BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN NEWSLETTER

Pastor Sue Sinclair NOVEMBER 2026
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From the Pastor...
All Saints

As we celebrate All Saints Day on Nov. 1st this year, I think that it's good to consider what we mean by 'Saints'.

Hearing the word 'saints', many people in the U.S. might think of a football team. Others may think of particular people whose lives of faith made a mark on the world.

The Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic churches each have processes to officially recognize these people after their deaths and remember and celebrate their lives and faith in their own ways. Along with these saints, both honor those ordinary people who have died in the faith. The eastern church on 'Saturdays of souls' and the Roman church on 'all souls day'.

The Lutheran understanding of all of this is slightly different from both. At the heart of the difference is that we define a 'saint' as a forgiven sinner. We may still use the word saint in connection with key people in the early church, but understand that, as Paul writes, "For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus" (Romans 3:22b-24).

When we celebrate All Saint's Day, it is a remembrance of all who have died grounded in faith. At Bethlehem, we name and recognize the members of the congregation who have died in the past year and are now experiencing the fullness of Christ's grace.

As individuals, we also remember all those who have impacted our lives and our faith. We recognize that we are part of 'the communion of saints," those who are claimed by and believe in Christ throughout the generations!

~ Pastor Sue



Waterlife Journal

One of our synod's gifts to us is its monthly on-line publication called Waterlife Journal.

The November addition has an inciteful article called "Rural Isolation and Holiday Depression"

You can find Waterlife by going to the Western Iowa Synod's website: www.wisynod.org and click on "waterlife journal" on the banner.

Confirmation
CLASSES

November Schedule

A new confirmation class begins in November! This month Tracy Gayer will begin the Bible session, so students should bring their Bibles with them to class.

7-9th grades will gather at 7 pm on: Nov. 4th and 11th.

Youth Group will meet on the 18th with Thanksgiving break on the 25th.



I'm happy to say that we have a wonderful group of young people ready to receive their First Communion. We will celebrate it on Nov. 22 during worship.

We will gather for a second day of instruction and 1st Communion cup painting at a time that will fit families' busy schedules.



Welcome new acolyte

NOVEMBER

1 – Edison & Conrad
8 – Ryker & Raelynn
15 – Jakson & Grant
22 – Brielle & Adley
29 – Macy

GREETERS SCHEDULE

for November

Nov. 1	Peter Bahnson & Nancy Halma
Nov. 8	Jonathan & Brenda Folkens
Nov. 15	Stan & Cynthia Haugland
Nov. 22	Carmen Van Dyke & Marilyn Caswell
Nov. 29	Brett & Megan Blankespoor



For November

1	Connie VanderSanden, Noah & Teresa Kerkvliet & Aric & Hannah Olson
8	David & Cheryl Phipps, Sam & Deb Kroger, Gary & Kay Twedt
15	Jim & Rhonda Jensen, Dan & Liza Brueggeman, Nate & DJ Cartmill
22	Aaron & Lori Kock, Jonathan & Brenda Folkens, Peter Bahnson
29	Debbie Vogelzang, Virginia Beynon, Tracy & Kim Gayer

WORSHIP HELPERS THIS MONTH

Usher Team:	Randy Kock
Reader:	Jim Jensen
Altar Guild:	Pam Moen & Marilyn Thiessen

CIRCLES

Fellowship Circle	Thurs., November 12, 2:00 pm Hostess: Gloria Bonjour
Love Days	Mondays 1:00 pm

SPECIAL DATES FOR NOVEMBER

- Nov. 1: *All Saints Day*
- Nov. 1: Day light savings time ends
- Nov 11: Veterans Day
- Nov. 19: Community Thanksgiving Service
- Nov. 22: Christ the King Sunday
- Nov 23-27: National Bible Week
- Nov. 26: Thanksgiving Day
- Nov. 39: First Sunday of Advent



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





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



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

Edison Kerkvliet-11/1	Nevaeh Van Dyke-2
BJ Van Roekel-3	Drew Van Dyke-4
Gary Vogelzang-5	Joshua Gayer-5
Gary Twedt-7	Randy Knutson-8
Anna McCarty-10	Dalton De Smet-10
Larry Lange-11	Doug Wiltgen-14
Rich Fueston-14	Sam Kroger-16
Tom Rentschler-17	Tyler Ballinger-18
Brandon Ballinger-18	Blaire Thiessen-18
Decker Berentschot-20	Baily Bomgaars-21
Ed Baatz-23	Amanda Wiltgen-24
Kaitlyn VanBeek-25	Adley Halma-28



It's LEFSE TIME!

Lefse ladies are back to baking! If you would like to place an order, please text or call Pam Moen at 712-470-1026 or 753-4588. $20 per dozen, deadline to order is December 1.



Michelle Johnson, Kay Hoogendoorn, Tara Hoogendoorn, Joe Lloyd, Mike Caswell, Cynthia Weberg, Amanda Wiltgen, Anna, Hadlee Vande Stouwe, Virginia Beynon, Nathan Huyser, Kendra Michael, Hazel Mae, Holly Horstman, Arnie Van Voorst, Arlyn Schreurs, Don Eiesland, Wayne Kollis, Jeff, Tamra & Anthony, Presley, Jane, Amanda, Michael, Anna, Lori, and all our Nursing Home residents (Bev J., Joy, Bev B, Jean M. Connie, June)



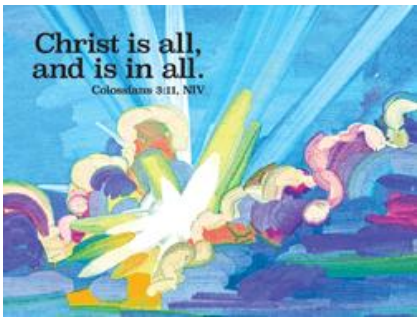
~ No Sunday school November 8 & 30

~Christmas Program December 13 during worship.



