

Grace and peace friends! September 1, we begin a ministry partnership together! It may seem like we all know each other pretty well but I'm guessing there's a bit more about me you haven't come to know in the last 12 ½ years while I have been serving and loving God's people here in Brush.

I grew up in Illinois, baptized, confirmed and a fiftyyear member at St. Matthew Lutheran in the little village of Fillmore, about 200 people, stretched maybe to 250 people at its peak during my growing up. It still exists, both the village and the church. We had a generational farm started by my German great grandmother's gift from her dad for raising her eight siblings when her mother died; and my German great grandfather, an immigrant, who had lost his sheep flock the first year he lived here in the United States. We were an Illinois Centennial farm which raised beef cattle, soybeans, wheat, corn, and at one time, we had pigs. I made a lot of Sunday night trips with my dad to market in East St. Louis. My mom's side of the family were dairy farmers, plus grew corn, wheat and barley. Grandma drove the mules, Kate and Gin, while Grandpa drove the Jonny-popper. We nine grandkids drew straws on Sunday afternoon as to which three of us rode the tractor first with Grandpa. Yes, I was a nine year very active 4-H member who finished up my 4-H years at 4-H Club Congress in Chicago, my freshman year in college. I attended Eastern IL University in Charleston receiving a BS in Education. After finishing five years teaching in middle school and high school level (completing my teaching scholarship commitments), I left teaching and began a restaurant management career. One of the highlights of that experience was getting to go to Los Angeles to the Easter Seals Telethon as one of the top five fundraisers in the company. After six years, moving up through the ranks from restaurant manager, area supervisor, and training coordinator, I accepted a position as a county restaurant inspector in government rules and regulations. Two years later, I began my 17-year career with the Illinois Department of Corrections working with medium and minimum level male inmates. At one time I was managing a 300-inmate caseload and leading Substance Abuse Education classes to screen for substance abuse treatment candidates as an Illinois Certified Substance Abuse Counselor. To keep sane and continue growing, I got my Master of Arts in Speech Communication at Southern IL University, Edwardsville, teaching Speech classes at the local junior college on evenings or day off after graduating. I took an early retirement offer from Corrections at the age of 50.

Not quite ready to retire, my parish pastor talked to me one day and said, "you ought to become a pastor!" My response, "me a pastor, I don't think so!" She next said, "there's a new track called diaconal ministry, I think you should look into it." I did, and with her pulling her hair out and shaking her head the whole way, she mentored me through seminary, a trip all its own. In 2006 I graduated from Lutheran School of Theology, Chicago with a Master of Arts in Theology. My seminary roommates said, "Come to Colorado, there's a lot of Lutherans out here." In August of 2006, without a call, without a congregation, I came to search for where God was calling. In February 2007 I was hired at Poudre

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Deacon Ro Fesser

Cell Phone: (970) 631-2715 Email: lutheranchurchpastor@gmail.com Office Hours: Sundays: 3:00pm-6:00pm Mondays: 8:00am—11:30am Tuesdays: 12:00pm-3:00pm

Administrative Assistant: Terresa Lauck Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays 9am - 3pm

Sunday Worship

9:00 a.m. Worship Service

Valley Hospital in Fort Collins as an overnight on-call chaplain with hours from 4:00pm-8:00am three-four nights a week. (I had received chaplain's training at St. Louis University Hospital during seminary, vowing to the chaplains the day I left, "I will never be one of these!") On October 14, 2007 I was consecrated (what is now ordained) as a Diaconal Minister, (what is now a Deacon), in the ELCA. In September 2010 headed to a First Call Education, I stepped onto the BART train in San Francisco at the airport, I heard someone say, "Ro, I need to talk to you." I had no idea who knew me in San Francisco; even crazier, what this person wanted to talk to me about. Pr. Terri Hermsmeyer asked me to apply at Eben Ezer in Brush for the second chaplain's job that was posted. I didn't even know where Brush, CO was! On January 20, 2011, I began my first day serving as chaplain at Eben Ezer. On September 1, 2023, I begin my first day serving at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Brush. The search to find where God is calling me, who would have guessed? It is this place--Brush, Colorado!

"But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." Matthew 6:33

It's good to be here with you! Blessings be on this our partnership in ministry! This place we are all called to serve and love God's people!

Ro



We proudly invite you to join us as we celebrate the Installation of our new pastoral leader, Deacon Ro Fesser, on Sunday, October 1, 2023, 3:00 p.m.

We welcome Bishop Jim Gonia, Rocky Mountain Synod of the ELCA, who will preside at the service and lead us in celebrating this blessed occasion through worship and Holy Communion. Your presence will make this event a memorable experience for everyone at Bethlehem.

Join us after the service for a reception in the fellowship hall.



