aaron Kock- Treasure

General Balance: \$124,946.83

Special Fund Balance: \$100,831.13

Each board had a representative update us on their budget proposal for 2026 as well as their need for board members.

Board of Properties: They are searching for one new board member.

Board of Lay Ministries: Altar Guild needed for 2026 & worship music

for the second Sunday
was discussed

Board of Stewardship: Miracle Sunday will be
December 7, 2025

Board of Education: A reminder for prayer partner
communication will be noted in the bulletin
and newsletters going
forward.

Buying Agent for 2026: Kay Twedt

Western Iowa Synod Benevolence: As of
September 2025 \$2,199.92

Synod Assembly Representatives: Pastor Sue will
visit with some members about this.

Tuff Home Representatives for 2026: Pastor Sue,
Tracy & Kim Gayer

Manna Market: Jenn Jensen communicates
Manna Market updates with Hannah Olson, church
secretary.

Synod Assembly Offering: an update was given by
Tracy Gayer

Submitted by: Sandy Lantz (Parish Executive
Secretary)



REMEMBER to turn
back your clocks on
Sat., Nov. 1, before you
go to sleep! Daylight
Savings Time ends at 2
a.m. on Nov. 2.



Our sympathy to the
family of Marliiss
Fiscella, she passed
away on October 9. Her
funeral was October 15.



November 23 is *Christ the King Sunday*. We celebrate the all-embracing authority of Christ as King and Lord of all things.



November 1st is All Saints Day. All Saint's Day is another day of remembering celebrated in the church. It is November 1st. We will be celebrating it on November 2nd. It has long been understood that we are connected by Christ in faith to all believers—those who have gone before us and those who are yet to come.

This is a day that we recognize the people who have died in faith and have helped to shape our faith and lives today. We especially remember members of our congregation who have died in the past year.



Veterans Day

November 11



*THANK YOU to our veterans for their service
to God and country, for the sacrifices you
made so we can enjoy the freedoms you
defended. We salute you!*

Veterans Day is a U.S. legal holiday dedicated to American veterans of all wars, and Veterans Day 2024 will occur on Monday, November 11. In 1918, on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, was declared between the Allied nations and Germany in World War I, then known as "the Great War."

Commemorated in many countries as Armistice Day the following year, November 11th became a federal holiday in the United States in 1938. In the aftermath of World War II and the Korean War, Armistice Day became known as Veterans Day.

It's a reminder to pray for and honor all who serve and sacrifice, to support and assist their families, and to pray that God will bring peace on earth.



MISSION STATEMENT:

"To welcome all people to seek and serve God as members of the Body of Christ."

BLC VISION STATEMENT:

We will be:

A welcoming Church:

Opening our doors and hearts to all who enter.

A Church that seeks after the heart of God:

Maturing in faith.

Trusting His word.

Living God's love.

A Church that is committed to one another:

Through fellowship.

Through love and service.

Through grace and forgiveness.

A Church that ministers to the world around us.

A Church that brings its gifts back to God:

Through good stewardship of time, talent, and treasures.

302 N Oak St Inwood, IA 51240 PO Box D

Church Office: 753-4804 ~ Email: beosluth@alliancecom.net

Pastor Cell Phone: 605-933-0131 ~ Church website: blcinwood.com