NOVEMBER 2026

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Buffalo Center, IA 50424

Oh, Bethlehem!

Faith, hope, and love make us available for our neighbors near and far

GREETERS & USHERS

NOVEMBER

*1 Julie Weaver, Colin Weaver, and Tanner Weaver Family
*8 Lily Pentico Family and Elsa Jacobs Family
15 Mary & Rande Giesking and Colson Wubben Family
22 Amelia Price Family and Derek Olson Family
29 Kyle Frerichs Family and Dana & Katy Greensky

DECEMBER

*6 Mariah Roth Family and Tessa Holland Family
*13 Elsa Adams Family and Tracy & Jodi Adams
20 Brian Blodgett Family & Thomas Blodgett Family
*24 Brayden Berggren Family and Logan Willmert Family
27 Julian Ernster Family and Harley & Lynn Hassebroek



Birthdays for the month of November:

1– Wyatt Bosma
1– Wyatt Olson
2 - Adler Jacobs
2 - Clare Jacobs
2 - Tanner Weaver
3 - Ryder Paul
3 - Mackenzie Willmert
4 - Patricia Hassebroek
4 - Charlie Schaefer
5 - Rande Giesking
7 - Megan Holland
7– Carolyn Ostrander-Bartz
8 - Khloe Wubben
9 - Nicole Baumann
10 - Bill Becker
10 - Randy Melz
11 - Berneice Maass
12 - Julie Weaver
13 - Karen Buss
14 - Kenton Kemnitz
15 - Avery Hartman
15 - Tenley Hartman
19 - Lydia Boekelman
21 - Tessa Holland
22 - Connie Hanson-Hullstrom
23 - Amelia Price
25 - Shirley Hagenson
25 - Glenda Sapp
26 - Renae Sachs
30 - Harley Hassebroek

Please let me know if I'm missing anyone's birthday!

Prayers for our Members & Friends

Curtis Vaudt
Brian Bashans
Linda Abels
Dean Swenson
Dee Murra
Nicky Shackleton
Dawn Jensvold
Virginia Cooper
Penny Mitchell
Monica Tyler
Ruth Noren
Susan Jensen
Doug Hofbauer
Randy Holstad
Dave Kakacek
Mark Beenken
Carolyn Bartz
Karen Buss
Deloris Steffensen
Claire Rustemier-Hinz
Emmagene Silber
Joy Albert
Harlan Melz
Leroy Weaver
Frances Ostermann
Delores Griffin
Marge Becker
Jason Christensen
Harvey Rossmiller
Berneice & DeWayne Maass
Nancy Scalisi

Abram Neumann - Iglutheca

We have a few options for giving here at Bethlehem. If you are a Thrivent member, you can direct your dollars to the church. We also have a very easy and simple way with our online giving. This QR code will access our website and take you to the Vanco giving page. Thank you!

CALENDAR of EVENTS

Please see the monthly calendar on **page 9** for all church activities this month.

Annual Turkey Dinner
Sunday, November 22
11:00 am - 12:30 pm

FOOD BANK NEEDS for November:

Chunky soup
Ketchup
Syrup

Please drop off donations in the church narthex or the BC Library. Thanks!





The Apostles' Creed, Article Two

And I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our LORD, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. On the third day he rose [again]; he ascended into heaven, seated at the right hand of God, the almighty Father, from where he will come to judge the living and the dead.

What is this? Answer:

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father in eternity, and also a true human being, born of the Virgin Mary, is my LORD. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned human being. He has purchased and freed me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death. He has done all this in order that I may belong to him, live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he is risen from the dead and lives and rules eternally. This is most certainly true.

The second article that we confess in the Apostles' Creed deals with what we believe about Jesus. Jesus is the son of God, born of a virgin. And that is important as the explanation goes on to describe what Jesus did for sinners. Jesus HAD to be the perfect spotless Lamb, otherwise the cross is of no avail. Sinners cannot give their life to atone for the sin of others. In the Old Testament, sheep were sacrificed for the forgiveness of sins, but that had to be done often. Jesus, the Lamb of God, the Son of God, born of a virgin, did not receive the sin you and I receive through birth. And because of who Jesus is, perfect and holy, the cross became the final sacrifice for sins, your sins. To remove the fact that Jesus is true human and true God is to remove any hope of eternal life with God. And so, when you confess this creed, confess with confidence and hope that what Jesus did on the cross for you is done, once and for all, for the forgiveness of your sins and thus eternal life.

