Bethlehem Star

Bethlehem Lutheran Church | October, 2026

Here We Are Held

Celebrating the Reformation this October

October brings cool mornings, harvest, and a chance to catch our breath. It also brings Reformation Day, October 31. It is a good month to remember where our faith has come from, and, more importantly, Who holds us.

A Monk, a Door, and a Gospel Rediscovered

On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther, a pastor and professor in Wittenberg, Germany, invited a public discussion by posting Ninety-Five Theses about the sale of indulgences. He was not trying to start a new church. He was a caring pastor troubled that people were being told God's forgiveness could be bought. Thesis 62 sums up his heart: *"The true treasure of the Church is the Most Holy Gospel of the glory and grace of God."*

For years Luther had tried to be good enough for God, and it left him weary and afraid. Then he read Romans 1:17, "The righteous shall live by faith," and everything changed. He later wrote that he "felt that I was altogether born again and had entered paradise itself through open gates." In 1521, before the emperor at Worms, he declared his conscience "captive to the Word of God." He went on to translate the Bible into German so ordinary people could read it, and in 1529 he wrote the Small Catechism after visiting country parishes where many villagers knew almost nothing of Christ. It was written for families around the kitchen table.

What We Hold Dear

Lutherans summarize the heart of the Reformation in three short phrases. We are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, on account of Christ alone, and we know this from Scripture alone. "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9). "For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law" (Romand 3:28). Our salvation is not something we build. It is something we receive.

'The Law says, 'do this, 'and it is never done. Grace says, 'believe in this, 'and everything is already done." – Martin Luther, Heidelberg Disputation, 1518

Why This Matters to Us

From time to time we wonder if we're on the right track as Christians. The Reformation answers with good news. The Augsburg Confession teaches that the church is found wherever the Gospel is rightly preached and the sacraments rightly given (Article VII), not, incidentally, where the crowd is biggest. Jesus promises, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them" (Matthew 18:20), and "God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong" (1 Corinthians 1:27).

(*continued on page 2)*

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
603 Custer ~ Brush, Colorado

SUNDAY WORSHIP
9:00 a.m.

Gathered together we serve in Christ.

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lutheranchurchbrush@yahoo.com
Office Hours:
Tues 12-1 & Thurs 9-12

(continued from page 1)

Luther also taught that all believers are a "royal priesthood" (1 Peter 2:9) and that God serves through ordinary callings: the farmer, the mother, the neighbor who brings casserole, the one who shows up to shovel the church walk. Our church is a family, and our strength is not programs. It is Christ giving Himself to us in Word and Sacrament. Then we carry that presence of Christ and His love into the community around us.

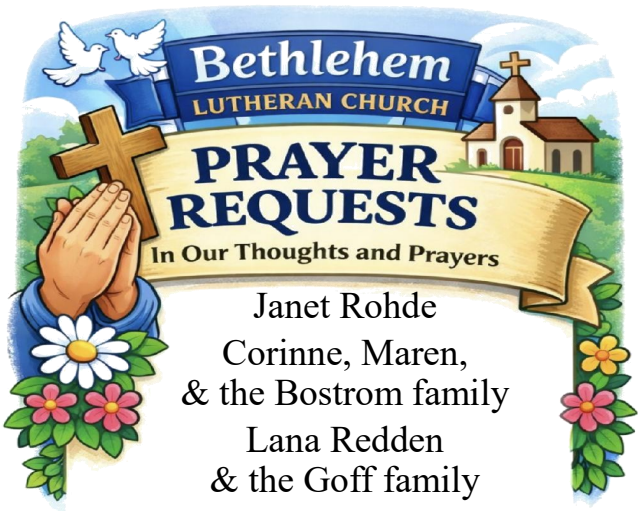
Law and Gospel: Two Words from One Loving God

Scripture speaks to us in two ways. The Law tells us what God requires and shows us our need (Romans 3:20). It is good, like a mirror that shows us honestly who we are. The Gospel tells us what Christ has done. He lived, died, and rose for us, and forgives us freely (Romans 3:23-24). When a church emphasizes the Law, however kindly meant, people are left tired: proud if they think they are doing well, or discouraged if they know they are not. When the Gospel is emphasized people are set free, and gratitude and love flow out naturally. Luther put it this way: "A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all." (The Freedom of a Christian, 1520). The Gospel gives us Life. The Law then becomes a guide for us in how to live that out. That is why Paul urges "rightly handling the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15), and why Jesus says, "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28)

Luther's last written words are said to be: "We are beggars. This is true." What he meant was this: we come to God with empty hands, and He fills them. It's that simple. May the God of grace fill your hands with every joy, blessing and peace as we remember what we are called to, and truly are, as His people.

