

THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 2025/ JANUARY 2026 | VOL. 2 ISSUE 16

O Come, O Come Emmanuel



Let My Prayer Rise Up Before You As Incense

This Sunday, Nov. 30th, the first Sunday in Advent, something exciting and new to us will be happening! We will be using incense during the processional and recessional hymns as our prayers and worship rise up to God. Please know that we will be using only hypoallergenic incense out of consideration for those, like myself, who have allergies. Just as importantly, I believe, is to give a brief historical and Biblical explanation of the use of incense in worship – including its use in Lutheran congregations.

Martin Luther retained the optional use of incense in his liturgical reforms, including its use in his 1523 work *Formula Missae* and by extension, in the practices surrounding the *Deutsche Messe* (German Mass) of 1526. Luther, as you probably know, was a conservative reformer who did not aim to abolish the entire traditional form of worship, but rather to “cleanse that which is in use, which has been vitiated by most abominable additions, and to point out a pious use.” He was against sweeping away all traditional ceremonies, so he made items like worship vestments, candles, and incense optional, allowing for freedom in ceremony. This is called “*Adiaphora*” or those things neither commanded nor forbidden in Scripture.

The use of incense, much like many of the other symbols and actions of our liturgy, is rooted in Biblical references such as Psalm 141: “Let my prayer rise up as incense” and Revelation 5:8: “... Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God’s people.” But the use of incense is also symbolic: the clouds of smoke represent cleansing and purifications, and the sweet smell suggests Christ’s robe of righteousness that covers our putrid sin. Here at Bethlehem, we worship with all our senses, showing the significance of our bodies and all of God’s creation. For example, we “taste” the Lord’s Supper. We “hear” the Word: “Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God” (Romans 10:17).

Other stories this month:

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- PAS. BRONES’ ARTICLE
- SEE WHAT’S HAPPENING



Let My Prayer Rise Up Before You As Incense

(Continued)

We have moments of “silence” during Confession and Absolution. We visualize through “sight” in the liturgical colors, paraments, stoles, lights, and candles. We “touch” when we make the sign of the cross on our bodies. And now we can “smell” as an indication that our prayers are rising to, and being received by, God.

Some might say that the use of incense is something Roman Catholics and Orthodox churches do. Well, yes. But not exclusively. The use of incense is catholic in the best sense of the word, that is, part of the whole, universal Church throughout the ages. Therefore, it is most certainly Orthodox. Additionally, incense was used in a variety of ways throughout Scripture symbolizing cleansing, purification, prayer, and most of all, Christ’s sacrifice for sins as our great High Priest. Two of my favorite New Testament references are Revelation 5:8 and 8:3-4, where incense is used to symbolize the prayers of the faithful saints on earth ascending from earth to heaven, forming a visual and aromatic connection. The Apostle John, by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, describes the use of incense in a worship setting as the saints are gathered around the altar of the Lamb, offering up their prayers of thanksgiving for the Lamb’s sacrifice for sin.

In my research on the use of incense in Lutheran churches I discovered that there are quite a few LCMS congregations and even some WELS churches who incorporate incense into their worship, especially on “Feast” days like Christmas Eve, Epiphany, Transfiguration, Easter, Pentecost, and All Saints Day. So, why use incense? Worship encompasses the whole person. There are sights, sounds, touches, tastes, and smells, all of which are intended to draw the whole person to the presence and gifts of Christ. Think of it this way: when you smell the incense, look for Jesus. He will be there in His Word, in His precious body and blood, and bearing our prayers to His Father.

Pastor Nate, the Board of Elders, and I ask for your prayerful support in our occasional use of incense on the festival days of the church. We, as your pastors, do not want this to be a distraction. Rather, we want this to be meaningful and worshipful as your prayers rise before Him as incense.

God’s peace be yours in abundance,

Pastor Dana Allen Brunes



Coping with Change

I am a creature of habit. I don't like change. And this time of year brings plenty of it.

