



# Bethlehem Star

Bethlehem Lutheran Church | Evangelical Lutheran Church of America | December, 2023

As we continue whispering our thanksgivings to God and his generosity, we continue picking up the pace...ADVENT and CHRISTMAS are coming!!! And this newsletter is testimony to that!!! Now... let's all breathe!!!

We all have our "Christmas" traditions we love that make the holiday the best and it just wouldn't be Christmas without those traditions!!! But what are your Advent traditions? You know, it's that season where we make all the preparations for what is to come, those 4 weeks prior to Christmas Day!!! It is our Advent traditions that make Christmas the very best...the preparations! In 2022, Bethlehem participated in Advent Discovery, and what a DISCOVERY it was!!! It made Christmas really special inside our hearts, minds, and spirits, and it made this year following, 2023, a year of wanting more!

That Discovery is about to begin once again! Yes, Brush United Methodist, Rankin Presbyterian, Bethlehem Lutheran, and All Saints Church, and possibly a new partner (Immanuel Congregational Church) come together again this Advent season during the month of December. We will gather to prepare our hearts, minds, and spirits in preparation for what is to come, on Sunday mornings and Tuesday mid-days in worship, fellowship, learning, and singing. Don't miss out on this amazing time spent together! This year we enter into Sanctified Art, discovering how a weary world rejoices: by acknowledging weariness, finding joy in connection, allowing ourselves to be amazed, and singing stories of hope on Sunday mornings. On Tuesday we discover the music and songs of Advent to grow in the meaningful expression of Advent, with a bowl of soup in hand!

Here at Bethlehem, to grow in your own expression of Advent preparations, Advent calendars and daily Advent study guides will be available beginning November 26, so you don't miss a day of the Advent season. Long standing traditions of preparing the

sanctuary December 2, a Christmas Tea December 12, and Christmas Eve Service Sunday, December 24 provide the opportunities to discover something new in the midst of the cherished traditions. Find all the details for the Advent schedule of activities and opportunities in this newsletter!!!

Advent Giving this season opens up to us with a Giving Tree for the Garnet Leys family. A Christmas tree in the welcome center has gift tags available for Garnet and the girls. Please pick one from the tree, shop for that item, bring it back here to the church and we will wrap it during Come and Celebrate, then placing it with the tag back under the tree. Garnet will be able to take everything home on Christmas Eve providing the entire family a blessed Christmas morning!

Barnyard Market is still available to get a goat, honeybees, a pig, chicks or other great items for a family to begin an exciting future and even to celebrate your family with a gift, with cards/animal. Get an order form from Ro

*(continued on page 2)*

## **Bethlehem Lutheran Church**

**603 Custer**

**Brush, CO 80723**

**Office Phone: 842-2246**

**Email: [lutheranchurchbrush@yahoo.com](mailto:lutheranchurchbrush@yahoo.com)**

**Website: [www.blcorlutherans.org](http://www.blcorlutherans.org)**

## **Deacon Ro Fesser**

**Cell Phone: (970) 631-2715**

**Email: [lutheranchurchpastor@gmail.com](mailto:lutheranchurchpastor@gmail.com)**

**Office Hours: For days & times, see calendar**

## **Administrative Assistant: Teresa Lauck**

**Office Hours: Teresa will be working mostly remote for the remainder of the year. Email is the best way to contact her.**

## **Sunday Worship**

**9:00am Worship Service**

(continued from page 1)

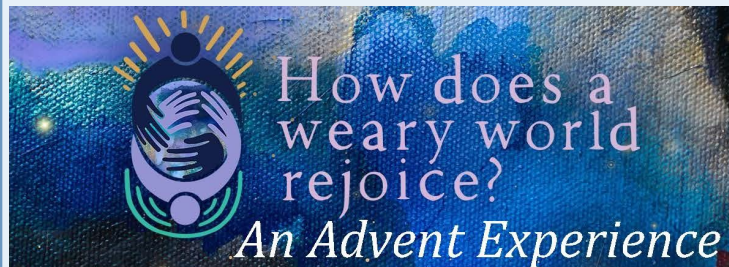
May it be our prayer this Advent, in the words of the Sanctified Art team of artists: Let us connect our hearts with our hands, our faith with our lives, and our mess with our God! Yes, we may be weary but let's truly rejoice in preparation and in what is to come, making this Advent and Christmas season our season of hope, love, peace, and joy! AMEN.

