



Bethlehem Star

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

*“Jesus said, ‘Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.’”
Matthew 11:28*

Yes, Deacon Ro has given notice. Yes, the church council has withdrawn Bethlehem from Prairie Parish. Yes, pulpit supply is and continues being scheduled for the Sundays after August 3.

It is my prayer that everyone who has grown weary over these last months, can and will now receive rest for heart, mind, spirit in the Lord. Since last November as Prairie Parish became more and more real for Bethlehem, it seems like our Lord was pushed back in the corner, and discontentment, fear, and resistance moved in. As each month passed, trust started fading away, speculation increased, and uncertainty opened the door for things to be said, frustration to get in the way of listening, and choices, good or bad, began being made.

Approaches to ministry can come in many forms, shapes, looks, even sizes. That’s why there are different denominations, different practices, different styles of ministry. All approaches are necessary to reach people, to share the good news, and to live in Christian community. Over these last few months, it has become clear that Bethlehem desires, prefers and is most comfortable with a pastor-led ministry approach; whereas I desire, prefer, and am most comfortable with a Spirit-filled, lay-led, pastor supported ministry approach. Neither are wrong

approaches, just different approaches to ministry. The differences are great enough, the approaches do not compliment each other nor build each other up nor allow the opportunity to thrive, in sharing the good news. The two approaches pretty much butt heads. Pastor-led ministry is a well-established ministry approach, comfortable as it has been the way of the church for hundreds of years, with practices being well-established. Lay-led, pastor supported ministry is more experimental, establishes practices along the way, is less structured, relies more on the laity (believing members) to discover, lead, support, and build the ministry, with the pastor accompanying the people and the ministry.

As we move toward my last Sunday, August 3 and my last day of service here at Bethlehem (August 8), may the Lord help us restore respect for each other as Christian brothers and sisters. May the Lord help us to be compassionate to each other in the love of Christ. And, may the Lord open us to pray for each other in our journeys of faith, that we may grow even more to be the disciples Jesus calls us to be, with a ministry approach that helps more and more people come to know the love of God through deep relationship in Jesus Christ, guided in the wisdom of the Holy Spirit.

Ro

“For I the Lord your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, ‘Fear not, I am the one who helps you.’” Isaiah 41:13

Bethlehem Lutheran Church ~ 603 Custer ~ Brush, CO 80723

Rev. Deacon Ro Fesser

Cell: (970) 631-2715

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

Office Hours:

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



WAY TO MAKE A SPLASH, BLC!

This summer, several families in our community will be cooling off at the Brush swimming pool—thanks to the generous hearts of Bethlehem Lutheran Church members.

Recognizing that many families face financial barriers to summer recreation, the Compassionate Hearts committee here at BLC instigated a drive to raise funds for pool passes. The goal of ensuring that every child has the opportunity to swim, play, and enjoy the summer season safely was a success.

Through donations collected over a few months, the church was able to purchase a number of pool passes for distribution. These are being given to local families who would not have access to the pool due to cost.

This is about more than just swimming—it's about giving kids a chance to be kids, enjoy summer, and to stay safe in the heat. We're called to love our neighbors, and this is one small but meaningful way we are able to do that.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this initiative. Your kindness is making a real difference right here in our town. Let's continue to look for ways to be the hands and feet of Christ this summer and beyond.

A Caring Pregnancy Center



Thank you to everyone who generously donated to support the pregnancy center! Your kindness and contributions are making a real difference for mothers and babies in need. Together

\$112.47
was raised for this ministry.

Dear Ro and Church Members,

The family of Gene Ruggles sincerely thanks you for the hospital visits and the luncheon you served at his service. Thank you Garnet for the beautiful music!!

Jaylene Evans and
Andrea Strand families

BLC members,

On behalf of Eben Ezer Auxiliary we send our appreciation. We are blessed to have the use of your building/kitchen for our meetings and burrito making.

Thank you,

Jolece Campbell
EE Auxiliary Treasurer

Celebration of Life



Beverly Ann Strand

March 31, 1937-December 29, 2004

Come celebrate Bev's 87 years!

Saturday, July 26th

11:00am

*Jaycee Building
420 Ellsworth
Brush, Colorado*

Lunch to follow

Thanks to Kevin DeKorte who keeps our church computers healthy and current in the world of networks, operating systems, and Microsoft 11 at a most affordable price. Kevin has updated and set up a new pastor's computer and helped Ro through passcodes, passwords, and 2-step authentication.

Thanks also to Kevin for setting up our internet with Allo. Here's to a more reliable connection as we move forward broadcasting God's Word!