Some of you might be in that boat with me. We've recently started a new liturgical year, and now we have a new calendar year hot on its heels. As if that's not enough, we have all the change and hubbub connected with the holiday season. This is a season that can sting as well as bring joy, especially if we're missing a loved one who is now with the Lord. Of course, even if not such a grievous wound, challenging change is all around us. I visited recently with a couple who had just moved from a cherished, long-term residence into a new abode. This one will suit their needs better for their twilight years. A rational move, maybe, but the new place just wasn't home. At least yet. Are you in that spot? Maybe you find your relationships changing or job situation developing. Change can seem constant. Even in the church, this year we are looking to move ahead with a major structural change: a new preschool building, which in turn would free up the church space for further modifications or improvements.

Whew... Change (be it good or bad) is daunting. Difficult sometimes. Distracting at best. Debilitating at worst. And it raises the question... Where is God in all of this? All this turmoil and transition and maybe even trauma?

A Psalm attributed to Moses has one answer for us. God is right where He's always been. He hasn't gone away. He's where He has been through all the other changes you've gone through in your life - and in the life of the saints before you. Moses writes, "Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God." (Psalm 90:1) The Lord has always been our one safe and never-changing place. We dwell in Him. Through worship, His Word, Holy Communion, we dwell in Him: our eternal dwelling place.

And He dwells with us. That's the joyous message of Christmas. In this volatile world, it's not on us to climb up to God and try to find some security in Him. No. He comes to us. "All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: 'Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel' (which means, God with us.)" (Matthew 1:23) Immanuel means God with us! Or more literally, but in terrible English grammar: "with us - God!" God Himself... who took on human flesh and was born into this world for you, who suffered, died, and rose for you... The Creator of the world and the author of salvation... God Himself... has come... To be with you... Through it all. Much will change in this world. But not Jesus and the life He brings. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

That alone is reason to celebrate... and even be merry if you can. Rejoice, rejoice! Immanuel!

Pastor Nate McCarty



Every Heart Prepare

Christmas is finally here! 'Tis the Season of the cold, 'tis the season of traveling, 'tis the season of time spent with families! But most importantly, 'tis the season we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Some of my fondest memories from growing up revolved around Christmas. My favorite memories weren't just from receiving presents on Christmas, but were actually from the craziness of decorating the house. It became a tradition in my family to always listen to Christmas music as we put up all our Christmas decorations. For me, decorating for Christmas served two purposes. The first purpose in decorating was to spend quality time together with my family. Secondly, decorating the house really helped put me in the spirit of Christmas. Listening to Christmas music and putting up these decorations helped me celebrate the true reason for the season, the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We all celebrate our Lord's birth with different decorations, but especially here at Bethlehem in December at every midweek service, we'll be preaching through a sermon series called, "Every Heart Prepare". In this sermon series, we'll be referencing numerous Christmas decorations that we all put up to help us celebrate Christmas.

From Christmas trees decked with ornaments, to sparkly Christmas lights, to crèches (nativity sets), and even to wrapped gifts and presents placed underneath a Christmas tree, all these decorations point to the true gift of Christmas, God in flesh and blood, Jesus Christ. As we get ready to decorate all of our homes this Christmas season (maybe you already have), I wanted to include an easy craft to help you decorate your Christmas tree. This simple craft creates one ornament to hang on your Christmas tree, and if you do it with the whole family there'll be even more! I call it the "cupcake ornament".

Here's what you'll need:

10 colored cupcake liners (makes one ornament)

Glue

String (to hang ornament on the tree)

Step 1: Flatten 10 cupcake liners and fold each one in half, colored side in.

Step 2: Open up one halved cupcake liner and add a line of glue from the center (folded side) to the outside edge, so when you fold it back in half it'll stick together (be sure not to use too much glue so it only sticks together).

Step 3: Repeat this with the next 9 cupcake liners.

Step 4: Take one glued cupcake liner and add a line of glue to one side near the top and bottom of the folded cupcake liner, going from the folded side to the unfolded side.

Step 5: Stack the next folded cupcake liner on top of the glue and repeat step 4 with the rest, until none are left to stack on top of the other ones. (Be sure to give time for the glue to dry before moving on to the next step.)



