



BETHLEHEM
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

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Office Hours

9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
Monday-Thursday

9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
Friday

Tidings Newsletter

*Held in Grace ...
Belong, Believe, Befriend*

Volume LXIV, Issue 10

November 2025

Take a few minutes with Pastor Lexy

"How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth." 1 John 3:17-18

Greetings Beloveds!

The phone has been ringing constantly this morning. Unless something changes in the next few days (from when I am writing this on October 27th), SNAP benefits will not be sent out to those who need it on November 1st. Government workers continue without pay, and are starting to worry about their own grocery bill. For those reaching out for help from resources they have depended on in the past, they are being told- go to the churches, they can help.

And we do our best to do that, in our own limited way, every day. Thank you to those who have already been so generous with our food shelf, you offered a sigh of relief when callers found out we had *something* that could at least buy them a day or two. This morning, two members have also stopped in the office, asking if we're planning to send out a message asking people (if they are able) to give to our shelf, knowing the wave that is approaching. It is easy to get stuck in fear, especially in times like these. A place between frustrations at systems that should be helping and wishing we could do more with our own limited means.

God reminds us, though, to not be afraid. There are times when our faith calls us to reflect, to pray, and share words of comfort, and there are times where our faith calls us to act. This, beloveds, is the time for the second. If you can, donate to our food shelf (shelf stable, pop top items) or one of the many food pantries in town (money goes the furthest there!). If you can't donate financially, donate your time and volunteer. If you can't donate your time, repost their requests on social media, or talk to your friends and neighbors about what you can do to help. Let us love in deed and truth, the truth that as Christians living in this "house of bread", we believe that food is a right, not a privilege.

Peace,

Pastor Lexy

Bethlehem's Mission Statement

Held in the grace of God, centered in the Good News of Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, Bethlehem Lutheran Church is called to Belong, Believe and Befriend.

Worship Schedule

Sunday, November 2

9:30 am *Worship with Holy Communion*
11:00 am *Bible Study*
4:00 pm *Service of Remembrance*
6:00 pm *All Saints Beer and Hymns*

Wednesday, November 5

5:30 pm *Meal*
6:00 pm *Worship*
6:15 pm *PrK-1 Ed*
6:45 pm *PrK-7 Music*
7:00 pm *Adult Bible Study*
7:00 pm *Confirmation*
7:15 pm *2-7 Ed*

Sunday, November 9

9:30 am *Worship*
11:00 am *Bible Study*

Wednesday, November 12

5:30 pm *Meal*
6:00 pm *Worship*
6:15 pm *PrK-1 Ed*
6:45 pm *PrK-7 Music*
7:00 pm *Adult Bible Study*
7:00 pm *Confirmation*
7:15 pm *2-7 Ed*

Sunday, November 16

9:30 am *Worship*
11:00 am *Bible Study*

Wednesday, November 19

5:30 pm *Meal*
6:00 pm *Worship*
6:15 pm *PrK-1 Ed*
6:45 pm *PrK-7 Music*
7:00 pm *Adult Bible Study*
7:00 pm *Confirmation*
7:15 pm *2-7 Ed*

Sunday, November 23

9:30 am *Worship*
11:00 am *Bible Study*

Wednesday, November 26

Office closes at 12:00 p.m.
No events

Sunday, November 30

9:30 am *Worship*

Communion will be celebrated as part of worship the first Sunday of each month and available in the Sanctuary following the worship service the second Sunday and on.

All-Saints Sunday

Special Services, November 2nd

Service of Remembrance 4:00-5:00pm in Bethlehem's Chapel

A quiet, contemplative service to remember those who have died. This is for anyone who would like space to take time to remember loved ones who have gone before us. We will also be reading the names of Bethlehem members who have died in the last year.

All-Saints Beer and Hymns 6:00-8:00pm at The Four & Four 404 4th Ave N, Fargo, ND (above Sidestreet)

Gather with us at for an evening of singing and fellowship together! Hymns can be requested in honor of a loved one, and we will "cheers" their memory after we sing the hymn! Food and Alcoholic and NA drinks can be ordered on your own, a free-will donation will be taken to cover the cost of the space.

Thanksgiving Eve Eve Dinner Church

November 25th, 6:00-7:30pm

We'll gather in the Fellowship Hall for an evening of worship with Holy Communion, song, and food!

The theme of the meal is

"Lutheran Potluck"

so bring along your favorite potluck dish/side/salad or a pie to share!