May God's blessings pour abundantly on Kevin and all of his gifts.



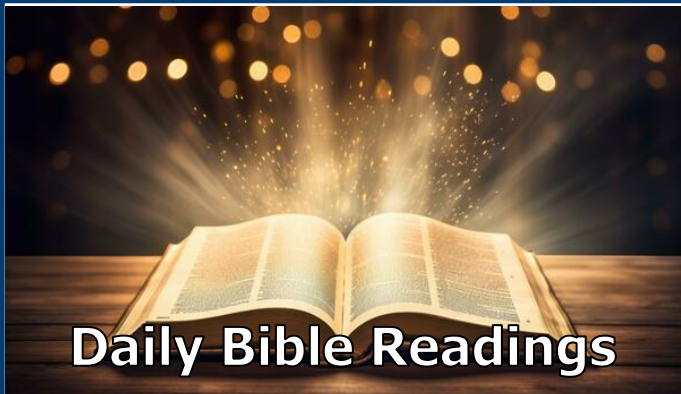
Please extend a heartfelt thanks to all of our quilters and to Sharon George for the beautiful and faithful ministry of creating Baptism cloths and baby blankets for our church family. Each is carefully hand-created and is a special gift given to every child Baptized in our congregation.

This quiet behind the scenes act of love is a lasting symbol of welcome into the family of faith. The time and care poured into each piece reflects the deep commitment to nurturing the next general of believers.

Thank you for using your hands and heart to serve in such a meaningful way. Your work is a blessing to each family and a beautiful reminder of God's love and grace.

Please note that there will be no quilting sessions during the month of July. We hope our quilters enjoy a restful summer break!

Quilting will resume—tune into the August newsletter for a start date!



Daily Bible Readings

Tuesday, July 1
Psalm 140
Jeremiah 3:15-18
Ephesians 5:6-20

Wednesday, July 2
Psalm 140
Jeremiah 23:16-22
Matthew 10:16-25

Thursday, July 3
Psalm 66:1-9
2 Kings 21:1-15
Romans 7:14-25

Friday, July 4
Psalm 66:1-9
Jeremiah 51:47-58
2 Corinthians 8:1-7

Saturday, July 5
Psalm 66:1-9
Zechariah 14:10-21
Luke 9:1-6

Sunday, July 6
Isaiah 66:10-14
Psalm 66:1-9
Galatians 6: [1-6] 7-16
Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

Monday, July 7
Psalm 119:73-80
Jeremiah 6:10-19
Acts 19:21-27

Tuesday, July 8
Psalm 119:73-80
Jeremiah 8:4-13
Acts 19:28-41

Wednesday, July 9
Psalm 119:73-80
Joshua 23:1-16
Luke 10:13-16

Thursday, July 10
Psalm 25:1-10
Genesis 41:14-36
James 2:14-26



Friday, July 11
Psalm 25:1-10
Genesis 41:37-49
Acts 7:9-16

Saturday, July 12
Psalm 25:1-10
Leviticus 19:1-4, 32-37
John 3:16-21

Sunday, July 13
Deuteronomy 30:9-14
Psalm 25:1-10
Colossians 1:1-14
Luke 10:25-37

Monday, July 14
Psalm 25:11-20
Job 24:1-8
James 2:1-7

Tuesday, July 15
Psalm 25:11-20
Proverbs 19:1-17
1 John 3:11-17

Wednesday, July 16
Psalm 25:11-20
Ecclesiastes 9:13-18
Matthew 25:31-46

Thursday, July 17
Psalm 15
Genesis 12:10-20
Hebrews 5:1-6

Friday, July 18
Psalm 15
Genesis 13:1-18
Ephesians 3:14-21

Saturday, July 19
Psalm 15
Genesis 14:1-16
Luke 8:4-10

Sunday, July 20
Genesis 18:1-10a
Psalm 15
Colossians 1:15-28
Luke 10:38-42

Monday, July 21
Psalm 119:97-104
Exodus 18:1-12
Colossians 1:27—2:7

Tuesday, July 22
Psalm 119:97-104
Proverbs 9:1-18
1 John 2:1-6

Wednesday, July 23
Psalm 119:97-104
Deuteronomy 12:1-12
John 6:41-51

Thursday, July 24
Psalm 138
Esther 2:19—3:6
Acts 1:15-20

Friday, July 25
Psalm 138
Esther 3:7-15
Acts 2:22-36

Saturday, July 26
Psalm 138
Esther 4:1-17
Luke 8:22-25

Sunday, July 27
Genesis 18:20-32
Psalm 138
Colossians 2:6-15 [16-19]
Luke 11:1-13