Every Heart Prepare

(continued)

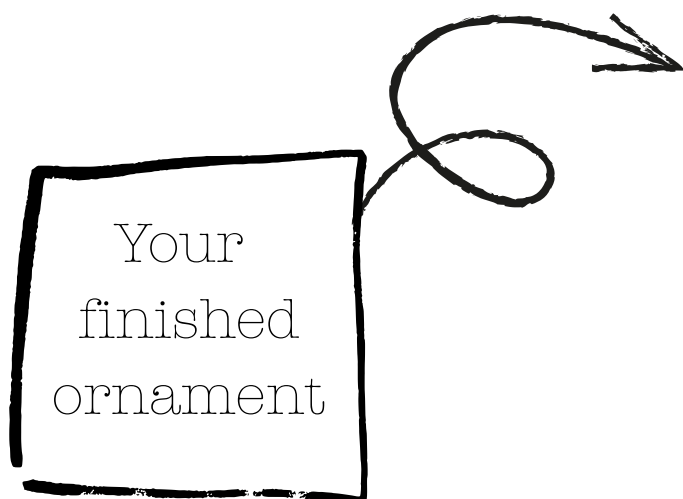
Step 6: Glue the top and bottom of the stack together making a sphere.

Step 7: Glue string to the center of the ornament to hang.

As you make these Christmas ornaments, I hope these ornaments help you celebrate the true gift of Christmas, Jesus Christ. And I hope and pray that you're able to enjoy Christmas altogether with your family, wherever you may be, to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Merry Christmas!

Vicar Caleb Gustafson





*Our preschool is full of life, laughter, and the light of Christ—and we're ready to share it with you! Each month, BLC Preschool Lights will shine a spotlight on the incredible things happening with our little ones, from classroom moments to ministry milestones. With our exciting new building project on the horizon, there's never been a better time to see how God is growing this vital part of our church family. Stay tuned... big things are coming from our smallest members!

Feast

A Thanksgiving

A BIG thank-you to all those who prepared food for Thanksgiving feast! It was a delicious success! We are so grateful for our BLC Preschool families!



BLC PRESCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

On **Dec. 18th** our Preschool scholars will share a special Christmas program with their family and friends. We can't wait to hear these sweet voices singing song of the season!



BIG THANKS

A huge thank you to the 22 people who came and made blankets on November 15th. We tied 22 blankets. Also thank you to all who donated to this cause. We will be able to make more blankets in the future thanks to your generosity.

Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study will meet on December 3rd and January 7th at 930am in the Cottage. We will begin the book *Stepping Out to a life on the edge* by Deb Burma on the 3rd. All women are invited to attend. If you haven't received a copy of the book yet please let Becky Bicknase know at bicnbec2@gmail.com.



cookie walk 2025

Mark your calendar for December 14th. The LWML will be hosting a cookie walk with all proceeds to be given to the Food Bank at Concordia Seminary in St Louis. Cookies will be sold by the pound. Take home containers will be provided. If you would like to donate cookies to this good cause please bring them by 9am on the 14th. Sales will begin after the 8am service. If you have any questions please contact Becky Bicknase at bicnbec2@gmail.com.



WINE, WOMEN & THE WORD

On **January 17th** at **630 PM** will be having our first Wine, Women & the Word of the year! We will be meeting in the Upper Room and enjoying some fellowship and short devotional. Bring your favorite appetizer and beverage and maybe a friend or two! Childcare will be provided. Cannot wait to see you there!



Did you know...?

This year's Advent by Candlelight will be the 8th held at Bethlehem.



In June 2018, I explained the Advent program to Pastor Dana that I had crafted at my previous church during the past eight years. To my great delight, Pastor Dana immediately grabbed onto the idea. He gave permission to gather a committee and put together a program for his review. I didn't know many women at that time. And of those I did, I had only vague ideas of their talents and interests. But I recruited them anyway, believing that God would bring success if it were His will. We had our first meeting on September 14 in the home of Sally Naylor. The group included Shirley Kirkman, Rhoda Newton, Sally, and me. None of my friends was familiar with Advent by Candlelight, but each liked the idea, so we went to work. We expanded the committee and met every few weeks. Then, on December 9, 2018, 5-7 p.m., the first ABC program at Bethlehem was held, with 87 women in attendance.

