



Bethlehem Star

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

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Evening Vespers, p. 317

Dear Members and Friends of Bethlehem,

It is a joy to be back leading worship at Bethlehem for the next few months or whatever the Lord determines is our time together. A couple of years ago during your previous transition time I was able to preach at Bethlehem, so many of you are already familiar with me, but it has been a couple of years and there are new faces at Bethlehem, so I will share a bit more about myself.

I was born and raised in Denver, Colorado and my parents still live in the same house that I grew up in. I have 3 siblings – 2 who live in Denver and 1 who lives in Loveland. I went to college at Pacific Lutheran University and seminary at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN and graduated from Princeton Seminary in Princeton, New Jersey. I met my husband, Joel, while working at Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp, and we have been married for 25 years. We have two children, Sophia (age 20) and Hannah (age 18).

I began my call to ordained ministry 24 years ago. My first 6 years of ministry I was called as a solo pastor at St. Bartholomew Lutheran Church in Trenton, New Jersey. St Bart’s is a congregation similar to Bethlehem (except in an urban setting). St. Bart’s motto is “a small congregation with a large heart” and they continue to thrive in the Trenton area.

Our family moved to Loveland in 2001 so that we could be closer to family. My husband, Joel and I began to serve as co-pastors at Zion Lutheran Church in Loveland. I served there for 14 years. I went on leave from call in the fall of 2021, so that I could care for my father-in-law, Elliott, whose health was failing. He passed away in February 2024. At that time, I began working in a non-church related job at ClergyAdvantage. ClergyAdvantage provides tax services, retirement, and financial planning to ministers. I oversee the retirement department at ClergyAdvantage and continue to work there full time during the week. My husband, Joel, continues as the lead pastor at Zion Lutheran in Loveland, CO

Last time I was at Bethlehem my oldest child, Sophia, was preparing to leave for her first year of college at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington. She is still at PLU as a Biology major and entering her junior year of college. Just last weekend, we dropped off our

(continued on page 2)

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
603 Custer ~ Brush, Colorado
SUNDAY WORSHIP
9:00 a.m.

*Gathered together,
we serve in Christ.*

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

(continued from page 1)

youngest, Hannah, to begin college at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. Joel and I now find ourselves with an empty nest.

In this new season of my life, God is bringing me back to Bethlehem. God sure has a sense of humor. Back in December 2021, I had just left Zion, and Deacon Ro approached me about coming to preach twice a month at Bethlehem. I quickly declined because Brush is “very far away.” I have to say that the best way to make God laugh is tell God your plans. I agreed to come once and awhile. The drive didn’t feel so long once I got to know the people of Bethlehem and once and awhile grew into twice a month. After Deacon Ro started at Bethlehem, I began to preach weekly at EbenEzer Care Center, here in Brush. It was supposed to be for the month of August 2023. It ended up being from August 2023 – May 2025, almost 2 years. In May, I thought that God was done with me driving to Brush, and yet here I find myself again. God always knows what is best.

Since I am now without any kids at home, I have time to stay longer on Sundays in Brush. I am available for home communion and other pastoral care needs on Sundays. As the council and congregation determine what are the best next steps for Bethlehem, it is a joy to be back with you, and I look forward to our Sundays together again. I only worry that I may have to return the beautiful quilt which I was given to me when I left last time.

The prayer from the Evening Vespers service has guided me in my life throughout times of transition. It reminds me that while I do not know what the future holds, I know who holds the future. Bethlehem finds itself in a time of transition, we give thanks to God who holds our future in his hands.

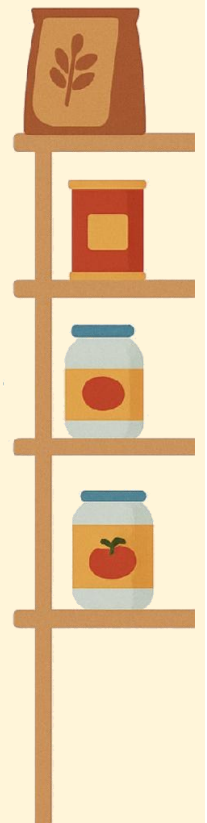
Your Sister in Christ,
Pastor Sonja Pancoast

**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
GENEROSITY!**

**94 POUNDS
OF FOOD
COLLECTED!**

Because of your kind and giving hearts, we were able to donate 94 pounds of food to the Community Cupboard.