Monday, July 28
Psalm 55:16-23
Esther 5:1-14
Colossians 2:16—3:1



Tuesday, July 29
Psalm 55:16-23
Esther 6:1—7:6
Romans 9:30—10:4

Wednesday, July 30
Psalm 55:16-23
Esther 7:7—8:17
Matthew 5:43-48

Thursday, July 31
Psalm 49:1-12
Proverbs 23:1-11
Romans 11:33-36



*Celebrating the anniversaries of those
Baptized in Faith and Love*

June

Joseph Bustos & Gianna Perez-June 1
Trish Turner-June 8, 1952
Allyson Foiles-June 13, 2018
Matt Gardner-confirmed June 19, 1994
Terry Linker-June 24, 1062
Sophia Hambleton-June 25, 2023
Sharon George-June 27, 1943
Donna Morgan-June, 1959

July

Jody Halvorson-July 2, 1961
Isaac Linker-July 8, 2001
Lawrence Hansen-July 17, 1938
Jaymee Linker-July 22, 1988

**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.*



July Birthdays

June Hansen	3rd
Charlene Holzworth	6th
Stan Krueger	11th
David Strand	15th
Roxanne Swanson	23rd

July Anniversaries

Charles & Rosa Guzman	2nd
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Please pray for the following
who have been submitted to
our prayer list:

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

BLC Church Council Meeting June 8, 2025

The meeting was brought to order by President Pat C at 5pm. Members present were Pat C, Beth H, Todd M, Charlene H, Kevin G and Jeanette D. Also present were Deacon Ro, and visitors Kim R and Steve and Janet R. Absent were Terry L, Maren B and Jeanne W. Pat gave the opening prayer.

May minutes were approved as reported. *Treasurer's and Ro's reports* were moved to be accepted by Beth and seconded by Todd. Motion passed.

Correspondence included a thank you from Ro for the birthday flowers. The Ruggles family gave \$250 to the building fund. Glenna Newport's family gave \$500 to BLC. Jeanette moved and Todd seconded to put the \$500 towards the quilting fund. Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS update on Allo is that it was installed and checked by Kevin D. He has purchased a new computer for the pastor's office, and for the streaming services we do. He will also put up strip lighting to enhance our streaming services. The secretary's and treasurer's *computers* did not need to be updated.

Compassionate Hearts collected \$394 which was used to buy punch cards for each age group. When children come to the pool and need financial assistance, one of the cards is punched and the child gets a note that says, "Hope you enjoyed your swim compliments of Bethlehem Lutheran Church." Another \$50 has since been received and will also be used to buy punch cards. A *plumber* has fixed the running toilets. *Gary Hunt*, the person mowing the lawn, will scrape and paint the downstairs bathroom walls.

We were reminded that the *Administrative Assistant* was hired by the Church Council. Any change in her required duties must go through council. The duties include doing the service bulletins, newsletter, prayer requests, etc. Due to some duties subtracted from her without council approval, Beth moved and Todd seconded to pay for the hours she was short in May. The vote passed with 3 Yes, 1 Abstention, and 1 No.

Steve R gave some information on *Prairie Parish*. There have been some frustrations due to the lack of structure. No budget has been determined yet, but they have been working on a Mission Statement. For now the Mission Statement has been put aside so they can do more things with immediate needs. Who is actually leading Prairie Parish has not been determined. Kim R also gave a few comments. It was asked again why the Adolph's cannot do the entire service when they come. Ro said they did not want to overwhelm them, so Kim and Sandy G have taken some lay leader training and can help as Worship Leaders. In time the Adolph's should be able to do the entire service. Prairie Parish is meant to be Lay Leader led with pastoral support.

On the matter of beneficiaries Carol L's CD has been deposited into checking, with \$50,000 transferred to savings, and the \$1000 interest left in checking. Doris M's contribution to BLC is still being dealt with for now.

NEW BUSINESS

Ro gave her *60 day notice*, with her last day being August 8, 2025.

No deacon has been decided upon yet for July.

July usher is Jeanette D.

Next council meeting is July 13th at 5pm.

We adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Jeanette Dehning

BLC Informal Congregational Meeting June 15, 2025

After services on Sunday, June 15, BLC Council President spoke to the congregation about the concerns we have of Prairie Parish.