Library News

“Christmas in Bethel”

by Richard Paul Evans

A young woman has never liked the holidays due to growing up in an unstable home, losing her unborn baby, and living in an abusive marriage. She felt like she was not worth loving. She planned on ending her life on Christmas Eve until she came across a book called *Bethel*. The author was not familiar to her but she comes to her town to do a book signing. In a twist of fate, she meets him in a coffee shop. They have an immediate connection. She discovers this author has family secrets.

Will these secrets be enough to end their relationship?

“The Christmas Train”

by David Baldacci

Donated by Barb Johnson

A journalist is forced to take a train from Washington D.C. to LA during the Christmas season. This is a story of mystery, thrilling adventures, and holiday magic with a season of miracles.

Noreen Halvorson, Librarian

Our Circle Bible Studies meet September through May on the 3rd Tuesday of each month as follows:

Elizabeth Circle:

November 18th, 2:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

Chairwoman: Joyce Schepp
701-412-3244

Miriam Circle:

November 18th, 6:30 p.m.
Fireside Room

Quilting

The quilters meet Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. They will meet November 5, 12, and 19.

Please join them for another year of fun, fellowship, coffee, and treats. Even if you don't sew, there is something to do. **New members are always welcome!**

Trust Foundation Board

It's wonderful to see the Endowment Fund's growth due to your envelope offering and memorial gifts. A Donation Request Form has been created and is now available in the church office.

Please consider including Bethlehem Lutheran Church Endowment Fund in your wills, estates and retirement accounts. Thank you.

Communing the Baptized

All who are baptized are welcome to participate in Holy Communion. Does your child show interest in receiving Communion?

Even if he/she is younger than 10 years of age, they are welcome to participate at the Lord's Table. We offer early Communion preparation for baptized persons younger than 10 years of age and their families. If you and your child are interested in such a conversation, please contact one of the pastors. They would be happy to schedule a time to speak with you!

Taxi Service

If you are in need of a ride to worship, Bethlehem has opened an account with Doyle Cab to provide the needed ride. You will need our account number and pin to schedule a ride. Contact the church office for that information.

Fall Freeze!

Freezer Meal Event
November 15th, 9 am to 1 pm

Fall is a busy season, and we hope to make it a little easier! Join us for a morning of preparing freezer meals for your family, along with some lunch and fellowship time together. Cost is \$25 per person and includes at least 5 meals to take home. Please reach out to Pastor Lexy if cost is an issue. Amount can be paid in the BLC office or given to Pastor Lexy up until the event begins; checks made out to Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

This event is open to anyone, BLC member or not! Invite away!

Please Register **HERE**
by November 12th!



**Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Soup, Sandwich & Bake Sale**

Saturday, November 1, 2025

**Soup & Sandwich served from
11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.**

Cost: \$10; Ages 12 & under: \$5

From 10:30 a.m. — 1:00 p.m. you may enjoy:

Bake Sale in the Narthex

Library Fundraiser in the Narthex

Quilt Sale in the Sanctuary

**Craft Sale/Vendor Booths in the Narthex &
Sanctuary**

**Donations of baked items are appreciated.
Ethnic baked goods (lefse, rosettes, krumkake,
kuchen, etc.) make the bake sale special. Cash
or check donations also accepted. Baked items
may be delivered to the church on Friday,
October 31, from 9:00 a.m.~4:00 p.m., or on
Saturday morning beginning at 9:00 a.m.**

From the Church Records



Memorials Received

Thank you to everyone who gave memorials to Bethlehem.

Bathrooms

In memory of *Brooke Wilson*, given by Hank & Noreen Halvorson; Dennis Olson; Richard & Bunny Workin; Dallas Christiansen; and Lamonte & Peggy Hoy.

In memory of *Allan Oak*, given by Sandi Hannestad.

In memory of *Vi Fairchild*, given by Hank & Noreen Halvorson.

In memory of *Louis Rosenau*, given by Dennis Olson.

In memory of *Rev. Harold Stoa*, given by Richard & Bunny Workin.

Debt Reduction

In memory of *Corrine Lamb*, given by Judy Coughlin.

In memory of *Brooke Wilson*, given by Judy Coughlin; Erwin & Jean Beilke; and Jennifer Konen.

In memory of *Rev. Harold Stoa*, given by Judy Coughlin.

In memory of *Laura Bergen*, given by Erwin & Jean Beilke.

In memory of *DeVon Jokstad*, given by Judy Coughlin.