Pastor Craig Lanning

Mark Your Calendars!



Janet Rohde
Corinne, Maren,
& the Bostrom family
Lana Redden
& the Goff family
Don Hefty
Kim Redden
Jeremy Redden
Ed Brandenburg
Trish Turner
Brad Craven
John Turner
Lenore Wind
Roxanne Swanson
Garnet Leys
Marilyn Woodward
John Strauch
Beva Linker
Dave Honebein

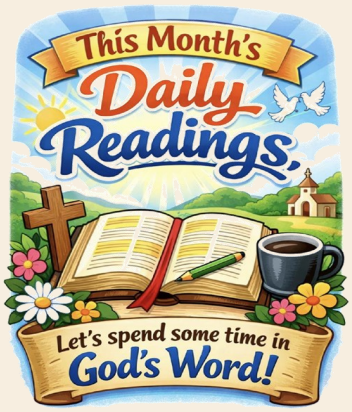
October Birthdays

Beva Linker	4th
Terry Linker	4th
David Wood	17th
Sandy Cook	26th

October Anniversary

Albert & Beth Hocheder	7th

Please call the church office if there is an error or omission.



Thursday, October 1
Psalm 80:7-15
Jeremiah 2:14-22
Colossians 2:16-23

Friday, October 2
Psalm 80:7-15
Jeremiah 2:23-37
Philippians 2:14-18; 3:1 -4a

Saturday, October 3
Psalm 80:7-15
Jeremiah 6:1-10
John 7:40-52

Sunday, October 4
Isaiah 5:1-7
Psalm 80:7-15
Philippians 3:4b-14
Matthew 21:33-46

Monday, October 5
Psalm 144
Ezekiel 19:10-14
1 Peter 2:4-10

Tuesday, October 6
Psalm 144
Isaiah 27:1-6
2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Wednesday, October 7
Psalm 144
Song of Solomon 8:5-14
John 11:45-57

Thursday, October 8
Psalm 23
Isaiah 22:1-8a
1 Peter 5:1-5, 12-14

Friday, October 9
Psalm 23
Isaiah 22:8b-14
James 4:4-10

Saturday, October 10
Psalm 23
Isaiah 24:17-23
Mark 2:18-22

Sunday, October 11
Isaiah 25:1-9
Psalm 23
Philippians 4:1-9
Matthew 22:1-14

Monday, October 12
Psalm 34
Exodus 19:7-20
Jude 17-25

Tuesday, October 13
Psalm 34
Amos 9:5-15
Philippians 3:13—4:1

Wednesday, October 14
Psalm 34
Song of Solomon 7:10-8:4
John 6:25-35

Thursday, October 15
Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]
Judges 17:1-6
3 John 9-12

Friday, October 16
Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]
Deuteronomy 17:14-20
1 Peter 5:1-5

Saturday, October 17
Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]
Isaiah 14:3-11
Matthew 14:1-12

Sunday, October 18
Isaiah 45:1-7
Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Matthew 22:15-22

Monday, October 19
Psalm 98
Daniel 3:1-18
Revelation 18:1-10, 19-20

Tuesday, October 20
Psalm 98
Daniel 3:19-30
Revelation 18:21-24

Wednesday, October 21
Psalm 98
Daniel 6:1-28
Matthew 17:22-27

Thursday, October 22
Psalm 1
Numbers 5:5-10
Titus 1:5-16

Friday, October 23
Psalm 1
Deuteronomy 9:25—10:5
Titus 2:7-8, 11-15

Saturday, October 24
Psalm 1
Proverbs 24:23-34
John 5:39-47

Sunday, October 25
Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18
Psalm 1
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
Matthew 22:34-46

Monday, October 26
Psalm 119:41-48
Deuteronomy 6:1-9, 20-25
James 2:8-13

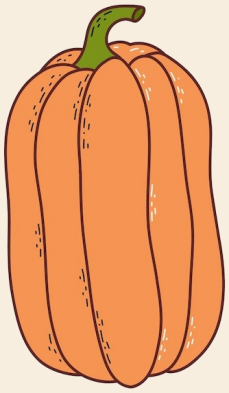
Tuesday, October 27
Psalm 119:41-48
Deuteronomy 10:10-22
James 2:14-26

