

# *The Star*

Newsletter of Bethlehem Lutheran Church



*Through God's abundant love we invite, welcome, and serve as a light in the world.*

## **Worship Services**

Sundays at 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.

Sunday School (ages 3–18) at 9:15 a.m.



*First Sunday of Advent is November 26*

### **Bethlehem Staff**

**Pastor Katie Chullino** - [pastor@bethlehem-lutheran.net](mailto:pastor@bethlehem-lutheran.net)

**Nancy Tiff**, Hospitality Coordinator - [nancy@bethlehem-lutheran.net](mailto:nancy@bethlehem-lutheran.net)

**Gary Knutson**, Faith Formation Director - [faithformation@bethlehem-lutheran.net](mailto:faithformation@bethlehem-lutheran.net)

**Karen Haag**, Bookkeeper - [bookkeeper@bethlehem-lutheran.net](mailto:bookkeeper@bethlehem-lutheran.net)

**Tiffany Beisner**, Office Administrator - [admin@bethlehem-lutheran.net](mailto:admin@bethlehem-lutheran.net)

**Aaron Jurkovich**, Webmaster - [webmaster@bethlehem-lutheran.net](mailto:webmaster@bethlehem-lutheran.net)

**Amanda Bueschen**, Director of Cornerstone Preschool - [cornerstone\\_director@bethlehem-lutheran.net](mailto:cornerstone_director@bethlehem-lutheran.net)

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Happy All Saints' Day!

November 1 is the traditional celebration of the saints. Aligning with other holidays, this one is meant as a day of remembrance and thanksgiving. But this holiday also begs the questions, "Who are the saints? Are they only the best of Christians? Are they all dead? Are they all Catholic? Are we supposed to pray to them or for them?"

During my internship, I asked during a children's sermon, "What is a saint?" A seven-year-old boy answered, "Someone who is, um, by God?" That's about the best answer I've heard.

A saint is a person who is hallowed (a less frequently used word for holy). You probably recognize different saints like Catherine of Siena, Anthony of Padua, Teresa of Avila. Those are people who were made saints through a process in the Roman Catholic Church (RCC). Throughout time, Christians of various denominations have prayed to saints, traveled to see and touch relics, and revered those canonized as saints as the holiest of Christians. For modern day Lutherans, sainthood is something different. A saint is still a person who is holy but that person does not go through a process in the church to be considered a holy. Martin Luther wrote in the Large Catechism:

*At whatever time God's Word is taught, preached, heard, read, or pondered, there the person, the day, and the work is hallowed, not on account of the external work but on account of the Word that makes us all saints.*

A saint is made holy by God's Word at work in their life. And, that makes us all saints. We are all by God. Whether we feel holy or not, whether we do the deeds of Mother Theresa, whether we perform miracles of healing, and whether we really want to be or not, God works through the gospel to call us saints.

As we wind down from the Reformation take time to ponder:

*How has God made you holy? For what has God made you holy?*

Peace,

Rev KJC

## **November 5** – All Saints' Sunday, Jazz Service

All Saints celebrates the people of God, living and dead, who are the body of Christ. As November heralds the dying of the landscape in many northern regions, the readings and liturgy call us to remember all who have died in Christ and whose baptism is complete. At the Lord's table we gather with the faithful of every time and place, trusting that the promises of God will be fulfilled and that all tears will be wiped away in the new Jerusalem.

**Readings:** Revelation 7:9–17;  
1 John 3:1–3;

## **November 12**

Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the lamb.

