



The Star

Bethlehem and St. Mark Together in Service

Volume 24, Issue 10

October

2026

October Circle Meeting

“Bold faith on an unexpected journey,”
by the Rev. Tiffany Chaney

Session 1: Encountering God in the wilderness

Scripture: Genesis 16:1-16; 21:8-21

Hagar, an enslaved woman pushed to the margins, encounters God in the wilderness. When she believes all hope is lost, God sees her, hears her and reshapes her story. Her witness reminds us that God meets us in deserted places with vision and promise. This session invites participants to consider who is marginalized in our world today and to reflect on how God sees both them and us in our own wilderness experiences.

Saturday, October 10 at 9:00 a.m.

Hostess/Leader: Connie Kleppe

All are Welcome

BWELCA HiLites

Packing School Kits will be Sun. Sept. 27 and Oct. 4 if needed. The kits will be delivered Oct 17.

Thank you for your generous donations of items and cookies for the DVIP. They were delivered on Sept. 2.

Circle Meeting Sat. Oct. 10 H/L is Connie Kleppe.

Quilt Square Kit time of year, the quilt top kits are available in the entrance for those who want to sew them together for the Community Quilters to make our amazing quilts in January. Pick one or more up and give the quilters a hand.

We will be setting up the Harvest Table on Sunday Nov. 1, if anyone is interested in giving a helping hand for this event.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

BLC

- | | |
|----|--------------|
| 1 | Kathy Duffey |
| 7 | Madge White |
| 14 | Allen Behrle |
| 16 | Cora Current |
| 20 | Mary Smith |
| 29 | Aaron Labitz |
| 26 | Sue Zeller |



Anniversaries

- | | |
|----|------------------------|
| 1 | Meagan and Kyle Berhle |
| 5 | Leta and Cornell Dunt |
| 14 | Kelly and Scott Doll |
| 26 | Aaron and Katie Lubitz |

St. Mark



- | | |
|----|-----------------|
| 3 | Samantha Jeffry |
| 7 | Mya Pursell |
| 8 | Chris McCoy |
| 16 | Mike Koranda |
| 23 | Eli Slouha |
| 28 | Max Moore |
| 29 | Jerry Andresen |

Anniversaries

- | | |
|----|-----------------------------|
| 1 | John and Jennifer Tovar |
| 2 | Bradley and Tessa Pursell |
| 2 | Doug and Kathy McCloy |
| 15 | Kyle and Erin Yarolem 2011 |
| 17 | Virginia and Herbert Carter |
| 20 | Denny and Diane VonSprecken |
| 20 | Todd and Rhonda Jeffery |

News from the office at St Mark's

Holy Communion will be celebrated on the 4, 18 and 25 of October.

Reformation Sunday will be October 25. Remember to wear red if you are able.

The Oxford Junction Food Pantry has changed their distribution date and time. It will now be open on the 2 and 4 Thursdays from 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. The new date and time has been implemented. Please note that it is no longer open on Saturdays.

Welcome
FALL

Shepherding Thoughts

"It is not you who shape God. It is God who shapes you. Let the clay be moist, lest you grow hard and lose the imprint of God's fingers."

Irenaeus

How often do you think about how your life has unfolded? If you had been planning how your life would take shape, would you be where you are today? I think most of us would say that our plan for our life would not have been the same as the life we are living now. Some of the things that have happened to us have been painful, some have been pleasing. We know that our lives are not just ours. It is God who created us. We are God's children. God shapes us and continues to shape us.

This does not mean that everything that happens to us is planned by God. Some things happen because of earthly influences. It could be the death of a loved one or the diagnosis of a crippling disease. These are not God created, but through these unsettling times God's hands are on us shaping us to find a way through the darkness.

How do we keep our clay shapable so that God can continue to work in our lives? One way is to come to worship to hear God's word and have time with other faithful followers of God. Communication with God through prayer also keeps us aware of God's powerful influence in our lives. Being shaped by God never ends no matter how old we are. Our lives are pliable and easily changed. What we want to do is make sure it is God's hands that continue to shape us.

I invite you to come to worship, pray daily, and never forget that God is with you shaping your life with love. If you ever feel your life is going nowhere remember that God is never done shaping you. It won't be long and you will again feel God's hands in your life. Never doubt God because God will never doubt you. God believes in you.

See you in worship!
Pastor Roberta



Worship Assistants Bethlehem

Ushers: Tom Gerdes

Lectors:

- 4- Johan Ihns
- 11- Henry Ihns
- 18- Brent Ihns
- 25- Elsa Sullivan

Acolytes:

- 4- *volunteer*
- 11- Henry Ihns
- 18- Johann Ihns
- 25- Elsa Sullivan



Communion Assistant:
Connie Kleppe

Bread Maker:

Jone Paarmann

Altar Care:

Kelly Doll,
Becky Petersen

Teller: Tim Thiede

Coffee Makers:

- 1- Joan Kleppe
- 11- Jone Paarmann
- 18- Kathy Becker
- 25- Rochelle Busch

Worship Assistants St. Mark

Lector:

- 4- Kim Krutzfeld
- 11- Tessa Pursell
- 18- Brenda Vacek
- 25- Jade Derynck

Acolyte:

Volunteer
Hayden Petersen
Willa Lasack
Macklin Petersen

Council Meets

Bethlehem Congregation Council met for the regular monthly meeting on Sept. 20. In business, they discussed:

- Summer schedule to continue in Sept.
- Contact snow removal and pest companies
- Propane contract approved and signed

Heard the following Treasurer's report

Balance 8/01/26	\$ 6,405.52
Income	18,225.68
Expenses	<u>17,780.60</u>
Balance 8/31/26	\$ 6,850.60



OCTOBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Holy Communion 9 AM Fellowship 9:45 AM St Mark 10:30 PM	5	6	7	8	9 Confirmation 10 AM	10 Joint Circle 9 AM H/L: Connie Kleppe
11 Worship 9 AM Fellowship 9:45 AM St Mark 10:30 PM	12 Newsletter Items Due	13	14	15	16 Confirmation 10 AM	17 LWR Kit Pick-Up
18 Council BLC 8 AM St. Mark 11:15 AM Holy Communion LN 9 AM Fellowship 9:45 AM St Mark 10:30 AM	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 Reformation Holy Communion BLC 9 AM Fellowship 9:45 AM St. Mark 10:30 AM	26	27	28	29	30 Confirmation 10 AM	31

2026

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
403 Pleasant Street
Lost Nation, Iowa 52254

OCTOBER 2026

Bethlehem: Lost Nation

Pastor Roberta Pierce

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Office Secretary

Deanne Bennett

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Website

www.bethlehemln.com

St. Mark: Oxford Junction

Email stmarkoj@gmail.com

Office Phone 826-2761

St Mark Sunday Schedule

Worship 10:30 a.m.

Joint worship at 9:00 a.m.

Bethlehem Sunday Schedule

Worship 9:00 a.m.

Fellowship 9:45 a.m.

Office Hours:

Pastor Roberta

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

406-478-9518

Bethlehem Secretary Hours:

Tuesday: 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Thursday: 11:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

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