



Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
NEWSLETTER  
NOVEMBER 2025

**Birthdays:** November 1- Dan LaFave; November 5- John Nelson; November 7- Dwight Johnson, Emma VandeLune; November 9- Pat Evans, Mary Peterson; November 10- Dawn Pingel; November 11- Larry Carlson, Kelley Clausen, Aiden Peterson, LeRoy Schoon; November 13- Dana Sleezer; November 15- Soren Lundsgaard; November 20- Mary Johnson; November 21- Phil Kindwall; November 22- Brady Lundquist; November 23- Chris Nelson; November 24- Lynsee Reilly; November 25- Pam Allen, Kurt Peterson; November 30- Gary Lundquist



**Anniversaries:** November 2- Josh & Kristen Cedar, Chris & Lisa VandeLune; November 7- Terry & Lou Graybill; November 13- Floyd & Nancy Enstrom; November 19- Tom & Amy Letsche; November 30- Tim & Joyce Lundsgaard



**Save the Date:** On Saturday, December 13, 2025 Christian Ed, Evangelism and Worship and Music committees will hold a ‘**Christmas Cookie decorating event**’ in the fellowship hall. This activity will be open to the public. Additional details will be forthcoming.

**Pastors of Our Past:** There is a new addition to the Archives Cabinet in the Narthex. A composite has been made, using the photos that previously hung on the wall, to honor the pastors who have served Bethlehem. Be sure to check it out!

**Bethlehem on the Air:** BOA is the radio ministry of our congregation. The program is aired at approximately 8:15 AM on Sunday mornings on KCHE. During the past 2 ½ years, Harry Bradstreet, Lynette and Pat Hyndman, and Connie and Jim Mohn have been preparing and doing the program. If possible, you are encouraged to tune to KCHE each Sunday morning to listen to this ministry.

**Scandinavian Advent Smorgasbord:** The annual Scandinavian smorgasbord will be held on **Sunday, November 30th, 2025**. Those attending the supper are asked to meet in the Sanctuary at **4:45 pm** for an Advent Reflective time including a video. At **5:00 pm**, the ticket numbers will be called numerically for dismissal to go down to the Fellowship Hall for the Scandinavian Smorgasbord. The menu will feature: ham, Swedish meatballs, lutefisk, sauces, potatoes, corn, red cabbage, salad bar, and many delicious desserts (several are Scandinavian). There will be something for everyone! Tickets will go on sale on **Sunday, November 9th for \$15.00 (10 years – adults)**, children under 10 years will eat **free**. You will notice on the ticket that everyone is to bring a dessert when they come that evening. We invite everyone to join us for this festive event and guests are welcome! If you would like a delivery, call Pat Friedrichsen 712-229-3164.



**Coffee Servers Needed:** Volunteers are needed to provide snacks this month. Snack providers also provide a container of juice and make coffee for Coffee Hours after the service. We have been making 1 and ½ gallons of coffee each week in the Bunn coffee makers in the basement kitchen. Sign up sheets are located in the Narthex. Thanks to all who provide and help out with this activity!



Pastor Chuck Wolff rededicating the stained glass window for the Saturday service as the closing on October 4<sup>th</sup>.

Confirmands Brayden Schoenfeld, Bode Timmerman, and Ashton Beazley after service on September 14<sup>th</sup>.



### Evangelism In Action

Our annual **October Fall Festival** was held on **Halloween, Friday, October 31st from 5:00- 6:30 pm.** We served a variety of pizzas, veggies, a choice of Halloween desserts, and drinks. We delivered 25 meals, had 15 carry outs, and served 120 guests at church, with a total of 160. It was wonderful to see lots of new faces and families, who were dressed in costume, join us while they were out Trick or Treating! The photo op area was busy for them to have their pictures taken which Lynette texted to them. With the current shortage of food; Papa's Pantry and the HyVee baked goods were a welcomed sight for our guests. Thanks to many of our members, a large donation from Farm Bureau, and HyVee who donated a cart full of groceries; we had 5 tables of food available for them to take home with them! The Caring Closet was also a popular spot for them to take things that they needed with them. The children were able to view two 5 minute YouTube Christian, pumpkin videos that were shown on the big screen TV. Don T. and others visited with our guests and invited them to come to church and handed them our BLC trifold to take home. This was a wonderful opportunity for our Bethlehem family to reach out to our community and let them know that God loves them and so do we! God's Work Our Hands! \*Notice the pictures below that were taken before the meal.

Please remember to donate to Papa's Pantry, as many are looking to us for assistance. Their concern and need is great right now!! If you are out shopping consider donating some items: cereal, pasta sauce, peanut butter, jelly, juices, pickles, Hamburger Helper, soups, canned spaghetti, snack crackers, pudding mixes, cake mixes, frosting, pickles, ketchup, mustard, canned veggies or fruit, or anything you choose. The container is in the Narthex, so you can place your items in the container or in Classroom B downstairs. HyVee is also offering a sack of preselected groceries for \$5 or \$10 for you to purchase. You can bring it to the church, or tell them to deliver it to Bethlehem Church, which they will gladly do at your request. It is important that you not bring any perishable food and check the dates on each item, so that it is not close dated or out of date! Those who are attending our meals are very grateful for the tables full of food items ready to take with them each month!