**Readings:** Amos 5:18–24;  
Matthew 25:1–13

## **November 19**

Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us. **Readings:** 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11, Matthew 25:14–30

## **November 26** – Advent 1: Hope We acknowledge our weariness

As Advent begins, we start by acknowledging the weariness, grief, rage, and hopelessness we carry—and we also affirm that we are made for joy. Joy is designed to live in a full house of other emotions. We start the season with Zechariah and Elizabeth; they have battled infertility and have lived many years steadfast in their faith. Perhaps they feel the weight of hopes and dreams unattained. The angel comes to Zechariah with a promise of good news, but Zechariah can't fully receive it, and he is cast into silence for the duration of Elizabeth's pregnancy. Sometimes weariness can harden us and prevent us from living fully. We've had hard journeys. Grief has left a scar on us. This is how we show up to Advent. Let us acknowledge the ways we, too, are hardened by disbelief. Like the psalmist, let us ask, "how long?" and plead for restoration. In this weary world, may we find many ways to rejoice. **Readings:** Psalm 80:1–7, 17–19; Luke 1:1–23

## **December 3** – Advent 2: Peace We find joy in connection

In community, our joy expands. When we can't rejoice, we can carry each other's joy. That is what Elizabeth and Mary do for each other. The good news begins to take shape in Elizabeth's womb, but scripture tells us that she stays secluded, hiding her pregnancy from others—that is, until Mary arrives at her door, also pregnant. Perhaps Mary's arrival is the inbreaking that changes everything for Elizabeth, for in that moment, her child leaps in her womb and she is filled with the Spirit. She can't help but to rejoice. Her joy is contagious and wraps around Mary like a hug. Through the prophet Isaiah, we hear God speak tender words of comfort; this is the comfort we can give to and receive from each other during this season. In this weary world, may we find many ways to rejoice. **Readings:** Isaiah 40:1–11; Luke 1:24–45





### From the desk of the Faith Formation Director Gary:

Romans 15:7 states, "Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God."

How does God welcome us? With open arms and invites us into an amazing incarnational relationship. How do we invite people to be with us in our Faith Journey? We ask them to come and participate in events at BLC! Jesus welcomed everyone from all walks of life, be the olive branch for someone you know.

**God's Peace and Love!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

This year's theme at BLC is WELCOMING!!!

**Children Sunday School** continues to meet at 9:15 a.m. for ages 3 to 18 years old. We gather in the south end Sunday school room for a story, craft and prayer time. **Schedule:** November 5, 12, and 19.

**Confirmation 2023–24** will meet in the Youth Room at 11:45 a.m. for lunch followed by classroom time and ending around 2:00 p.m. We will be learning about Old and New Testament from the bible. **Schedule:** November 13 and 19.

The **Ministry Calendar of Events** for the 2023– 2024 year will be located in the narthex on the west wall. See it for information of dates and times.

**Trunk or Treat** was a huge success this year! Thank you to the 19 cars who provided trunks and to all who donated candy. We had over 113 kids come through and trick or treat! A **huge thank you** to Todd Bischoff for bringing his telescope to see the galaxy and stars which was in-conjunction with our summer VBS at BLC called STELLAR.



On Sunday, October 29 we celebrated the **Affirmation of Baptism** for 5 youth: Maddie Warren, Jill Updegraff, Hayden Updegraff, Alex Dickhans, and Matt Dickhans. They confirmed their faith on Reformation Sunday during a youth-led service at BLC. All the youth did an outstanding job!

## Fall Recipe

### Pumpkin Chili

#### Ingredients

- 1 tbsp. olive oil
- 1 lb. ground spicy Italian sausage
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 red bell pepper, chopped
- 3 garlic cloves, chopped
- 2 tsp. ground cumin
- 1 1/2 tbsp. chili powder
- 1 tsp. kosher salt, plus more to taste
- 3/4 tsp. ground black pepper
- 1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 2 (15-oz.) cans tomatoes, not drained
- 1 (15-oz.) can kidney beans, drained
- 1 (15-oz.) can black beans, drained
- 1 (15-oz.) can pumpkin puree
- 2 1/2 c. chicken broth