I'd first learned of Advent by Candlelight about twelve years earlier at my Lutheran church in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, where I made my home at the time. ABC was a new event for the ladies of the congregation, and I decided to attend.

It was held in the gymnasium of the church's school. Leaders read several devotions, then performed a faith-based skit on the gym stage. The attendees sat at tables that had been decorated by hostesses. The menu consisted of coffee, cookies, cakes, and candies...sweets, sweets and more sweets!

When I moved to Jacksonville the following year, I decided to bring ABC with me to my new church, which was Victory Lutheran in Jacksonville. I contacted the organizer of the event from the church in Wisconsin and received permission to use her program. But something didn't feel right. A gymnasium stage, program skit, and tables loaded with sweets left me unsatisfied. I wanted a service that was more reverent. As for the fellowship and food, a high tea seemed perfect for the South. So, the modifications began. At Bethlehem, I updated and rewrote some of those original programs and created new ones. I refer to all these programs as devotional services, because although they are worshipful, they are not Divine Services with Communion. The devotional service is the highlight of the ABC event. It is a special time for everyone in attendance to prepare her heart for Christ's birth and to be reminded that the focus of Advent and Christmas should be on the manger and the cross, not on gifts and baking.

The services involve women of the congregation reading scripture and writings to their Christian sisters in the pews. This theme of women ministering to women is one of the unique aspects of ABC. We share God's words of love, promise, and salvation. We grow in our faith and we bond with each other as sisters in Christ. Over the years, many women have participated in reading the scripts. Many musicians have added beauty to the service with piano, organ, guitars, violins, bells, clarinets, and more.

Following the devotional service, the ladies move to Disciples' Hall and the Courtyard for the high tea. This part of the event has evolved over the years. We started with potlucks, experimented with catering, and tried various combinations of the two. Some years, we ended up with too much food, and other years, there wasn't enough. It's been a learning experience. These days, we've settled on a classic high tea with finger sandwiches, canapes, and a few sweets. Lots of tea, of course.

One of the highlights of the tea is the waitstaff. At this special women's event, the men of our congregation, including the pastors and vicar, dress in their finest and serve the ladies at the tables! They bring water, tea, and canapes, and serve everything with smiles. They help with cleanup, loading boxes into cars, and whatever else is needed.

The ABC planning committee starts its work in February each year and meets periodically until the event in December. This year's committee consists of Erica McCarty, coordinator; Rhoda Newton, Shirley Kirkman, Vicki Green, Dee Parker, Victoria Putnam, Jan Runko, Holly Dellinger, Nina Silander, and Bonnie Arndt. We meet via Zoom. New members are always welcome.

Advent by Candlelight has become well-loved and highly anticipated since it began at Bethlehem 8 years ago. Many of our members invite friends and family members who do not belong to our church, making it one of the most significant outreach efforts of the congregation. Of course, an event like this requires funding, and we are thankful that the congregational budget supports ABC.

For me, Advent by Candlelight has so many dimensions and evokes so many emotions. I've been involved with it for nearly twenty years. One treasured memory is that of my late husband helping in every way imaginable to pull off the event. He'd attach colorful string lights to the Courtyard tent, carry chairs, supervise the kitchen. We worked as a team. I will miss him dearly this year. Advent by Candlelight has brought me closer to the Lord through the researching and writing of the programs. It has given me opportunities to consult with the pastors. It has been my honor to have Pastor Dana review and approve each script. It has left me in awe as I've witnessed the readers and congregants, eyes locked on each other, share in the powerful and salvific words of Scripture.

And here at Bethlehem, it all started with a quick proposal on the lawn of the church during Vacation Bible School. Thank you, Pastor Dana, for taking a chance on ABC. Thank you to all the women on the planning committees over the years. The event would be impossible without their hard work and dedication. Their efforts have helped ABC expand and accommodate increasing interest among the women. This year, nearly 150 will be attending, and another 15-20 volunteers will be working the event. It will be held December 7, 2-5 p.m. Thank you also to the readers, the hostesses, the attendees, the men who serve at the tea, the musicians, the childcare volunteers, the livestream videographers, the photographers, and the countless others who make ABC happen. There are so many of you.

May God be praised.

