



Bethlehem Star

Bethlehem Lutheran Church | February, 2026

Smell of New Life

The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume – John 12:3

Smell brings back memories in a way that no other sense can do. Whenever I walk into a flower shop, I am taken back to Spring in New Jersey. I know you think, flowers and New Jersey? Isn't it all industrial there? Nevertheless, New Jersey is the Garden State for a reason, and in the Spring the flowers start blooming in March. First, it's the crocuses, then the daffodils and tulips, then azaleas, rhododendrons, apples and other fruit trees bloom, then roses. Spring in New Jersey is a pervasive floral perfume in the air. It's not one flower, but a whole mix of flowers together making up the smell of Spring in New Jersey.

For my kids the smell of lavender always reminds them of their Grandma Jean, who loves anything lavender. The smell of campfire reminds me of nights singing around the fire at Sky Ranch until late in the night as we leave the campfire the smoke smell clinging to our hair and clothes long after the fire is over.

We may catch a whiff of perfume or cologne while out shopping and it was the same perfume or cologne our mom, grandma, dad or grandfather wore, and we are taken back to being right there with them, all because of smell. Or maybe it's the smell of Lysol and

bleach that reminds you of home. Smell evokes memories in a way that no other sense can do.

We are now in the season of Lent and moving toward Holy Week. In this season of Lent, there is a scent of the aroma of perfume that permeates the season. In the days before Jesus' death, Mary comes before Jesus's feet and pours a pound of nard, a very expensive perfume on Jesus' feet and begins to wipe his feet with her hair. The smell of perfume fills the air. Mary wants to thank Jesus for raising her brother, Lazarus from the dead. This perfume smell is the smell of extravagant love and gratitude now that the stench of Mary's brother's death is gone.

Interestingly enough, this scent of perfume still is the smell of death in a different way. Jesus shares with the disciples that Mary anointing Jesus is preparing for Jesus' burial. This perfume that Mary poured on Jesus' feet is the same perfume that is also used to anoint bodies of loved ones who have died. This smell is pointing us forward to see that Jesus' death just on the horizon.

Jesus is moving toward the cross. Jesus is moving toward pouring himself out for you and for me. Emptying himself completely, giving everything, even his life, for you and me. This is the smell of Jesus' great love is poured out

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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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Office Hours:

Tues 12-1 & Thurs 9-12

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on the cross. Jesus pours out himself for us, empties himself and brings new life to each of us in the midst of all the death we find ourselves surrounded by. Jesus beautiful fragrance of life overcomes the stench of death that clings to each one of us.

Scents fill our nostrils and we are taken back to the past. As we breathe in the smells of spring rain and flowers starting to bloom, I am reminded of New Jersey. I am also reminded of the scent of perfume that filled the air that day in the home of Lazarus, as Mary wiped Jesus feet, takes us into the future – forward to Jesus' extravagant love pouring himself out for us on the cross and rising again at Easter to bring us new life and pulls us into the future where we pour out ourselves for each other to love one another as Christ as loved us.

Pastor Sonja Pancoast

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

I am sending you an update concerning next steps for BLC. In our constitution, disaffiliation with the ELCA Synod starts with section C.6.05. We have been following this section and its subsections. On January 25, 2026, the congregation voted to disaffiliate with the ELCA Synod. According to our constitution, we cannot take a 2nd vote to disaffiliate with the ELCA Synod until 90 days after our first vote. By 10 days after our 2nd vote, we have to send a letter to the Bishop, certifying the results of our 2nd vote.

Additionally, our constitution states when we send the 2nd letter to the Bishop certifying the results of the 2nd vote, we also have to certify that our congregation has voted to affiliate with another Lutheran denomination. This means we will have to vote sometime in April to determine if we want to affiliate with the North American Lutheran Church or the Lutheran Church in Missions for Christ. They both have a process for affiliation. I have previously handed out information (including their constitutions) concerning both of these denominations as well as a copy of the ELCA constitution. On March 29 we will have discussion with someone from the LCMC and in April we will have a person from the NALC to speak with us. We already have two pastors from the LCMC and NALC filling in for us in addition to Pastor Sonja and Pastor Dan. They are Pastor Phil Reimer and Pastor Craig Lanning. Please give prayerful consideration to each denomination. I do know, the beliefs are the same in both denominations and the only difference between the NALC and the LCMC is in their structure. The NALC is structured as a church body and the LCMC is structured as an organization. I am anxious to hear more about these areas when we meet with the representatives of both denominations. Please let me know if you have questions.