Remember: God tried it 2023 years ago, connecting hearts and hands, faith with lives and the mess of the world to Him...and this world discovered a baby born in a stable to save the world!!! What discovery might you make, this Advent?

Ro



A warm welcome to Betty Kelly, who reaffirmed her membership at Bethlehem on Reformation Sunday.



**Tuesday, November 28th**

*Rankin Presbyterian Church*  
Noon-Advent Study and Soup  
1:00—Combined Choir Practice

**Sunday, December 3rd**

*Rankin Presbyterian Church*  
11:15am Worship Service

**Tuesday, December 5th**

*Bethlehem Lutheran Church*  
Noon—Advent Study and Soup  
1:00—Combined Choir Practice

**Sunday, December 10th**

*Bethlehem Lutheran Church*  
11:15am Worship Service

**Tuesday, December 12th**

*Brush United Methodist Church*  
Noon—Advent Study and Soup  
1:00—Combined Choir Practice

**Sunday, December 17th**

*United Methodist Church*  
11:15am Worship Service

**Tuesday, December 19th**

*All Saints/Eben Ezer*  
Noon—Advent Study and Soup

**Sunday, December 24th**

*Bethlehem Lutheran*  
5:30pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service





**Sunday, December 24th**  
**5:30pm**

**Come celebrate Christmas Eve at Bethlehem!**  
*There will NOT be a 9 o'clock service this day.*



It is indeed the most wonderful time of the year! Come join your Bethlehem family in setting up the Chrismon tree and preparing the church building for the season of Advent.

**Saturday, December 2nd**  
**9:30 a.m.**



PLEASE JOIN US FOR BETHLEHEM'S

# Christmas Coffee / Tea

TO CELEBRATE THE SPIRIT OF THE HOLIDAYS!

**Tuesday, December 12, 2023  
10:00am**

*We will sing carols while enjoying  
fellowship with our community.  
Come one, come all ~ feel free to  
bring friends.*



**603 Custer, Brush**



A great big THANK YOU to all involved in our 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Election Night Chili and Soup Supper held on November 7, 2023. There were so many volunteers helping out--obtaining funds through Thrivent to purchase supplies, shopping for the supplies (thanks Carla and Stan), making chili, soup, baking pies, slicing pies, slicing veggies, baking special bread, busing tables, washing pots and pans, setting up, taking down, cleaning up, greeting guests, advertising, etc. etc!



**We raised \$976.50 for  
World Hunger  
and served approximately 100 people.  
Thank you!!**



A shout of thanks to Jim Christensen, who created a beautiful altar table for the Advent wreath. This new addition will serve other purposes throughout the year as well.



Check out BLC's new mailboxes! Thank you Larry and Deb Johnson for your work on these!



Thank you so much for the donations! We appreciate it :-)  
They will go to good use!  
Thompson Primary School

#### GIVING THANKS!

Wishing you every good thing a wonderful Thanksgiving can bring.

God Bless Always,  
Shirley Sailsbery

Dear Marsha, Carol, Barb, and the Bethlehem Church Quilters Group,

Thank you so much for your donation of beautiful quilts! The time and care you have given will be felt by those who receive the quilts. And we are blessed and encouraged by your support. God bless!

Missy and the Pregnancy Center Crew

#### THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION IN TRICK OR TREAT STREET

Bethlehem Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for your generous donation of two Halloween quilts and candy for our Trick-or-Treat Street. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Natalie,  
Brush Chamber of Commerce

Thank you for all the good wishes regarding my surgery. I am doing very well and if I could, I would thank each one of you.

Pat Herbst

Dear Friends,

Saint Paul writes, near the beginning of the epistle to the Philippians: "I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now."

