



Bethlehem Star

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

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances! --1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

As we move into November, we move into holiday preparations, Christmas is just around the corner. Before we have Christmas, we are fortunate to start the holiday season with Thanksgiving. This holiday began back in Colonial times, but was made a national holiday in 1863 by President Lincoln. It was 1863 and the nation was in the midst of a horrible, bloody Civil War. Families were being ripped apart, and lives were being lost at an incredible rate in the North and the South. Earlier in the year the Battle of Gettysburg had been fought with somewhere between 46,000 and 51,000 casualties from this battle alone. The North had won this decisive battle, but things were still tenuous. President Abraham Lincoln was leading a broken nation with death and loss all around. In the midst of all of this pain and anguish, he offered a Thanksgiving Proclamation on October 3, 1863.

He presents a much different perspective than one would expect at this time. He begins, "The year that is drawing towards its close has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come....In the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity....peace has been preserved with all nations, order has been maintained... and harmony has prevailed everywhere expect in the theatre of military conflict."

He then continues to list many of the blessings which the nation has received and concludes, "No human council hath devised, nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the

gracious gifts of the Most High God. ... I do, therefore, invite my fellow-citizens in every part of the United States,... to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November as a Day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens."

In the midst of intense conflict and pain, Abraham Lincoln is inviting the nation to take a day and give thanks to God for the blessings which we so often overlook or forget. Often times this is the case not just for us as a nation during the Civil War, but at times in our lives and in our nation's history that when the crisis hits, the pain is deep, the loss overwhelming, we are unable to see the many other blessings that are all around us and do not see all of the ways that God is working to protect, care and provide for us. It is a normal and natural reaction in these times. Lincoln by establishing the 4th Thursday of November as Thanksgiving Day for our nation, in the midst of a time in which it was so difficult to give thanks, helps us and the nation at that time to have new eyes and look again at our lives to see all the ways that God is caring for us and loving us.

Abraham Lincoln is inviting our nation in a practice that is frequently referenced throughout scripture, giving thanks to God. Truly all that we have comes from God. The Apostle Paul writes, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances!" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). Paul is writing to a church who is experiencing severe persecution, social ostracism. and harassment because of their faith. In the midst of the challenging times, Paul invites them into the spiritual practices of prayer

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Bethlehem Lutheran Church
603 Custer ~ Brush, Colorado

SUNDAY WORSHIP
9:00 a.m.

*Gathered together,
we serve in Christ.*

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

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and thanksgiving. They are to pray because in difficult times there is much that is beyond our control. In prayer we find connection with God, and strength from God. Prayer helps us to know that we are not alone in the good times or the bad times. Paul also invites them to give thanks. We are to give thanks in all things, because giving thanks helps us to see the many ways that God is at work. Paul encourages them to give thanks IN all circumstances, not give thanks FOR all circumstances. As we have eyes of gratitude, we begin to see the many ways that God is at work in our lives and our world.

A while ago a magazine asked people to answer the question – if you could be granted one wish that will come true right now – what would that be? There are lots of great answers to that question. One that jumped out was “I wish that I could be given an even greater ability to appreciate all that I already have.” In many ways this is why President Abraham Lincoln established this day on the 4th Thursday of every November. So that we do set aside time to appreciate all that we already have and to thank our gracious God who created us and who continues to care for us. We set aside time each year to give thanks. Some years we may truly feel showered with blessings. Other years, we may be in the midst of deep pain, loss, and crisis as the people and our nations was in 1863 when President Lincoln established that the national celebration of Thanksgiving. In the midst of this pain and loss, we take time to look around and see with new eyes God’s provision for us as well.

As we enter into this month of November, we are invited to pray without ceasing and give thanks in all circumstances so that we can see all the ways God is at work in our lives and in our world.

SAVE THE DATE

State of the Church Meeting

Sunday,
November 9th
following the 9:00am
worship service

This important meeting takes place annually here at Bethlehem. The purpose of the meeting is to present and approve the 2026 budget as well as elect council members for open council positions. **This year there will also be a vote to decide on which Synod we would like to be affiliated with.** A quorum is needed to conduct the meeting, so we are hopeful many of you will be able to make it!

REMEMBERING OUR LOVED ONES
WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE

All Saints
SUNDAY



On All Saints Sunday, we honor and remember the saints who have gone before us. During worship, the bell will be rung and the names of loved ones who have passed away will be read.

If you would like to have a loved one included, please write it on the sheet located on the shelf in the entryway.

Come join us on
Sunday, November 2nd

You're Invited!

**ELECTION
NIGHT
SOUP SUPPER**



**Bethlehem Lutheran Church ~
603 Custer**

Election Day

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

5:00-7:00 PM

- ✓ **All are welcome**
- ✓ **Family-friendly atmosphere**
- ✓ **Freewill offering to benefit
World Hunger**

**THANK
offering**



Bethlehem will collect a
Thankoffering again in 2025 on

Sunday, November 23rd

Proceeds will benefit our quilting
group and the work they do.