Several council members, and many congregational members also spoke on the topic. It was decided to vote is to pay our portion of Ben's and Shila's admission fee to the seminary. The vote was 17-7. Our Prairie Parish council members are going to ask at the next PP council meeting who is in charge and exactly how much it is going to cost us to be in PP. In the meantime we will be looking into other options for us if we don't stay with PP.

BLC CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

June 22, 2025

The congregation met in the fellowship hall following the service. Council Pat C wanted to update everyone on all the things that had transpired the past week. We were reminded that last Sunday we voted to pay the application fee requested by the Adolfs. We had been told Ben coming to do worship on the 22nd was dependent on our vote

On June 16, Steve R, a Prairie Parish council member, sent an email to Paul, head of the Prairie Parish council asking that two items be put on their agenda for their June 21st meeting. One was a request to find out who is in charge of Prairie Parish. The other was to work on the financial part so we would know how much it would cost our congregation.

We had not yet heard by the 17th, so Pat was going to call to find out his decision, but Ro said no, she would call. On Wednesday the 18th, Ben sent an email stating, "It is under circumstances beyond by control to inform you that serving Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Brush through Prairie Parish is not possible. I am grateful for the opportunity to meet with them and share a Sunday of worship together. Respectfully Ben Adolf"

Later the 18th Steve received an email from Paul B, part of which stated, "Steven, it is regrettable that the TEEM model and the Prairie Parish does not seem to fit the expectations of Bethlehem ELCA and its leaders. Please be advised that we will be considering the removal of your congregation from the council and future clergy consideration."

Also on June 18, after getting Ben A's response Pat asked, through texts and emails, what the BLC council members thought. Most questioned our what our purpose would be in continuing with Prairie Parish is they would not supply pastoral support. A motion was made and seconded to leave Prairie Parish. The vote was 6 -2 to leave Prairie Parish.

After the information was disseminated the floor was open to discussion. It was asked why we changed our mind after the meeting last Sunday. Due to the fact that Prairie Parish would no longer serve us, we did not see the point of Steve and Kim going to the Prairie Parish council meeting on the 21st as it could be uncomfortable for them under the circumstances.

It was asked if the money we voted on last Sunday had been sent to the Adolf's for their registration fee. It was said yes, then Kim said she had not yet sent the check. It was voted to follow through on our commitment of sending the money. Kim is to issue a check to them.

Other questions included were why was Ben choosing to not serve at BLC, and no one knows why. It was asked if there would be any benefit to us to remain with Prairie Parish and no one could think of any reason to do so.

It was stated that we were all looking forward to Ben and Shila being our pastoral leaders for the next 3-6 years, and hearing Ben preach June 22 and Shila in July.

Information was given about Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ and North American Lutheran Church. These are two other Lutheran denominations that we could look at and possibly join if we choose not to stay with ELCA.

Sarah Wirth from Synod did our service. She attended the fellowship\discussion. She stated she would be the person to help with an interim pastor and help to look for a pastor if we wanted.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jeanette Dehning

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

July, 2025	6	13	20	27
Deacon		Sandy Gardner		
Reader	David Wood	Charlene Holzworth	Sharon George	Jeanne Wuest
Altar Guild	Jeanette Dehning & Sandy Gardner			
Communion Set Up	Deacon Ro	Jeanette & Sandy	Deacon Ro	Jeanette & Sandy
Usher	Jeanette Dehning			
Bell Ringer	Larry Johnson	Kim Redden	Sandy Gardner	Maren Bostrom
Acolyte	Morgan Gardner & Sophia Hambleton			
Sunshine Committee	Jeanette Dehning			
Clavinovist	Garnet Leys			
Media Team	Kevin & Jody DeKorte	Kevin Gardner	Kevin & Jody DeKorte	

	5/25	6/01	6/08	6/15	6/22	6/29
Attendance	24	60	28	34	31	31

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.

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

Watch Sunday services on YouTube

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

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July 2025

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
4th Sunday of Pentecost 9:00am Worship						
13	14	15			16	17
5th Sunday of Pentecost 9:00am Worship 5:00pm Council Meeting		6:00pm PEO				
20	21	22	23	24	25	26 11am Celebration of Life for Bev Strand at the Jaycee Building
6th Sunday of Pentecost 9:00am Worship						
27	28 	29	30	31	Office Hours: Tuesdays: 11:30am-1:00pm Thursdays: 9:00am-noon	
7th Sunday of Pentecost 9:00am Worship						

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

603 Custer Street

Brush, CO 80723

Office: (970) 842-2246

E-mail: lutheranchurchbrush@yahoo.com

Address Service Requested

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