
BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN NEWSLETTER

Pastor Sue Sinclair

OCTOBER 2025

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From the pastor...

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

This year, the Jewish new year celebration Rosh Hashanah fell on Sept. 23-24. It is a High Holy Day to worship, repent, pray and reflect on the past year and look forward to the new one.

This year, Pastor Joshua Mhlakela, from South African, posted on TikTok that this would also mark the coming of the Rapture.

I think that this is a good time to answer some questions you might have on the subject.

What is 'the Rapture'?

Some Christians believe in what is referred to as 'The Rapture.' A time when Jesus will return to earth and take 'true believers' to heaven. It is connected to 'The Tribulation' - a time of worldwide suffering.

Is it in the Bible?

You won't find the words "the rapture" in the Bible. It is an idea that is based on interpretations of scripture. For instance: 1 Thes. 4:16-17. "For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the arch-angel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will be with the Lord forever." And 1 Cor. 15:51-52 "Look, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will

sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed."

When is it supposed to happen?

Throughout history, in times of turmoil, there have been people who said that 'the tribulation' was upon us and 'the rapture' was coming.

In the Apostles' Creed, Christians of all types confess that Jesus "will come to judge the living and the dead", and that we believe in "the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting." We trust that, when the end of all that we know comes, God will be in control.

What is the Lutheran perspective?

While we know that the 1 Thes. and 1 Cor. texts speak of Christ's promised return, it is not our focus. We profess that we are saved by Christ's sacrificial grace alone. Even our ability to have faith is a gift of grace. Our response to this gift is to live in this world, sharing God's love in word and actions, trusting in that grace until the end, whenever it may come.

~ Pastor Sue



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



October Schedule

5 Hallie Brueggeman

12 Ryker Rentschler

19 Jakson Blankespoor

26 Edison Kerkvliet



GREETERS SCHEDULE

for October

5th – Dan & Pam Moen

12th – Emersyn & Ryker Rentschler Family

19th – Dan & Liza Brueggeman Family

26th Caleb Gayer



October 5 – Fred & Juanita Dreessen
Steve & Lori Ahrendt
Jon & Gloria Bonjour

October 12 – Larry & Deb Van Roekel
Cindy & Jerry Van Voorst
Nancy Halma

October 19 – Scott & Pam Hanson

October 26 – Board of Evangelism

WORSHIP HELPERS THIS MONTH

Usher Team: Larry Van Roekel
Reader: Marilyn Caswell
Altar Guild: Deb Kroger & Cindy VV

CIRCLES

Fellowship Thursday Oct. 9 2:00 pm

Circle Hostess: Dianne

Love Days starts back up on Monday Oct. 6
@ 1:00 pm and every Monday to follow.



SPECIAL DATES FOR OCTOBER

- Oct. 5: World Communion Sunday
- Oct. 12: Pastor Appreciation Sunday
- Oct. 13: Columbus Day Observance
- Oct 26: Reformation Sunday
- Oct 31: Reformation Day



Open House Anniversary Celebration
Please join Scott & Pam Hanson for coffee, cake and fellowship following service on October 19 to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.



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

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 Bailly Bomgaars
 22 Jonathan Folkens, Nikki Van Beek
 24 Stacy Villanueva
 25 Daenerys Snyders
 27 Laura Kramer, Brandon Mika
 30 Michael Van Dyke



~ Sunday November 9
 ~ 11:30 am
 ~ Taverns, hotdogs & beverages provided
 Sign up sheet will be posted in the window for members to provide additional lunch goodies.
 ~Thank you Board of Evangelism





BOARD REPORTS

SEPTEMBER 2025

Board of Stewardship

Wednesday September 10, 2025

Time: 7:00 pm

Old business:

None

New Business:

Discussed finding a new board member for 2026 to replace Cindy

We encourage other boards to start thinking about their 2026 budgets

Dan Moen to count money for September

Cynthia is next for October

Board of Education

September 10, 2025

Members Present

Megan

Michelle

Becky

DJ

Old Business

- Sunday school will start, schedule and teachers are set.

New Business

- Becky will update Heja with schedule
- Looking for a Bible study leader for Fall

Board of Evangelism

We learned the Board of Stewardship is in charge of contacting Jenn Jensen to pick up our Manna Market donated goods as they become available. Sandy Lantz and Sue Kippley will fill backpacks at West Lyon, Friday, September 19, 2025.

No kids are being confirmed this year.

Pam will contact Shari's Catering to order cinnamon rolls for the October 26th coffee hour. Our board will serve.

Our board will host a Fall Congregational Lunch, Sunday, November 9th, 11:30 AM. Our board members will provide tavern meat, hot dogs, & beverages. We are requesting that our members

provide additional lunch items. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the window by the courtyard. The date we have reserved for serving "The Banquet" (westside location) is scheduled for Wednesday, April 22, 2026. We will need 5 volunteers for meal prep and 15 volunteers to serve the evening meal.

Board of Properties

Properties board met on Sept 10, 2025 with Larry V.R, Aric O, Clint B, Nate C. and Dianne E present. Nate is waiting for the window people to call. This is for the north S.S. rooms and kitchen. He will ask about aluminum windows that open. Volunteers have come forward about painting the bell tower. Would it be better to replace the strips with composite? Will check into the cost. The south side of the church landscaping needs to be finished. Kimberlys got the rock for the front from Dakota Hardscape Supply. There is some left but we need more. Tentative date for doing this is Oct 4. We will need some extra help with this. Lights in the east and north hallways need to be replaced. Nate and Dianne will look at Home Depot. Later I found some on the Home Depot website and showed Dan P. He found some from his supplier that would work better and at a better cost. He will install them, they have been ordered. Jon B. is resigning his job as church handyman due to health reasons. Thank you, Jon, for all the hours you have put in to keep our church running smoothly. Is anyone out there that could take Jon's place?

No other reports turned in



THANKS
FROM THE
HEART

Bethlehem Church
Women,

I just want to say a sincere thank you for your generous support towards my journey with YWAM in Montana. Your donation means more to

me than I can put into words. It's not just financial help, it's a powerful reminder that I'm not a walking this path alone. As I prepare for this next chapter, I carry your encouragement and belief in what God is doing in my life. I truly believe in what

YWAM will do to my life, it will be transformative, and I'm excited to grow deeper in my relationship with God. In the end be equipped to shat His loce wherever He leads me. Thank you again Bethlehem Women for investing in me and the kigdom of God. I'm so grateful to have you all as part of this journey.

With all my heart,
Tara Hoogendoorn



October is Pastor Appreciation Month!

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

Our Kids Are A-Mazing

I was lucky enough to go to the corn maze with our youth group. Everyone had a good time! But something happened that shows just how great our kids truly are.

While walking through the maze, I found \$1 on the path. As we were the only group there that night, I figured that it must have fallen out of one of the kid's pockets.

When we had finished, I told them to check their pockets, because I found something that someone had lost, but no one had lost anything. We had fun joking about it, with several kids asking me to show them what I had found.

When I showed them the dollar and said that I was going to put it in the offering at church, 3 different kids reached into their pockets and purse and gave me additional dollars, saying "I know that the church will do good with it."



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.