That certainly captures our mood at the Oaks Indian Mission this season of Thanksgiving, as we pause to reflect upon all the gifts with which we have been blessed, the abundance of our life together in Christ. We, recognize, the hand of God at work through all of our partners in the Gospel.

Thank you, friends, for the spirit of generosity that has sustained and shaped this ministry. Because of it, we are stronger than ever and prepared to boldly serve these beloved ones the Lord entrusts to our care and keeping.

Your thankful friends at Oaks Indian Mission



## Christmas Poinsettias for Bethlehem

John & Trish Turner

in memory of Mary Miller & Evelyn Chartier

Marsha & Larry Mills

in memory of Jean & June Maupin

Larry & Deb Johnson in honor of family

Kim Redden in memory of Larry Redden

Deacon Ro in honor of Bethlehem Lutheran

Stan & Carla Krueger in honor of family

Sharon George in memory of Kevin George

Pat Chase to the Glory of God

Don Hefty in honor of the Hefty family

Jim Christensen

in memory of Sara Christensen

Allyn & Lenore Wind  
to the Glory of God

Carol Livengood  
to the Glory of God



**Thanks to the following  
members whose service on  
Bethlehem's council is  
coming to a close. You are  
appreciated!**

**Kevin DeKorte  
Marisa Ford-Castrup  
Marsha Mills**

**Church  
COUNCIL**

**Thanks to the following  
who have agreed to serve  
3-year terms on  
Bethlehem's council:**

**Maren Bostron  
Charlene Holzworth**

**CHANGE OF  
ADDRESS**

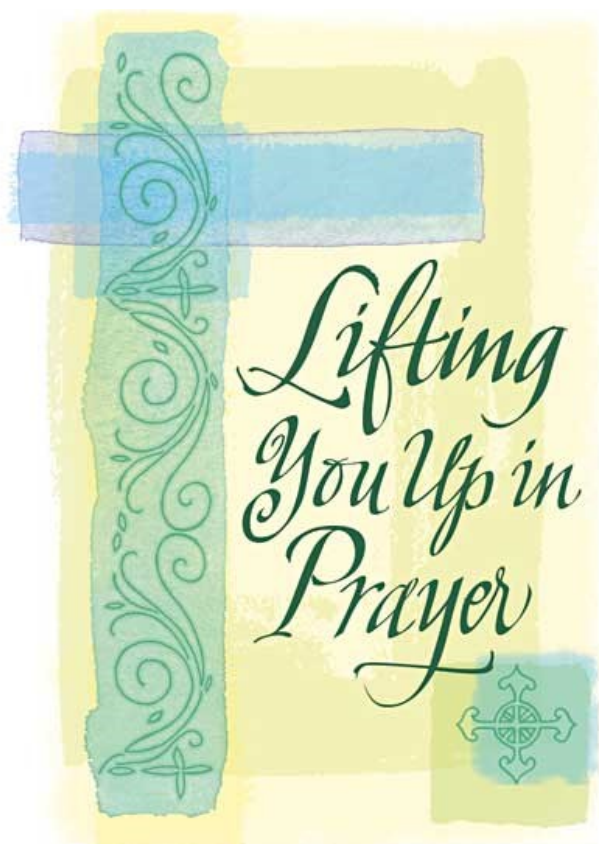
**Bev Strand's new address is:**

1620 East Riverview Avenue  
Apartment 12  
Fort Morgan, CO 80701

**OFFICE  
HOURS**



For December, Ro will have varying office hours. Please refer to the newsletter calendar, bulletins, or calendar on the website for reference. Terresa will be working remote for the month of December but is available for all church needs. Email her at [lutheranchurchbrush@yahoo.com](mailto:lutheranchurchbrush@yahoo.com)



Please pray for the following  
who have been submitted to our  
prayer list:

John Strauch  
 Charlie Lauck  
 Bev Strand  
 Larry Andersen  
 Lane Morrow  
 Beva Linker  
 Ashley George & friends  
 Kenny Bostrom  
 Dave Honebein  
 Tom & Lane Morrow  
 Wanda Rains  
 Zach Griffith  
 Dave Madsen  
 Lori Bostrom  
 Colene Travers



