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# BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN NEWSLETTER

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Pastor Sue Sinclair

AUGUST 2025

Office Phone: 753-4804 Cell: 605-933-0131 Pastor: [pastorsuesinclair@gmail.com](mailto:pastorsuesinclair@gmail.com) Church: [beosluth@alliancecom.net](mailto:beosluth@alliancecom.net)

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## FROM THE PASTOR...

### “Faith Begins by Letting Go”



Recently, I found a new song in the indigo song book (All Creation Sings) that caught my attention. I haven't chosen it

for worship yet, but we may sing it soon. It is ***Faith Begins by Letting Go (ACS 1004)*** written by an Episcopal priest, Rev. Carl P. Daw Jr.

The idea of “letting go” is scary. We like what is certain. We like to have proof about things. But trusting God without proof is the very definition of faith.

This hymn reminds us that it is God's great faithfulness that feeds us and causes us to thrive spiritually. It reminds us too that we mature in faith, not by wrapping our child-like faith in swaddling clothes like a newborn child, but by stretching our hearts and minds. By letting ourselves and our faith face challenges.

We are called to continue to grow in heart and mind, to share struggles and prayers with one another, and to find healing for “our brokenness in God. “

When our faith is regularly engaged in our daily lives, the song says that “the commonplace (is) ripe with witness to God's grace.”

I pray that we each can witness lives filled with God's grace. I hope that when we sing Faith Begins by Letting Go, you will hear God's call to this fullness in our lives.

~ Pastor Sue

## KNOCK KNOCK...

### Who's There?

Lately, someone somewhere has been reaching out to members and family of members of Bethlehem—but it's no joke.

They have been Phishing [fishing] for your information and trying to trick you into sending them money.

Part of this SCAM is saying that Pastor Sue is contacting you for help. Please know that I **will never** send you a text or e-mail saying that I am too busy (for any reason) and I need you to do me a favor that involves you buying gift cards or sending money. That is not the way we do things here at Bethlehem.

One way that you can double-check that it isn't really me is by checking the phone number or email address it is sent from. The church's #, my cell #, and the church's email address can all be found in the banner of this newsletter.

Be safe, know that you and your gifts are appreciated, and that if I ever ask for ‘special help’ I will always do so in person.

~ Pastor Sue





Paul's Letter to the Romans bible study. Pastor Sue will be leading both an afternoon and evening Bible Study on Romans. The afternoon group will meet at Fellowship Village at 2:00 on Tuesdays beginning on July 22nd. The evening group will begin Wednesday July 16th at 7 pm in the church library. Materials will be provided.



### **Sunday School Open House and Movie Night**

Friday August 15th Open house 7:30-8pm

- Visit your classroom and meet your teacher Movie *How To Train Your Dragon* at 8pm
- Come enjoy an outdoor movie and popcorn
- Bring your own chair and drink to enjoy



### **Rally Sunday September 7<sup>th</sup>**

Our Sunday School Kids will be kicking off the new school year with fun in the park!

After worship, they will head to Foote Park for crafts, games and of course great after worship snacks...Doughnuts & Drinks!



Thiessen Family, Aric Olson, McKenna Bouwman, Mary Ann Swenson, 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.)



### **August Acolytes**

**3 Memphis Van Dyke**  
**10 Hallie Brueggeman**  
**17 Ryker Rentschler**  
**24 Jakson Blankespoor**  
**31 Edison Kerkvliet**



### **You've heard it said that 'Children are our Future'...**

It is not true. Children are not important because we expect them to care for our future when they are adults.

Children are important because of who they are. They are our joy and responsibility now.

Helping children to understand God's love for them and others, as well as their place in God's world is the sturdiest foundation we can give them to grow in faith throughout their lives.

There are a myriad of opportunities to support the children of Bethlehem and our communities. As a congregation, we already participate in Bible School and Christian Play Days.

We also have a wonderful group of adults who make Sunday School a positive experience each week of the school year--but there is room and need for more adult participation.

I am thankful that we have adults who have committed to being mentors for our 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation students. We hope to build connections between all our Sunday School students and adult members of Bethlehem. These one-on-one relationships strengthen and nourish both people in faith and as part of the community.

## 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 August baptismal anniversaries of the following members of Bethlehem Lutheran:*

Carla Kroger-1	Benjamin Roemen-3
Allison Munger-2	Deb Vogelzang-4
Hope Bosler-4	Jamie Kelly-7
Bev Brinkman-6	Marilyn Caswell-10
Grant Hoogendoorn-10	Jessica Peterson-12
Tiffany Vandentop-11	Trent Hoogendoorn-12
Rachel Folkens-12	Ashley Kuhns-17
Peter Bahnson-14	Arlene Yunker-19
Dylan Whalen-18	Angie Kuecker-24
Greg Hanson-20	Memphis Van Dyke-28
Bryce Kock-26	Haley Folkens-31
Cody Ahrendt-30	Marilyn Ahrendt
Claire Twedt-31	

## ANNIVERSARIES THIS MONTH

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

3	Brad & Cristen Standley – 1991
4	Aaron & Lori Kock – 2001
10	Kyle & Brittany Standley - 2019
11	John & Tara Twedt – 2012
14	David & Sheryl Phipps – 1976
16	Larry & Deb Van Roekel – 1986
19	Dan & Barb Pedersen – 1988
23	Rich & Sheila Fueston – 2008
26	Greg & Cheryl Twedt – 1972



- 1 Cody Ahrendt
- 3 Lori Tracy
- 5 Claire Twedt
- 6 Tylee Kippley
- 7 Gloria Bonjour
- 8 Karen Ter Wee
- 10 Raelynn Van Beek
- 11 Emersyn Rentschler
- 12 Randy Knutson
- 13 Jennifer Underberg
- 14 Christina Hamann
- 18 Sheila Fueston
- 19 Sandy Lantz, Sue Kippley  
Marilyn Thiessen
- 20 Dan Pedersen, BJ Van Roekel
- 21 Alexis Jensen
- 22 Henry Bosler
- 23 Rich Fueston
- 25 Marty Fiech
- 26 Hannah Olson, Brielle Blankespoor
- 27 Connie Douglaas
- 30 Decker Berentschot

### WORSHIP HELPERS THIS MONTH

Usher Team: Dan Moen  
 Reader: David Phipps  
 Altar Guild: Kim Gayer and  
 Teresa Kerkvliet



**July 2025**

### Board of Education

Attendance

Liza, Michelle, Deb, Becky, Glennie

New Business

- Review Sunday school numbers, teachers, classroom break down
- Sunday school open house and outdoor movie night Friday, August 15th. Open house 7:30-8 and movie at 8. Movie TBD, pop corn provided, bring your own chair/drink.
- Rally Sunday September 7th. Kids will go to the park for craft, games, donuts/drinks

### CIRCLES

Fellowship Circle Thurs. Aug. 14, 2:00 pm  
 at Fellowship Village

### Board of Properties

### Board of Lay Ministry

Board of Stewardship no others turned in

### Board of Evangelism



For August

- 3 Scott & Pam Hanson
- 10 Gordon & Dianne Eiesland
- 17 Randy & Betty Kock
- 24 Bev Jackson & Carmen Van Dyke
- 31 Connie Vander Sanden & Cindy Moen



**BLC 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.