

# Bethlehem Star

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

*“See the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes...And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.”*

Revelation 21: 3b; 5

Our month of April helped us to experience in faith, in trust, and in truth God himself is with us, among mortals and we are his people. We came and worked together, serving others through the loss of our beloved members, opening our arms and our church to the community for comfort, for support, for hope in Jesus Christ. All the while, we finished up our 40-day walk through Lent with our brothers and sisters in Christ at Rankin Presbyterian and Brush United Methodist. We experienced Holy Week beginning with Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday service to the congregation through preparation, worship, time, and commitment. We spent time with our Prairie Parish brothers and sisters discussing a new direction in ministry. And through it all, we truly know how God wipes every tear from our eyes and how he really is making all things new.

In this past month we have touched grieving hearts in our sanctuary, we have shared the Word trustworthy and true with hundreds in the sanctuary. We have brought joy to families and friends with the brightness, warmth, and fresh look of our fellowship hall, offering loving, compassionate hands and hearts that have served. We have renewed our relationship with the One who gave His only Son for our sake that we might continue to walk in grace and receive His amazing gift of salvation. We have shared the joy of resurrection with families who have been in our church family forever and with families we’ve only known for moments. This is what it’s all about, that which the One seated on the throne was saying: “See, I am making all things new”, people of God!

As we step into this new month of May, the 50 days of Easter continues as our season that all things are being made new! It’s not just an Easter Sunday thing, but fifty days for us to experience, to grow in, and to become aware in every way, every nook and corner of our lives, just how all things are being made new for us. God himself, the one alive, living with and among us, the risen Jesus Christ.

Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Deacon Ro

## 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 vary**, please check bulletins for weekly hours.

### SUNDAY WORSHIP

**9:00 a.m.**

*Gathered together,  
we serve in Christ.*

**Administrative Assistant:**

Terresa Lauck

Office Phone: (970) 842-2246

Email:

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

**Office Hours:**

Tues 11:30-1 & Thurs 9am-12

## Fellowship Hall

Over the last three weeks our fellowship hall has been a special gathering place for family members, community, members and guests, the ELCA, Rankin/Brush United Methodist/All Saints, and former members of the congregation.

I have received so many compliments on how pretty, how nice, how comfortable, how great the Fellowship Hall is. During the weeks of April, Brush Ministerial Association held two Soup and Studies at Bethlehem during Lent and both times, different people came to me to tell me just how nice the Fellowship Hall is. Two meals numbering well over 150 people shared a meal and memories after a funeral service. No one was in a rush to be on their way.

A huge thank-you to the kitchen serving crew and men who sat up tables, emptied garbage cans, and helped fill pitchers, or wherever they could lend a hand.

We all gathered Easter morning for a special breakfast before worship, plus some gathered after worship to celebrate with a cup of coffee and items left-over after breakfast. Thanks to Beth Hocheder and the Rohdes who set up the welcoming space for all of us.

Then on April 21, the Newport and Paulsen families requested to visit Bethlehem after Glenna Newport's graveside service. They came, Raymond and Zonia's grandson played the fellowship hall piano recalling grandpa and grandma's anniversary, they laughed at Gwen's confirmation picture, and they sat in the fellowship space recalling memories of the chili-soup suppers, the potlucks, and the antics they pulled as kids. Then moving to the sanctuary, they walked to the altar space, recalled the confirmations, the baptisms, the weddings, and worship. They sat in the pews for a few, brief quiet moments; then shared stories with Deacon Ro. They slowly went down the stairs and to the front door, lingering for just a few more minutes before leaving.

Thanks to all of you for making this a special place of memories, a special place to meet Christ, and a special place to live into quiet moments with God.

## Compassionate Hearts at Easter



This is our second Easter to fill baskets so some families can have an Easter treat! Thank you so much to our wonderful, caring and always giving congregation for helping to fill the baskets. Fifteen baskets were taken to the Community Cupboard at the Methodist Church on Thursday, April 17, to be shared with Brush families.