### December Birthdays

Carla Krueger	2nd
Marisa Castrup	4th
Rosa Guzman-Alexander	6th
Jim Christensen	8th
Beth Hocheder	8th
John Turner	10th
Ed Brandenburg	18th
Kevin DeKorte	19th
Marilyn Woodward	20th
Carol Livengood	21st
Todd Morgan	22nd
Jean Jones	24th



### December Anniversaries

Gilbert & Joy Perry	14th
Mike & Sandy Cook	16th

*Please call the church office if there is an  
error or omission.*



**December's Prairie Parish  
Event will be held on**

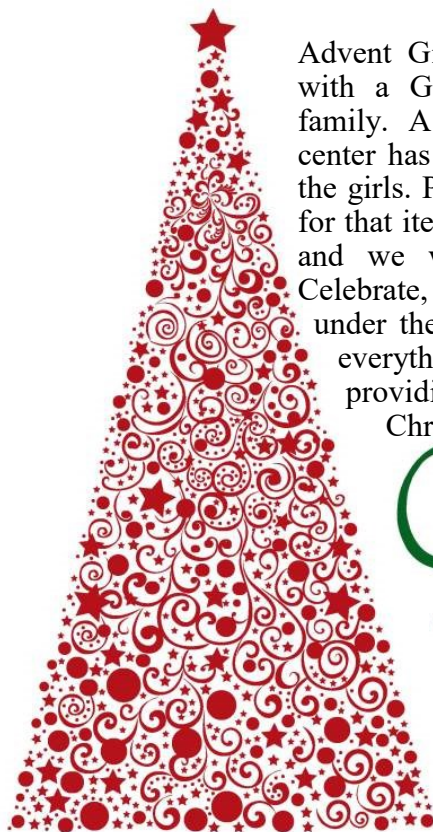
**Saturday, December 9th**

**9:00 a.m.**

**Peace Lutheran Church  
in Akron**

*Breakfast provided -*

*Come join the fun!*



Advent Giving this season opens up to us with a Giving Tree for the Garnet Leys family. A Christmas tree in the welcome center has gift tags available for Garnet and the girls. Please pick one from the tree, shop for that item, bring it back here to the church and we will wrap it during Come and Celebrate, then placing it with the tag back under the tree. Garnet will be able to take everything home on Christmas Eve providing the entire family a blessed Christmas morning!

**Giving  
Tree**

Thank you so much for your support and prayers throughout the last few months. I am extremely grateful for each of you who have reached out; please know it has brought me much-needed comfort during this scary and challenging time.

Your prayers filled me with strength and hope that I desperately needed and I know supported the surgeons and care team throughout the process. Your kind words, understanding, and flexibility made this time of uncertainty manageable. Charlie is home and recovering - God is good and we are exceptionally blessed!

Terresa Lauck & family

## **Bethlehem Lutheran Congregational Council Meeting**

### **November 9, 2023**

Present: Marsha Mills, Deb Johnson, Kim Redden, Marisa Ford- Castrup, Beth Hocheder, Terry Linker, Jeanette Dehning, Ro Fesser.

Ro opened the meeting with prayer.

Approval of minutes from last meeting: Terry moved to accept as written, Jeanette second, all approved.

Treasurer/ Financial secretary report: Beth moved to accept as is, Terry second, all approved.

Deacon report: Jeanette moved to accept as is, Terry second, all approved.

Communication: Bethlehem received a letter from Brush High School asking for a donation to after Prom party. Jeanette moved to donate \$50.00, Beth second, all approved.

#### New Business

Xcel Energy Switch it up: Xcel came out this week and counted all the church lights they will be replacing. They may be installing them next week. Bethlehem will be paying \$50.00 to rent the lift for workers installing the lights.

Council Nominees: Charlene Holzworth has agreed to run for council. We may change the number of council members from 9 to 7. We will discuss it after new members take office.

Christmas Eve or Christmas day: We all agreed to have a Christmas Eve service on Sat the 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM and no service on Christmas day. Kim so moved and Marisa second. All Approved.

Terresa will be working remote from home Nov 12 through December.