Join the community in worship

+ November 22
+ 6:00 pm at the Museum
+ Pastor Sue Sinclair will be leading worship



November 2 is *Christ the King Sunday*. We celebrate the all-embracing authority of Christ as King and Lord of all things.



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.

Currently serving - Amanda Wiltgen, Grant Hoogendoorn, Trent Hoogendoorn, Mike Caswell, to name just a few near and dear to our congregation.

The Pig Project and Us

Last month we received a call from the Synod office that 2 pigs had been processed and could go out to feeding ministries. The ground pork was divided 3 ways. Pastor delivered about 80# to Mannah Market and about #40 to the Larchwood food pantry. This ministry is impacting our communities!



BOARD REPORTS

October 2026

Board of Lay Ministry

Members present: Kay Twedt, Dustin Hoogendoorn, Dave Phipps, Pastor Sue, and David Lantz

1. Reviewed the minutes of the September Board meeting – Minutes were approved.
2. Treasurer's Report

Aaron Kock reviewed his plan to mail the monthly Budget and Special Funds reports to each chair of the church committees.

3. Pastor's Report

- Pastor shared vacation dates for the fall. She is planning to take vacation in October and Thanksgiving to Dec. 3. Pastor will have 4 week days and 1 Sunday remaining to be scheduled.
- Pastor reviewed Confirmation and Acolyte classes.
- Share that there was a good turnout for God's Work, Our Hands on September 26 from 10 AM to 12:00 PM at ATLAS. 26 Foster bags were put together along with organizing the Christmas Shop, as well as sorted donated clothes for the "Lost but Found" store.

3. Banner Storage Closet - Kay shared the Nate Cartmill has a plan for a storage closet for the church banners. Estimated cost is $3,000.00. $1,000.00 has already been donated to the project. The David approved to use $2,000.00 of the Thrivent Funds in the Special Fund to pay the remaining balance to complete the project. The Board approved the request for the project.
4. Usher Schedule - The committee updated the Usher Schedule.
5. Board member candidates - The committee discussed candidates for new board members. David shared that we should work to find three new members for the Board of Lay Ministry. Dustin, Dave Phipps and Marilyn Caswell need to be replaced
6. Annual Meeting - The committee set **November 15**, for the Annual Meeting. The meeting will be after church in the Fellowship Hall. Miracle Sunday will be December 6.
7. Budget - The committee reviewed the 2026 Budget year to date and made recommended adjustments to the Lay Ministry portion of the 2027 Budget. The committee will finalize the budget at the November meeting.
8. The ***next committee meeting by on November 4, 2026***
9. A visit from Bishop Scott has been lined up for January 17, 2027. This is in conjunction with Pastor Sue's Ordination Anniversary. We discussed having a potluck dinner after worship.
10. Reviewed readers for the rest of the year. November – Jim; December – David

Closed in prayer

Board of Evangelism

Minutes for October 2026

1. Manna Market delivery was made for donated items.
2. Discussion on hosting a congregational lunch. We will continue this idea in November.
3. No students are being confirmed this October, so our board will serve coffee and bars on Oct. 25.
4. Signed up to volunteer with the Backpack Program at West Lyon.
5. We filled and delivered treats for Halloween to the residents at Fellowship Village.

6. We discussed hosting a Cookie Exchange for this Christmas season, but we decided to forgo this idea.
7. One board member whose term is up this year has volunteered to continue another 3-year term. We are currently seeking an additional member to join our team.
8. The 2027 coffee/greeter schedule was finalized.
   - Sandy Lantz Chair

Board of Stewardship

Members present: Dan Moen, Nancy Halma, Dan Brueggeman

We reviewed our budget for 2027 and decided to keep it the same

Nancy informed us that she had talked to Barb Pedersen and Barb has agreed to join our board starting in 2027

A date of 12/6/26 was set for Miracle Sunday. We encourage the congregation to donate food pantry items and/or a special donation to our church to help with upkeep and repairs. We will be serving pie and ice cream after church as well.

Board of Education

Attendance:

Michelle, Deb, DJ, Becky

New Business

- Sunday school materials are going well
- November meeting go through Christmas program costumes
- November order candy bags 75 from Larchwood food center
- Becky will pick/organize Christmas program
- Christmas program will be December 13th
- New board member Dani Suess starting Jan 2027
- No budget changes for 2027

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.

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Western Iowa Synod Prayers for November

For Those Who Hunger

God of the loaves and fishes, you feed us with abundance and call us to do the same. Open our hands and our pantries to neighbors who go without. Where tables are empty, make us bread for one another, and where we have plenty, make us generous. Give us no rest until all are fed. Amen.

Thanksgiving for God's Provision

Gracious God, giver of every good gift, we thank you for harvest and table, for rain and soil, for work and rest, and for the hands that bring food to our tables. You provide for all your creatures, and we receive it with grateful hearts. Teach us to share what you have so freely given. Amen.

Preparing for Winter

Lord of every season, as the days grow short and the cold draws near, we ask for your protection. Keep safe those who travel icy roads, those who work in the cold, and those whose homes are drafty or whose heat is uncertain. Make us watchful neighbors, ready to check in, shovel a walk, and share a coat. Warm us with your presence and with one another's care. Amen.

For Those Without Housing

God of shelter and welcome, you were born in borrowed space and know what it is to have no place to lay your head. Be near those who sleep outside tonight. Lead them to safe rooms and warm beds. Stir your church and our communities to build, to open doors, and to work until everyone has a home. Amen.