Through Compassionate Hearts, BLC continues to love others, reflecting Christ's love in our community.





## We thank the following for sponsoring a lily bloom!

Sandy Cook in memory of Harold & Joyce Temple

Sandy Cook in honor of my sisters and brothers

Kim Redden in memory of Larry Redden

Corinne Bostrom in memory of Martin, Robert, & Ethel Kostman

Lawrence & June Hansen in memory of Albert & Esther Hansen & Harold Hansen

Terry Linker in memory of Henry & Barbara Linker

John & Trish Turner in memory of Mary Miller

John & Trish Turner in memory of Evelyn Chartier

Marsha Mills in memory of parents

Marsha Mills in memory of Carol Livengood

Don Hefty in memory of Helen & Samuel Hefty

Beth Hocheder in memory of Lawrence & Kathleen Biggin

Beth Hocheder in memory of Lauri Manchenton

Larry & Debbie Johnson in memory of their parents

Stan & Carla Krueger in memory of Harold & Bev Strand

Stan & Carla Krueger in memory of Martin & Eleanor Krueger

Stan & Carla Krueger in memory of Mae Ruggles



Congratulations to **Sophia Hamilton** on this very special day as she received her First Holy Communion. May her heart be filled with Jesus' love, and may this be the beginning of a lifelong journey of faith, hope, and joy in Jesus Christ our Lord. God bless you today and always!



## **Pastors Take Their Leave from Plains Ministry....**

During May, two of our rostered leaders, ordained ministers will leave their ministries here on the plains. Pr. Sonja Pancoast will preach and preside her last worship service at All Saints Church May 18. Pr. Sonja started coming to the plains in 2022 to offer pulpit supply here at Bethlehem once/twice a month. In June 2023 she began weekly pulpit supply at All Saints Church with Deacon Ro's retirement from health care ministry. Pr. Sonja has served every Sunday at All Saints for the last two years with the exception of a few vacation Sundays over the two years. Deacon Ro will go to All Saints at 10:25am May 18 to do a God Speed Blessing on Pr. Sonja, as she spends the summer with her family, her youngest daughter leaving for college in August and to continue her full-time job with a clergy insurance/benefits company.

Pr. Jeff Hanson will retire from ministry after his last worship service, Sunday, May 25 at Peace Lutheran, Sterling. Pastor Jeff has served the last four years at Peace Lutheran in Sterling, Peace Evangelical Lutheran in Akron, and Akron United Methodist Church. Prior to the 3 congregations here in northeastern Colorado, Pr. Jeff served at Burlington, and his first parish in Gypsum. Pastor Jeff also served in outdoor ministry at Sky Ranch. He has 30 years of service in ministry to the Lord and God's people. Upon retirement he and Laurie, his wife will be traveling to visit their sons in Alaska and North Carolina. Pr. Jeff will officiate the wedding of his son and soon-to-be daughter-in-law in North Carolina. Pr. Jeff and Laurie will continue to live in Brush, but he will not be serving in any of the Prairie Parish ministries. He looks forward to doing some woodworking projects, to more travel experiences, and to whatever God opens up, making new for him.

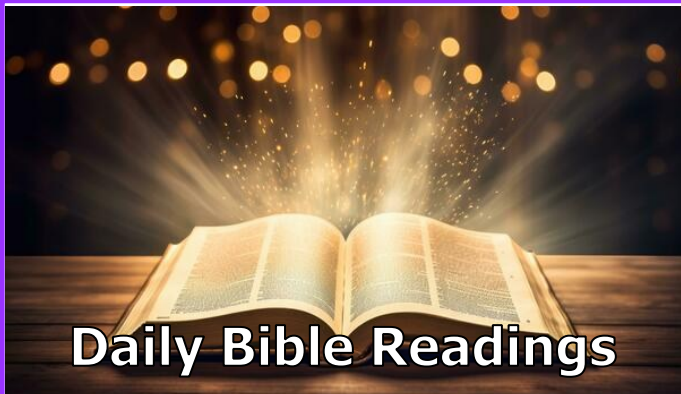
We are truly thankful for the special ministry both these rostered leaders have provided to us here on the plains and the new awarenesses they have provided to us in our walks of faith.