Yours in Christ,
Pat Chase



IMPORTANT DATES

MARCH 22ND

On Sunday, March 22nd our pastor will be Lyle Belleque. He is from the NALC and will be staying after worship to give us information on the NALC and to answer any questions we may have.

MARCH 29TH

On Sunday, March 29th our pastor will be Julie Smith. She is from the LCMC and will be staying after worship to give us information on the LCMC and to answer any questions we may have.

Plan to attend these Sundays and stay afterwards to participate in these important conversations to help us determine the path of our beloved church.

Help Fill Easter Baskets!

Please bring in donations between now and Palm Sunday to help fill Easter baskets!



The baskets will be given to the Community Cupboard to distribute

Thank you for your generosity!

- Candy
- Small Toys
- Crayons
- Snacks
- Coloring Books
- Hygiene Items

† Celebrate Easter With Us †

Join us as we journey through Holy Week and celebrate the joy of the Resurrection!

Maunder Thursday Worship

April 2 at 5:30 pm
Rankin Presbyterian Church

Good Friday Worship

April 3 at 5:30 pm
United Methodist Church

Easter Sunday Worship

9:00 am
Here at Bethlehem

Easter Brunch Following Our Easter Worship Service

All are welcome to stay and celebrate together!

*Come worship, reflect, and rejoice
in the hope of Easter.*

We look forward to celebrating with you!



Sunday, March 1
Second Sunday in Lent
 Genesis 12:1-4a
 Psalm 121
 Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
 John 3:1-17

Monday, March 2
 Psalm 128
 Numbers 21:4-9
 Hebrews 3:1-6

Tuesday, March 3
 Psalm 128
 Isaiah 65:17-25
 Romans 4:6-13

Wednesday, March 4
 Psalm 128
 Ezekiel 36:22-32
 John 7:53—8:11

Thursday, March 5
 Psalm 95
 Exodus 16:1-8
 Colossians 1:15-23

Friday, March 6
 Psalm 95
 Exodus 16:9-21
 Ephesians 2:11-22

Saturday, March 7
 Psalm 95
 Exodus 16:27-35
 John 4:1-6

Sunday, March 8
Third Sunday in Lent
 Exodus 17:1-7
 Psalm 95
 Romans 5:1-11
 John 4:5-42

Monday, March 9
 Psalm 81
 Genesis 24:1-27
 2 John 1-13

Tuesday, March 10
 Psalm 81
 Genesis 29:1-14
 1 Corinthians 10:1-4

Wednesday, March 11
 Psalm 81
 Jeremiah 2:4-13
 John 7:14-31, 37-39

Thursday, March 12
 Psalm 23
 1 Samuel 15:10-21
 Ephesians 4:25-32

Friday, March 13
 Psalm 23
 1 Samuel 15:22-31
 Ephesians 5:1-9

Saturday, March 14
 Psalm 23
 1 Samuel 15:32-34
 John 1:1-9

Sunday, March 15
Fourth Sunday in Lent
 1 Samuel 16:1-13
 Psalm 23
 Ephesians 5:8-14
 John 9:1-41

Monday, March 16
 Psalm 146
 Isaiah 59:9-19
 Acts 9:1-20

Tuesday, March 17
 Psalm 146
 Isaiah 42:14-21
 Colossians 1:9-14

Wednesday, March 18
 Psalm 146
 Isaiah 60:17-22
 Matthew 9:27-34

Thursday, March 19
 Psalm 130
 Ezekiel 1:1-3; 2:8—3:3
 Revelation 10:1-11

Friday, March 20
 Psalm 130
 Ezekiel 33:10-16
 Revelation 11:15-19

Saturday, March 21
 Psalm 130
 Ezekiel 36:8-15
 Luke 24:44-53

Sunday, March 22
Fifth Sunday in Lent
 Ezekiel 37:1-14
 Psalm 130
 Romans 8:6-11
 John 11:1-45