Your participation is appreciated!



Bethlehem collected 94 pounds of
food for the local pantry in the third
quarter of 2025. As we move into the
4th quarter challenge, let's see if we
can beat that total!

Every can and box helps bring hope
to our neighbors. Let's finish the
year strong and show our
community how much our
congregation cares!

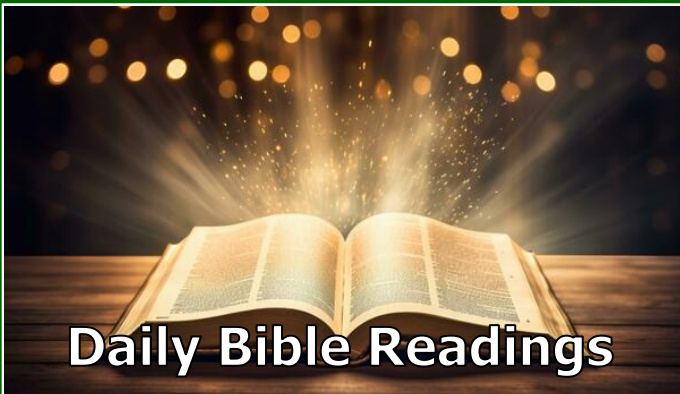
Collection Sundays:

**November 9th
November 16th**

**CANNED
FOOD
DRIVE**



**TO BENEFIT LOCAL
FOOD PANTRY**



Daily Bible Readings

Saturday, November 1
Psalm 32:1-7
Isaiah 1:1-9
John 8:39-47

Sunday, November 2
Isaiah 1:10-18
Psalm 32:1-7
2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12
Luke 19:1-10

Monday, November 3
Psalm 50
Nehemiah 13:1-3, 23-31
1 Corinthians 5:9-13

Tuesday, November 4
Psalm 50
Zechariah 7:1-14
Jude 5-21



Wednesday, November 5
Psalm 50
Amos 5:12-24
Luke 19:11-27

Thursday, November 6
Psalm 17:1-9
Deuteronomy 25:5-10
Acts 22:22—23:11

Friday, November 7
Psalm 17:1-9
Genesis 38:1-26
Acts 24:10-23

Saturday, November 8
Psalm 17:1-9
Exodus 3:13-20
Luke 20:1-8

Sunday, November 9
Job 19:23-27a
Psalm 17:1-9
2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17
Luke 20:27-38

Monday, November 10
Psalm 123
Job 20:1-11
2 Peter 1:16-21

Tuesday, November 11
Psalm 123
Job 21:1, 17-34
2 John 1-13

Wednesday, November 12
Psalm 123
Job 25:1—26:14
John 5:19-29

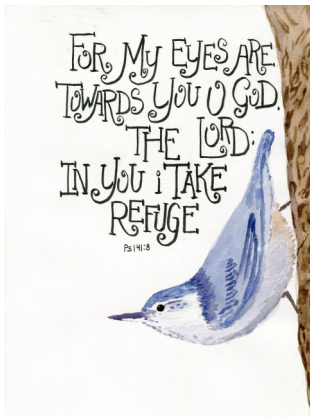
Thursday, November 13
Psalm 98
1 Samuel 28:3-19
Romans 1:18-25

Friday, November 14
Psalm 98
2 Samuel 21:1-14
2 Thessalonians 1:3-12

Saturday, November 15
Psalm 98
Ezekiel 10:1-19
Luke 17:20-37

Sunday, November 16
Malachi 4:1-2a
Psalm 98
2 Thessalonians 3:6-13
Luke 21:5-19

Monday, November 17
Psalm 141
Ezekiel 11:14-25
Ephesians 4:25—5:2



Tuesday, November 18
Psalm 141
Ezekiel 39:21—40:4
1 Corinthians 10:23—11:1

Wednesday, November 19
Psalm 141
Ezekiel 43:1-12
Matthew 23:37—24:14

Thursday, November 20
Psalm 46
2 Chronicles 18:12-22
Hebrews 9:23-28

Friday, November 21
Psalm 46
Zechariah 11:1-17
1 Peter 1:3-9

Saturday, November 22
Psalm 46
Jeremiah 22:18-30
Luke 18:15-17

Sunday, November 23
Jeremiah 23:1-6
Psalm 46
Colossians 1:11-20
Luke 23:33-43

Monday, November 24
Psalm 24
Jeremiah 46:18-28
Revelation 21:5-27

Tuesday, November 25
Psalm 24
Isaiah 33:17-22
Revelation 22:8-21

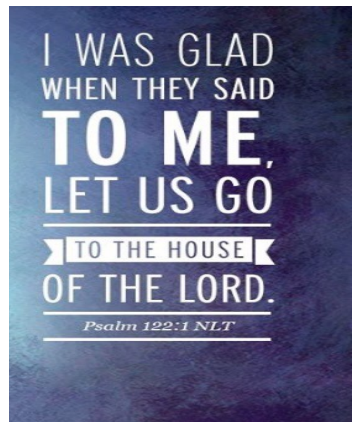
Wednesday, November 26
Psalm 24
Isaiah 60:8-16
Luke 1:1-4