Wednesday, October 28
Psalm 119:41-48
Proverbs 16:1-20
Matthew 19:16-22

Thursday, October 29
Psalm 43
1 Samuel 2:27-36
Romans 2:17-29

Friday, October 30
Psalm 43
Ezekiel 13:1-16
2 Peter 2:1-3

Saturday, October 31
Psalm 43
Malachi 1:6—2:9
Matthew 23:13-28



BLC Church Council Meeting

September 13, 2026

The meeting was brought to order at 5:01 by President Pat C who opened with a prayer. Present were Kevin G, Todd M, Pat C, Jeanette D and guest Kim R. Absent were Maren B, Terry L, and Beth H.

Kevin moved and Todd seconded to approve the August minutes. Motion passed. Todd moved and Kevin seconded to approve the treasurer's report. Motion passed.

Correspondence included a thank you from Kim R. after the loss of her son Zach. A letter from a gentleman interested in being our pastor was read. He is not affiliated with either NALC or LCMC. We do not know if he is an ordained pastor. We will check with both to see if he meets NALC and LCMC requirements.

New Business:

The State of the Church Meeting will be on November 8, 2026, right after church. Terresa will create a ballot for council member elections and agenda. Maren and Kevin, whose terms both end in January, have agreed to run for their second term. If anyone else is interested, please let Jeanette know so you can be added to the ballot. Two positions are available. Kim will prepare a budget for 2027. We will no longer support ELCA projects but NALC and LCMC projects.

Old Business:

Todd discussed the bids he had gotten for air-conditioning to the fellowship hall and offices. Jeanette moved and Kevin seconded a motion to hire Coldorado Heating and Cooling for $20,823 plus electrical. Motion carried. We hope to have it installed by our 70th annual soup supper on November 3.

Kevin will be calling a meeting of the media team to discuss the issues that have been plaguing them so they all know what is going on and what to do.

Pat will meet with Terresa to see who all has a key to the church. We know some people have them that no longer come, so will ask for those keys back as we have no more keys to give out when needed.

October Deacon is Deb J, Usher Larry J, and next council meeting October 11, 2026 at 5pm.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer at 6:11pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanette Dehning

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

October 2026	4	11	18	25
Deacon	Deb Johnson			
Reader	Kim Redden	Sharon George	Maren Bostrom	Kevin Gardner
Altar Guild	Janet Rohde			
Usher	Larry Johnson			
Bell Ringer	Larry Johnson	Kim Redden	Larry Johnson	Maren Bostrom
Clavinovist	Garnet Leys			
Sunshine	Donna Morgan			
Media Team	Todd Morgan, Kevin Gardner, Sharon George, and Deb Johnson			
Pastor	Philip Reimers	Craig Lanning	Craig Lanning	Philip Reimers

	8/30	9/06	9/13	9/20
Attendance	29	28	25	22

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.

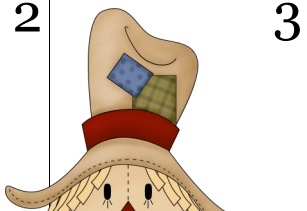
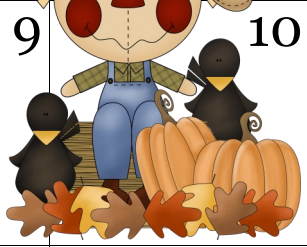
Pat Chase, President
Terry Linker, Vice-President
Jeanette Dehning, Secretary
Kim Redden, Treasurer
Maren Bostrom
Kevin Gardner
Beth Hocheder
Todd Morgan

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

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

October 2026

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 9:00am Quilting	2	3 
4 19th Sunday of Pentecost 9:00am Worship Philip Reimers	5	6 7am-1pm Eben Ezer Burrito Making	7	8 9:00am Quilting	9 	10
11 20th Sunday of Pentecost 9:00am Worship Craig Lanning 5:00pm Council Meeting	12 	13	14	15 9:00am Quilting	16	17
18 21st Sunday of Pentecost 9:00am Worship Craig Lanning	19	20 6pm PEO	21 	22 9:00am Quilting	23	24
25 Reformation Sunday 9:00am Worship Philip Reimers	26	27 	28	29 9am-12pm PEO Butter Braid Delivery 9:00am Quilting	30	31

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.