Monday, March 23
 Psalm 143
 1 Kings 17:17-24
 Acts 20:7-12

Tuesday, March 24
 Psalm 143
 2 Kings 4:18-37
 Ephesians 2:1-10

Wednesday, March 25
 Psalm 143
 Jeremiah 32:1-9, 36-41
 Matthew 22:23-33

Thursday, March 26
 Psalm 31:9-16
 1 Samuel 16:11-13
 Philippians 1:1-11

Friday, March 27
 Psalm 31:9-16
 Job 13:13-19
 Philippians 1:21-30

Saturday, March 28
 Psalm 31:9-16
 Lamentations 3:55-66
 Mark 10:32-34

Sunday, March 29
Sunday of the Passion
 Matthew 21:1-11
 Isaiah 50:4-9a
 Psalm 31:9-16
 Philippians 2:5-11
 Matthew 26:14—27:66

Monday, March 30
 Isaiah 42:1-9
 Psalm 36:5-11
 Hebrews 9:11-15
 John 12:1-11

Tuesday, March 31
 Isaiah 49:1-7
 Psalm 71:1-14
 1 Corinthians 1:18-31
 John 12:20-36





Bethlehem
LUTHERAN CHURCH

PRAYER REQUESTS
In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Don Hefty
Rodney Hefty
Ed Brandenburg
Trish Turner
Shirley Schilling
Brad Craven
Roger Castrup
John Turner
Lenore Wind
Roxanne Swanson
Garnet Leys
Marilyn Woodward
John Strauch
Beva Linker
Dave Honebein