Your support helps feed neighbors in need and shares Christ’s love in a very real way.



*“For I was hungry
and you gave me food...”*
—Matthew 25:35

BETHLEHEM BACKPACK PROJECT

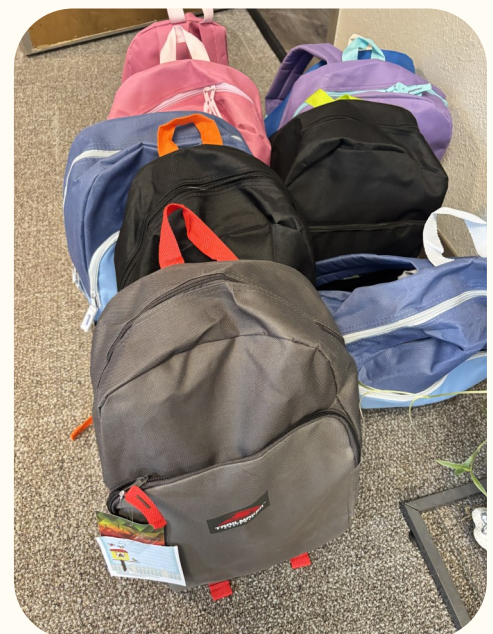


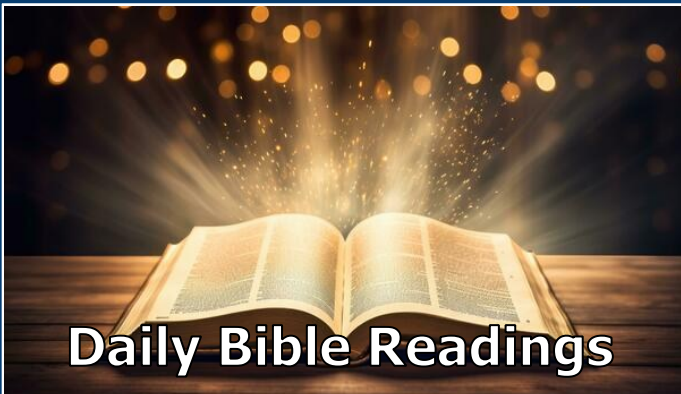
As students, teachers, and parents in the Brush community were getting ready for school to start, Bethlehem members were busy making good use of Sister Patricia's generosity and filling backpacks for local families who could use some assistance this fall. Fifteen bags were made for kindergarten, 1st and 2nd graders at Thomson Elementary. They also prepared 9 backpacks that went to Eben Ezer to share with employees with elementary children. Jeanette, Marsha, Deb, and Pat went shopping and put them together. Jeanette delivered them to the school and Pat delivered them to Eben Ezer. Thanks to everyone involved in this outreach program.



"Thank you so much for the wonderful school supplies."

Thomson Primary





Daily Bible Readings

Monday, September 1
Psalm 119:65-72
2 Chronicles 12:1-12
Hebrews 13:7-21

Tuesday, September 2
Psalm 119:65-72
Isaiah 2:12-17
Titus 1:1-9

Wednesday, September 3
Psalm 119:65-72
Isaiah 57:14-21
Luke 14:15-24

Thursday, September 4
Psalm 1
Genesis 39:1-23
Philippians 2:25-30

Friday, September 5
Psalm 1
Deuteronomy 7:12-26
Colossians 4:7-17

Saturday, September 6
Psalm 1
Deuteronomy 29:2-20
Matthew 10:34-42

Sunday, September 7
Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Psalm 1
Philemon 1-21
Luke 14:25-33