A graphic with a light green background and a dark green triangle in the top right corner. The text "CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE" is written in bold, dark green, sans-serif capital letters.

## **CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE**

Be sure to provide the church office with your address, present phone number, and email in the next week. We would like to include everyone, but need your help to do so. Please consider confirming your contact information or filling out a lavender slip and leaving it in the office.

**Deadline to submit information for directory:  
May 1, 2025**



## Daily Bible Readings

*Thursday, May 1*  
Psalm 30  
Isaiah 5:11-17  
Revelation 3:14-22

*Friday, May 2*  
Psalm 30  
Isaiah 6:1-4  
Revelation 4:1-11

*Saturday, May 3*  
Psalm 30  
Genesis 18:1-8  
Luke 14:12-14

*Sunday, May 4*  
Acts 9:1-6 [7-20]  
Psalm 30  
Revelation 5:11-14  
John 21:1-19

*Monday, May 5*  
Psalm 121  
Ezekiel 1:1-25  
Acts 9:19b-31

*Tuesday, May 6*  
Psalm 121  
Ezekiel 1:26—2:1  
Acts 26:1-18

*Wednesday, May 7*  
Psalm 121  
Isaiah 6:1-8  
Luke 5:1-11

*Thursday, May 8*  
Psalm 23  
Ezekiel 11:1-25  
Revelation 5:1-10

*Friday, May 9*  
Psalm 23  
Ezekiel 20:39-44  
Revelation 6:1—7:4

*Saturday, May 10*  
Psalm 23  
Ezekiel 28:25-26  
Luke 12:29-32

*Sunday, May 11*  
Acts 9:36-43  
Psalm 23  
Revelation 7:9-17  
John 10:22-30

*Monday, May 12*  
Psalm 100  
Ezekiel 37:15-28  
Revelation 15:1-4

*Tuesday, May 13*  
Psalm 100  
Ezekiel 45:1-9  
Acts 9:32-35

*Wednesday, May 14*  
Psalm 100  
Jeremiah 50:17-20  
John 10:31-42

*Thursday, May 15*  
Psalm 148  
Ezekiel 2:8—3:11  
Revelation 10:1-11

*Friday, May 16*  
Psalm 148  
Daniel 7:13-14  
Revelation 11:15

*Saturday, May 17*  
Psalm 148  
Daniel 7:27  
Revelation 11:16-19

*Sunday, May 18*  
Acts 11:1-18  
Psalm 148  
Revelation 21:1-6  
John 13:31-35

*Monday, May 19*  
Psalm 133  
1 Samuel 20:1-23, 35-42  
Acts 11:19-26

*Tuesday, May 20*  
Psalm 133  
2 Samuel 1:4-27  
Acts 11:27-30

*Wednesday, May 21*  
Psalm 133  
Leviticus 19:9-18  
Luke 10:25-28

*Thursday, May 22*  
Psalm 67  
Proverbs 2:1-5  
Acts 15:36-41

*Friday, May 23*  
Psalm 67  
Proverbs 2:6-8  
Acts 16:1-8

*Saturday, May 24*  
Psalm 67  
Proverbs 2:9-15  
Luke 19:1-10

*Sunday, May 25*  
Acts 16:9-15  
Psalm 67  
Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5  
John 14:23-29

*Monday, May 26*  
Psalm 93  
1 Chronicles 12:16-22  
Revelation 21:5-14

*Tuesday, May 27*  
Psalm 93  
2 Chronicles 15:1-15  
Revelation 21:15-22

*Wednesday, May 28*  
Psalm 93  
2 Chronicles 34:20-33  
Luke 2:25-38

*Thursday, May 29*  
Acts 1:1-11  
Psalm 47  
Ephesians 1:15-23  
Luke 24:44-53

*Friday, May 30*  
Psalm 97  
Exodus 33:12-17  
Revelation 22:6-9

*Saturday, May 31*  
Psalm 97  
Exodus 33:18-23  
John 1:14-18





Corrine Bostrom 5/16/1941

Bailey Foiles. 5/17/1998

Greg Foiles. 5/17/1998

And one did happen in April...