March Birthdays & Anniversaries

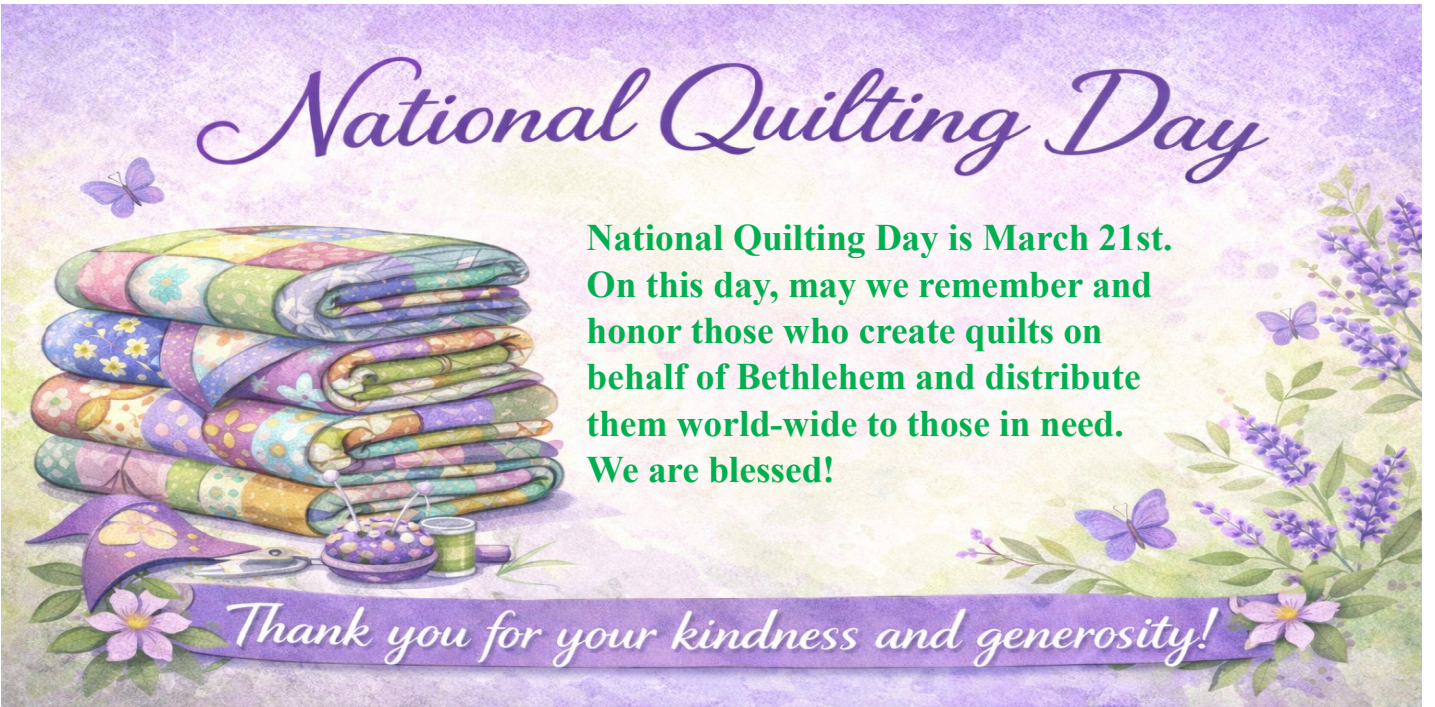
March Birthdays

Kyla Alexander	1st
Lenore Wind	3rd
Bill George	14th
Donna Morgan	21st

March Anniversaries

Ed & Barb Brandenburg	30th
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Please call the church office if there is an error or omission.



National Quilting Day

National Quilting Day is March 21st. On this day, may we remember and honor those who create quilts on behalf of Bethlehem and distribute them world-wide to those in need. We are blessed!

Thank you for your kindness and generosity!

**BLC Church Council Meeting
February 8, 2026**

The meeting was called to order at 10:20am by President Pat C. She opened with prayers. Present were Pat C, Maren B, Beth H, Todd M and Jeanette D. Absent were Kevin G and Terry L. Guest was Kim R.

Beth moved and Todd seconded to accept the January minutes. Motion passed. Beth moved and Maren seconded to accept the treasurer's report. Motion passed. Everyone had read Sonja's report.

NEW BUSINESS

The first discussion was the **clavinovist** and the desire to have music played for 10-15 minutes before the service begins.

Jeanne Wuest requested her membership be transferred to All Saints.

Ash Wednesday there will be a 5:30pm service with communion.

The **Lenton Luncheon schedule** will soon be decided and shared.

Julie from LCMC will be the pastor on March 29.

OLD BUSINESS

Gary is doing a great job making our downstairs repairs.

BLC must decide if to go with **NALC or LCMC** before having our second vote to leave ELCA. The second vote can be any time at least 90 days after the first vote.

Buzz Electric will be installing cameras as a safety measure so the office can see who is coming in both the front and back doors.

Come and Celebrate has a long discussion. It needs more structure instead of just assuming someone is going to take care of it. Quilting ladies are graciously running the dishwasher on Fridays.

It would be wonderful if congregants would each take a month to empty the dishwasher, get out mugs, napkins, utensils, water, plates and such before church each Sunday.

March Usher is Beth and Deacon is Kim. The next council meeting is March 8, 2026 at 10:15am. During busy months for our farmers we will switch to 5pm meetings and will decide month to month on the exact time.

The meeting was adjourned at 11am with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanette Dehning

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

March, 2026	1	8	15	22	29
Deacon	Kim Redden				
Reader	Maren Bostrom	Sharon George	Kevin Gardner	Kim Redden	Sharon George
Altar Guild	Deb Johnson				
Usher	Beth Hocheder				
Bell Ringer	Beth Hocheder				
Clavinovist	Garnet Leys				
Sunshine	Pat Chase				
Media Team	Kevin Gardner, Sharon George, & Deb Johnson				
Come & Celebrate	John & Trish Turner	Lawrence & June Hansen			
Set Up/Clean Up Come & Celebrate	Beth Hocheder				

	2/01	2/08	2/15	2/22	3/01
Attendance	21	29	26	27	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.

