



# Star on the Hill

The Newsletter of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Lanesboro, Minnesota

October 2025

## Contact us at:

200 Kenilworth Ave S.

P.O. Box 314

Lanesboro, MN 55949

507-467-3344

[bethlehem@acegroup.cc](mailto:bethlehem@acegroup.cc)

website:

[www.staronthehill.com](http://www.staronthehill.com)

Facebook: Bethlehem  
Lutheran Church, Lanesboro

## Pastor Heidi Wallace

402-870-1972

[pastorheidwallace@gmail.com](mailto:pastorheidwallace@gmail.com)

Watch our worship on  
Facebook Sunday mornings  
at 10:00 am

Bethlehem Lutheran Church,  
Lanesboro

## Financial Summary

Year to Date thru August 2025

**Income: \$116,573**

**Expenses: \$111,148**



Service  
Group  
booklets  
are being  
updated for  
next year.

If you have or know of  
changes to phone numbers  
or emails, please contact  
the church office. Thanks!



Pastor Heidi's installation  
Service Has been moved  
to October 19<sup>th</sup>



## Mark Your Calendars

For those completing their  
studies, Confirmation  
Sunday will be  
November 2, 2025



## BETHLEHEM SILENT AUCTION

Bid Sheets are displayed in  
the fellowship hall and are  
open for bid thru Oct 19<sup>h</sup>.  
Please contact Nate Boyum  
for Questions at  
507-458-2853.



The GIDEONS are  
coming.

A member of the Gideon's  
International will be coming to  
Church for a Presentation on  
October 12<sup>th</sup>. The Gideon  
organization is a group of  
professional business men & their  
spouses who are called the  
Auxiliary. We strive to Win souls  
for Christ in various ways. One  
of those ways is to place and  
distribute Bibles. We not only  
place Bibles, we also have the  
Gideon App which is free to  
download. The Bible App has  
both the ESV (English Standard  
Version) and the King James  
Version of the Bible along with  
Several "helps" for when  
someone feels a need or is feeling  
stressed. As you may already  
know, the Gideon's also hand out  
bibles to the high school seniors  
who attend Baccalaureate  
services in our local area. We will  
be asking for a free will donation.  
Thanks for your support in  
Advance.



In English, Norwegian,  
Swedish, Spanish, Swahili, and

more, I know the word for "Welcome". However, even more important than the word is the feeling of welcome. One knows when welcome is extended and meant.

It has been less than a month since I "arrived on your doorstep" as my grandma loved to say. In that time, I have certainly felt your warm welcome. The way you have introduced yourselves and offered your knowledge, time, and assistance has not only made me feel at home, but has also given me a sense of calm and comfort. Thank you for that!

October lends itself to us all finding what brings us a sense of calm and comfort. For



some, it will be pumpkin spice anything. For others, October means "sweater weather" or other cozy articles of clothing. It's a time of shorter days, but



more light inside through candles or fires.

Why do we seek comfort? We need look no further than the definition of the word. Comfort gives strength and hope and eases grief and trouble.

It is consolation, a feeling of relief or encouragement,

contented well-being, and a satisfying or enjoyable experience. In other words, it is exactly the opposite of the anxiety and stress that most of us are feeling on a regular basis.

Throughout the Bible we read of God wanting comfort for God's people and providing comfort for God's people. We also read of God's people providing comfort for one another through food, clothes, medical assistance, and presence. We even read of how not to provide comfort to one another. Job, who has lost everything, is visited by his friends. Their presence is a comfort -- until they begin to speak. Their words are full of blame and distress Job further.

We do not always know what to say when it comes to comforting people, but comfort is an area in which actions can speak louder than words. Much like we do not need to say, "I am cold," to wrap a blanket around ourselves; we do not need to say, "You are sad," to hand someone a tissue. Nor do we need to reserve comfort for a special occasion.

While a new parent or a grieving family appreciate the hot dish brought to them, so does the person caring for a parent or the busy family, just because it makes day-to-day life lighter.

While I do know a lot of words for welcome, I know

more about what the action feels like and looks like than what the word in any language sounds like. You do, too. You have demonstrated that in the short time I have been here, not only to me, but also to whomever has come for worship, a meal, Bible study, and the numerous other instances we have had to welcome and mean it.