Roger Castrup. 4/12/1985

*\*Note: Some of our Baptismal records are incomplete. Please help us update our baptismal records if we have incorrect, incomplete, or no record at all.*



### May Birthdays

Betty Kelly	6th
Kenny Bostrom	12th
Ted Pearson	16th
Corinne Bostrom	26th
Steve Rohde	26th
Janet Krohn	28th
Gilbert Perry	31st

### May Anniversaries

David & Andrea Strand	3rd
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Please pray for the following who have been submitted to our prayer list:

**Roxanne Swanson, Lenore Wind, Ron Peterson, Garnet Leys, Amara Flaharty, Marilyn Woodward, Kenny Bostrom, John Strauch, Beva Linker, Dave Honebein, and Lori Bostron.**

## Prairie Parish

Open Forum is a new event Bethlehem is holding to keep the congregation aware of the work of the Prairie Council and Prairie Parish. Your Council Representatives, Kim Redden and Steve Rohde will provide information regarding updates and existing work the Council is taking on to prepare positive, healthy, quality recommendations to the Congregation Councils for decisions. Deacon Ro will present explanations and answer questions only as needed to clarify understanding. Other guests from Prairie Parish may be invited to present as needed to provide clear understanding of the process as Prairie Parish is formed and shaped over the next two to four months. Open Forums will be held on the fourth Sunday of the month, this month's being this Sunday, April 27. Questions will be fielded and answered with the most current information available.



Wednesday, April 9, Prairie Parish hosted two representatives, Rahel Williams and Becka Payne, from the ELCA, Churchwide Office in Chicago. Rahel and Becka are part of the “Innovations and Ideas” department. For 2025 the department’s focus is “Rural Ministry”. This focus was selected as the department’s first research and study project because 60% of the ELCA congregations exist in rural settings. The department’s goal is to determine, discover, and dig out opportunities that can renew, rediscover and reenvision rural ministry across the United States. Presently they are visiting locations who are at work exploring, trying out, building, taking leaps of faith to re-engage, re-energize, even try new things to keep ministry bringing the good news of Jesus Christ into their communities.

Rahel and Becka traveled 102 miles for 5 ½ hours with Pastor Jeff and Deacon Ro after arriving from Denver. They experienced all three communities in Brush, Akron, and Sterling. They spoke with people from all 6 locations: All Saints, Akron United Methodist, Bethlehem, Eben Ezer, Peace Evangelical, and Peace Sterling. They ate soup at Peace Sterling and joined in Holden Evening Prayer. They made hundreds of notes in their phones, they took pictures both inside and outside of all the locations, they listened carefully, and asked many questions. They shared with us there is to be 7.5 million dollar grant opportunities available for rural ministry projects which they will be sending us the criteria in the next month. They loved their time here with us, they were impressed with the energy and things you all are doing in ministry, and they look to support us in our work, Prairie Parish, and the ministries we embrace. We are not done hearing from them or the possibility of more visits. Their wheels were turning and turning.



Thanks to everyone who were here to welcome Rahel and Becka, to show them around Bethlehem, and to sit down and talk with them telling them about us!

## **BLC Church Council Meeting April 13 2025**

The meeting was brought to order by President Pat C. at 10:26am. She then gave the opening prayer. Members present were Terry L, Beth H, Maren B, Todd M, Jeannie W, and Jeanette D. Absent was Charlene H who has been filling in at Rankin. Also present were Deacon Ro F. and Kim R.

Todd moved and Jeanette seconded the motions to accept the March minutes. Motion passed. Beth moved and Todd seconded the motion to accept the treasurer's report. Motion passed.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Todd will contact an electrician for the light replacements that are needed. Correspondence was a thank you from Ebenezer for the \$350 sent to them from BLC.