Watch Sunday services on YouTube

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

@BethlehemLutheranBrush

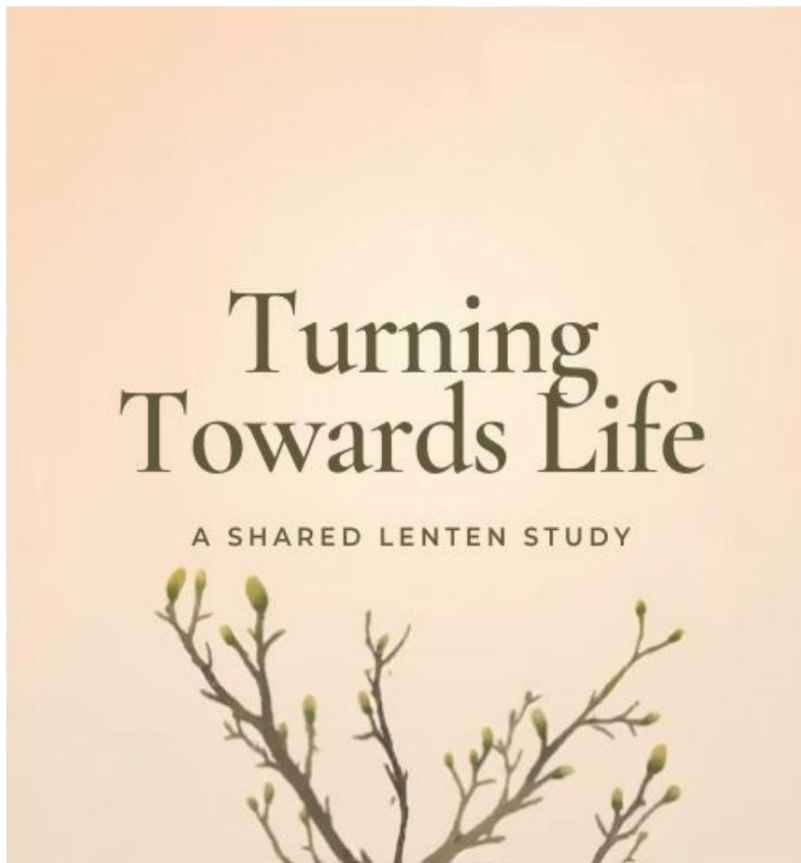


Like Bethlehem Lutheran Church On Facebook!

www.facebook.com/bethlehemplutheranbrush

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





A Shared Lent Experience

Sponsored by the Brush Ministerial Association

Lent invites us to slow down, listen more deeply, and turn our hearts toward what truly gives life. Turning Toward Life is a five-week Lenten study designed for people from a variety of Christian denominations who want to reflect, wonder, and grow together. Through scripture, conversation, prayer, and creative reflection, this shared journey offers space to explore repentance, compassion, truth, and hope, gently preparing us for the promise of Easter.

Join us as we turn towards life Wednesdays at noon.

February 25th at Brush United Methodist Church

March 4th at Bethlehem Lutheran Church


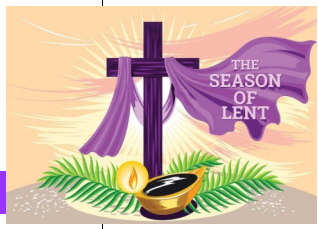








March 11th at Rankin Presbyterian Church

March 18th at Brush United Methodist Church

March 25th at Immanuel Congregational Church

March 2026

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>2nd Sunday in Lent 9:00am Worship Sonja Pancoast</p>	<p>2</p> 	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>12:00pm Lenten Soup Study Bethlehem</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9:00am Quilting</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> 
<p>8</p> <p>3rd Sunday in Lent 9:00am Worship Craig Lanning 10:15am Council Meeting</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>12:00pm Lenten Soup Study Presbyterian</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:00am Quilting</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>4th Sunday in Lent 9:00am Worship Sonja Pancoast 12:00pm St. Patrick's Day Dinner, Methodist</p>	<p>16</p> 	<p>17</p>  <p>6:00pm PEO</p>	<p>18</p> <p>12:00pm Lenten Soup Study Methodist</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9:00am Quilting</p>	<p>20</p> 	<p>21</p> 
<p>22</p>  <p>5th Sunday in Lent 9:00am Worship Lyle Belleque</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>12:00pm Lenten Soup Study Immanuel</p>	<p>26</p> <p>9:00am Quilting</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>~~~~~ Terresa Gone ~~~~~</p>						
<p>29</p>  <p>Palm Sunday 9:00am Worship Julie Smith</p>	<p>30</p>  <p>HOLY WEEK</p>	<p>31</p>				

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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Address Service Requested

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