Monday, September 8
Psalm 101
2 Kings 17:24-41
1 Timothy 3:14—4:5

Tuesday, September 9
Psalm 101
2 Kings 18:9-18
1 Timothy 4:6-16

Wednesday, September 10
Psalm 101
2 Kings 18:19-25; 19:1-7
Luke 18:18-30

Thursday, September 11
Psalm 51:1-10
Genesis 6:1-6
1 Timothy 1:1-11

Friday, September 12
Psalm 51:1-10
Genesis 7:6-10; 8:1-5
2 Peter 2:1-10a



Saturday, September 13
Psalm 51:1-10
Genesis 8:20—9:7
John 10:11-21

Sunday, September 14
Exodus 32:7-14
Psalm 51:1-10
1 Timothy 1:12-17
Luke 15:1-1

Monday, September 15
Psalm 73
Amos 7:1-6
1 Timothy 1:18-20

Tuesday, September 16
Psalm 73
Jonah 3:1-10
2 Peter 3:8-13

Wednesday, September 17
Psalm 73
Job 40:6-14; 42:1-6
Luke 22:31-33, 54-62

Thursday, September 18
Psalm 113
Exodus 23:1-9
Romans 3:1-8

Friday, September 19
Psalm 113
Ezekiel 22:17-31
Romans 8:31-39

Saturday, September 20
Psalm 113
Isaiah 5:8-23
Mark 12:41-44

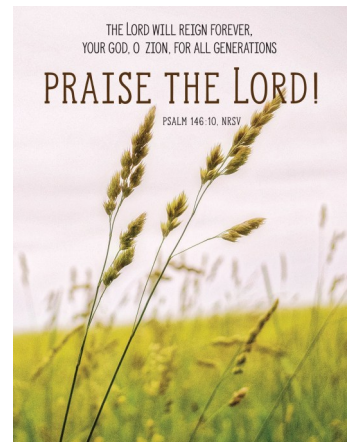
Sunday, September 21
Amos 8:4-7
Psalm 113
1 Timothy 2:1-7
Luke 16:1-13

Monday, September 22
Psalm 12
Proverbs 14:12-31
Acts 4:1-12

Tuesday, September 23
Psalm 12
Proverbs 17:1-5
1 Corinthians 9:19-23

Wednesday, September 24
Psalm 12
Proverbs 21:10-16
Luke 20:45—21:4

Thursday, September 25
Psalm 146
Proverbs 22:2-16
2 Corinthians 8:8-15



Friday, September 26
Psalm 146
Proverbs 28:3-10
Ephesians 2:1-10

Saturday, September 27
Psalm 146
Proverbs 28:11-28
Luke 9:43b-48

Sunday, September 28
Amos 6:1a, 4-7
Psalm 146
1 Timothy 6:6-19
Luke 16:19-31

Monday, September 29
Psalm 62
Amos 6:8-14
Revelation 3:14-22

Tuesday, September 30
Psalm 62
Hosea 10:9-15
James 5:1-6

Please extend a warm welcome to Pastor Sonja Pancoast who has graciously offered to serve as supply pastor on a consistent basis over the next few months. What a beautiful gift to our congregation.

Pastor Sonja will be leading us in worship each Sunday over the next few months and is available for pastoral care in person visits on Sundays. Since she lives in Loveland and has a full-time job, she is available on evenings and Saturdays to meet over the phone for pastoral care conversations.

We ask to contact her only for pastoral care when necessary. For church-related needs, please reach out to the church office or council first whenever possible. Thanks in advance for your understanding and for showing care and respect for Pastor Sonja's time and well-being.

Come and Celebrate by Serving

One of the greatest joys of being part of a church family is using our gifts to serve God and one another. Each Sunday, many hands and hearts come together to make worship possible—and there's a place for you too!

For the month of September, we are in need of:

Media Team Members: We need someone to create the PowerPoint during the week and then two people to serve on Sunday running the PowerPoint and Livestream so that even those who are not here in person can participate.

Readers: Lend your voice by reading scripture during the service. We have an immediate need for someone to read on Sunday, September 14th. It would be wonderful to add someone to the rotation to read consistently as well.

Bell Ringers: Ring our church bells and let the surrounding community hear as we praise our Lord and Savior.

Serving is not only a way to meet a need—it is a way to grow in faith, build community, and celebrate the gifts God has given you.

Prayerfully consider how you might join in. Whether it's behind the scenes or right up front, your presence makes a difference!