Our **November Welcome Plate Meal** will be held on **Saturday, November 22nd from Noon-1:00 pm.** Devotions will be held at **11:45 am.** We will be serving turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, cranberry sauce, a variety of desserts, and drinks. Many hands will be needed to help serve the large crowd that is expected, so please consider helping us in the kitchen! Of course, there will be many who will be taking food from Papa's Pantry, so we pray that your donations will continue. We urge you to invite your friends and neighbors to attend. Come and join us in welcoming our guests and showing them the Love of the Lord! Invite them to come to church. We are so blessed, so let's be a blessing to them! For many this is the only Thanksgiving meal they will have!!

If you'd like to join our committee, we meet on the in the Library. We'd love to have additional members who would like to become involved in the events that we plan each month.

# Fall Festival





## November Volunteers & Sponsors

### Sunday Lectors:

Nov 2: Todd Anderson  
Nov 9: Todd Anderson  
Nov 16: Chris Nelson  
Nov 23: Todd Anderson  
Nov 30: Chris Nelson

### Altar Flowers:

Nov 2: Kip Nelson  
Nov 9: Terry & Lou Graybill  
Nov 16: Joanne Burgeson  
Nov 23: Caryl Lee Cline  
Nov 30:

### Bethlehem On the Air:

Nov 2: Todd & Sheila Anderson  
Nov 9:  
Nov 16:  
Nov 23: Linzi Bierman  
Nov 30:

### Mission Support:

Nov 2: Bob & Mary Hahn  
Nov 9:  
Nov 16: Lynn & Pat Friedrichsen  
Nov 23: WELCA  
Nov 30: Gary & Lynde Lundquist

### World Hunger:

Nov 2:  
Nov 9:  
Nov 16: WELCA  
Nov 23:  
Nov 30:

### Pulpit Supply:

Nov 1/2: Don Tisthammer  
Nov 8/9: Sarah Morphew  
Nov 15/16: Don Tisthammer  
Nov 22/23: Deb Mechler  
Nov 29/30: Jim Mohn



**November 2025 MEETING DATES:**

Executive Board Meeting- November 2- After the church service in the library.

**Anna** Group- November 12, 9:30 in the library, Mary Larson hostess

**Vashti/Esther** Group- November 12, 1:30 in the library, Marlin Saeger hostess

**Lydia** Group- November 11, 4:00 in the Fellowship Hall, Marlys Segar, hostess

**All are welcome at our group meetings. We'd love to have more fellow Christians participate.**

**Quilting- November 19, 2025** 9:00, Church Basement- We have lots of fabric that has been donated. Please let us know if you'd like to sew quilt tops or bottoms for us. Thanks to all who have done this for years. We gave two quilts to Sandy Taylor's children- Jessica and Tony- because she was a great servant at our quilt day and Welcome Plate. We all miss her! Lynette

**"Gather" Bible Study**- Fall magazine- Session Two- Money, stewardship, and generosity.

**Personal/Health Kits** - Please help us make some personal/health kits. Bath towel- dark in color and 2 bath size bars of soap, fingernail clippers, comb, and a toothbrush.

**School Kits**- Backpack, notebooks, ruler, eraser, unsharpened, pencils, pens, scissors, crayons, pencil sharpener

**Baby Kits**- Socks, gowns, sweater or jacket, cloth diapers, diaper pins, receiving blankets, towels, T-shirts, soap. Watch for sales! Thanks to Lori Thomas for putting together many kits!

**Thanks to all who helped at the Welcome Plate in October.** If you'd like to help in the kitchen in October, please contact Pat Friedrichsen. We are all God's Hands and Feet! Let's help our neighbors in need. If you'd like to help in the Caring Clothing Closet, please contact Lynette Hyndman. We will take excess clothing to New To You on October 29 and two times in November.

**Circles Combine**- We may have a December meeting for all WELCA members and guests. It was fun to get together in September. Plans will be announced.



Give thanks to God for all of our blessings!