#### Directions

1. In a large Dutch oven, heat the oil over medium heat. Add the sausage and cook, stirring to break into pieces, until browned and cooked through, 8 to 10 minutes. Using a slotted spoon, transfer the sausage to a paper towel-lined plate to drain.
2. Add the onion and bell pepper to the Dutch oven. Cook over medium heat, stirring, until softened, 10 to 12 minutes. Stir in the garlic, cumin, chili powder, salt, black pepper, and cinnamon. Cook, stirring, for 30 seconds.
3. Stir in the tomatoes, kidney beans, black beans, pumpkin puree, chicken broth, and sausage. Bring to a boil over medium-high heat. Reduce the heat to medium-low, cover, and cook, stirring occasionally, until the flavors meld, about 20 minutes.
4. Season with salt and pepper. Serve with pumpkin seeds, sour cream, and cheese

Recipe found at

<https://www.thepioneerwoman.com/food-cooking/recipes/a36973563/pumpkin-chili-recipe/>

## Monthly Events

- Worship Service: Sundays, 8:00 a.m. & 10:15 a.m.
- Sunday School: Sundays, 9:15 a.m.
- Manna Bible Study: Mondays, 9:00 a.m.
- Spanish Group: Mondays, 6:00 p.m.
- Staff Meeting: Mondays, 9:15 a.m.
- Table Talk: Wednesdays, Noon
- Choir: Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m.
- BLC Quilters Group: Thursdays, 9:00 a.m.
- First Friday: Nov. 3, 6:00 p.m.
- All Saints Sunday: Nov. 5
- Mile High Jazz Services: Nov. 5
- Consecration Luncheon: Nov. 5
- Open Prayer: Nov. 8, 10:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
- Book Club: Nov. 9 9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m.
- Kragerud Ordination: Nov. 11, 10:00 a.m.
- 11th Hour Project: Nov. 11, 11:00 a.m.
- Budget Discussion 2: Nov. 12, 9:15 a.m.
- Music Ambassadors: Nov. 12, 11:30 a.m.
- Confirmation Class: Nov. 12, 11:45 a.m.
- Brewsday: Nov. 14, 8:00 a.m.
- Annual Reports Due: Nov. 14
- Naomi Circle: Nov. 14, 9:00 a.m.
- Council Meeting: Nov. 14, 7:00 p.m.
- OUR Center Lunch; Nov. 19, 10:00 a.m.
- Confirmation Class: Nov. 19, 11:45 a.m.
- Prayer Shawl: Nov. 21, 10:00 a.m.
- Land Stewardship : Nov. 21, 5 30 p.m.
- Evangelism Meeting: Nov. 21, 7:00 p.m.
- Open Prayer: Nov. 22, 10:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
- Thanksgiving: Nov. 23
- Office Closed: Nov. 24
- Advent Begins: Nov. 26
- Immigration Focus Group: Nov. 28, 7:00 p.m.
- Advent Dinner: Nov. 29, 5:30 p.m.
- Holden Evening Prayer: Nov. 29, 6:30 p.m.,
- Advent Family Time: Nov. 29, 7:30 p.m.

## Month of September YTD to Date

Income:	\$30,017.38	Income:	\$302,046.11
Expenses:	\$29,526.82	Expenses:	\$300,958.37
Net:	\$ 490.56	Net:	\$ 1,087.74

## Financial Summary Reports Presented to Council are Available:

Contact Greg S.

([treasurer@bethlehem-lutheran.net](mailto:treasurer@bethlehem-lutheran.net)) for more information or with questions or suggestions.

Printed copies of all the reports are available for review in the Fireside Room library.

## Multiple Giving Options for BLC

We have several options for making donations:

1. To make an online web donation (one time or recurring), go to the Donate web page and click on the Online Giving icon to access our secure giving page and then follow the instructions. Detailed instructions are also available on the website.
2. For recurring donations, another option is to download the BLC Vanco Enrollment form or get a copy from the BLC Office, complete and sign, and return with a voided check to the BLC office with Attention: Financial Secretary. The financial secretary will set up an account for you.
3. Mail or drop off a check or cash to the BLC office (Attention: Financial Secretary, 1000 West 15th Avenue, Longmont, CO, 80501).