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms."

1 Peter 4:10

HOLY COMMUNION

FIRST &
THIRD
SUNDAYS
OF EACH
MONTH





We extend a heartfelt thank you to Trish Turner for faithfully stocking and caring for our Greeting Card Ministry. Trish, your quiet dedication has been a true blessing, ensuring that our congregation always has cards available to share love, encouragement, and comfort.

We are also grateful to announce that Rosa Guzman-Alexander has generously volunteered to continue this ministry. Please keep her in your prayers as she steps into this meaningful role of service.

Through this ministry, we are reminded of the power of a simple card to brighten someone's day and share God's love in tangible ways.

What a blessing both of these ladies are to Bethlehem!



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

The family of Ron Peterson, Sharon George, Matt Gardner, John Turner, Roxanne Swanson, Lenore Wind, Garnet Leys, Marilyn Woodward, Kenny Bostrom, John Strauch, Beva Linker, and Dave Honebein.

September Celebrations

September Birthdays

Allyn Wind	10th
Joy Perry	16th
Jody Halvorson	16th
Sophia Hambleton	17th

September Anniversaries

Stan & Carla Krueger	9th
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*Celebrating the
anniversaries of those
Baptized in Faith and Love*

September

Beth Hocheder - September 22, 1963
Coree (Linker) Kane - September 23, 1990
Krista Trimbach—September 24, 1967
Lauren Linker-Allamaras—September 28, 1986

BLC Church Council Meeting August 10, 2025

The meeting was called to order by President Pat C, who gave the opening prayer. Present were Pat C, Terry L, Beth H, Maren B, Todd M and Jeanette D. Absent were Jeannie, Kevin G and Charlene H. There were no guests present.

The minutes from July 2025 minutes, the treasurer's report and Deacon Ro's report were all accepted as presented Treasurer Kim R. called to say she transferred \$10,000 from savings to checking. She also reported that a CD is coming due August 13. The interest will be put into our savings account.

The city inspector evaluated the church roof. Two cold welds, which are still under warranty, will be repaired by the original roofers.

Reflective tape may be put on steps in the altar area to make them more visible.

Charlene H gave her resignation from Church Council. She is serving two congregations and doesn't feel she has time needed to contribute to council.

Sonja Pancoast has agreed to serve as a supply pastor until the end of the year. She will do home visits/communion to our shut ins on Sunday afternoons. She will also write the article for our newsletter beginning in October. Several other pastors will be serving us for several more weeks before Sonja begins.

Terry moved and Jeanette seconded a motion for job reviews with our three paid employees. Pat and Terry will do the reviews with Terresa, Kim and Donna.

Jeanette moved and Maren seconded to give Terresa a raise to \$25 an hour. She will be doing more work for us with Ro leaving.

Communion will now be served for the FIRST and THIRD Sundays of each month. Todd made a motion, and Beth seconded. Motion passed. This will begin on August 17, the THIRD Sunday of August. The next time communion will be served will be September 7 and 21, the FIRST and THIRD Sundays of September.

Terresa will be directed to complete and distribute our new church directory.

Deacons for the rest of 2025 have been designated. They are September – Deb, October – Rosa, November – Marsha, December – Beth. Jim C is September usher.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:22 with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeanette Dehning

Dear Friends,

As we quickly approach the end of summer break, we're excited to begin preparing for the new school year! We can't wait to welcome back our familiar friends and greet those children and families who are joining us for the first time. Everyone will be welcomed with open arms as they find their place here at Oaks. A huge thank you for all your support this summer! Some kids & families stayed with us the whole summer, and thanks to your generosity, we were able to take care of them and help them have an amazing summer.

We truly appreciate your kindness!

Thank you so much for your gift of \$100, your support means the world to us! You're making a wonderful difference in so many lives, and we can't thank you enough for caring about our young people and families.

Blessed be our life together in Christ!

Dan Cooper
Executive Director
Oaks Indian Mission

*Your Friendship is a gift I enjoy
everyday of my life.*

Bethlehem friends-

Thank you for the cards, the pizza from Jeanette, the calls from Ro, and most of all for your loving thoughts and prayers following my recent knee replacement. You are all a blessing to me.