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church**  
**Cherokee, Iowa**

**MEETING:** **Church Council Meeting**  
**DATE/TIME:** **Thursday, Oct 9, 2025**  
**MEMBERS PRESENT:** **Kevin Tapper, Kelley Clausen, Terry Janssen, Bruce Jones, Allen Campbell, Simon Fuller**  
**MEMBERS ABSENT:** **Kaleb Sleezer, Karen Ferris, Mike Niemeier**  
**OTHERS PRESENT:** **None**  
**OTHERS ABSENT:** **None**  
**GUESTS PRESENT:** **None**  
**PRESIDING:** **Kevin Tapper**  
**RECORDING:** **Linzi Bierman**

<b><u>AGENDA</u></b>	<b><u>DISCUSSION</u></b>	<b><u>RESPONSIBILITY</u></b>
<b>Call to Order</b>	Meeting called to order by Chairperson Kevin Tapper at 6:30 pm	
<b>Approve Agenda</b>	Motion to approve agenda by Terry, second by Allen: motion carried	
<b>Devotions</b>	Devotions by Bruce based on Romans 8:28, God works for the good of those who love Him. Sometimes we might question why God allows suffering and struggles to exist. It's important to remember that suffering and evil exist because of choices humans make, but all good comes to us through God who can use suffering to create good.	Devotions for Nov by Allen.
<b>Secretary's Report</b>	Minutes approved electronically	Council members to text approval or email approval to Linzi
<b>Financial Report</b>	Report through 9/30- 75% of year. September Operating Revenue: \$12,387.90, Operating Expenses: \$12,215.10, Net of \$172.80. YTD Operating Revenue: \$142,505.56 (57% of budget), Operating Expenses: \$114,119.93 (46% of budget), Net YTD: \$26,711.63. Change in Misc. income, offering from Lenton Services was in Misc income instead of pledge, was transferred. Motion to approve financial report by Allen, second by Kelley; motion carried.	
<b><u>Correspondence</u></b>	<b>-Received from:</b> ELCA World Hunger Donation request, Information about Sanford Museum's Festival of Trees	
<b><u>Old Business</u></b>	<b>Synod/Pastor</b> – Kevin met with new Bishop who said he will personally work on getting a pastor for Bethlehem. Kevin felt more positive after this conversation than he has in the last two years. Attorney looked over the constitution, agreed with the synod's lawyer that the synod cannot just take control of the church's physical property or assets. The concern of the Council was to look into members' concerns regarding the risk of losing the church's autonomy, property, and other assets to the synod. Council has done due diligence in gathering facts and now it is time to move on. While there are still concerns of how to grow the church, other churches are also struggling, not just Bethlehem or ELCA churches.	

<p><b><u>New Business</u></b></p>	<p>Denomination identification- Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian- not as important to younger generation. It's time to go forward and give the new bishop a chance to get a pastor for Bethlehem. Kevin will keep after him.</p> <p><b>Property</b> – Todd Anderson will get the windows in the kitchen and youth room installed. Future improvement needs will include cement in east lot and Fellowship Hall floors.</p> <p><b>Door cards</b> – Forms were created for card key access, have had a few filled out already. Still unsure when the card readers will be installed and ready to go.</p> <p><b>Banners</b> – Council could use more room in Communion Room at front of sanctuary. Right now the banners are in there, space is cramped, hard to go through the banners as well. Banners should be moved to a Sunday School room so they can be spread out and gone through easily. Currently no committee, Lynette over-sees with help from volunteers, it's sometimes hard to find volunteers. Get a committee put together to assist Lynette.</p> <p><b>Oct 19 – Baptism</b> Chuck Wolff will do the baptism of Cash Sleezer on Oct 19<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p><b>Fall Festival</b> – 38-39 pizzas total will be ordered, Kevin will pay for some of them, looking for volunteers to help pay for them. approximately \$600-700 total for the pizzas. Fall Festival will be on Halloween night.</p> <p><b>Scholarship Committee</b> – Donna has resigned from Scholarship Committee. Dave Hickman used to be on committee also. Kevin will talk to Jim about getting a new committee together.</p>	
<p><b><u>Committee Reports</u></b></p>	<p><b>Christian Ed</b> –</p> <p><b>Evangelism/Social Ministry/Missions</b> – Welcome Plate for October on Halloween, 5-6:30 pm. Pizza, Monster Cookies, drinks. Advent Supper will be on Nov 30, start selling tickets on Nov 9. Selling 100 tickets. Could use help with the supper. There will be a wedding next August. Free Laundry Day was pushed back until spring. Discussed how to invite old members back with cards.</p> <p><b>Worship &amp; Music</b> –</p> <p><b>Finance</b> – Decided yes, do need a fund drive for future capital improvement projects. Not necessary at this time, but after we receive bids for concrete and the Fellowship Hall floor.</p> <p><b>Gifts &amp; Donations Committee</b> –</p> <p><b>Property</b> –</p> <p><b>Stewardship</b> –</p> <p><b>Spiritual Formation</b> –</p>	
<p><b><u>Pulpit Supply</u></b></p>	<p><b>Nov 1/2-</b> Don Tisthammer  <b>Nov 8/9-</b> Sarah Morphew  <b>Nov 15/16-</b> Don Tisthammer  <b>Nov 22/23-</b> Deb Mechler</p>	



# Welcome Plate

Free Community Meal



*Everyone is welcome!*

Saturday, November 22 • 12:00-1:00 pm

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

300 E Bow Drive (lower level)\*

\*Handicapped Accessibility Available

Food Pantry and Clothing Closet  
will be open during this time