Come one, come all! Bethlehem members and friends, we need your help! Sunday, **September 10th** will be "*Blue Jean Sunday*." As our God's Work Our Hands project, we will be doing clean-up and small projects around our church building following worship and fellowship. Many hands make light work—hope to see many of you there!





September Birthdays

Allyn Wind	10th
Joy Perry	16th
Jody Halvorson	16th

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES!

September Anniversary

Stan & Carla Krueger

9th

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



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

Kenny Bostrom, Dave Honebein, Tom Morrow, Lane Morrow, Garnet Leys, Wanda Rains, Zach Griffith, Dave Madsen, and Lori Bostron

September, 2023



Friday, September 1 Psalm 26:1-8 Jeremiah 15:1-9 2 Thessalonians 2:7-12

Saturday, September 2 Psalm 26:1-8 Jeremiah 15:10-14 Matthew 8:14-17

Sunday, September 3 Jeremiah 15:15-21 Psalm 26:1-8 Romans 12:9-21 Matthew 16:21-28

Monday, September 4 Psalm 17 2 Samuel 11:2-26 Revelation 3:1-6

Tuesday, September 5 Psalm 17 2 Samuel 11:27b—12:15 Revelation 3:7-13

Wednesday, September 6 Psalm 17 Jeremiah 17:5-18 Matthew 12:22-32

Thursday, September 7 Psalm 119:33-40 Ezekiel 24:1-14 2 Corinthians 12:11-21

Friday, September 8 Psalm 119:33-40 Ezekiel 24:15-27 Romans 10:15b-21 Saturday, September 9 Psalm 119:33-40 Ezekiel 33:1-6 Matthew 23:29-36



Sunday, September 10 Ezekiel 33:7-11 Psalm 119:33-40 Romans 13:8-14 Matthew 18:15-20

Monday, September 11 Psalm 119:65-72 Leviticus 4:27-31; 5:14-16 1 Peter 2:11-17

Tuesday, September 12 Psalm 119:65-72 Deuteronomy 17:2-13 Romans 13:1-7

Wednesday, September 13 Psalm 119:65-72 Leviticus 16:1-5, 20-28 Matthew 21:18-22 *Thursday, September 14* Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13 Genesis 37:12-36 1 John 3:11-16

Friday, September 15 Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13 Genesis 41:53—42:17 Acts 7:9-16

Saturday, September 16 Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13 Genesis 45:1-20 Matthew 6:7-15

Sunday, September 17 Genesis 50:15-21 Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13 Romans 14:1-12 Matthew 18:21-35

Monday, September 18 Psalm 133 Genesis 48:8-22 Hebrews 11:23-29

Tuesday, September 19 Psalm 133 Genesis 49:29—50:14 Romans 14:13—15:2

Wednesday, September 20 Psalm 133 Genesis 50:22-26 Mark 11:20-25

Thursday, September 21 Psalm 145:1-8 Nahum 1:1, 14—2:2 2 Corinthians 13:1-42

Friday, September 22 Psalm 145:1-8 Nahum 2:3-13 2 Corinthians 13:5-10



Saturday, September 23 Psalm 145:1-8 Zephaniah 2:13-15 Matthew 19:23-30

Sunday, September 24 Jonah 3:10—4:11 Psalm 145:1-8 Philippians 1:21-30 Matthew 20:1-16

Monday, September 25 Psalm 106:1-12 Genesis 27:1-29 Romans 16:1-16

Tuesday, September 26 Psalm 106:1-12 Genesis 28:10-17 Romans 16:17-20

Wednesday, September 27 Psalm 106:1-12 Isaiah 41:1-13 Matthew 18:1-5

Thursday, September 28 Psalm 25:1-9 Ezekiel 12:17-28 James 4:11-16

Friday, September 29 Psalm 25:1-9 Ezekiel 18:5-18 Acts 13:32-41

Saturday, September 30 Psalm 25:1-9 Ezekiel 18:19-24 Mark 11:27-33

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

Septemb 2023	ber	3	3		10		17			24
Deacon		Kim Redden								
Reader		Kim R	Kim Redden		Deb Johnson		Sharon George		Jeanne Wuest	
Altar Guild	t	Trish Turner								
Usher		If you would be willing to serve as usher for the month of September, please let Terresa know. Thank you!								
Sunshine Committee	9	Corinne Bostrom								
Clavinovist										
			7/30)	8/06		8/13	8/2	20	
Atte		ndance	23		26		28	32	2	

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.

> Marsha Mills, President 970-768-1562 Deb Johnson, Vice-President 970-842-5633 Marisa Ford-Castrup, Secretary 303-502-7459 Kim Redden, Treasurer 970-380-9727 Jeanette Dehning 970-380-3822 Kevin DeKorte 970-867-2238 Beth Hocheder 970-768-3888 Isaac Linker 970-520-1989 Terry Linker 970-768-1099





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Bethlehem Lutheran Church

September, 2023

Bethlehem Lutheran Congregational Council Meeting August 10, 2023

The August Church Council meeting was called to order by President Marsha Mills at 6:34pm in the fellowship hall. Present were Marsha Mills, Deb Johnson, Kim Redden, Beth Hocheder, Terry Linker, Isaac Linker, Kevin DeKorte and Jeanette Dehning. Marissa Ford was absent.

