BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN NEWSLETTER

Pastor Sue Sinclair OCTOBER 2026
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From the pastor…

The Lord's Prayer

Whether we call it The Our Father, The Prayer of Jesus, the Universal Prayer, or The Lord's Prayer, this prayer is an important cornerstone to the faith of Christians around the world.

In scripture, Matthew and Luke give two variations.

Matt 6:9-14 Jesus said, "Pray, then, in this way: Our Father in heaven, may your name be revered as holy. May your kingdom come. May your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one. "For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

Luke 11:2b-4 Jesus said, "When you pray, say: Father, may your name be revered as holy. May your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial."

The Lord's prayer(s) that we use today reflect the way that Jesus taught. Yet, we sometimes get caught up in a debate between using Middle English (common conversational English from the 12th-16th centuries) or Modern English (which began to be spoken around the 1600's and continues to evolve today). That is, whether to say 'who art in' vs 'in' or 'thy/thine' vs 'you/yours'. We even have varied opinions as whether to use the words: debt, sin or trespass—each of which appear in Luke and/or Matthew.

It's important to look at the heart of what we pray.

We name and own that the creator is both God and a Father to us. We acknowledge that we are claimed as family.

We speak of our desire that creation be totally in alignment with God's will and that we and others will live and act in accordance with God's will.



We ask for and trust God to provide all our daily needs.

All these parts of the prayer are comforting and comfortable.

The next part is perhaps the most difficult, and one that we might not dwell on, because it is so daunting. We pray that God would forgive us…and we claim to forgive others. Matthew's Lord's prayer is followed by a statement that endites us: *"For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."*

This is followed by our plea that God not 'bring us to the time of trial' to judge or test us. But instead, save us from Evil.

Our modern prayer ends with us recognizing that everything is God's and we give God praise.

Whether the next time you pray the Lord's prayer is during worship, when you are with your family or before you go to sleep, I encourage you to dwell on each part of this prayer.

Take time to truly consider forgiveness and ask God to help and guide us to fulfill God's will.

~ Pastor Sue



Kay Hoogendoorn, Judy Hage, Tara Hoogendoorn, J. Fulton Bruggeman Family, Joe Lloyd, Mike Caswell, Amanda Wiltgen, Anna, Jeromy, Hadlee Vande Stouwe, Virginia Beynon, Nathan Huyser, Kendra Michael, Erin Van Der Brink and Hazel Mae, McKenna Bouwman, Holly Horstman, Arnie Van Voorst, Arlyn Schreurs, Don Eiesland, Wayne Kollis, and all our Nursing Home residents (Bev J., Joy, Bev B., Jean M. Connie, June)



October Schedule

Welcome our new acolytes

4 – Macy & Tripp
11 – Easton & Decker
18 – Memphis & Grant
25 – Hallie & Luke

GREETERS SCHEDULE

for October

4th – Dan & Pam Moen

11th – Ryker Rentschler Family

18th – Dan & Liza Brueggeman Family

25th – Caleb Gayer



Coffee Schedule

October 4 – Steve & Lori Ahrendt
Jon & Gloria Bonjour

October 11 – Larry & Deb Van Roekel
Cindy & Jerry Van Voorst
Nancy Halma

October 18 – Clint & Becky Berentschot
Doug & Glennie Wiltgen

October 25 – Board of Evangelism

WORSHIP HELPERS THIS MONTH

Usher Team:	Larry Van Roekel
Reader:	Kay Twedt
Altar Guild:	Deb Kroger & Cindy VV

CIRCLES

Fellowship Circle — Thursday Oct. 8 2:00 pm
Hostess: Dianne

Love Days — Mondays at 1:00 pm

SPECIAL DATES FOR OCTOBER

- Oct. 4: World Communion Sunday
- Oct. 11: Pastor/Clergy Appreciation Sunday
- Oct. 12: Columbus Day Observance
- Oct 25: Reformation Sunday
- Oct 31: Reformation Day

BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

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 October baptismal anniversaries of the following members of Bethlehem Lutheran:**

Karley McKenney-1
Dansby Snyders-2
Blake Lloyd-6
Kyle Standley-9
Liza Brueggeman-9
Grant Niemeyer-10
Ramona Kruse-10
Henry Bosler-13
Daniel Kroger-20
Adam Kroger-23
Steve Ahrendt-24
Sandi De Smet-24
Reid Jensen-24
Christina Hamann-24
Ethan Twedt – 27
Matt Van Dyke-30

ANNIVERSARIES THIS MONTH

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

Oct. 13	Hannah & Aric Olson – 2017
Oct. 24	Scott & Pam Hanson – 1975
Oct. 27	Dennis & Irene Thielvoldt

BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

2	Sam Kroger
3	Cherie Groth
4	Ed Baatz
5	Hazel Niemeyer
6	Tom Rentschler, Carol Vander Kolk, Ethan Twedt
8	Blaire Thiessen
9	Darrel Bonnema, Janae Douglass
12	Earl Smith
13	Aric Olson
15	Fred Dreessen, Katelynn Kelly, Rome Kramer
16	Larry Lange, Norm Rentschler, Cristen Standley
18	Glennie Wiltgen
19	Baily Bomgaars
22	Jonathan Folkens, Nikki Van Beek
24	Stacy Villanueva
25	Daenerys Snyders
27	Laura Kramer, Brandon Mika
30	Michael Van Dyke



Please join Norman Rentschler to celebrate 90 years! Cake provided by the family following worship on October 18.

BOARD REPORTS

SEPTEMBER 2026

Board of Stewardship

Present: Dan Bruggeman, Nancy Halma, Dan Moen, Tom Rentschler

Discussed new board member to replace Dan Brueggeman.
Discussed board's budget for 2027.
Encourage other Boards to start preparing budget for 2027.
Counting schedule as follows for remainder of 2026:
September - Dan Moen
October - Cynthia
November - Dan Bruggeman
December - Nancy

Meeting adjourned.

Board of Education

Attendance:
Michelle, Deb, Megan, Becky
Old Business
● outdoor movie night Saturday, Sept 12th: Little Giants, popcorn and drinks will be provided, bring your own chair, 8:30 pm
● Rally Sunday September 13th. Kids will go to the park for craft, games, snack/drinks
● Sept meeting classroom prep
● Change to Sunday school programing, kids will start Sunday school when they start preschool
● October meeting will be prep for Christmas program
● Hold search for Sunday school superintendent until next year

Board of Evangelism

Board of Evangelism Minutes for our Sept. 7, 2026 board meeting.

1. Discussion was had on whether there is a need to host a Confirmation Sunday coffee. We are waiting to hear from Pastor Sue.
2. We signed up to assist with three dates for the West Lyon Backpack program.
3. We discussed hosting a pot-luck Fall congregational lunch.
4. Treats for Halloween will be assembled for our residents at Fellowship and Friendship Village at our October meeting.
5. A cookie exchange for the Christmas season was discussed.

No other reports turned in



October is Pastor Appreciation Month, an observance that some clergy don't publicize. It's an ideal time to thank pastors for their dedication to God's people and the ministry. A written note, a card or even a free meal is a nice gesture of appreciation. But if you were to ask pastors what they'd like or what they need, most would probably reply, "Pray for me."

That's what the apostle Paul requested throughout his letters. To the church at Rome, he urged, "Join me in earnest prayer to God on my behalf, that I may be rescued from the unbelievers in Judea and that my ministry to Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company" (Romans 15:30-32, NRSV).

As you appreciate and encourage your pastors, remember them in your prayers. Then let them know you're doing so!

"Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching." | 2 Timothy 4:2

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.