



# The Bethlehem Star

Volume 23, Issue 11

November 2025

## November Circle Meeting

Money, Stewardship and Generosity  
Rev. Christa von Zychlin

Session Three: Generosity –  
A wideness in God's mercy

God loves a cheerful giver, because our cheer in giving reflects God's own cheerful mercies. Can the biblical practice of gleaning be considered a class in Generosity 101? We will consider the enemies of generosity: Pharaoh, the stingy boss, and the "religion" of Mammonism. Finally, we will turn to the little-noticed women who were generous with Jesus, and the wild generosity of the first Christian churches.

Saturday, November 8 at 9:00 a.m.

Hostess/Leader: All/Pastor Roberta

**All are Welcome**

## Coats and Coverall for Homeless Veterans

BWELCA & Social Concerns will again help with the purchase of men's winter coats & insulated bibs for homeless veterans. The cost per set is \$100. Please contact Jone Paarmann @ 563-579-5930 (cell) if you are interested in purchasing a set or contributing towards a set. Gifts of any amount are appreciated. DVIP in Iowa City sees to the distribution of these items.



We will also gladly accept gently used men's winter coats, insulated bibs and coveralls.

Giving Thanks and Praise Together

## Thankoffering

"... gifts from individuals in  
gratitude and blessings."

The women of Bethlehem will be taking part in the ThankOffering Service on Sunday, November 9.

## Christmas Decorating Event



Calling all decorators, we will be "hanging the greens" on Sunday, Nov. 30 following worship as we start the Advent season. There will be a pizza and pop reception following the decorating. All are Welcome.

## Quilt Kits

There are quilt square kits available in the entrance to get the quilt top ready for the community quilters in January.



## Harvest Table

Help fill the Harvest Table for the Lost Nation Food Pantry during November. The Food Pantry always needs paper products (toilet paper, Kleenex, and paper towels) Nonperishable food items that are unopened and not past the expiration date are welcomed. Thanks for sharing.

## Commitment 2026

Included in this month's Star, is a time and talent form for 2026.

This tool is for members to make commitments and plans for the upcoming year and to help the staff and volunteers schedule persons to help with worship and other tasks during the year. **Return the forms on Sunday, November 16** (may be put in the collection plate or mailed to the church).



## Daylight Saving Ends

**Sunday,  
November 2.**



Shepherding Thoughts,

*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.*

(Ecclesiastes 3:1)

As many of you already know, the Call Committee and councils from Bethlehem and St. Mark's met with Deacon Jodi Schuman from the synod to begin the call process to find a pastor to call as your pastor. One of the questions asked at the meeting was if I could be called as your pastor. I would like to explain how I am feeling about that question.

I am your interim pastor. As an interim I am with you to make sure ministry continues and grows stronger as we wait for a pastor to come and take my place. For now, I am your pastor. Just because my title is interim does not mean I am that much different from a called pastor. Probably the biggest difference is I am part-time.

I do not feel called to come out of retirement to be your full-time pastor. Please know it has nothing to do with how I feel about the people or ministry at Bethlehem or St. Mark's. You are all very wonderful and you do amazing ministry in Lost Nation and Oxford Junction. My decision has to do with two things.

I am getting older and I'm not sure how many years of ministry I have left. So far, I'm doing well and this part-time interim works well for me. If I decided to let you call me as your pastor, when I do retire, you would have to begin the process all over again. Instead, you can have me serve you for now and still have your name out there in the search for a pastor.

I am very humbled that you want me to be your pastor, but I don't want my ego to get in the way. I plan to be with you until you find another pastor. You have me for as long as this process may take. If you have the patience to wait, I know you will find a pastor that will fit well with you in ministry. In the meantime, let's enjoy our time together and keep doing ministry that glorifies God in the church and out in the community.

See you in worship!  
Pastor Roberta

## November Worship

November marks the end of the church year, the end of a year of reading the Gospel of Luke, and the end of most things green in nature, in our climate.



**November 2, All Saints Sunday** we remember those who have ended their baptismal journey and now rest with God.

**November 23, Christ the King Sunday** we hear of two very different ways of understanding kingly power.

But even as the focus is on endings, a new church year begins in November this year. The **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent** is **November 30**.

Bethlehem Women of the ELCA will receive their annual ThankOfferings on November 9 at their annual **ThankOffering Service**.

**Holy Communion** will be celebrated Nov. 2, 16 and 30.



## November Worship Assistants

### Ushers:

Connie Kleppe

### Lectors:

2- Johann Ihns  
9- Henry Ihns  
16- Jone Paarmann  
23- Elsa Sullivan  
30- Tim Thiede

### Acolytes:

2- volunteer  
9- Henry Ihns  
16- Johann Ihns  
23- volunteer  
30- Elsa Sullivan

### Communion Assistant:

Brent Ihns

### Bread Maker:

Jone Paarmann

### Altar Care:

Rochelle Busch, Marlene Hicks

**Teller:** Jone Paarmann

### Coffee Makers:

2- Kathy Becker  
9- Rochelle Busch  
16- Marlene Hicks  
23- Diana Ihns  
30- Connie Kleppe



# November

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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<b>2</b> <i>All Saints Day</i> Holy Communion 9 AM Fellowship 9:45 AM	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> BWELCA Bd. 6 PM	<b>5</b> Pastors Office Hrs 4-6 PM Confirmation 6 PM	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Bethlehem 9 AM L: Pastor Roberta H: All
<b>9</b> <i>Thank Offering</i> Worship 9 AM Fellowship 9:45 AM	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Pastors Office Hrs 4-6 PM Confirmation 6 PM	<b>12</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> Council 8 AM Holy Communion 9 AM Fellowship 9:45 AM	<b>17</b> <b>Newsletter Items Due</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Pastors Office Hrs 4-6 PM Confirmation 6 PM	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> <i>Christ the King</i> Worship 9 AM Fellowship 9:45 AM	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Pastors Office Hrs 4-6 PM Confirmation 6 PM	<b>27</b> 	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> <i>1st Sunday of Advent</i> Holy Communion 9 AM Decorate Church following worship/ Pizza Party following decorating		<b>November Birthdays</b> 2 Les Paarmann 8 Sean Christiansen	17 Wyatt Christiansen 21 Henry Ihns 27 Lisa Fields	<b>November Anniversaries</b> 15 Debra and Jeremiah Christiansen		

2025

Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
403 Pleasant Street  
Lost Nation, Iowa 52254

## November 2025

Pastor Roberta Pierce

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## Sunday Schedule

**Worship 9:00 a.m.**

**Fellowship 9:45 a.m.**

### Office Hours:

Pastor Roberta

Wednesdays 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

*She can be reached by a call or  
text to her cell phone.*

### Secretary Hours:

Thursday: 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

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