Confirmation Class News

By the time you read this, we will have just finished our unit on the Apostles' Creed. There is more that can be said about the Creed, but there is also more to teach and thus there are just not enough Wednesdays in the year. Coming up in the schedule, we will spend three weeks studying some Old Testament texts: Isaiah 6, the holiness of God; Genesis 11, the tower of Babel and what it means for God to make a name for you; and Psalm 23, the Gospel clearly proclaimed in the Old Testament. Also coming up are some community service opportunities for the kids. They will either help with the Neighborhood Table (a free meal in Buffalo Center) in Nov or Dec, or they will help with the Tour of Lights in Dec. The year has been going very well. Thank you for all your prayers.



Confirmation was on Reformation Sunday, October 25
Row 1: Aurora Pentico, Khloe Wubben, Leighton Lawson, Wyatt Olson
Row 2: Henry Schaefer, Jackson Holland, Beckett Jensen, Pastor Eric Hullstrom
Not present: Lillian Winter
Congratulations!

Angel in my Pocket Campaign

A pocket angel was found in our noisy offering. This spurred us on to ask for a little more from pockets. Can you give a little more these next few months for our general offering?
Our goal: $12,000
Collected to Date: $2,873

Jen's Mission Trip to Costa Rica. See her Evangelism Report on page 4.









Sunday school kids singing on October 18.

Council Committee Reports

WORSHIP

A report of the worship committee is included in the church council minutes for you to read about what we are making plans for or considering. Reach out with any comment or ask questions if there is something you may be wondering about. As we approach the year end we look forward to All Saints Sunday, Hanging of the Greens, Thanksgiving Eve Service plus all the Christmas services surrounding the celebration of our Lord's birth.

But what is worship? What does it mean to you personally? Is it the gathering of friends, neighbors and family once a week? Is it the music with words that inspire? Is it anticipation of the Bible readings and the message that Pastor Eric gives us about what was read? Or, as it is for me, is it simply all of the above. When we worship together it is never known ahead of time what those moments will bring. It may be a hug or handshake and a smile that sets a mood of relaxation after a hectic morning. It may be a song that is new and unknown, but the words are exactly what you needed to hear on that particular day. It may be the sound of a crying baby that freaks out the parents but brings joy to other's hearts as they remember 'those' days.

Whatever worship is for you just know that it is a guarantee to be unique each time you enter the sanctuary as you are in a different place on a different day with different things going on in your mind and heart. Whatever worship means to you, know that regularly attending church on Sunday mornings may not be mandatory to being allowed into heaven, but it sure is a great lamp unto my feet and light unto my path for us all.

Darla

EVANGELISM

Hello. There is so much going on in the form of Evangelism around our community with Bethlehem playing active roles. You can see it in 1G, The Fifth Quarter, Men's and Women's Bible study, Moms2Moms, our Confirmation and SS programs, Community meals, drive thru Suppers and so much more. Do you see it?

Just a hello and holding out your hand to welcome a fellow member or a new face each Sunday is indeed Evangelism. I thank each and everyone of you for making Bethlehem a place to BE and to BE a part of.

What's new??? We now have Jumpstart with Jess! It's great to see our building being utilized for exercise and fellowship and fun! Jess is great and a wonderful health coach. Please checkout her FB page and look for her next class!

Would you be interested in a short series Bible study? I would like to start a study of Advent. It would begin after Thanksgiving and take us up to Christmas. If this interests you or you want more information please get ahold of me. I am interested in what works for others and making it a meaningful and relaxing time to get us ready for Jesus. Please call or text me. (641-430-2416)

Finally, I know some of you have wanted to see a bit of my Evangelism experience from my mission trip last March to Costa Rica. It was truly the trip of a lifetime and truly a blessing from God. We did 12 days of painting the whole main floor interior of the mission center itself, minus the kitchen, which needed a new face lift. Another part of our crew went out and did major renovation to a women's home in one of the neighborhoods.