Marsha began the meeting with prayer. Jeanette moved to accept the July council minutes, Beth seconded, and the motion passed. Beth commented that the treasurer's report and financial report balanced. Deb moved to accept the Treasurer/Financial report, Beth seconded, and the motion passed. Kim explained that the bank put back the money we had sent to the Rocky Mountain Synod since it had been fraudulently cashed. She now has a secure way to send the money. After looking at Ro's report Kim moved and Beth seconded to pay Ro for the visitation and administration hours she spent in July on behalf of Bethlehem.

Kim received a letter of thanks from Oaks Indian Mission for our financial support. The letter will be published in the September newsletter.

Under Old Business we first discussed God's Work Our Hands to be held September 10th. We will call it Blue Jean Sunday and after service we will work on the many areas of our own church that need upkeep, from the attic to the basement, to the grounds. Beth will bring her pickup for things we will discard and take it to the dump for us.

Kevin told us most of the outdoor cameras are up and working. We went in to Pastor's office to see the screen and what it all showed. They detect motion, and Kevin can see and hear what is being said outside from his phone. Installation cost was \$2,700, and they did spend a lot of time doing the installation. There was no report on the window installation. Deb will call on that.

There was a long discussion about the roof. Two companies, White Castle Construcion (recommended by our insurance agent) and Roofing and Renovations Concierge both told us we never should have had a metal roof, and that it was put on wrong. They both recommend a shingle roof. We are waiting on bids from both companies. Castle will do the roof only, with Hammer Construction doing the inside work that the was caused by the hail damage.

Roofing and Renovations will submit a bid for all the work to be done. AMP Restoration was recommended also. They are from Sterling and Kevin is using them for his home. They use a Level 4 shingle and will do both the roof and inside work. Marsha will call to file a claim for us and request an adjustor visit.

Kim informed us our Mission donations were made in July. So we moved on to New

Business. Ro's installation will be October 1. She has the agenda and pretty well lined up. There will be quite a few pastor's present, from Brush, other surrounding towns, and the synod. Most of the food will be purchased, but people will be asked to bring some things also.

Another Church Becoming will be held in Sterling Saturday, August 12, at Sterling Peace Lutheran beginning at 9am. It will be a continuation of the one held at Bethlehem in July. Kim will be attending.

Terresa has requested a standing desk so she doesn't always have to sit to do her work. Kevin has talked with her, and they are requesting an electric platform that sits on the desk and raises and lowers for \$350. Kevin moved and Terry seconded to purchase this for Terresa and our office. Terresa also had samples of business cards that Ro has requested. We like the "white" one with a few modifications, but want Ro to make the final decision. Terresa will purchase card stock and get them made.

Kim volunteered to be Decon for September. Stan and Carla Kruegar are the ushers. The next council meeting will be September 14 at 6:30pm. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20pm. Isaac then led us in the Lord's prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Jeanette Dehning



Deacon Ro will be in the office all day on September 1st and 2nd.

STOP BY FOR A VISIT!

For the month of September, in addition to being here 8-11 on Sunday mornings, she will have the following office hours:

Sundays: 3:00pm-6:00pm

Mondays: 8:00am-11:30am

Tuesdays: 12:00pm-3:00pm

Below is her contact information:

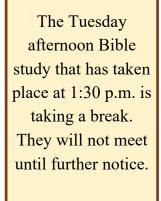
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WELCOME DEACON RO!



Jessica & Zachary Redden 314 Colorado Avenue Brush, CO 80723

> Zach Redden 814 N. Carson St Brush, CO 80723





September Prairie Parish Event Saturday, September 9th 9:00 a.m. Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer



Bethlehem Lutheran Chruch 603 Custer St Brush, CO 80723

Dear Friends,

As we are nearing the end of the summer break, the preparation for the brand-new school year is upon us. We will be welcoming back familiar faces and we will greet some who have never been here



before, receiving them all with open arms and settling them into their homes here at Oaks. Thank you for helping us get through the summer months. Some children stayed on campus the entire summer and because of your support, we were able to care for them and they were able to have a wonderful summer break! Thank you so much for your gift of \$200.00

Your support means the world to us. You are helping us make a difference in so many lives! Thank you for caring about our young people! We appreciate your support so very much. We pray God blesses you as you have blessed us!

lau coper

Dan Cooper Executive Director

We pray that the children and families you help support here at the Mission will have a better life because of your Kindness. Thank you.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

September 2023