I am grateful to and for you all!

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Heidi <><

**\*Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>**

**\*Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup>**

**\*Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>**

*First Reading: (NLT)*

***Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4***

*Second Reading: (NLT)*

***2 Timothy 1:1-14***

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Doors: Pruetts

Ushers: Pruetts,

Marilyn O'Rourke

Reader: Andrew Pruett

Altar Care: Pruetts

Refreshments: Pruetts

\*\*\*\*\*

First Reading: (NLT)



## Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup>

First Reading: (NLT)  
**2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c**

**Psalm:111 (NLT)**

Second Reading: (NLT)  
**2 Timothy 2:8-15**

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Doors: Gilbertsons

Ushers: Gilbertsons

Steve Erickson

Reader: Melissa Gilbertson

Altar Care: None

Refreshments: Gilbertsons

## \*Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup>

First Reading: (NLT)  
**Genesis 32:22-31**

Second Reading: (NLT)  
**2 Timothy 3:14-4:5**

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Doors: Troendles

Ushers: Troendles

Rick & Sharon Peterson

Reader: Chris Troendle

Altar Care/HC:

Pat & Chris Troendle

Refreshments:

Troendles, Rick & Sharon  
Peterson

\*\*\*\*\*

## Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup>

Reformation Sunday  
RED

**Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22**

**Psalm: 84:1-7 (NLT)**

Second Reading: (NLT)  
**2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18**

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Doors: Rogers

Ushers: Rogers

Reader: Peter Ruen

Altar Care: Rogers

Refreshments: Rogers

**November Service Group  
Please reach out to your  
Group Coordinators to sign  
up for a Sunday of Service.**

Members of the November  
service group are  
Kari Berg, Lisa Benson,  
Marion Botcher, Jacques  
Crutcher, Chris, Jessica &  
Oliver Hanson, Lindsay  
Hanson, McKenzie Hanson,  
Bill & Denise Hanson, Jane,  
Kenai, McKinley, & Denali  
Holien, Tom & Sue Holst,  
Jacob & Claire Ihrke, Brad &  
Rita Kelly, Terry & Karen

Neneman, Nancy Olson,  
Jason & Michele Peterson,  
Jim & Diane Peterson, Lee  
Peterson, Eric & Kristi Ruen,  
Josh Schreiber, Julie Grant,  
Karen Schreiber, Andrea  
Schwartz, Milton Solberg  
**Group coordinators are Eric  
& Kristi Ruen and Lee  
Peterson.**

## Senior Dining Servers at Kenilworth Apartments

**Oct 3rd:** Phyllis Penheiter,  
Denise Dahle

**Oct 10<sup>th</sup> :** Jennifer Wood &  
Phyllis Penheiter

**Oct 17<sup>th</sup>:** Gwen Harmon &  
Norine Ask

**Oct 24<sup>th</sup>:** Sue Holst &  
Norine Ask

**Oct 31<sup>st</sup> :** Dean Benson &  
Mindy Albrecht-Benson

## Our Confirmands

**10<sup>th</sup> grade:** Preston Clarke,  
Kaylee Gilbertson, Trinity  
Hareldson, Isabelle Peterson,  
Henry Semmen, Prailey  
Willford

**8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grade:** Lux Holst,  
Theodore Pruett, Oliver  
Hanson

**7<sup>th</sup> grade:** Knox Holst

## Those Living with Cancer

Diane Haugen,

Tom Papenfuss,

Leon Peterson, son of Linda

Come with your entire family.

# Women <sup>of the</sup> ELCA

Carroll Gilbertson,  
Mavis Musselman,  
Cora Slominsky  
(niece of Matt & Stacy Schultz)  
Alex Hall  
Nancy Hall  
Renee Reinhardt

## ***Those Recovering From Illness or Surgery***

Nancy Olson  
Alison Tufte

## ***Those Living in Care Centers***

Jerry Johnson at Mn Veterans  
Home, Preston MN

Sandy Dybing at Birchwood  
Cottages, North Mankato

Lois Gilbertson,  
Marlin & Ardella Miner  
at Chosen Valley Assisted  
Living, Chatfield

(Hareldson) Peterson

Tom Moen, son of Lolly  
Melander

Claire Peterson, daughter of  
Joe & Jody Peterson

Devin Troendle, son of Pat &  
Chris Troendle, grandson of  
Ed Taylor

**\*\*\*\*Please notify the office If  
there are updates to any of  
these lists**

Invite your neighbors to come. All  
are welcome!!