Lots of hard work there! We also packed up 26 boxes of groceries which we also shopped for, and delivered to very, very needy families. A couple of the days we met with children at the center for an afternoon of crafts, reading and singing. They each received a new t-shirt and a new storybook. I spent 12 days with a crew of 17 people that I'd never been with before. We left there with a new family and a new found common ground of what it means to serve God and each other in different settings.

I want to say "Thank You" to you, my church family for making this happen for me. God truly provided this opportunity for me and I am blessed!

How about you? How about us? If doing something like this would interest you, let's find a mission to work and spread God's Joy! The LCMC has many mission opportunities and I know we could find the right fit for our church. Think about it!

Thanks and God Bless You,
Jennifer McGrady



Church Council Minutes
October 12, 2026
Meeting Room
Faith, hope, and love make us available for our neighbors near and far.

Members present: Darla Thompson, Amy Walk, Jen McGrady, Megan Holland, Kim Ostermann, Pastor Eric
Absent: Derek Thilges, Larry Lawson, Katie Mathahs, Thomas Blodgett, Susan Jensen
The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm
Pastor Eric started the meeting with devotions.

President's Report

We want to keep this in the forefront when we review the strategic plan. Create a work group for assisting wih the upkeep of the church property – especially with property/landscaping upkeep. Ex. Weeds, dirty downspouts, etc.

Secretary's Report

September 2026 minutes were approved via email. Motion to approve by Katie; seconded by Jen.

We will record minutes for the Congregational Meeting on October 18 regarding Pastor Eric serving the Bread of Life Lutheran Church in Blue Earth as worship leader.

Treasurer's Report

- Savings Account: $100.01
- Checking Account: $3,686.06
- Youth: $2,714.04
- Line of Credit: $11,900.00
- Special Projects Account: $13,644.28
- Motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Megan, seconded by Amy; motion carried.
- We would like to do a quick report at the congregational meeting about our financial situation.

Committee Reports

Technology

- Anyone interested in helping with service technology can contact Thomas Blodgett.
- We are planning to move forward with an update to the church website.

Property

- We have some cost estimates for church window replacement.
  We plan to apply for a Grant with Worth County Development Authority which opens again January 1st.
  Please contact anyone on the council if you are aware of other grant opportunities.
- Dave Alphs was checking into fixing a dripping water main in the church.
- The rear AC unit in the sanctuary was leaking. Pastor turned it off and Larry will check into it.
- The parsonage basement repairs are being planned for this fall.
- Larry checked into replacement windows for one of the parsonage bedrooms. The current ones are newer replacement windows where the old window sash only was removed and a replacement put in its place.
  All the old frames stay in place, including the old windowsill outside. New construction windows take everything out and start from rough framing. It's a lot more work but 10 times better. Each window from DeVries Lumber costs $500. This does not include inside and outside trim.

Worship

- Sunday School kids will sing regularly during worship beginning October 18.
- Confirmation takes place on October 25th. Cake and flowers will be ordered, and information needed for their slide presentations has been discussed with the kids already. This is also Reformation Sunday.
- All Saints Sunday is November 1st and our group went to the sanctuary and made decisions on best arrangement for the candle cross, lowered doves, Christ candle and baptismal font (Briar Blodgett) which will be moved aside by the ushers after offering since communion will also take place.
- The next worship committee meeting will be October 20th @ 8:30 a.m.
- Communion helpers for Confirmation Sunday & for November:
  October 25th – Confirmation Sunday (need three): Amy, Katie, Jen (two stations of both bread & wine)
  November 1st (continuous): Megan, Amy
  November 8th (at the rail): Darla

Stewardship

- The next community meal is October 18th at the Heritage Town Center from 4:00-6:00pm. The plan is to continue these on November 15, and December 20.
- The Drive-thru Soup Supper sold OUT on October 11. THANK YOU to Kelsey, Cassie, Megan and Amy for all their planning and preparations! We raised $2,600.
- Apple Harvest Fundraiser. We plan to make apple pies and apple crisps on October 30 & 31 from 9:00 - 11:00 and 1:00-3:00. Pickup will be on Sunday, November 1 from 11:00-1:00.
- We are planning for the Turkey Dinner again this year on November 22. More details to come.