Online giving lets you go to our website at any time 24/7 to set up an automatic donation plan, change your donation plan, make a one-time donation, or view your online donation history.

If you have any questions about either our giving or pledging options, please contact Jenny, our financial secretary ([financialsec@bethlehem-lutheran.net](mailto:financialsec@bethlehem-lutheran.net), 303-651-6226).

## Kragerud Ordination

We are delighted to announce that Andrea Kragerud has accepted a call as pastor to St. Paul Lutheran Church in Cheyenne, WY. She will be ordained at Bethlehem on **Saturday, November 11 at 10:00 a.m.** All are invited to attend the service and brunch following. The color of the day is red.

## Annual Report and Meeting

Annual Report items are due on

**November 15**—no later!

We will compile the 2023 Annual Report on November 15 so that it is ready for your viewing before the **Annual Meeting on December 10 at 11:30 a.m.** Please send reports to [admin@bethlehem-lutheran.net](mailto:admin@bethlehem-lutheran.net)

## Advent/Christmas Decorating Sunday, November 19 at 11:30 a.m.

We'll begin Advent on November 26 this year and so decorating must happen soon! Join the Worship Team and confirmation students in decorating this year—we especially welcome adults willing to climb the big ladder!

## Prayer List Update

Please contact the office if you would like your loved to continue being on our prayer list in the bulletin. We need to update the list. Thank you.

## Living Nativity

The Living Nativity will be December 17. Sign up to volunteer for the 2023 Living Nativity at <https://tinyurl.com/BLCLivingNativity>.

### Living Our Faith in the Community: Member Hi-Light.

Bethlehem has members who volunteer in the wider community both through programs within our church and outside of it. If you do, or know someone who does, please contact Mission Chair, Cathy G. (cegood47@aol.com). We would like to know how members are living out their faith through volunteerism and if you are willing, we would like to highlight the person and the organization or community that benefits.

#### Linda Holste

I first heard of the OUR Center when I was looking for a place to donate items after we moved to Colorado. When we later joined Bethlehem, I learned that members of the congregation cook and serve lunch at the OUR Center four times a year.

The Outreach United Resource Center (OUR Center) provides critical services such as food, housing, and utilities to help families achieve self-reliance. They offer a hand up, not a hand out to residents of the St. Vrain Valley School District. While originally focusing on short-term assistance, recently the OUR Center's work has expanded into providing long-term assistance and resources to families in need.

When helping with the OUR Center lunches, I have seen people of all ages. Looking out into the dining room, you can be looking at the people in a dining room at most restaurants. This helps remind me not to judge others at a glance because I don't know their situation. Everyone served is always so thankful to receive a good meal.

Lately, there have been families that have said they don't know what they would do if these meals were not provided. The lunches provided by the OUR center are the only food they will have for the day. It is a blessing to be able to make a small but significant impact in their lives.

In addition to the OUR Center lunches, Bethlehem has also collected items for the OUR Center Food Pantry. We have collected food, toiletries, dish soap, laundry soap, and toddler diapers. Lately, we have collected items in December; so watch the Star and Bulletin for more information. Shopping for items for the food pantry has opened up conversations about the OUR center and their mission as people often ask why we are buying so many groceries at the store.

Bethlehem cooks and serves lunch at the OUR Center in April, June, September, and November. Watch the Star and Bulletin for more information.

#### Our Center Lunch

BLC will serve lunch at the Our Center on Sunday, November 19. If have any questions please contact Mark H. at [holstemarka@outlook.com](mailto:holstemarka@outlook.com) or [president@bethlehem-lutheran.net](mailto:president@bethlehem-lutheran.net)



### First Friday

First Friday is **November 3** is at **6:00 p.m.** at Bob and Sabrina Lee's home. Please bring an appetizer and beverage to share. For questions call Shirley at (303) 775-6928.

