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# BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN NEWSLETTER

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Pastor Sue Sinclair

SEPTEMBER 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...

### Ch-Ch-Changes

In 'Changes' David Bowie sang, "Time may change me, but I can't trace time." It is undeniable that people change over time, but it is harder to see the bigger picture of change. I know I move when I walk around, but I feel motionless when standing still—yet the earth is still spinning on its axis. Change is continual even when we don't perceive it.

It is easy to miss the way the world has changed and feel that the world and people have always been as we know them today. It helps us to understand scripture and God's will for us when we better understand where the world was when Bible stories took place.

For instance, in Gen. 22, when Abraham goes to make a sacrifice to God, what seems most shocking to us is that Abraham was willing to sacrifice his son. Yet, at that time, human sacrifice was not unheard of. It was a profound sacrifice that was thought to appease gods.

The shocking part of the story was that our God would NOT require such a sacrifice but would instead PROVIDE a new sacrifice—one that cost Abraham nothing.

Understanding this, helps us understand what was is at the heart of

this story—God is gracious and merciful to his people from the very beginning. It also foreshadows what God is willing to do for the world. To become incarnate and forever fulfill any need for sacrifice.

In the centuries through which the Old Testament was written, there are many things that were accepted then which we have come to understand are not God's for us. Christ calls us from our human self-centered perspective by his living out the Law of Love: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself" (Luke 10:27).

In understand this, we see that many things that can be found in the Bible and that have been used to justify them, like genocide, slavery and disregard for the poor are no longer acceptable ways to be God's people.

We are called to stand against powers that want to make such things acceptable. Whether it is the war in Gaza, editing museums' description of slavery or laws around food insecurity, Christ calls us to see scripture and the world through the law of Love, and to live it.

~ Pastor Sue

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



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

~ Praise Team will be singing~

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



*Olson Family, Bob Mika, McKennah Bouwman,  
Holly Horstman, Arnie Van Voorst, Shiela  
Hage, Arlyn Schreurs, Ed Baatz, Don Eiesland,  
Wayne Kollis, Michelle Johnson, Tashina,  
Sarah Krupke, Mark, Lori, Paul, and our  
nursing home residents; Marion, Bev, Marliss,  
Jean, Joy.*



### WORSHIP HELPERS THIS MONTH

Usher Team:	Dan Pedersen Team
Reader:	Jim Jensen
Altar Guild:	Deb Kroger & Cindy Van Voorst

### CIRCLE:

Fellowship	Thursday Sept. 11, 2:00 pm
Circle	Hostess: Dianne Eiesland

## **Confirmation Meeting**

Parents and students,  
grades 4-9 will have the  
chance to gather on  
Sunday, Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>  
following the first  
Sunday School class.

There will be a chance  
to ask questions and  
get information for the  
upcoming school year.

We will meet at the  
altar side of the  
fellowship hall.



## **YOUTH GROUP**

Scheduled to meet the 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Wednesday of the month.  
September 17.



## **September**

7<sup>th</sup> – Brielle Blankespoor  
14<sup>th</sup> – Macy Brueggeman  
21<sup>st</sup> – Easton Cartmill  
28<sup>th</sup> – Memphis Van Dyke

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

June Junge-1	Gloria Bonjour-3
Kate Roemen-4	Seth Bahnson-5
Carter Jensen-6	Michael Standley-6
Damon Snyders-6	DJ Cartmill-9
Norm Rentschler-12	Steve De Smet-13
McKenzie Johnston-18	James Johnston-18
Sandy Lantz-18	Susan Kippely-18
Dan Pedersen-19	Cadence Van Dyke-20
Logan Underberg-21	Jen Underberg-21
Aaron Kock-23	Emersyn Rentschler-23
Lori Tracy-24	Jonathan Kroger-25
Stacy Bomgaars-26	Jamie Pedersen-26

# ANNIVERSARIES THIS MONTH

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

Sept. 2	Jesse & Becky Roemen-2000
Sept. 11	Steve & Sandi De Smet-1993
Sept. 17	Sophia & Jeff Mattoon-2011
Sept. 18	Kaitlynn & Jesse Van Beek-2010
Sept. 25	Dustin & Andrea Hoogendoorn
Sept. 27	Nate & DJ Cartmill-2014
Sept. 30	Kyle & Megan Knutson – 2017



# BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

1	Steve Ahrendt
3	Scott Hanson, Kylee Kelly, Daniel Kroger, Tatum Kippely
4	Steve De Smet, Blake Lloyd
5	Grant Niemeyer
6	Liza Brueggeman
7	Jon Bonjour, Aaron Kock, Elena Whalen
8	Sandi De Smet
9	Edison Kerkvliet
10	Tyler Knutson
11	Kyle Standley
13	Jonathan Kroger
15	Blade Baatz
18	Cassidy Baatz, Dalton De Smet
20	Priscilla Briones, Juanita Dreessen
22	Bryden Jensen
23	Reid Jensen, Dylan McKenney
24	Nolan Bahnson, Ramona Kruse, Gary Vogelzang
25	Carrie Triggs
26	Gary Twedt



# GREETERS SCHEDULE for September

Sept. 7	Randy & Michelle Kippely Family
Sept. 14	Aric & Hannah Olson Family
Sept. 21	Nate & DJ Cartmill Family
Sept. 28	David & Sandy Lantz



# NEIGHBORHOOD PRAYER WALK

September 3 at  
7:00 pm in front of the city office.