An application for an insurance policy from Doris M noted BLC as beneficiary. We are waiting on a death certificate.

A hail/insurance report was given by Ro. The tin roof BLC had was not the correct grade so had to be removed. A chimney was discovered and covered up, as well as the skylights. The upstairs repairs were not covered by insurance as they were not related to the latest storm. Ro stated the insurance claim is completed so the case is closed.

An exterminator is needed. Donna has found many bugs throughout the building. Todd will contact an exterminator.

Kevin D and Kevin G have been researching a new internet provider for BLC. This was tabled until next month when we have more information.

New computers are needed for Ro, Teresa L and Kim. This is due to the age of their computers. But mostly because very soon all computers must have Windows 11 to work. Pat will ask Kevin D to look into this and find the best deal for us.

Council meeting times will be changed to 5pm. Meetings will still be the second Sunday of each month.

Garnet has again asked Jeanette to tutor her granddaughters. She would like the youngest to be tutored along with the two older girls. Beth moved and Jeanie moved to graciously pay \$50 for each three hours of tutoring.

Deacon Ro brought up the possibility of helping pay Garnet's monthly rent as an opportunity for Bethlehem to sponsor a family with rent supplement. This was also tabled until next meeting.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Beth has diligently reviewed the constitution again. Each council member is to review it before our next meeting. Attention should be given specifically to c7.05, c6.03, c12.12, plus anything else we deem necessary. Ro also stated the constitution lists certain duties that the pastor is to do, rather than say the secretary. It is the same for a deacon as Ro, such as keeping records of births, deaths, baptisms, marriages, confirmations, etc. Teresa is to be kept in the loop about these also.

### **PRAIRIE PARISH (PP)**

Prairie Parish has changed directions since we were first told about it. PP started as getting two full time rostered ministers, hopefully right out of seminary. This could be a husband/wife team. Thus we needed to hurry the process so we'd be ready to put in a call for those we wanted right out of seminary. Later it changed to one full time and one part time rostered minister. Now it is two lay people who we would pay for seminary training, plus a salary. Ro has stated that she could be hired as a part time person, along with the lay couple who plan to go to seminary. It was stated that this is not what the congregation voted on when they chose to join PP. Todd told us the PP call committee was told, not asked, to interview the lay couple on April 19. All this has led to frustration for some council members and congregation members who have talked with council. This PP matter was also tabled until next month when hopefully we know more and the lay couple have been interviewed.

*(continued on next page)*

*(council minutes, continued from previous page)*

Council was told about several concerns expressed to Ro rather than council members. One is that council is too negative. It was asked why, what that pertained to, what that meant. If you have a concern with council we would be pleased if you would talk with any or all of us so we can understand the concerns. A second concern was that council is saying we are going to lock the doors and throw away the key. This has not been discussed or brought up by council. Due to diminishing membership, our aging congregation, and the fact that we spend more each month than we bring in, have caused concerns for many over the years who wonder how long we can keep our doors open. As far as council is concerned, we want to keep the door open. The third comment made was that we are becoming just like LCOR.

In the future services will be conducted at BLC for all church holidays, etc, unless cleared through council to cancel.

BLC yard care needs help. If you are interested please let Ro, Terresa and/or Pat know. Pat knows someone who may want the job so she will talk with him.

Galaxy Plumbing will be called to get an estimate on the downstairs bathrooms which need some attention. And Hammer will be called about fixing the bathroom walls.

May Deacon: Kim May Usher: Beth

Our next meeting will be May 9 at 5pm.