Please sign-up if you are able to  
supply supper one night.

See you there!!



Chili feed at the Legion Lights  
Festival

December 13<sup>th</sup> at Lanesboro  
Community Center from 4-6 PM  
We are in Need of Volunteers to  
Make and Serve Chili and Bread.  
Please Contact Tom Brudvig at  
612-867-1286

## ***Hospice Care at Home***

Katie Ruen  
Edward Ruen (Husband  
and caretaker)  
Lanesboro

## ***Our Members in the Military***

Esme Decker, daughter of  
Sara Xavier and Eric Decker

Lisa Peterson Abell, daughter  
of Linda (Hareldson) Peterson



## **Wednesday Family Night And Confirmation**

**\*\*\*We will not meet on Oct  
15<sup>th</sup> due to MEA.**

Each Wednesday we will eat a  
little, learn a little, and worship  
God a little.

After supper, we will break into  
small groups – Elementary age  
children, confirmation class, youth  
group, and adults. Then we will  
come back together to close with  
praise and prayer. The schedule  
will be as follows:

6:00 p.m. Supper  
6:30 p.m. Learning  
7:15 to 7:30 p.m. Praise & Prayer



## **WELCA activities**

Wednesday, October 1<sup>st</sup>  
9:00 am WELCA Quilting Day  
\*\*\*\*\*

Wednesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>  
9:00 am WELCA Bible study

**PLEASE NOTE:** Men are also  
welcome to attend our WELCA  
Bible study.

Anyone interested in taking part in the **knitting ministry** may contact Sue Holst at 507 676-3239 or Jacque Crutcher at 507 259-2453.



Christmas in Fillmore County. A contribution will also be sent to the SE MN Synodical Women's Organization Convention where money will go to the Bethlehem Inn, a short-term transitional home that will provide a living environment for women and children in transition.

Lutheran World Relief Quilts and kits donated by Bethlehem will be picked up in La Crosse on October 11.



We will be having Our Meatball Dinner on Sunday November 9<sup>th</sup>. Watch for more details as they become available.

The September business meeting Bethlehem WELCA agreed to donate locally this fall to Lanesboro High School Post Prom Party, Lutheran Campus Ministry and

## WELCA Quilting

Anyone interested in joining the **quilting ministry** may contact Elve Albrecht at 507 467-2910 or Phyllis Penheiter at 507-272-8643.



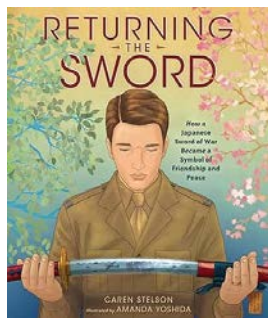
I'm an author of books for children and young adults and have written a new picture book about Orval Amdahl's returning his Japanese sword to its original owner.

Many of the Bethlehem's members will remember Orval and Marie since they were active members in the Church.

Some Church member may have come to the actual Sword ceremony at Como Park in St. Paul in 2013 to support Orval's gracious gesture of peace and reconciliation.

I'm looking forward to bringing the story back to its original home.





I will be presenting **RETURNING THE SWORD** on Sunday, October 5, Sons of Norway, 11:00 am, hosted by the Discovery Community. After my presentation, I'd like to invite members of the audience to share their memories of Orval, their thoughts about Orval's desire to return the sword to the Motomura family in Nagasaki and perhaps what that means today. No doubt, many members of the Church remember Orval and can add new details to this story. This would be an excellent confirmation and/or Sunday School session.

Caren Stelson



Mayo Clinic Alzheimer's Disease Research Center in collaboration with Age Friendly Fillmore County Presents:

## Brain Health, Aging, and Dementia Research

A three part series for those interested in learning more

You are invited to our team from the Mayo Clinic Alzheimer's Disease Research Center to learn about brain health, memory loss, and current research. There will be plenty of time for conversation and questions.