#### Old Business

Insurance Report: Bethlehem received another check from ins company for a new roof. It was for \$70,818.15. We are still waiting on scope of work paperwork, then construction crew can get started on repairs.

Advent: Advent begins December 3<sup>rd</sup>. First combined service on this date will be at Rankin Presbyterian at 11:15. Second combined service will be on December 10<sup>th</sup> at Bethlehem Lutheran at 11:15. Third combined service will be at the Methodist Church at 11:15.

Church Constitution: Council Members will get copies on or around Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>. Congregation members will receive it on or around Dec. 19. Final approval will be by Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>.

#### Other business for the good of the order

Council discussed giving Terresa and Kim raises for all they do. Marisa moved to give both raises, Beth second, all approved.

2024 Budget: Council went over proposed budget. Kim made some changes and Jeanette moved to accept as is with the changes, Beth second, all approved.

December Deacon: Marsha Mills. Usher: Linker Family

Next Council Meeting: For new and existing members, will be held on December 14, 2023 at 6:30 PM.

State of the Church Meeting will be November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer

**We thank those who offer their gifts in leading worship this month!**

<b>December, 2023</b>	<b>3</b> 11:15am	<b>10</b> 11:15am	<b>17</b> 11:15am	<b>24</b> 5:30pm	<b>31</b> 9:00am
<b>Deacon</b>	<b>11:15am</b> service at Rankin Presbyterian Church  ~ ~ ~  No service at BLC	Marsha Mills	<b>11:15am</b> service at United Methodist Church  ~ ~ ~  No service at BLC	Marsha Mills	Marsha Mills
<b>Reader</b>		Sharon George		Kim Redden	Deb Johnson
<b>Altar Guild</b>		Donna M & Janet R		Donna M & Janet R	Donna M & Janet R
<b>Usher</b>		Linker Family		Linker Family	Linker Family
<b>Sunshine Committee</b>		Beth H & Kim R		Beth H & Kim R	Beth H & Kim R
<b>Clavinovist</b>		Garnet Leys		Garnet Leys	Garnet Leys

	<b>10/22</b>	<b>10/29</b>	<b>11/05</b>	<b>11/12</b>	<b>11/19</b>
<b>Attendance</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>37</b>

## BLC Congregation Council Members & Officers

*Congregation Council is the core leadership body of the congregation, charged with overseeing and directing the life and mission of our church. We encourage you to talk with them! Please pray for their ministry as they provide leadership to BLC.*

Marsha Mills, President 970-768-1562

Deb Johnson, Vice-President 970-842-5633

Marisa Ford-Castrup, Secretary 303-502-7459

Kim Redden, Treasurer 970-380-9727

Jeanette Dehning 970-380-3822

Kevin DeKorte 970-867-2238

Beth Hocheder 970-768-3888

Isaac Linker 970-520-1989

Terry Linker 970-768-1099



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[www.facebook.com/bethlehemplutheranbrush](https://www.facebook.com/bethlehemplutheranbrush)



*Bethlehem Lutheran Church*



## Daily Bible Readings

*Friday, December 1*  
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
Zechariah 14:1-9  
1 Thessalonians 4:1-18

*Saturday, December 2*  
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
Micah 2:1-13  
Matthew 24:15-31

*Sunday, December 3*  
Isaiah 64:1-9  
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
1 Corinthians 1:3-9  
Mark 13:24-37

*Monday, December 4*  
Psalm 79  
Micah 4:1-5  
Revelation 15:1-8

*Tuesday, December 5*  
Psalm 79  
Micah 4:6-13  
Revelation 18:1-10

*Wednesday, December 6*  
Psalm 79  
Micah 5:1-5a  
Luke 21:34-38

*Thursday, December 7*  
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13  
Hosea 6:1-6  
1 Thessalonians 1:2-10

*Friday, December 8*  
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13  
Jeremiah 1:4-10  
Acts 11:19-26

*Saturday, December 9*  
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13  
Ezekiel 36:24-28  
Mark 11:27-33

*Sunday, December 10*  
Isaiah 40:1-11  
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13  
2 Peter 3:8-15a  
Mark 1:1-8