God's blessings to you all.

Love,
Sharon George

Thank you!

Your kindness meant so much.

Thank YOU

Quilters,

Thank you for the special quilt you made honoring my service at Bethlehem. I have it on my twin bed that I lay my head and body down on when I am here in Brush. It is just right in the very early morning hours when the room cools down after my air conditioner shuts off. I enjoy looking at the cross when I'm not sound asleep. Your handiwork and thoughtfulness will always touch me!

Ro

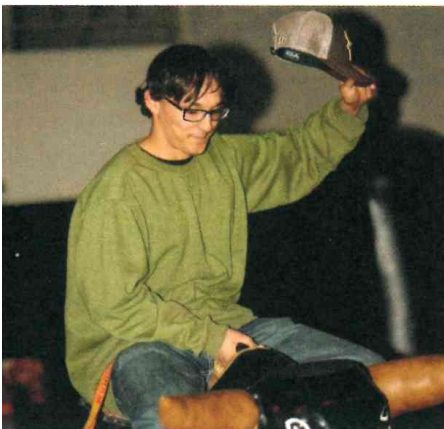


We have an open space in our "bell ringer" and reader rotations. If you would like to join one of these teams and sign up to ring the bell or read scripture (typically once per month), please let Terresa know.



Dear Valued Community Partner,

We are deeply grateful for your generosity towards our Brush High School students! Your donation to the After Prom Celebration 2025 helped create a safe and fun night. Students enjoyed great food and exciting activities like riding mechanical bulls, boxing, jousting, cornhole competitions, and musical chairs. We also gave every attendee a gift at the end of the night. Your support made our After Prom 2025 an extraordinary celebration!



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

September, 2025	7	14	21	28
Deacon	Deb Johnson			
Reader	Sharon George		Kim Redden	Kevin Gardner
Altar Guild	Kim Redden			
Usher	Jim Christensen			
Bell Ringer	Larry Johnson	Kim Redden		Maren Bostrom
Clavinovist	Garnet Leys			
Sunshine Committee	Corinne Bostrom			
Media Team	Kevin & Jody DeKorte			

	8/03	8/10	8/17	8/24
Attendance	39	33	35	20

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
- Todd Morgan
- Jeanne Wuest

Watch Sunday services on YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/@BethlehemLutheranBrush>



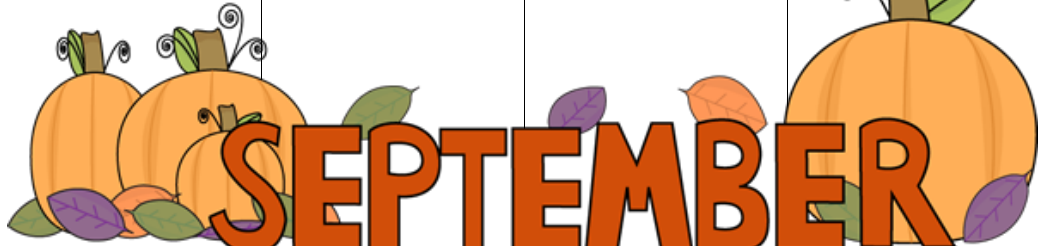


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www.facebook.com/bethlehemplutheranbrush



September 2025

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
August 31 12th Sunday of Pentecost 9:00am Worship	1 	2	3	4 9:00am Quilting	5	6 12:30pm Celebration of Life for Ron Peterson, Carroll Building
7 13th Sunday of Pentecost 9:00am Worship	8	9	10	11 9:00am Quilting	12	13
14 14th Sunday of Pentecost 9:00am Worship 5:00pm Council Meeting	15	16 6:00pm PEO	17	18 9:00am Quilting	19	20
21 15th Sunday of Pentecost 9:00am Worship	22  8:00am Eben Ezer Burrito Making	23	24	25 Terresa out of office 9:00am Quilting	26	27
28 16th Sunday of Pentecost 9:00am Worship	29	30	 SEPTEMBER			

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

603 Custer Street

Brush, CO 80723

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E-mail: lutheranchurchbrush@yahoo.com

Address Service Requested

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