The meeting ended at 12:35pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeanette Dehning

**BOTTLING UP**  
*hope*

**Baby  
Bottle  
Campaign**  
**May 11 - June 15, 2025**  
*Bringing HOPE to expectant mothers and fathers in Northeast Colorado!*  
**neco-cpc.org | 970.842.4324**



### June Usher needed!

As we approach June, I am hopeful that someone in the church will offer a helping hand. We do not currently have anyone signed up to volunteer to usher for the month of June. Ushers play a vital role in our Sunday service. Whether you're a seasoned volunteer or willing to step up and be new to the role, your presence will be recognized and appreciated. If you're up for this meaningful task, please let Terresa know.

### Synod Assembly, May 22-24 Albuquerque, NM

Jeanne Wuest and Deacon Ro will be headed Wednesday, May 21 to Albuquerque, NM to attend "Dios esta aqui, God is Here", Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly. Opening session begins at 2:00pm May 22. Worship, workshops, bible studies, ministry displays, plus business meetings to adopt the newly proposed two-year budget planning, ELCA annual report presentation, and introduction and installation of the newly selected Synod Ministers of Rocky Mountain Synod.

This year's assembly will be electing Synod Vice-President, 2 laypersons to Consultation Committee, 1 position to Discipline Committee, 1 layperson or rostered to Campus Ministry Committee, and 6 members reflecting balance between laypersons and rostered leaders to the Nominating Committee.

Prairie Parish has been asked to film a one-two minute video of the pilot layperson training program that has been completed over the past year to be shown at Assembly and in upcoming Synod communications. Arrangements are in the making for filming date and the particulars over the next two-three weeks to be completed here on site.



On behalf of the family of Carol Livengood, I would like to thank the ladies of BLC for decorating the pews with the lovely quilts and for the muffins and beverages provided to the family before her funeral. We also appreciate the assistance in assisting with serving the luncheon, providing beverages, and cleaning up the fellowship hall.

For over 75 years, BLC was an important part of my mother's life. Her church and her church family gave her so much love, support, purpose, and spiritual strength throughout her long life in Brush. I am grateful to all of you for your loving embrace.

Diane Livengood



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

May, 2025	4	11	18	25
<b>Deacon</b>	Kim Redden			
<b>Reader</b>	Charlene Holzworth	Sharon George	Jeanne Wuest	Kim Redden
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Deb Johnson			
<b>Communion Set Up</b>	Deacon Ro	Deb Johnson	Deacon Ro	Deb Johnson
<b>Usher</b>	Beth Hocheder			
<b>Bell Ringer</b>	Larry Johnson	Kim Redden	Sandy Gardner	Maren Bostrom
<b>Acolyte</b>	Sophia Hamilton	Lily Redden	Sophia Hamilton	Lily Redden
<b>Sunshine Committee</b>	Pat Chase & Marsha Mills			
<b>Clavinovist</b>	Garnet Leys			
<b>Media Team</b>	Sharon George & Kevin Gardner	Sharon George & Kevin Gardner	Sharon George & Marisa Castrup	Kevin & Jody DeKorte

	3/30	4/06	4/13	4/20
<b>Attendance</b>	23	33	36	42

**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/>

@BethlehemLutheranBrush



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



# May 2025

# Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 11am Gene Ruggles Service	2 9:00am Quilting	3
4 <b>3rd Sunday in Easter</b> 9:00am Worship 10:15 Meet & Greet Ben & Shila Adolf, TEEM Candidates	5 <b>Cinco de Mayo</b>	6	7	8 9:00am Quilting	9 Prairie Parish Filming	10
11 <b>HAPPY Mother's DAY</b>	12 Prairie Parish Filming	13	14	15 6:30pm Prairie Council 9:00am Quilting	16	17
18 <b>4th Sunday in Easter</b> 9:00am Worship Community Cupboard Collection 5:00pm Council Meeting	19	20	21	22 9:00am Quilting	23	24 ----- Synod Assembly -----
25 <b>5th Sunday in Easter</b> 9:00am Worship Community Cupboard Collection 10:15am Open Forum	26  <b>MEMORIAL DAY</b>	27 6:00pm PEO	28	29 9:00am Quilting	30	31
25 <b>6th Sunday in Easter</b> 9:00am Worship				29 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.