### Naomi Circle

Our October meeting will be in person (Youth Room) and on Zoom **Tuesday, November 14, from 9:15–11:00 a.m.** Our membership is open to all who are interested in joining us. Please contact Linda H. (holstell@outlook.com) or Sue S. (suesmith512@msn.com ) for further information.

### Manna Bible Study

We are reading Max Lucado's book, *Life Lessons from Romans*, which is a study book on Paul's writings to the Romans. Manna meets every **Monday morning at 9:00 a.m.** and would love to have you join us! Please contact Phyllis W. with questions. All are welcome!

### Table Talks

We meet **Wednesdays at 12:00 p.m.** in the Fireside Room discussing *Out of the Waters: Resisting the Power of Fear*, a bible study shared at the 2023 Rocky Mountain Synod Gathering. You're welcome to bring your lunch, a snack, or simply yourself.

### Open Prayer Time

In the sanctuary on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month from 10:30–11:00 a.m. and 6:00– 6:30 p.m. Using our own words as well as historical and traditional prayers, we will pray together and for the many things going on in the world.

- November 8 and 22



### Brewsday

Feel free to stop by, have a drink, and talk about what's brewing in life and church and Longmont! We meet 8:00 – 9:30 a.m. at the location indicated by the date.

- November 14 – BLC
- December 5 – TBD



### Quilting Group

We meet on **Thursday mornings at 9:00 a.m.** and would love to see you there! You don't need any experience. Join us for an enjoyable morning and perhaps learn something new!

### Bethlehem Book Club

*Rough Sleepers* by Pulitzer Prize winning author Tracy Kidder is the non fiction selection for the November 9, 9:00 a.m. Zoom meeting of Bethlehem Book Club. This is the inspiring and amazing account of Dr Jim O'Connell and his life of commitment to medical care and compassion for the "rough sleepers" of Boston who consistently sleep outside. We are challenged to treat all people with respect and compassion. Please email Mary Jane at mjvoogt2003@yahoo.com if you would like to be added to the email list and receive the notice and zoom link a week before the next meeting. **YOU ARE WELCOME TO JOIN!**

### Girl Scouts Holiday Craft Fair

Thursday, December 14 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Boulder County Fairgrounds Exhibit Building in Longmont. Free Admission. Please support your local Girl Scouts.



## Member Milestones

### Birthdays

Nov 2 Robert Romero  
Nov 3 Ann Hovick  
Nov 3 Diane Penny  
Nov 3 Famuer Rasmussen Jr.  
Nov 3 Laura Steakley  
Nov 4 Alpha Wuertz  
Nov 4 Sue Anderson  
Nov 5 Dan Larsen  
Nov 7 Donna Nupen  
Nov 7 Pat Snyder  
Nov 8 Doris Slinger  
Nov 8 Roger Lahman  
Nov 8 Glenn Summers  
Nov 9 Robert Cotton  
Nov 10 Bob Gardinier  
Nov 11 Cynthia Pemberton  
Nov 14 Kallen Box  
Nov 15 Kamron Hosier  
Nov 16 Neil Hebbert  
Nov 17 Howard Wirth  
Nov 17 Lori Bloemker  
Nov 17 Ryan Lahman  
Nov 19 Ryan Bloemker  
Nov 19 Madison Reed  
Nov 21 Cherrelyn Watts  
Nov 21 Tristan Steakley  
Nov 24 Mike Smith  
Nov 25 Sharon Wirth  
Nov 25 Travis Schlagel  
Nov 26 Lauren Doop  
Nov 27 Dave Twait  
Nov 27 Melissa Parker  
Nov 28 Nathan Rumsey  
Nov 30 Ilene Ryan



### Anniversaries

Nov 12 Betty & Doug Rasmussen (40)  
Nov 18 Ryan & Lori Bloemker (21)  
Nov 19 Becky Kasperbauer & Peter Dickinson (7)  
**Nov 25 Dave & Rini Twait (57)**  
Nov 30 Matthew & Heather Barnhouse (32)