Education

- Sunday School will be singing during worship service on October 18. This will typically be on the third Sunday of the month.
- The Sunday School Christmas program is in the works for December 20 during worship. We hope to have a pancake breakfast again following the program.

Fellowship

- Fellowship time continues in the social hall – Sunday School serves Nov. 8, Council serves Nov. 15.
- If anyone has any feedback on the work groups or has had communication with anyone who would like to be added, please let Katie know or any of the work group co-chairs.

Evangelism

- Bethlehem is providing the 1G meal on October 14. Everything is set.

Pastor's Report

- **Education**

1G continues with very consistent attendance – about thirty kids (K-5) attending. A special thanks to Mackenzie Willmert for assisting Cassie and Pastor Eric in leading the games. She's doing a great job!

Confirmation is off to a great start.
The 5th & 6th grade boys Sunday School class is studying the book of Genesis.
Women's Bible Study continues October 13, and Men's Fellowship meets October 17.

- **Worship**

Teddie Mathahs was baptized on September 20. Briar Blodgett's baptism is scheduled for November 1.

- **Ministerial Association**

The Ministerial Association meets Wednesday, October 14 at the Congregational Church. We will start planning for Thanksgiving Eve worship service.

- **LCMC**

The LCMC Annual Gathering was a great experience. The theme this year focused on the first of LCMC's core values: Free in Christ. 894 people attended.
The district will have a leadership event in February.

- **Other items to note:**

Bethlehem is planning to participate with North Iowa Betterment "Treats on the Streets."

Office Report:

- Susan will be in the office on Monday, October 26 to finish up the newsletter so all items NEED to be submitted NO LATER than 9:00am on the 26th. Worship and Evangelism are up for reports.
- Microsoft retired Publisher as of Oct. 1 so Susan is having to learn a new program to create bulletins and newsletters. She found one called Affinity Publisher that works well and is free (as of now.)

New Business:

We intend to be forthcoming in where our monthly mission dollars go and will announce this to the congregation. The intent is to allow others to give to the same mission if their heart leads them to do so. Our regular rotation will be **LCMC, global, local. October Mission is LCMC** - $200 to district & $200 to national. **November Mission is global - Convoy of Hope.** Motion made by Megan, seconded by Jen; approved.

Motion to adjourn made by Amy, seconded by Megan; motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:55pm.

The next council meeting is Monday, November 9, at 6:00. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Congregational Meeting Minutes October 18, 2026 Church Sanctuary

The meeting was called to order at 10:36am by President Derek Thilges.
The purpose of the meeting was informational regarding pastor share with Bread of Life Lutheran Church at Blue Earth, MN. Pastor Eric shared that he has been approached by Bread of Life in regard to having him serve them as a worship pastor. He had previously been called by them for pulpit supply on Thursday evenings. This is a new plant LCMC church that will probably be officially recognized as an LCMC church in January. They will now be meeting on Saturdays at 5:00pm. The Blue Earth Ag Center will be their new location for their worship. This will currently be a six month agreement. A review will follow in March or April to assess how things are going and how to proceed. Pastor Eric emphasized that his call is with Bethlehem Lutheran.
The meeting adjourned at 10:46am. Pastor Eric shared a prayer followed by The Lord's Prayer.

PROJECT or EXPENSE ITEM	Projected Cost
Bible Camp Scholarships	$50--$100
Bibles for 3rd Graders	$30/student
Confirmation Retreat Sponsorship	variable
Contemporary Music	$20 average
Cradle Roll	$100 per child
Landscape upkeep around church	variable
Scholarships for Bethlehem HS Graduates	$200 per student
Sponsor a church member Movie Event	$100 theater rent
Sponsor Youth Fellowship Event	variable
Sunday School Curriculum	$120/year
Sunday School Supplies	variable
Technology needs	variable
Baseboard heater in kitchen bathroom	$800
Church windows update-clear windows only	$52,000
Labor for window installation	$50,000?
Parsonage windows update	$8,000--$9,000
Labor for window installation	??