Bonnie Arndt



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT BLC

MON
DEC
1

BLC SENIOR SHUFFLERS CHRISTMAS PARTY

11 AM

Come and join us for our Annual Senior Shufflers Christmas Party!



WEDS
DEC
3

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

9:30 AM

All women welcome to join us for digging deep into God's word together!

WEDS
DEC
3

FIRST MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICE NOON OR 7 PM



THURS
DEC
4

YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY

5:30 PM

Join us for our YA Bible Study in the Upper Room. See FB page for more details.



SAT
DEC
6

CONFIRMAND CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATING

9 AM

Confirmands will gather to decorate the Church Christmas trees.



SUN
DEC
7

ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT & TEA AT 2 PM

FRI
DEC
12

BLC YOUNG ADULT WHITE ELEPHANT CHRISTMAS PARTY

6 PM

Bring a gift and dish to share and get ready for some gift exchange fun!



SAT
DEC
14

LWML COOKIE WALK

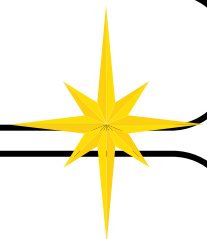
Help support the missions of the LWML by buying some of the yummiest Christmas cookies in Jax!



WEDS
DEC
24

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Our Christmas Eve Services start with a Lessons & Carols service at 5 PM. At 7 PM and 9 PM, join us for a Candlelight service with Holy Communion.



THURS
DEC
25

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

10:00 AM

Celebrate our Savior's birth with our Christmas Day service with Holy Communion.

WEDS
DEC
31

NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE

7:00 PM

Ring in the New Year at BLC at our NYE service with Holy Communion.



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT BLC

SAT
JAN
1



HAPPY NEW YEAR!
CHURCH OFFICE & PRESCHOOL CLOSED



MON
JAN
5

CARDS, CARDS, CARDS!

9:30 AM

Join the Senior Shufflers for our monthly game of Hand and Foot!



WEDS
JAN
7

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

9:30 AM

All women welcome to join us for digging deep into God's word together!



WEDS
JAN
7

YOUTH EPIPHANY PARTY 630-8 PM



Youth Group will resume with our Annual Epiphany Party! Can't wait to see you there.

THURS
JAN
8

YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY

5:30 PM

Join us for our YA Bible Study in the Upper Room. See FB page for more details.



Fruits of the Spirit

SAT
JAN
17

WINE, WOMEN & THE WORD

6:30 PM

Join us in the Upper Room for a time of fellowship with your sisters in Christ.



FRI
JAN
22

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

6:00 PM

Meet with fellow brothers in Christ to be in the word of God and enjoy a great meal!

THURS
JAN
24

FAMILY GAME NIGHT

5:30 PM

Start your new year with your BLC family and friends at a night of games and food!



*If you would like any information about the events listed above, please contact the church office at officeadmin@bethlehemlutheranjaxbeach.org.

BLC VOLUNTEERS!



COUNTING

Dec. 7th
Paul/Terry

Dec. 28th
Paul/Holly

Dec. 14th
Bob/Barbara

Dec. 21st
Barbie/Diane

ELDERS

Dec. 3rd
12 -Dennis
7 - Paul

Dec. 10th
12 -Bruce
7 - Brandon

Dec. 17th
12 -Al
7 - Dan

Dec. 24th
5 -Paul
7 - John H. & Dan
9- Gordon & Bruce

Dec. 25th
10- Jamie

Dec. 31st
7-Gordon

Dec. 7th
8 - EIC Paul & Jamie
930 - EIC Joe & John
11- EIC Allan & Brandon

Dec. 14th
8 -Jamie & Gordon
930 - Joe
11-EIC Alex & Al

Dec. 21st
8 -EIC Paul & Jamie
930 - EIC Joe & John
11- EIC David & Bruce

Dec. 28th
8 -EIC Paul & Jamie
930 - Joe
11-EIC Dan & Alex

ALTAR GUILD

MIDWEEK

SERVICES:

TUES. DEC. 2
Set Up-Dee/Valerie

WEDS. DEC. 3
Set Up -Brenda
7 PM -Diana

TUES. DEC. 09
Set Up-Dee/Valerie

WEDS. DEC. 10
Set Up -Tami
7 PM - Beth

TUES. DEC. 16
Set Up-Dee/Valerie

WEDS. DEC. 17
Set Up -Tami
7 PM -Barbara

SAT. DEC. 6
Set Up -Anna

SUN. DEC. 7
8 - Nancy
9:30 - Nina

11 - Beth

SAT. DEC. 13
Set Up - Carol

SUN. DEC. 14
8 - Valerie
9:30 - Brenda
11 - Kathy

SAT. DEC. 20
Set Up - Dee R.