The following events and topics will be discussed:

### Session 1: Building a Better Brain

Featuring **Angela Lunde, MA (1:00pm-4:00pm)**

- Understanding memory as we age
- Reducing dementia risk
- Everyday strategies for optimizing memory

### Session 2: When Does Forgetfulness Signal Dementia

Featuring **Ryan Coburn, MD (1:00pm-3:00pm)**


- Understanding normal aging
- Memory concerns - when to see your doctor & the value of early diagnosis
- Genetics, managing the disease, and new treatments

### Session 3: Demystifying Aging & Dementia Research


Featuring **Mary Machulda, PhD, LP (1:00pm-3:00pm)**

- Overview the types of research that are conducted at Mayo Clinic
- Understand what it means to participate in a research study
- What to consider when thinking about research participation



 Thursday, October 16  
Thursday October 23  
Thursday, October 30

 **Cost Free**

 **LOCATION**  
Sons of Norway  
200 Parkway Ave S  
Lanesboro, MN 55949

To register, please visit  
<https://qrco.de/Lanesboro2025>  
or call (507) 272-0254

## MINUTES

Bethlehem Lutheran Church of Lanesboro, MN  
Council Meeting  
6:00 PM Wednesday, September 10, 2025

Present: Carrie Hanson, Nate Boyum, Andrew Pruett, JoAnna Pruett, Julie Kiehne, Tom Brudvig, Pastor Heidi Wallace.

Absent: Brett Clarke, Tom Holst

Others present: Karen Schreiber

Established Quorum

Call to Order by Tom Brudvig 6:05 pm and Welcomed Pastor Heidi Wallace.

Pastor Heidi opened with devotion and prayer.

**Secretary's Report** – reviewed the August minutes submitted by JoAnna Pruett. Motion moved by Nate, seconded by Carrie, passed.

**Treasurer's Report** – financial reports provided. Motion moved by Andrew and seconded by JoAnna, motion passed.

**Pastoral Report** – Pastor Heidi attended the Root River Conference. She will also be attending the Fall Theological Retreat in La Crosse. For future Pastor Heidi will provide a written summary report.

**Worship and Music Committee –**

**Installation Sunday moved to October 19** – Choir will sing an anthem.

**Family Wednesdays** – Starting Sept. 17 (6 Wednesdays) from 6 – 7:30 pm.

6 pm food – 2 families / week sign up to provide a light meal - JoAnna will make soup & bread for Sept. 17.

6:30 pm – 7:15 pm program

Welcome - Andrew

3 Groups:

- Adults – Brett Clarke
- Confirmation – P. Heidi Wallace
- Kids – Karen Schreiber & Mona Himlie (Fountain)

Closure – Devotion

**Campfire Songs & S'mores** - Sept 13 moved to **Sept 27 at 6:30 pm** at Sylvan Park.

**Church by the River** – Sept. 21 at 10 am at Gene & Renee Bergstrom's w Potluck following. Praise Band will sing Sept. 21.

**WELCA** – Donation allocations from WELCA were kept local:

Lanesboro High School post prom party

Lutheran Campus Ministry

Christmas in Fillmore County

Motion to approve all the reports moved by Andrew, and seconded by Nate, motion carried.

## **Old Business**

**Auction** – Nate Boyum is leading the service silent auction. Signups are being taken for service and bidding on items through October.

**Meatball Dinner** – November 9 from Noon – 5 pm. Carrie Hanson is the lead and will coordinate committees to cover all aspects of the Dinner.

**Cement Step Repair** – need to bring dirt to fill area around steps.

**Lawn Mowing** – consider planting ground cover plants to grow in steep lawn area in spring, so this doesn't have to be mowed.

**New Mower** – we will be asking if anyone from congregation is willing to donate a self-propelled mower. List this message in the newsletter, bulletin and announcement. Andrew will write the message and send it to Rhonda.

**Ceiling repair in kitchen** – Deane Benson is getting new ceiling tiles and repairing kitchen ceiling.

**Property Committee** – Tom Holst, Carrie Hanson, Nate Boyum will call a Property Committee meeting to discuss the above items and budget requests to support these projects.

**Next Council Meeting:** Thurs. October 9 at 6:30 pm

Adjournment moved by Julie, seconded by Andrew. Motion carried.  
Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

**Submitted by: Julie Kiehne - "published but not approved"**

Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
P.O. Box 314  
Lanesboro, MN 55949-0314

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2025