In memory of *Edna Hansegard*, given by Judy Coughlin; and Jennifer Konen.

Emergency Fund

In memory of *Brooke Wilson*, given by Carolyn Mix; Marlene Mix; Ross & Sonja Loughheed; Jim & Linda Wilkie; and Marlys Oak.

In memory of *Rev. Harold Stoa*, given by Ross & Sonja Loughheed; and Marlys Oak.

In memory of *DeVon Jokstad*, given by Marlys Oak.

In memory of *Edna Hansegard*, given by Marlys Oak.

Endowment

In memory of *Brooke Wilson*, given by Rosella Kolrud; Gary & Joyce Schepp; Lyle & Marsha Songstad; and Randy & Jacquelyn Walsh.

Roof

In memory of *Brooke Wilson*, given by Jim Andersen; and Dorla Hanson.

Stove

In memory of *Brooke Wilson*, given by Sandi Hannestad.

Youth

In memory of *Brooke Wilson*, given by Gary & Masayo Sollid.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church is grateful for your consideration of a memorial gift for your loved one. The list of memorial needs has been established to guide families in their options and interests. It is also based on priority needs of the congregation. If you would like to provide a memorial, please bring it to the office and list what fund you would like to contribute to as well as who is being honored. Thank you for this opportunity to honor your loved one.

Memorial Possibilities

1. Bathrooms
2. Bells
3. Debt Reduction (Sweep Loan)
4. Elevator
5. Emergency Fund
6. Endowment Fund
7. Landscaping
8. Library
9. Organ Fund
10. Parking Lot Fund
11. Roof Fund
12. Youth

Wish List

In addition to monetary memorials, there are also opportunities to fund specific one-time items. If you are interested in donating an item, reach out to the office for more information.

Our current wish list includes:

Gas Fireplace Insert and Install in Fireside Room, \$6,180.00
Organ Cleaning and Repair, \$5,500.00

Official Acts:

Burials

10/1/25—Michael Slaybaugh (non-member @West Funeral Home)
10/11/25—Brooke Wilson (non-member)
10/17/25—Shannon Haarsager (non-member @West Funeral Home)
10/24/25—Anthony Martinez
10/27/2025—Paoula and Camillo Acosta (non-member)
10/28/2025—DeVon Jokstad @Hanson Runsvold
10/29/2025—Edna Hansegard

Transfers Out

Claudia Elser to Faith Journey Lutheran Church in West Fargo, ND.

Karen Johnson to Dilworth Lutheran Church in Dilworth, MN.

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN LOAN BALANCES

(As of 9/30/25)

Sweep (Operating Loan) Balance

\$70,951.72

Balances

Parish Planning Council Minutes
October 16, 2025

Present: Jim Sandsmark, Pastor Lexy, Brigham Drevlow, Kelly Nielsen, Shannon Brager, Dave Buen, Erik Larson, Mathew Potter, Cathy Hanson, Aimee Livdahl, Sue Gomke, Judy Coughlin, Tim Deyle.

Executive Director Jim Sandsmark called the meeting to order. Pastor Lexy led the group in opening prayer.

A motion to accept and approve the September 11th meeting minutes with no revisions was made by Dave Buen and seconded by Mathew Potter. The motion carried.

Board Reports

Parish Education – Sue Gomke. Two 3rd grade students will receive their Bibles in worship on Wed night. The board discussed mailing Bibles to students who cannot attend the service and giving Bibles to older kids who have not gotten one before. Confirmation will be Oct 26th and the board has arranged the photographer, flowers, gifts, and cupcakes for fellowship time. The Christmas program this year will be A Very Whirl Christmas. The Parish Education budget has been submitted.

Trust Foundation – Cathy Hanson. Three requests were approved in Sept for \$500 each. The board will meet in Dec for any new submissions since there is still money available. Recent requests were all for \$1,000 so if there are no new submissions, they may be revisited.

Worship –Tim Deyle. The Worship Band Director position was approved at the last meeting. Approximately \$5,500 will be added to the budget to accommodate. The board also discussed pay raises to keep competitive with other churches for future accompanist needs. All Saints Day services will look the same as last year. There will be an afternoon remembrance service followed by Beer and Hymns at the 4 and 4. Other churches have been invited to join. An Advent curriculum has been selected, and an anonymous donor has already paid for it. Deck the Halls will be the first Wed of Dec with the confirmands. The board wants to look around beforehand to see if there are any improvements that can be made. Poinsettias are the traditional flower to purchase for Christmas, but the cost keeps going up and the plants have not stayed in good condition. The board will look into options of different flowers or possibly artificial versions.