SUN. DEC. 21
8 - Susan
9:30 - Barbara
11 - Carol

SAT. DEC. 27
Set Up - Tami

SUN. DEC. 28
8 - Valerie
9:30 - Tami
11 - Erica

SPECIAL SERVICES:

WEDS. DEC. 24
7 PM -Brenda
9 PM-Valerie

Setup-Valerie
THURS. DEC. 25
10 AM-Susan

WEDS. DEC. 31
7 PM -Valerie

SCREENS

Dec. 7th
8 -Patrick
9:30 - Romaine
11 - Gina

Dec. 14th
8 - Susan
9:30 - Kristine
11 -Carol

Dec. 28th
8 -Valerie
9:30 - Tami
11 - Roy

Dec. 21st
8 - Nancy
9:30 - Brenda
11 - Lloyda

Dec. 24th
7 - Kristine
9 -Valerie

STREAMING

Dec. 3rd
Bob

Dec. 7th
Jerry

Dec. 10th
Bob

Dec. 14th
Brandon

Dec. 17th
Bob

Dec. 21st
Bob

Dec. 24th
Jeannie

Dec. 28th
Brandon

Dec. 25th
Jeannie

Dec. 31st
Bob

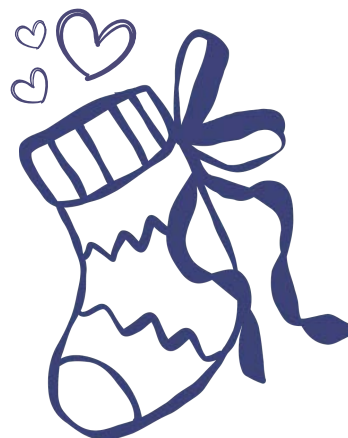
BLC APPRECIATES YOU!

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

Vera Fay	Malmind	12/1
Diane	Wortelboer	12/2
Braden	Radtke	12/2
Cameron	Hardy	12/3
Joan	Richards	12/5
Matthew	LaForty	12/5
Aubrey	Costescu	12/5
Elizabeth	Tober	12/8
Kelly	Sly	12/10
Jacob	Kempf	12/11
Penelope	Smith	12/11
James	Emery	12/12
Kendal	Buchanan	12/12
Rusty	Stafford	12/13
Becky	Bicknase	12/13
Kathy	Orr	12/15
Ava	Siebenaler	12/15
Marge	Cirillo	12/17
Helen	Peterson	12/18
Joy	Helberg	12/18
Rusty	Huseman	12/19
Alicia	Harwood	12/19
Jaylee	Leker	12/20
Frances	Carlson	12/21
Valerie	Cardona	12/22
Matthew	Tate	12/24
Jackie	Thiemann	12/25
Christian	Dellinger	12/26
Kegan	Dellinger	12/26
Grace	Elvers	12/27
Terry	Parker	12/27

Melissa	Cadet	12/28
Brandi	Harrison	12/28
Luke	Gordish	12/28
Howard	Estervig	12/29
Cindy	Cooper	12/29
Cindy	Huber	12/30
Nathan	Wilhelm	12/30
Dee	Parker	12/31



Anniversaries

Roy and Jean Shimp	12/02
Rusty and Cindy Stafford	12/04
Keith and Kathe Herrick	12/05
Salvatore and Renee Zingales	12/08
Richard and Barbara Raddant	12/14
John and Joy Helberg	12/15
Erik and Karen Wilhelm	12/17
Howard and Melissa Estervig	12/21
Bob and Marianne Johnson	12/26
Larry and Kathy Orr	12/27
Nathan and Stephanie Johnson	12/27