Thursday, November 27
Psalm 122
Daniel 9:15-19
James 4:1-10

Friday, November 28
Psalm 122
Genesis 6:1-10
Hebrews 11:1-7

Saturday, November 29
Psalm 122
Genesis 6:11-22
Matthew 24:1-22

Sunday, November 30
Isaiah 2:1-5
Psalm 122
Romans 13:11-14
Matthew 24:36-44





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

- Brad Craven
- Dave Temple
- Roger Castrup
- Matt Gardner
- John Turner
- Lenore Wind
- Roxanne Swanson
- Garnet Leys
- Marilyn Woodward
- Kenny Bostrom
- John Strauch
- Beva Linker
- Dave Honebein

November Celebrations

November Birthdays

- Larry Mills 7th
- Janet Rohde 15th
- Pat Chase 16th
- Andrea Strand 25th

November Anniversaries

- Roger & Marisa Castrup 4th
- Todd & Donna Morgan 22nd



Celebrating the anniversaries of those Baptized in Faith and Love

November

- Debbie Johnson—3rd
- Ted Pearson—13th
- Morgan Gardner—17th
- Patty Foiles—23



Daylight Saving Time Ends

set your clocks back an hour

BLC Church Council Meeting October 12, 2025

The meeting was brought to order by President Pat C who opened with a prayer. Present were Pat C, Kevin G, Todd M and Jeanette D. Absent were Beth H, Maren Bm and Terry L. Guest was Kim R.

Todd moved and Kevin seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the September meeting and the treasurer's report. Motion passed.

Pastor Sonja sent her monthly report and has requested to be paid twice a month.

Pastor Sonja also sent an email to Pat stating that her husband has accepted a call to Granby. They will keep their house in Loveland as that is where she works. They will get together on weekends. After December she will not be able to pastor us every Sunday.

NEW BUSINESS

The State of the Church meeting will be held November 9 after our 10 am church service. A budget proposal has been developed which we will go over at the meeting. Jeanette moved and Todd seconded to accept the proposed budget. Motion passed. Information will be given to members about the North American Lutheran Church (NALC), Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC). At the State of the Church meeting we will vote to either go with ELCA, NALC or LCMC. So please read the information on each when it is sent out.

OLD BUSINESS

Dardanes Tree Trimming trimmed the trees in front of the church. Beth H. trimmed the trees on the south side of the church and cleaned the rain gutters.

Members are hard at work preparing for our annual Chili/Soup Supper. This year we will also have corn bread, so butter pats and honey packets are also being purchased. Kevin moved and Jeanette seconded to approve the purchase of the butter and honey. Motion passed.

October 26 is Reformation Sunday and we were reminded to wear red. November 2 is All Saints Day. Pat is going to ask Pastor Sonja if she will be reading the names of those who have gone before us.

No piano tuner has been found to tune the piano in the fellowship hall.

November Deacon is Marsha Mills. November usher is Steve Rohde.

The meeting was adjourned as 5:47 with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jeanette Dehning

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

November, 2025	2	9	16	23	30
Deacon	Marsha Mills			Kim Redden	Marsha Mills
Reader	Maren Bostrom	Kim Redden	Kevin Gardner	Maren Bostrom	David Wood
Altar Guild	Janet Rohde				
Usher	Steve Rohde				
Bell Ringer	Larry Johnson	Kim Redden	Steve Rohde	Maren Bostrom	Steve Rohde
Clavinovist	Garnet Leys				
Sunshine Committee	Sharon George				
Media Team	Kevin & Jody DeKorte			Kevin Gardner Sharon George Deb Johnson	Kevin & Jody DeKorte

	9/28	10/5	10/12
Attendance	37	28	30

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

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



Like Bethlehem Lutheran Church On Facebook!
www.facebook.com/bethlehemplutheranbrush



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

November, 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>Nov 30 1st Sunday in Advent 9:00am Worship</p>						1
 <p>2 All Saints Sunday 9:00am Worship Daylight Savings</p>	3	 <p>4 5-7pm Soup Supper</p>	5	6	7	 <p>8</p>
<p>9 22nd Sunday of Pentecost 9:00am Worship Food Pantry Drive 10:00am State of the Church 5:00pm Council Meeting</p>	10	 <p>11</p>	12	13	14	15
<p>16 23rd Sunday of Pentecost 9:00am Worship Food Pantry Drive</p>	17	18	19	20	21	22
<p>23 Christ the King Sunday 9:00am Worship Thankoffering</p>	24	 <p style="text-align: center;">25</p>	26	 <p style="text-align: center;">27</p>	28	29
						