Property – Dave Buen. The potential buyer for the lot across the street has lost interest. We have gotten two plumbing estimates for the bathrooms, the more realistic of the two is \$7,800. We also need an estimate for taking the tile off of the walls and for flooring. If we are putting grab bars in, then a permit is required since the walls will be opened. Stalls cannot be made wider due to concrete anchors so we will look at other adjustments that can be made. The 2026 budget has been mostly approved.

Ministry – Erik Larson. Two staff evaluations were performed this month, with one to go. The budget was updated with payroll software additions and Portico insurance changes. Two bills were approved – a pulpit supply payment and mileage.

Evangelism/Fellowship – Mathew Potter. Karley Dittberner came to the meeting with ideas to engage with the community, such as a store with church bucks, a garage sale, and blessing bags/hygiene kits. The website is mostly completed, with only cosmetic fixes to be made, which can be done on our end. It should be ready to launch before the year is done. The freezer meal event will be held Nov 15th along with a food drive held Nov 12th and 16th, which Mathew will provide a Temple Talk for. The Giving Tree is being planned out. We will move from 5 gifts per person to 4 so we can accommodate more people. We will also add tags for Matthew's Voice. The tree should be set up before Thanksgiving Eve Eve. The board's budget is approved.

Stewardship – Kelly Nielsen. Consecration Sunday went well. There was good feedback about Beth's skit. The budget is mostly approved, and salaries are being given a 3% raise. Dave Buen came to the last meeting to talk about future projects and what fund-raising needs will be. There are no college students eligible for scholarships this year. Noisy Offering is now to be counted by the Stewardship Board. The next meeting date is to be decided.

Youth – Shannon Brager. Ohhh Snap has had around 14 kids in attendance. Paternity leave needs for Brigham have been planned for. Castaway had 7 BLC youth and 2 chaperones in attendance. Wreath sales started Oct 15th and will go through Nov 12th. Cost is \$30 each. The Halloween party will be Oct 29th after worship and will be held indoors. Parents' Night Out is scheduled for Nov 23rd. The budget is nearly done.

Treasurer's Report – The sweep loan is at \$61,897.

Pastor's Report –Kaleidoscope went very well. Pr. Lexy's workshop on Narrative Budgets was one of the popular presentations of the conference, which has led to future presentation opportunities. Pr. Lexy will also be meeting with Tim Brown who has great info about legacy giving.

(Parish Planning Council Minutes Continued)

Old Business

There was an incident with a member after a Wednesday night worship service which led to concerns about students feeling unsafe at church. Due to this, the board voted to issue a no trespass order to the member, which will be handled by Pr. Lexy Steinle. Parents have been informed about the situation via email.

New Business

There have been two new requests for using space at Bethlehem. One is a church almost entirely made up of immigrants and international students who are looking for a worship space. They currently meet 11:00 a.m. on Sundays and worship approximately 50 people per week. They would also need Sunday School space at 9:30 a.m. and room for weekly Bible study. They are affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention, which would need more discussion to determine compatibility. The other request is a recovery group that is doing a 16 week course on hoarding on Tuesday nights. They will be asked about rental fees.

A motion to dismiss the meeting was made by Dave Buen and seconded by Sue Gomke. The motion carried. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. The next meeting of Parish Planning Council will be November 13th at 7:30 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Aimee Livdahl



November Youth News



Schedule

Christian Ed	Nov 5
Christian Ed	Nov 12
Youth Choir in Church 5:50pm	Nov 12
Wreath Sales Final Call	Nov 12
Youth Choir in Church 8:30am	Nov 16
Christian Ed	Nov 19
God Squad @Caribou on 25 th 12-1pm	Nov 23
Wreath Pick Up 10:30-11:30am	Nov 23
Parents' Night Out 4-7pm	Nov 23
Happy Thanksgiving! No Activities	Nov 26
Christian Ed	Dec 3

God Squad

8-12th Graders are invited to join us for games, snacks, and a Bible Study. This month we will meet

Nov. 23 12-1pm @Caribou 25th

Christmas Wreaths

Order your Christmas Wreaths in the Narthex before and after worship services. \$30 a Wreath.

