



The Bethlehem Star

Volume 23, Issue 8

September 2025



September Circle Meeting

Money, Stewardship and Generosity
Rev. Christa von Zychlin

Session one: Money – What do we treasure?

From Genesis through Revelation, gold, silver and jewels serve as icons of God's goodness. And yet, the love of money is a powerful source of argument, lies and literal enslavement. King Solomon, famously, chose wisdom over treasure. Jesus, leaning on his mother's values, teaches his disciples to dig deep for real treasure.

Saturday, Sept. 13 at 9:00 a.m.

Hostess/Leader: Rochelle Busch

All are Welcome



BWELCA HILITES

We are still collecting items for the school kits and the DVIP. We plan on sending cookies to the DVIP also. They need to be individually wrapped.

DVIP Items and cookies will be delivered on Wed. Sept. 3.

Officers up for election for 2026 are: Secretary, Mission Growth/ Stewardship. The current officers for these positions have agreed to run again, but we do need the V.P. position filled, so please consider and let any board member know if you are interested. We will vote on the ballot at the September Circle meeting on Saturday Sept.13 H/L Rochelle Busch.

Annual EWALU Festival/ Quilt Auction is Saturday Sept.20.

Eve Circle is next in line to serve.

September Worship Assistants

Ushers:

Enos Ihns

Lectors:

7- Johann Ihns
14- Henry Ihns
21- Brent Ihns
28- Jone Paarmann

Acolytes:

7- *volunteer*
14- Henry Ihns
21- Johann Ihns
28- Elsa Sullivan



Communion Assistant:

Connie Kleppe

Bread Maker:

Tim Thiede

Altar Care:

Connie Kleppe, Kathy Duffey



Tellers: Jone Paarmann

Coffee Makers:

7- Kathy Becker
14- Rochelle Busch
21- Marlene Hicks
28- Diana Ihns

Confirmation to Start

Plans for the start of confirmation are underway. Details will be announced.



Shepherding Thoughts,

My child, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments; for the length of days and years of life and abundant welfare they will give you.

Proverbs 3:1-2

I recently read an article about two women who lived to be 104 years old. One woman did aerobics, ate vegetables, and had many friends. She looked at aging as a blessing. The other woman was a homebody with few friends, she found comfort in her faith and family and thought of life as something to endure. These women were exact opposites, yet both lived a long life.

When these women were young, living to 100 was rare. In the 1950's only about 2,300 Americans reached that milestone. In 2024, more than 101,000 Americans celebrated their 100th birthday and by 2054, that number is expected to reach 422,000. This is causing scientists to reexamine why people are living longer and they have discovered three hidden keys.

The first is resilience. People who are mentally tough, especially women, tend to live longer. They stay calm under pressure, keep going even in tough times, and feel that life has purpose. The second is love. It is important to have strong social connections. The bond formed between you and other people is important. Loneliness can be as harmful to your health as smoking or alcoholism.

The third and the one I find most hopeful is faith. It has been said that you can't live to an old age without a belief system. It is important that you have the conviction that tomorrow holds promise. How better to get that feeling of hope in tomorrow than to put your faith in God. God has given us the promise of eternal life. It is that belief that helps us remember the best is yet to come.

Belonging to a church family gives you resilience, love and faith. We know that not everyone will live to be 100. There are factors that shorten lives. But no matter how long you live, I believe you will live a better life if you find a place where you are accepted and loved. I invite you to come to worship, form bonds with those in your faith community, and know that God's grace and mercy will carry you through all the days of your life.

Pastor Roberta

September Birthdays

| | |
|----|--------------------|
| 1 | Kathy Duffey |
| 8 | Kathy Becker |
| 11 | Elsa Sullivan |
| 15 | Archer Willimack |
| 23 | Jeff Fields |
| 25 | Kelly Schroeder |
| 29 | Doug Wulf |
| 30 | Bruce Von Sprecken |



September Anniversaries

| | |
|----|--------------------------|
| 15 | Ellen and Bill Pithan |
| 17 | Haley and Jason Sullivan |
| 24 | Jone and Les Paarmann |
| 27 | Kathy and Rex Duffey |



Council News:

Bethlehem Congregation Council met for its regular meeting on July 27. In business they:

- Property updates on water valve in parsonage and church cleaning;
- Audit committee update;
- Sidewalk replacement done;
- Farm Lease, offered to Dexters for 3 yr lease;
- Purchase new computer for office manager;
- Joint worship to be Aug. 24 with Joint Council and Fellowship to follow worship.

Heard the following Treasurer's report:

| | |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Balance 6/01/25 | 24,050.74 |
| Income | 7,068.25 |
| Expenses` | 8,089.66 |
| Balance 1/31/16 | \$25,137.41 |

INCOME

| | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Offering | \$ 5,881.20 |
| Benevolence | 55.00 |
| Loose | 145.00 |
| SMLC Reimbursement | |
| | <u>941.05</u> |
| Total | \$ 7,068.25 |

September 2025

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---|
| | 1 | 2 BWELCA Bd. 6 PM | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 Holy Communion 9 AM Lector: Johann Ihns Fellowship 9:45 AM | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 Bethlehem 9 AM H/L: Rochelle Busch |
| 14 Worship 9 AM Lector: Henry Ihns Fellowship 9:45 AM | 15 Newsletter Items Due | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 Camp Ewalu Festival/Quilt Auction Strawberry Point |
| 21 Council 8 AM Holy Communion 9 AM Lector: Brent Ihns Fellowship 9:45 AM | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 Worship 9 AM Lector: Jone Paarmann Fellowship 9:45 AM | 29 | 30 | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
403 Pleasant Street
Lost Nation, Iowa 52254

September 2025

Pastor Roberta Pierce

Office Phone 678-2301

Cell 406-478-9518

Email prmbp10@gmail.com

Office Secretary Deanne Bennett

Church Phone 678-2301

secretary@bethlehemln.com

Website www.bethlehemln.com

Sunday Schedule

Worship 9:00 a.m.

Fellowship 9:45 a.m.

Office Hours:

TBA

Secretary Hours:

Tuesday: 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Thursday: 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

If you need to enter the church and do not
have a key, always call ahead to be certain
someone is there.