### Prayers

Members: Florence M., Gerry C., Sally M., Coqui S., Paul P., Darlene B., Jan M., Kristal H., George D., Lydia M., Jeremy G.; friends and relatives of our community: Jim S., Ruth F., Lynn N., Nora, Duane, Scott P., Lila P., Matt M., Darlene, Hannah, Michael, Virginia, Howard P., Nancy P., Victoria, Debra, Irene D., John L., Marilyn M., Ken G., June D., Scarlett K., Erwin B., Donna S.; and those serving your people: Brett B., Michael K. Jr., Bill W.



**Newsletter Deadline:** Submit items by **November 20 for the December 2023 newsletter.**

Submit to BLC news form or the BLC news email ([news@bethlehem-lutheran.net](mailto:news@bethlehem-lutheran.net)).

## Council Notes

Council Meeting Minutes - Approved

October 10, 2023

Respectfully submitted by Cindy Thompson, Secretary

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mark Holste called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

**ATTENDING:** Mark Holste, Cindy Thompson, Greg Schumann, and Mike Smith. Absent: Pr. Katie Chullino, Steve Dawson, Cathy Goodman, Sabrina Lee, Jaime Updegraff, Glenn Summers and Cindy Tayler

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** approved via email and posted.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Greg shared we have a positive cash flow. See Greg's monthly report for details. Budget prep is ongoing. Budgets need to be to Greg as soon as possible. Mark moved to accept financial report. Cindy Thompson seconded. Motion failed due to lack of quorum. Motion tabled to next meeting.

### REPORT HIGHLIGHTS:

- Pastor/Staff: None
- Evangelism: Mike talked about plans for All Saints/Consecration luncheon on November 5th. Eric is making Jambalaya, Jaime is making Gumbo, Sue and Mike are bringing red beans and rice and a dessert. Sabrina and Bob are bringing a dessert. Cindy Thompson is bringing bread. Ann has volunteered table decorations. Mike needs help with set-up and clean-up.
- Faith Formation: None
- Mission: None
- Property: None
- Stewardship: None
- Worship: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

### Discussion:

- Annual meeting Sunday 10 Dec / reports due November 15th.
- Budget – budgets from ministries are due now.
- Ways to thank our members – Cindy will share researched ideas at Nov meeting.
- Background check on maintenance individual - Glenn will share at Nov meeting.

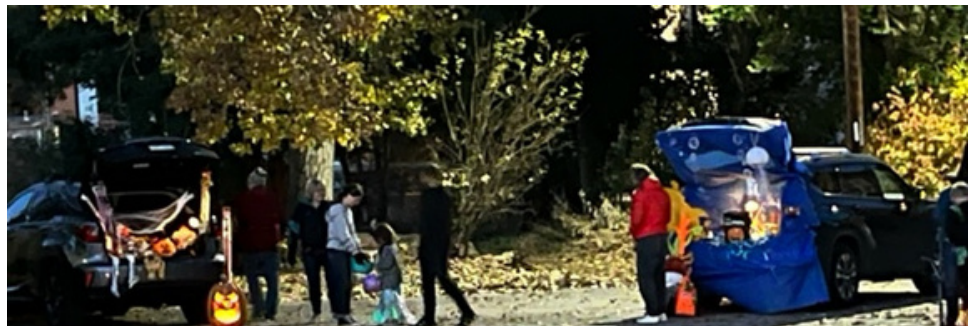
**ADJOURNMENT:** Mark adjourned the meeting at 7:44 pm

**Upcoming Dates:** next Council meeting will be Tuesday, November 14th at 7:00pm. Executive session at 6:30pm.





# TRUNK OR TREAT 2023



Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
1000 15th Avenue  
Longmont, CO 80501

Return service requested

### **Office Hours**

Monday: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Tuesday: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
Wednesday: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Thursday: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
Friday: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