Wreath Pick up will be 15 minutes before and after worship on Nov. 20/24th

Parents' Night Out

On Nov 23rd from 4-7pm drop your kids off with us so you can take the evening - do some shopping, go out for dinner, see some friends! We will play games, watch a movie, do some crafts, and have dinner. All are welcome. Sign up is on the Youth Bulletin Board

Wreath Pickup

Come pick up your Christmas wreaths on Sunday, Nov 23rd from 10:30 11:30am.

Wreaths will be in bags to keep your car tidy!

Unable to order a wreath in person? Order one online here!



November 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 10:30 am-1:00 pm Soup and Sandwich Event
2 9:30 am Worship w/ Holy Communion 11:00 am Bible Study 4:00 pm Service of Remembrance 6:00 pm All Saints Beer and Hymns All Saints Day	3 6:00 pm SA 6:00 pm Stewardship Board	4 9:00 am Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Bell Choir	5 9:00 am Quilting 5:00 pm Worship Band 5:30 pm Meal 6:00 pm Worship 6:15 pm PrK-1 Ed 6:45 pm PrK-7 Music 7:00 pm Adult Bible Study 7:00 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Senior Choir 7:15 pm 2-7 Ed	6 1:00 pm Sing From Your Heart Chorus 7:00 pm AA	7 Pastor Lexy's Day Off 7:30 am M.E.A.T.T.	8
9 9:30 am Worship 11:00 am Bible Study Board Meeting Week	10 10:30 am One Oak Gathering 6:00 pm SA 7:00 pm Education Board	11 9:00 am Staff Meeting 6:15 pm Ministry Board 7:00 pm Bell Choir	12 Food Drive 9:00 am Quilting 5:00 pm Worship Band 5:30 pm Meal 6:00 pm Worship 6:15 pm PrK-1 Ed 6:45 pm PrK-7 Music 7:00 pm Adult Bible Study 7:00 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Senior Choir 7:15 pm 2-7 Ed	13 1:00 pm Sing From Your Heart Chorus 6:00 pm Youth Board 6:30 pm Evangelism/ Fellowship, Worship, Property Boards 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm Parish Plan- ning Council	14 Pastor Lexy's Day Off	15 12:30 pm Co- Creators 9:00 am Freezer Meals
16 Food Drive 9:30 am Worship 11:00 am Bible Study	17 6:00 pm SA	18 9:00 am Staff Meeting 2:00 pm Elizabeth Circle 6:30 pm Miriam Circle 7:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Trust Founda- tion Meeting	19 9:00 am Quilting 5:00 pm Worship Band 5:30 pm Meal 6:00 pm Worship 6:15 pm PrK-1 Ed 6:45 pm PrK-7 Music 7:00 pm Adult Bible Study 7:00 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Senior Choir 7:15 pm 2-7 Ed	20 1:00 pm Sing From Your Heart Chorus 2:00 pm Coffee w/ Pastor Lexy @ Luna 7:00 pm AA	21 Pastor Lexy's Day Off 7:30 am M.E.A.T.T.	22 1:00 pm Sing From Your Heart Chorus Concert
23 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Wreath Pick Up 11:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm God Squad @Caribou on 25th 4:00 pm Parents' Night Out	24 6:00 pm SA	25 9:00 am Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Thanksgiving Eve Eve Dinner Church	26 Office closes at 12:00 pm No Worship or Activi- ties	27/ Thanksgiv- ing Office Closed 7:00 pm AA	28/ Thanks- giving Office Closed	29
30 9:30 am Worship						

Bethlehem Lutheran Staff

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor
Visitation Pastor
Administrative Assistant
Custodian
Treasurer
Librarian
Youth, Education, and
Evangelism Minister
Service Accompanists

Music Coordinator
Senior Choir Director
Senior Choir Accompanist
Youth Choir Director
Bell Choir Director
Media Coordinator
Video Technician

Lexy Steinle
Ann Johnston
Aimee Livdahl
Josh & Jess Smith
Judy Coughlin
Noreen Halvorson

Brigham Drevlow
Judy Coughlin
Alvina Deyle
Aimee Livdahl
Dale A. Lammi
Alvina Deyle
Brigham Drevlow

Josh Vangsness
Josh Vangsness

EXTENDED STAFF

Missionaries: Willie and Anne Langdji
Madagascar, West and Central Africa

WOMENS' CIRCLES

Using the Gather Magazine Bible Studies

Elizabeth Circle:

Tuesday, November 18th at 2:00pm

Miriam Circle:

Tuesday, November 18th at 6:30pm

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

BETHLEHEM
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
613 16TH STREET SOUTH
FARGO, ND 58103