*Monday, December 11*  
Psalm 27  
Isaiah 26:7-15  
Acts 2:37-42

*Tuesday, December 12*  
Psalm 27  
Isaiah 4:2-6  
Acts 11:1-18

*Wednesday, December 13*  
Psalm 27  
Malachi 2:10—3:1  
Luke 1:5-17

*Thursday, December 14*  
Psalm 126  
Habakkuk 2:1-5  
Philippians 3:7-11

*Friday, December 15*  
Psalm 126  
Habakkuk 3:2-6  
Philippians 3:12-16

*Saturday, December 16*  
Psalm 126  
Habakkuk 3:13-19  
Matthew 21:28-32

*Sunday, December 17*  
Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11  
Psalm 126  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24  
John 1:6-8, 19-28

*Monday, December 18*  
Psalm 125  
1 Kings 18:1-18  
Ephesians 6:10-17

*Tuesday, December 19*  
Psalm 125  
2 Kings 2:9-22  
Acts 3:17—4:4

*Wednesday, December 20*  
Psalm 125  
Malachi 3:16—4:6  
Mark 9:9-13

*Thursday, December 21*  
Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26  
2 Samuel 6:1-11  
Hebrews 1:1-4

*Friday, December 22*  
Psalm 96  
Zephaniah 3:8-13  
Romans 10:5-13

*Saturday, December 23*  
Psalm 96  
Zephaniah 3:14-20  
Romans 13:11-14

*Sunday, December 24*  
*Nativity of Our Lord I*  
Isaiah 9:2-7  
Psalm 96  
Titus 2:11-14  
Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

*Monday, December 25*  
*Nativity of Our Lord II*  
Isaiah 62:6-12  
Psalm 97  
Titus 3:4-7  
Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20

*Monday, December 25*  
*Nativity of Our Lord III*  
Isaiah 52:7-10  
Psalm 98  
Hebrews 1:1-4 [5-12]  
John 1:1-14

*Tuesday, December 26*  
Psalm 148  
Jeremiah 26:1-9, 12-15  
Acts 6:8-15; 7:51-60

*Wednesday, December 27*  
Psalm 148  
Exodus 33:18-23  
1 John 1:1-9

*Thursday, December 28*  
Psalm 148  
Jeremiah 31:15-17  
Matthew 2:13-18

*Friday, December 29*  
Psalm 148  
Isaiah 49:5-15  
Matthew 12:46-50

*Saturday, December 30*  
Psalm 148  
Proverbs 9:1-12  
2 Peter 3:8-13

*Sunday, December 31*  
Psalm 148  
1 Kings 3:5-14  
John 8:12-19



# Bethlehem Lutheran Church

## December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 9:00am Quilting
2 9:30am Decorate for Advent	3 1st Sunday in Advent 11:15am Worship at Rankin Presbyterian	4 9am-noon Ro at BLC	5 9-11:30 Ro at BLC 12:00pm Advent Study & Soup at Bethlehem 1pm Choir	6  Advent	7 9:00am Quilting	8 9:00am Prairie Parish at
9 9:00am Prairie Parish at	10 2nd Sunday in Advent 11:15am Worship at Bethlehem Lutheran 3-6pm Ro at BLC	11 9am-noon Ro at BLC	12 10am Christmas Coffee / Tea 12:00pm Advent Study & Soup at Methodist 1pm Choir	13	14 6:30pm Council Meeting 9:00am Quilting	15 
16 	17 3rd Sunday in Advent 11:15am Worship at United Methodist	18 8am-noon Ro at BLC	19 8-11 Ro at BLC 12:00pm Advent Study & Soup at All Saints	20 	21 9:00am Quilting	22 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
23 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	24 4th Sunday in Advent Christmas Eve 5:30pm Candlelight Service 2pm-8pm Ro at BLC	25 	26 Christmas Begins with Christ	27	28 9:00am Quilting	29 2pm-5pm Ro at BLC
30 2pm-5pm Ro at BLC	31 1st Sunday of Christmas 9:00am Worship 8am-1pm Ro at BLC					30 2pm-5pm Ro at BLC