Make a Difference Campaign

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council has come up with a wish list of items that would be beneficial to our church. If you are interested in giving to any of these projects, please reach out to anyone on the church council. You can also let us know if there is a project or item of repair that you think we should include on this list. We very much appreciate your continued regular offering. The items on this list could potentially go over and above to make a difference in our church life. Maybe something is near and dear to your heart, and you would like to give a little extra at one point or another during the year. Thank you for considering any of these items.



North Iowa Food for Families is open on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month, at the United Methodist Church in Buffalo Center, from 3:00 to 5:00 pm. They are looking for volunteers. If you would like to help, please contact Amy Walk at 641-590-5845. They need help on Monday mornings to bring food in and on Monday afternoons to help distribute food. Thanks!

Fellowship Rotation Schedule:

Nov 1 - Work Group #3

Nov 8 - Sunday School

Nov 15 - Church Council

Nov 22 - Work Group #1

Nov 29 - Work Group #2

General Fund Giving (NOT including fundraisers) As of 10.27.26

YTD Actual: $114,315

YTD Budget: $129,965

YTD Deficit: -$15,650

General Checking Balance: $6,780

Project Savings Balance: $13,644

General Savings Balance: $100

Amount Borrowed on Bank Loan: $0!

Bethlehem Lutheran - NOVEMBER 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Worship with Baptism at 9:30 am All Saints' Sunday SS at 10:45 am	2 Jumpstart with Jess, 7:00 pm	3 Bible Study with Pastor, 2:00 pm Scouts Meeting, 6:00 pm	4 Confirmation - 6:45 pm snacks, 7:15 class	5 Jumpstart with Jess, 7:00 pm	6	7
8 Worship with Communion at 9:30 am SS at 10:45 am	9 Church Council Meeting, 6:00 pm Jumpstart with Jess, 7:00 pm	10 Quilting, 1:00 pm	11 Community Bible Study, 10:00 am Confirmation - 6:45 pm snacks, 7:15 class	12 Jumpstart with Jess, 7:00 pm	13	14 LCMC District Gathering, Story City
15 Worship at 9:30 am, Communion, SS Kids Sing SS at 10:45 am	16 MOMS2MOMS, 3:30-5:00 pm Jumpstart with Jess, 7:00 pm	17 Worship Committee Meeting, 8:30 am Scouts, 6:00 pm	18 Community Bible Study, 10:00 am Confirmation - 6:45 pm snacks, 7:15 class	19 Jumpstart with Jess, 7:00 pm	20	21 Men's Bible Study, Fellowship Hall, 7:00 am
22 Worship with Baptism SS at 10:45 am Annual Turkey Dinner, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm	23 Jumpstart with Jess, 7:00 pm	24 Quilting, 1:00 pm	25 Community Bible Study, 10:00 am Thanksgiving Eve worship at 7:00 pm, First Reformed Church	26 Thanksgiving	27	28
29 Hanging of the Greens worship at 9:30 am SS at 10:45 am Worship at TMNH, 1:30 pm	30 MOMS2MOMS, 3:30-5:00 pm Jumpstart with Jess, 7:00 pm	**SAVE THE DATE!** **Dec 6 - Buffalo Center Tour of Lights** **Dec 20 - Sunday School Christmas Program during worship, 9:30 am** **Pancake Breakfast to follow**				

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
201 4th St. NE
P.O. Box 385
Buffalo Center, IA 50424

Phone
641-562-2552 — office
641-562-2553 — Pastor Eric

Our 2026 Church Council

Derek Thilges - President
Darla Thompson - Vice President
Thomas Blodgett - Treasurer/Technology
Kim Ostermann - Secretary
Amy Walk - Stewardship
Megan Holland - Education
Jen McGrady - Evangelism
Katie Mathahs - Fellowship
Darla Thompson - Worship
Larry Lawson - Property

If you have any questions or concerns, you may contact Derek at 641-430-3903.

We're on the web!
https://bethlehemlutheranbc.com

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
And
BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN SUNDAY SCHOOL

Please feel free to reach out to us.

If you have any questions or need assistance, don't hesitate to ask. Our church community is here to support you.

Our Mission Statement:

Faith, hope, and love make us available to our neighbors near and far.

