



# The Bethlehem Star

Volume 24, Issue 1

January 2026



**Annual  
Congregation  
Meeting**  
**Sunday, January 25,**  
**9:45 a.m.**

(immediately following worship)

## **Audit Committee**

A reminder from the Auditing Committee that all Treasurers please have their books to the office by January 11.

## **Community Quilting to Resume**



We begin on Monday, January 5, 8:30-3:30 p.m. with a noon potluck. We invite all interested persons to join us in 2026 for food -fun and fellowship.

## **BWELCA Hilites**

Quilting starts Jan. 5 at 8:30 am.

The BWELCA Board meeting has been changed from Jan. 6 to Sunday, January 4 following fellowship.

## **January**

- 1 Rhett Lubitz
- 5 Stephen Tomasi
- 9 Brent Willimack
- 12 Josie Petersen
- 16 Josh Holtz
- 22 Trisha Feuss
- 23 Katie Fields
- 27 Jessica Willimack
- 31 Jory Sullivan



**January Circle Meeting**

“Embodied prayer”  
by Rev. Liv Larson Andrews  
Session One: Praying with our bodies

Prayer is an important part of our relationship with God, and one of the ways we respond to God speaking in our lives. At the same time, we may carry all kinds of baggage or heavy questions about prayer: Am I doing it “right?” Do I pray enough? Is prayer always done with words? This two-part Bible study looks to Scripture as a guide to explore some different ways we can pray with our bodies—and with the body of the earth.

Looking to the Apostle Paul, Mary, the Psalms and more, we’ll learn about and try three embodied practices of prayer based on breathing techniques, the use of beads (such as the rosary) and praying in different postures (sitting, standing and kneeling).

Saturday, January 10 at 9:00 a.m.  
Hostess/Leader: Ellen Pithan

**All are Welcome**

## **Annual Reports**

Please have Annual Reports to the office no later than January 6. Thank You!

### **College Scholarships**

Scholarship applications for all Bethlehem college students are available in the church office. All students who plan to enroll in college for the Spring 2026 term must complete an application form and return it to the office on or before January 25th. Students must be confirmed members of Bethlehem and must maintain academic eligibility. Scholarship money will be sent directly to your college.

## Shepherding Thoughts,

*So God created humans in his image, in the image of God he created them, male and female, he created them. (Genesis 1:25)*

A few years ago, one of my confirmation students asked me how we could all be created in the image of God if we all look so different. This led to a very interesting conversation which I would like to share with you.

We began by talking about what makes us different. We came up with the obvious things first, hair color, eye color, height, weight, skin color, freckles or no freckles. Then I challenged them to think about other things that make us different and they listed things that affect our minds, not our bodies such as being happy, being sad, depression, anger issues. Then they talked about how some people get sick while others stay healthy and some people are republicans, some democrats. One student asked if people who don't believe in God are still made in God's image.

I explained that things like not believing in God or being a republican or democrat are things learned after you are born. You are not born into a political party like you are born with a certain hair and eye color. Then I asked them when they die what goes to heaven. It is your soul. Your outer self goes back to dust. Only your soul is saved. If we look past the outer person and look deeper into their soul, we may see we are more alike than we realize.

How do we do that? We don't judge people by what we see on the outside. Instead, we find a way to get past the things we don't agree on and find what we have in common. This takes time and patience. It may seem easier to make a quick assessment of a person and then turn away from them, but if you do that you may miss a great opportunity to make a new friend.

Notice the passage from Genesis said God created both male and female in God's image. That was aimed at men who would like to think God created only men in God's image. Remember women were not valued, but this was one way to remind men that women are also valued by God.

As we begin a new year, let's find ways to look past the outer being of people we meet and find a way to embrace what makes us all children of God, the fact we were all made in God's image. When you look into a person's eyes Jesus is looking back at you.

See you in worship!  
Pastor Roberta

## January Worship Assistants

**Ushers:** Al Schroeder

### **Lectors:**

**4-** Johann Ihns  
**11-** Henry Ihns  
**18-** Brent Ihns  
**25-** Connie Kleppe

### **Acolytes:**

**4-** Henry Ihns  
**11-**  
**18-** Johann Ihns  
**25-**

### **Altar Care:**

Kelly Schroeder, Jody Holtz

**Teller:** Tim Thiede

### **Coffee Makers:**

**4-** Rochelle Busch  
**11-** Marlene Hicks  
**18-** Diana Ihns  
**25-** Connie Kleppe

### **Communion Assistant:**

Kelly Doll

### **Bread Maker:**

Barb Labath

Serving  
from the  
Heart



# January

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> Holy Communion 9 AM Fellowship 9:45 AM BWELCA Bd. 6 PM	<b>5</b> Quilting Starts 8:30 AM- 3:30 PM	<b>6</b> <b>Annual Reports Due to the office</b>	<b>7</b> Pastors Office Hrs 4-6 PM Confirmation 6 PM	<b>8</b> <b>Newsletter Items Due for February</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Bethlehem 9 AM L: Ellen Pithan H: All
<b>11</b> Worship 9 AM Fellowship 9:45 AM <b>Treasurers books to the office</b>	<b>12</b> Quilting 8:30 AM- 3:30 PM	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Pastors Office Hrs 4-6 PM Confirmation 6 PM	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> Council 8 AM Holy Communion 9 AM Fellowship 9:45 AM	<b>19</b> Quilting 8:30 AM- 3:30 PM	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Pastors Office Hrs 4-6 PM Confirmation 6 PM	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> Worship 9 AM Congregational Annual Meeting/Fellowship 9:45 AM	<b>26</b> Quilting 8:30 AM- 3:30 PM	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Pastors Office Hrs 4-6 PM Confirmation 6 PM	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Deanne will be out of the office January 22-February 1.</b>						

**2026**

Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
403 Pleasant Street  
Lost Nation, Iowa 52254

## JANUARY 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.