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

Kailey	Harms	1/1
Joe	McHan	1/1
Senior	Pastor	1/1
Jeff	Carr	1/3
Christopher	Stubbs	1/3
Theresa	Emery	1/5
Stephen	Huber	1/5
David	Cook	1/6
Piper	Werhner	1/6
Sobra	Horn	1/7
Austin	Duensing	1/8
John	Smith	1/9
Kenneth	Thompson	1/9
Tyler	Zarski	1/9
Joe	Leaptrott	1/10
Stephanie	Johnson	1/11
Thomas	May	1/11
Heidi	Shafer	1/11
Christopher	Gregor	1/13
Courtney	Ray	1/13
Adelle	Edwards	1/16
Arielle	Edwards	1/16
Terri	Spock	1/16
Mason	Gray	1/17
Mike	Perryman	1/19
Stacie	Stanfield	1/19
Elizabeth	Dellinger	1/20
Melissa	Estervig	1/20
Janice	Flock	1/20
Ann	Westfall	1/20
Adam	Carr	1/22

Ann	Cirillo	1/23
Larry	Orr	1/26
Stephanie	Stubbs	1/27
David	Treat	1/27
Alexander	Culbreth	1/29
Connie	Machurick	1/29



Anniversaries

David and Barbara Jacobs	01/01
Brian and Amber Sherrill	01/07
Jim and Stacy Schrader	01/11
Steve and Paula Garrett	01/14
Steve and Renee Boone	01/15
Al and Diana Clawson	01/19
Ken and Frances Carlson	01/19
Mike and Kathy Lawler	01/19
Otto and Amanda Gruhn	01/30



DECEMBER 2025

	1 930 AM Senior Cards & 11 AM Christmas Party	2	3 930 AM Women's Bible Study Noon/7PM Advent Services	4 630 PM Young Adult Bible Study	5	6 930 AM AA
7 8/ 930/ 11 AM Service 2 PM Advent by Candlelight	8	9	10 Noon/7PM Advent Services 530 PM Confirmation	11	12 630 PM BLC YA White Elephant Party	13 930 AM AA
14 LWML Cookie Walk	15	16	17 Noon/7PM Advent Services 530 PM Confirmation	18	19 430 PM Mission House	20 930 AM AA
21 8/ 930/ 11 AM Service 930 Sunday School	22	23	24 5PM- Lessons & Carols 7PM/ 9PM- Candlelight Services	25 10 AM Christmas Day Service	26 CHURCH OFFICE & PRESCHOOL CLOSED	27
28 8/ 930/ 11 AM Service 930 Sunday School	29	30	31 7 PM New Year's Eve Service	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;"> <p>Bible Studies Every Week:</p> <p>Mon: ECHO Bible Study 7 PM</p> <p>Thurs: Vicar's Bible Study 930 AM</p> </div>		

JANUARY 2026

Bible Studies Every Week:

Mon: ECHO Bible Study 7 PM
Weds: Limbaugh Bible Study 7 PM
Thurs: Vicar's Bible Study 930 AM

1

**CHURCH
OFFICE &
PRESCHOOL
CLOSED**

2

3

930 AM AA

4

8/ 930/
11 AM Service

930 Sunday
School

5

930 AM
Senior Cards

6

7

930 AM
Women's
Bible
Study

530 PM
Confirmation
& Youth

8

630 PM
Young Adult
Bible Study

9

10

930 AM AA

11

8/ 930/
11 AM Service

930 Sunday
School

12

13

7 PM
Elders'
Meeting

14

530 PM
Confirmation
& Youth
Group

15

16

430 PM
Mission
House

17

930 AM AA

630 PM Wine,
Women & the
Word

18

8/ 930/
11 AM Service

930 Sunday
School

19

20

21

530 PM
Confirmation
& Youth
Group

22

6 PM Men's
Bible Study

23

530 PM
Family Game
Night

24

25

8/ 930/
11 AM Service

930 Sunday
School

26

27

7 PM
Executive
Council

28

530 PM
Confirmation
& Youth
Group

29

30

31



BETHLEHEM
LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL