



# Bethlehem Star

Bethlehem Lutheran Church | Evangelical Lutheran Church of America | February, 2025

## *Loving Kindness and Compassion— February Attitudes*

This week as I was headed to Jean Jones' burial, I stopped at Ziggi's in Ft. Morgan for a skinny latte to enjoy during the drive. There was a line of five vehicles ahead of me and I grumbled a bit because everyone was ready for morning coffee break. When I arrived at the window, the server shared with me my order was paid for. I commented, "He must have known me". She commented, "Maybe not. The guy in front of him paid for his and he decided maybe he should pay for the one behind him." When she returned with my order, I looked at her and said, "Then I will pay for the one behind me." And the server grinned and chuckled, marveling at three of her customers' kindness for each other, perfect strangers.

As the month of February approaches, this is a great month to check our loving kindness and compassion attitudes not only to those we share life with; but perfect strangers that show up in our lives. How do we present ourselves as children of God? Are we inviting to others as we live

out the virtues given to us through the Holy Spirit and as God's very own? Do we even resemble the heart of Jesus to others? Do acquaintances really see the compassion Jesus was teaching his disciples/followers?

The new year has a great start for all of us here at Bethlehem with the dedication of our new Communion Candle (Barbara Linker memorials) and Paschal candle (Ray Larsen memorials). Some of you may be asking what is a Paschal candle? Paschal is Greek meaning "passing over". The Paschal candle is a symbol of the resurrected Christ, fully present with us, a symbol of hope, new life, and triumph of light over darkness. The Paschal candle will be lit and blessed at the beginning of Easter Sunday Service, then burn every Sunday in the Easter season, at baptisms, and funerals/memorial services. Our new Communion Candle replaces the white Christ candle from the Advent wreath placed temporarily on the altar for use on Communion Sundays.

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**Bethlehem Lutheran Church ~ 603 Custer ~ Brush, CO 80723**

**Rev. Deacon Ro Fesser**

Cell: (970) 631-2715

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

**Office Hours:**

Friday 10:30-noon,

Saturday 9-11:30, Sunday 11-1

**SUNDAY WORSHIP**

**9:00 a.m.**

*Gathered together,  
we serve in Christ.*

**Administrative Assistant:**

Terresa Lauck

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**Office Hours:**

Tues 11:30-1, Thurs 9-12

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New Council members begin their service and terms as they were installed with our existing council members January 26. We have a new president stepping into leadership of the congregation with Pat Chase stepping up and accepting the nomination by council members. Kevin Gardner has accepted the remaining three-year term vacated by Kim Redden who has completed two consecutive terms. Todd Morgan has accepted the remaining one year on Isaac Linker's three-year term. Kim remains as treasurer, with Terry Linker, Jeanette Dehning, and Beth Hocheder agreeing to continue their leadership roles as Vice-President, Secretary, and Financial Secretary respectively. Maren Bostrom and Charlene Holzworth remain serving in their second year of three-year terms. We are truly thankful for the gifts and talents of all these leaders who manage the business and decisions of our congregation.

We thank Debbie Johnson for her leadership as our 2024 president. Debbie gave time, energy, and a lot of organization regarding insurance claims, contractors, sale of the old tin roofing, poinsettias, helping Larry with lawn sprinklers, Deacon Ro's 2025 call papers, and many other projects throughout the year. Please give Debbie your personal thanks for all her leadership projects that lifted us up and kept us going.

Our star gifts, that one word card for 2025, received at the communion rail during January, shines its light brightly into our lives. This one word is something God reveals to us and for us to discover in our lives, just as the three wisemen discovered the new king, following the star to

Bethlehem. If you did not get your star gift, be sure to see Deacon Ro. There are plenty still available.

Sophia Hamilton will be celebrating First Communion with her aunt, Kim Redden, on Sunday, Feb 2.

We are thankful for Sophia's desire to love, serve, and know Jesus Christ more intimately in her life and to receive the nourishment of his body and blood each week.

And finally, Annual Meeting was postponed to February 2 with the deep freeze weather on January 19. The congregation votes at that meeting regarding our ministry taking a new direction to thrive in the years ahead by sharing rostered leaders with three other Lutheran churches (All Saints Church; Peace Evangelical Lutheran, Akron; and Peace Lutheran, Sterling). Akron United Methodist Church would also join us in the arrangement having been served by Pr. Jeff Hanson, ELCA, the last three years along with Peace Lutheran and Peace Evangelical Lutheran. Brush United Methodist is not part of this agreement as they have Pr. Sharon Strauss. Eben Ezer Lutheran Care Center has also agreed to contract for services with a committed dollar contract. This is all prompted by the retirement of Pr. Jeff, May 25, 2025 and the eventual retirement of Deacon Ro in approximately 20-21 months. By sharing pastoral services and expenses together, salaries, benefits (retirement/health benefits), and housing, two full-time rostered leaders could be called that would serve all the congregations and Eben Ezer agency. By voting now, an Advisory Board (a non-

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voting body) can be formed to develop the Core Values, Commitment Statements, model for pastoral services, ministry site profile, and call committee to have our documents advertising the positions to the new seminary graduates in May. This plan also offers more time to develop fresh new ministry opportunities that help us thrive, keeps all of us actively serving three communities, let's us live out our loving kindness and compassion attitudes, and continues the good news of Jesus Christ being proclaimed in and beyond our doors.

Great starts, you betcha, for all us, children of God, filled with loving kindness and compassion!

*“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another.”* Colossians 3:12-13

Ro



## FEBRUARY PRAIRIE PARISH GATHERING



Saturday, Feb 1, 2025, Peace Lutheran Church, 1404 S. 9<sup>th</sup> Ave, Sterling. **10:00 AM , NOTE NEW TIME!** Presentation by Trish Rahaak, a published story writer for *Chicken Soup for the Soul*. Trish will share a couple of her stories and the experience of becoming a published story writer, and soon to have another story released in the newest edition of *Chicken Soup for the Soul*. Peace Sterling will provide a light lunch of chicken soups for all to enjoy at 11:00am with Holy Communion shared by all at 11:45am. Trish lives in Sterling and is the manager of both locations of Harmony Homes, an Eben Ezer community in Sterling.

**Saturday,  
February 1, 2025  
10:00am  
Peace Lutheran,  
Sterling**



January 26th we celebrated a remarkable milestone—the 60th wedding anniversary of Lawrence & June Hansen. Over the past six decades, they’ve built a beautiful life together, filled with love, laughter, and countless memories. Their journey together has been nothing short of inspiring. Congratulations guys on this incredible achievement, and here’s to many more years of happiness!



Community Cupboard giving opportunities on February 9 and February 16! Bring your gifts of food and/or hygiene items for those in need here in Brush and place under the Giving Tree in the Fellowship Hall during those two weeks in February. We continue to reach out with our abundance to those who live with scarcity during 2025. God has blessed us with much that we are in a place to make daily life a blessing to others. Off and running as we begin our 2025 giving!

**February 9 & 16**

Sunday, February 23 Ro will take her first Sunday off in 2025. On that Sunday we have our second Lay Leader Worship Team making their debut while Kim Redden travels to Viet Nam and Jeanette Dehning stays in her Arizona snowbird nest. Sandy Gardner will lead worship and Charlene Holzworth will share her new preaching and sermon writing skills she learned during the Prairie Parish Preaching training and Luther Seminary Lay Leader training that she is enrolled in until October, 2025. To train and prepare Sandy for the worship leadership role, you will hear Sandy during worship service February 2, 9, and 16 leading parts of the liturgy, with Ro. Deacon Ro will have office hours on Friday and Saturday, February 21 and 22, but will be off Sunday, February 23.

**New**

**Church**

**COUNCIL**

**Member**

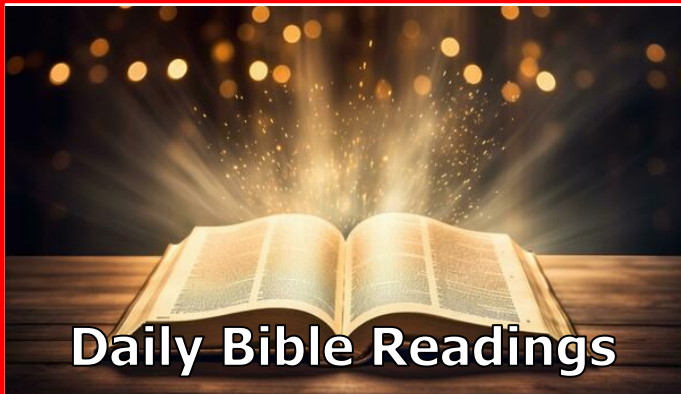
My name is Kevin Gardner, I live in Brush with my wife Sandy, our 18-yr old son Wyatt, and 8-year-old daughter Morgan. We have a 20-yr old daughter, Cienna who lives near us. I grew up in Somerset Pennsylvania (as a point of reference, where flight 93 crashed and the Quecreek miners were rescued). I have been fortunate to lead a very diverse and interesting life, through involving myself deeply in things that are important to me.

I have a background in Emergency Services having been a Fire Fighter, EMT and Police Officer in that state. I have been a proud lifelong learner and educator having done course work through Triangle Technical School, Greater Johnstown Vocational Technical School, Denver Museum of Nature and Science, Colorado State University, University of Northern Colorado, Center for Professional Development, Center for Legal Studies, and New York Institute of Photography to name a few.

Professionally, I have a national certification as a Professional in Human Resources (PHR) as well as a dual Paralegal certification with an emphasis in Employment Law. I work for the Northeast Colorado Health Department where I wear multiple hats. My role is Human Resource Manager, Paralegal, in-house IT, and physical security (camera systems and door badge management). I was an Adjunct Professor for Allegheny College of Maryland for 8 years, teaching a variety of Photography, HR, and wildlife management related topics. Public speaking and educating are a passion of mine.

Outside of my normal work life, I am the owner of Colorado Gun Tech LLC, a Gunsmithing and Firearm Appraisal business in Brush. I am an avid outdoorsman and past outdoor writer, which has been my life balance, with over 25 years of hunting guide experience. I have held multiple scientific collection permits in Colorado where I worked with CPW on studies involving large mammals. I have created educational presentations on topics related to wildlife and wildlife management. My expertise and passion is North American Bears, highlighted by having conducted a research project funded by Safari Club International, investigating 109 bear attacks on humans in a search of a common indicator of attack. I published a book in 2006 comprised of articles and works I had published from 1995-2005.

I enjoy serving on boards and advisory committees that allow me to put my life work to use in any way that benefits the good of the organization. I feel I can be an asset as a council member and look forward to being more involved in the church.



## Daily Bible Readings

*Saturday, February 1*  
Psalm 71:1-6  
2 Chronicles 36:11-21  
John 1:43-51

*Sunday, February 2*  
Jeremiah 1:4-10  
Psalm 71:1-6  
1 Corinthians 13:1-13  
Luke 4:21-30

*Monday, February 3*  
Psalm 56  
1 Kings 17:8-16  
1 Corinthians 2:6-16

*Tuesday, February 4*  
Psalm 56  
2 Kings 5:1-14  
1 Corinthians 14:13-25



*Wednesday, February 5*  
Psalm 56  
Jeremiah 1:11-19  
Luke 19:41-44

*Thursday, February 6*  
Psalm 138  
Numbers 20:22-29  
Acts 9:19b-25

*Friday, February 7*  
Psalm 138  
Numbers 27:12-23  
Acts 9:26-31

*Saturday, February 8*  
Psalm 138  
Judges 3:7-11  
Luke 4:42-44

*Sunday, February 10*  
Isaiah 6:1-8 [9-13]  
Psalm 138  
1 Corinthians 15:1-11  
Luke 5:1-11

LOVE   
one  
another  
AS I HAVE  
loved  
 you  
John 13:34

*Monday, February 11*  
Psalm 115  
Judges 5:1-11  
1 Corinthians 14:26-40

*Tuesday, February 12*  
Psalm 115  
1 Samuel 9:15—10:1b  
1 Timothy 3:1-9

*Wednesday, February 13*  
Psalm 115  
Isaiah 8:1-15  
Luke 5:27-32

*Thursday, February 14*  
Psalm 1  
Jeremiah 13:12-19  
Acts 13:26-34

*Friday, February 15*  
Psalm 1  
Jeremiah 13:20-27  
1 Peter 1:17—2:1

*Saturday, February 16*  
Psalm 1  
Jeremiah 17:1-4  
Luke 11:24-28

*Sunday, February 17*  
Jeremiah 17:5-10  
Psalm 1  
1 Corinthians 15:12-20  
Luke 6:17-26

*Monday, February 18*  
Psalm 120  
2 Kings 24:18—25:21  
1 Corinthians 15:20-34

*Tuesday, February 19*  
Psalm 120  
Ezra 1:1-11  
2 Corinthians 1:12-19

*Wednesday, February 20*  
Psalm 120  
Jeremiah 22:11-17  
Luke 11:37-52

*Thursday, February 21*  
Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40  
Genesis 43:16-34  
Romans 8:1-11

*Friday, February 22*  
Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40  
Genesis 44:1-17  
1 John 2:12-17

*Saturday, February 23*  
Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40  
Genesis 44:18-34  
Luke 12:57-59

*Sunday, February 24*  
Genesis 45:3-11, 21-28  
Psalm 37:1-18 or 37:3-10  
1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50  
Luke 6:27-38

*Monday, February 25*  
Psalm 38  
Genesis 33:1-17  
1 Corinthians 11:2-16

*Tuesday, February 26*  
Psalm 38  
1 Samuel 24:1-22  
1 Corinthians 11:17-22, 27-33

*Wednesday, February 27*  
Psalm 38  
Leviticus 5:1-13  
Luke 17:1-4

*Thursday, February 28*  
Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15  
Proverbs 13:1-12  
Romans 5:12—6:2





Baptismal Birthdays...in 2025 we begin recognizing and celebrating the anniversary of everyone's baptism here at Bethlehem; this a most important date when each of us became a child of God, joining the

communion of saints, and the body of Christ. Please light a candle and give thanks to God for His love and grace that lasts a lifetime and opens the door to new life in eternity, a victory over death! Brothers and sisters in Christ... be sure to celebrate the day with each other!

This month we celebrate two months of baptismal birthdays...both January and February!

Jim Christensen	January 1, 1936
Sandy Cook	January 2, 1955
Marsha Mills	January 20, 1974
Carla Krueger	January 23, 1955
Carol Livengood	January 25, 1925

With no February baptismal birthdays, this month we will remember baptismal birthdays for all who don't recall a month, but do know year.

Kevin DeKorte	1985
Gilbert Perry	1977
Joy Perry	1956
Janet Rohde	1948
Kevin Gardner	1976

Blessed baptismal birthdays to everyone in the name of Father, Son and Holy Spirit!



# February Celebrations

## February Birthdays

Gene Ruggles	13th
Lily Alexander	21st
Trish Turner	29th

## February Anniversaries

Ed & Joann Hansen	14th
John & Trish Turner	28th



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

**Ed Hansen, Charlene Holzworth, Ron Petersen, Garnet Leys, Amara Flaharty, Ken Kelly, Marilyn Woodward, Kenny Bostrom, John Strauch, Beva Linker, Dave Honebein, and Lori Bostrom.**

**BLC**  
**Church Council Meeting**  
**January 12, 2025**

The meeting was called to order by outgoing president Deb Johnson at 10:30am. Opening prayer was by Ro. Present were Deb, Kim Redden, Beth Hocheder, Maren Bostrom, Ro, Terry Linker, Charlene Holzworth and Jeanette Dehning.

Beth moved and Maren seconded to approve the consensus agenda. Motion passed.

Kim said our \$150,000 CD at Bank of Colorado matures January 13. Kim will renew it at the best rate possible. The quarterly interest from this is put in our checking account at Farmer's State Bank. Beth made this a motion, Terry seconded. Motion passed.

Correspondence was from Sophia. She sent two thank you's. One was for the Christmas ornament. The other was for the quilt she got. Isaac Linker sent a letter of resignation from council. Several names were submitted as replacements. Jeanette will contact these members.

Poinsettia cost was \$15.70 for the real ones, and \$8.00 for the silk ones. You can still contribute to the flower fund if you wish.

Ro handed out the Prairie Parish ballot. Members can vote absentee, but not on Zoom. Ro stressed how important it is to join PP, Brush United Methodist church is not a part of PP, which is usually a Lutheran thing. Akron Methodist is due to Pastor Jeff being their pastor. Ro described in detail each of the four models from which to choose if we join PP.

2025 Church Council Officers were elected. Pat Chase was nominated for President by Jeanette, Kim seconded the. Motion passed. Jeanette nominated Terry Linker as Vice President. Charlene seconded. Motion passed. Terry moved and Beth seconded for Jeanette to continue as secretary. Motion passed. Terry moved for Kim to remain as treasurer. The treasurer does not need to be a council member. Beth seconded. Motion passed. Jeanette moved and Terry seconded for Beth to continue as financial treasurer. Motion passed.

February Deacon is Deb J. Usher is Larry J. Next meeting is February 9 at 10:15am..

At the February 23 service Charlene will give the message. Ro will ask Sandy Gardner if she will lead the service.

Deb got correspondence that our insurance for hail damage is closed. But we have not gotten the additional money for Grahams and Hammer work. Deb will look into this.

It was brought up that we all need to be communicating better. We need to ask for information to do our job if not known, or an additional job in case someone is absent. And it is better if Ro is your first point of communication about hospitalizations and deaths especially.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 after the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jeanette Dehning



Candle Dedication  
January 26, 2025

Dear Members of BLC,

We would like to extend our thanks to each of you for the cards, love, support, thoughts, and prayers you've shared with us during this difficult time. Your kindness has been a great comfort knowing we are surrounded by such a caring and supportive community has brought us peace.

With love,

Kevin & Jody DeKorte

*Thank you for your thoughts, prayers, and kindness during this difficult time.*

*Thank you* 

## UPCOMING PRAIRIE PARISH LAY LEADERS' TRAINING

*Worship Planning and Leadership*

February with Pr. Jeff

Spiritual Visitation:  
March with Deacon Ro

Leading Bible Studies:  
March with Pr. Jeff and Deacon Ro

Dear Bethlehem Members and Friends,

I wanted to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude for the support and kindness you have shown me during the difficult time leading up to and including the loss of my mother. Your thoughtful gestures, words of encouragement, assistance with tasks, hugs, texts, cards, and prayers along the way have provided me with comfort and strength when I needed it most.

It means a great deal to me to have such a caring and understanding community behind me, and I am truly thankful for the support you've given. Your compassion has made this difficult time a little easier to bear.

God Bless,  
Terresa

Pastor Jeff Hanson and Deacon Ro will share with Rocky Mountain Synod and the ELCA by Zoom February 20, from 6:30-8:00pm "Brave Experiments" regarding the re-structure of Prairie Parish and the lay leadership training that has been conducted since July, 2024. This "brave experiment" all in preparation for the upcoming retirement of Pr. Jeff on May 25, 2025 and the eventual retirement of Deacon Ro in 20-22 months with the hope for two full-time pastors to be called to the Prairie to serve All Saints Church, Akron Methodist Church, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Peace Evangelical Lutheran-Akron, and Peace Lutheran-Sterling. Eben Ezer Lutheran Care Center would contract for pastoral services. If you would like to attend by Zoom, please contact Deacon Ro for registration.



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

February 2025	2	9	16	23
<b>Deacon</b>	Kim Redden	Deb Johnson		
<b>Reader</b>	Kevin Gardner	Maren Bostrom	Charlene Holzworth	Sharon George
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Donna Morgan			
<b>Communion Set UP</b>	Deacon Ro & Sandy Gardner	Donna Morgan	Deacon Ro	Donna Morgan
<b>Usher</b>	Terry Linker	Larry Johnson		
<b>Bell Ringer</b>	Sandy Gardner	Kim Redden	Sandy Gardner	Maren Bostrom
<b>Acolyte</b>	Sophia Hamilton	Lily Redden	Sophia Hamilton	Lily Redden
<b>Clavinovist</b>	Garnet Leys			
<b>Media Team</b>	Kevin & Jody DeKorte	Sharon George, Marisa Castrup & Kevin Gardner		

	1/05	1/12	1/19	1/26
<b>Attendance</b>	24	27	28	45

**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.*

Watch Sunday services on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/>

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[www.facebook.com/bethlehemlutheranbrush](http://www.facebook.com/bethlehemlutheranbrush)

- Pat Chase, President
- Terry Linker, Vice-President
- Jeanette Dehning, Secretary
- Kim Redden, Treasurer
- Maren Bostrom
- Kevin Gardner
- Beth Hocheder
- Charlene Holzworth
- Todd Morgan



# February 2025

# Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				Ro's Regular Hours: Friday 10:30-noon, Saturday 9-11:30, Sunday 11-1  Teresa's Regular Hours: Tues 11:30-1, Thurs 9-12		1  10:00am Prairie Parish Peace, Sterling
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4th Sunday after Epiphany 9:00am Worship 10:15am Annual Meeting				9:00am Quilting		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
5th Sunday after Epiphany 9:00am Worship 10:15am Council Meeting Food Collection				9:00am Quilting		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
6th Sunday after Epiphany 9:00am Worship Food Collection		6:00pm PEO		Teresa out of the office  9:00am Quilting		
23	24	25	26	27	28	
7th Sunday after Epiphany 9:00am Worship Deacon Ro gone		Teresa out of the office		9:00am Quilting		

## Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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Address Service Requested

A growing community of Christ's followers; cultivating disciples  
through compassion, love, and integrity.