Bethlehem will be doing a blessing of the backpacks Sunday September 14. Please have your child bring their backpack to church on Sunday September 14. Pastor Sue will be blessing the backpacks during the church service. This is for kids of all ages and for adults starting a new school year.



## *Coffee* *Schedule* for September

7<sup>th</sup> Aric & Hannah Olson  
Stan & Cynthia Haugland

14<sup>th</sup> David & Sandy Lantz  
Greg & Cheryl Twedt

21<sup>st</sup> Brett & Megan Blankespoor  
Bob & Lori Tracy  
David & Sandy Lantz

28<sup>th</sup> Ken & Marilyn Thiessen  
Tessa Grotewold

**!!!** Coffee schedule is gearing back up for the end of the year. Please check the newsletter or email each week for when you are scheduled to help with coffee.

## August 2025

### Board of Education

August 13, 2025

Present

Deb, Megan, Michelle, Becky, Liza, Glennie

Old Business

- Glennie reports we have enough teachers and music leaders
- Sunday school open house will be on Friday Aug 15, 7:30 meet teachers and 8 outdoor movie (How to Train your Dragon) and popcorn.
- Pop corn machine rental from RV rental
- Rally Sunday Sept 7th
- Becky is getting donuts
- Glennie is getting water
- Kids will walk to the park for games and crafts
- Parents will pick kids up from the park at 11:15.
- Glennie has Bibles for 3rd and 7th

### Board of Evangelism

We are not meeting in person this month, but communicated by text:

Minutes:

1. We have requested to pack backpack meals at West Lyon.

2. The message was shared to help prepare and serve noon meals on Wednesdays for the Kiwanis Club

### Board of Properties

The board of properties met on August 13.

Those present: Larry VR, Aric O., Clint B, Nate C. and Dianne E. The Mid-American bill is quite a bit more than it was last year. The board will go into detective mode to figure out

what the problem is. Rassmussen has fixed the air conditioner in the kitchen, the first part that was replaced was bad. Talked about the new windows for the north Sunday school rooms. We had a bid for windows that did not open, Nate will get a bid for windows that do open. Late Sept. we will be putting rock on the south side of the church. Will probably be calling out for volunteers to help with this. Will be looking at new light fixtures for the north and east hallways.

### **Board of Lay Ministry**

Present: Dustin, Kim, David P., Jim, David L., and Pastor Sue.

Pastor gave her report. The contemporary service music was discussed; we will try to find ways to make it more singable and appealing. There has been a request to help a member of the community financially, first we wanted to be sure they welcome assistance. The matter was then sent to the stewardship board. Rally Sunday was discussed; the praise team will be singing that morning. The board of Education has good hands-on Rally Day so Board of Lay does not need to assist.



### **SPECIAL DATES FOR SEPTEMBER**

- Labor Day Sept. 1
- Patriot Day Sept. 11
- Sunday School Rally Day Sept. 7
- National Grandparents' Day Sept. 7
- Hispanic Heritage Month Sept.15-Oct.15
- First day of Autumn Sept. 22



Thank you so much for all ladies who volunteered to help serve Kiwanis. We are grateful for your help. - BLCW



**From the Bishop...**

As the summer season comes to an end, I say thank you –

THANK YOU, Western Iowa Synod for your financial gifts! Together you are:

- Feeding hungry people in Western Iowa with the PIG PROJECT
- Raising up new leaders with support to Wartburg Seminary
- Reaching across the world with gifts to Tanzania
- Shaping the faith of young people with campus ministry at Waldorf University
- Walking with families affected by flooding and storms

Your generous support changes lives here in Iowa, across this church, and around the world!

THANK YOU, Western Iowa Synod, for coming together in Sioux City for the Synod Assembly, God's Love Made Real. We came together to worship, pray, listen, and discern! And together, we elected a new bishop. Rev. Scott Dalen will begin his call to serve as Bishop of the Western Iowa Synod on September 1, 2025.

I give thanks for bishop-elect Scott and the gifts he will bring. I hold him in prayer as he begins this new partnership in ministry with you. Care for him. Honor him. Pray for him. And celebrate with him as together God's Love is Made Real.

THANK YOU.

Rev. Lorna H. Halaas





**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  
treasure.