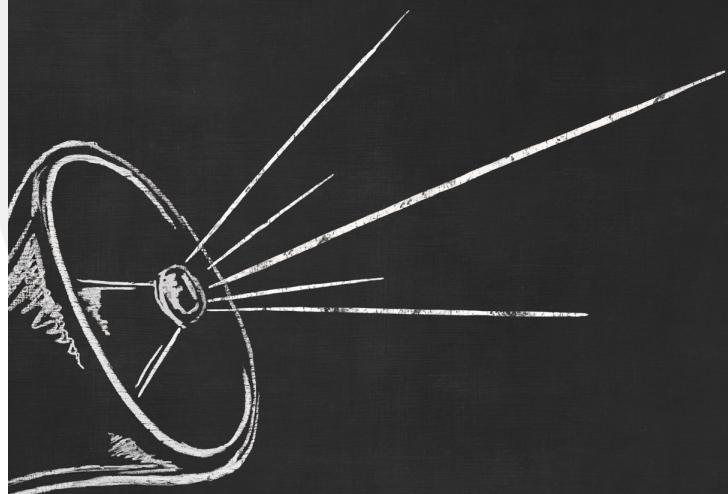


January 2026  
VOL 16 NO.1



A Publication of Bethlehem Lutheran Church - Aloha, OR

# Call Committee Forum



January 11 | 12:30p  
Community Center



**Bethlehem**  
Lutheran Church & Preschool

**Bethlehem Mission Statement**  
"Building the family of God through  
relationship with Jesus Christ."

# BECOMING THE GRIEF INFORMED CHURCH

Equipping our faith community to become counter-cultural in this grief avoidant society.

Meeting every Sunday in January  
9:45am-10:45am  
in the Community Center  
Questions? Ask Becky Oswald



## Becoming the Grief Informed Church

A new Sunday morning adult study will start January 4, 2026. "Becoming the Grief Informed Church" will equip our faith community to become counter-cultural in this grief avoidant society. 9:45am-10:45am in the Community Center every Sunday in January!



## Prayer Pause



Mondays @ 7:30pm

Take a moment and join your Bethlehem family as we pray for our church and the call process.

Check your email Mondays at noon.

# PRESCHOOL NEWS

WRITTEN BY LAIVA HOFFMAN, DIRECTOR

Blessings on your New Year from the preschool

Enrollment for the 2025-2026 school year will be open soon! We are offering a 2 day a week 3 year-old program, as well as a 3-day program for our PreK 4's. We have a video tour on our website <https://blpaloha.wordpress.com/>; for a personal tour of our building contact Laiva or Jane by email: [blc.preschool@frontier.com](mailto:blc.preschool@frontier.com) or phone 503-649-3380.

Thank you and God bless! – Laiva Hoffman



Bethlehem Lutheran  
Preschool

971.394.4387

Blp-aloha.com

[blc..preschool@frontier.com](mailto:blc..preschool@frontier.com)

18865 SW Johnson St  
Aloha, OR 97003

# FOREST HILLS NEWS



Forest Hills Lutheran  
Christian School

503.359.4853

[www.fhls.org](http://www.fhls.org)

[info@fhlcs.org](mailto:info@fhlcs.org)

4221 SW Golf Course Rd  
Cornelius, OR 97113

# KNOWN IN JESUS

WRITTEN BY ERIC OSWALD, DCE



Dear Bethlehem,

Happy New Year!

Welcome to Bethlehem wrapped! We're going to wrap up the year in a look back!

Means I don't remember anything from January I will start in February when we called Pastor Finney to be our pastor. In Lent we had different Pastors from the area lead us for each Wednesday service. Kerry told us Ben had accepted the call to Montana in March. After that in April we learned Pastor Finney would continue his ministry in Minnesota and not come here. Kerry started leading the Wednesday morning Bible study group in favorite hymns and the stories behind them. It was a fantastic look at church history and music. Pastor Phil Alexander who had been serving us faithfully had a surgery in April and we knew he would be out of pocket for a long while. Eli Plopper led us in a Bible study about monasticism. Kerry and the Bauers moved to Montana in June. We had quite a tear and music filled celebration for the Bauers as they had their last Sunday with us.

We tried to get an interim pastor and none were available I'm told for the first time in NW district history. We still were able to pull off VBS and continue as usual. Our President, Laura Baker, began getting pastors to fill in for us when Kerry left and did a great job. She though then got a job as assistant to the district president so elder Keith Harn stepped up to get us new fill in pastors each week. In August we had a delightful day with a potluck at Hagg Lake. We hunted for an interim worship director and Joel Hoffman stepped up and is now no

longer interim so we now officially have two full time workers on staff for the first time since October 2023. Our call committee started back on the hunt this fall. A new choir director in Jennifer Werries was found and began to practice with their debut Christmas eve. Elders stepped up to lead worship, particularly Joel Prusi, but Bob Baker also joined in December. Elders through out the year but especially this fall began to visit people in the hospital and meet with shut ins more. Pastor Josh Nix led us throughout Advent Wednesday evening services about the chaos and stress of the holidays.

There's been much shuffling of the deck but we continue on and it's a lot for one year. I have heard from folks about how much they like the variety of preaching we've had this last year. Different voices, different energy levels, but one cohesive message of Christ crucified for us. I pray that even more members of Bethlehem step up to serve in new ways and that we can call a pastor. But regardless, though looking back it looks like chaos, I pray that God continues to help us to grow. Thank you for walking with me and my family here at Bethlehem in the last year!

God bless,

Eric Oswald DCE  
801-518-9411

## YOUTH & CHILDREN NEWS

### Trivia Night

Oregon Trail trivia is coming- March 6<sup>th</sup>. Mark your calendars!

### Youth:

Youth nights for those in 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade will be Sundays from 5:30-7:30pm Jan 11th, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup>. We will be going on a beach retreat Jan 30-Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>. Also we're heading to Lutherhaven in July 5<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>- talk to Eric for more details on both of those things!



# SERVICE TEAM NOTES



## Service Team Notes for January 2026 Star

Thanks to everyone who helped with our Christmas Food Boxes. We had planned to help fifteen households this year, but with the lords help we were able to exceed our goal and distribute food to twenty families.

We deeply appreciate all those who donated, shopped; assembled boxes, or made deliveries. Thanks to LWML for helping with gift cards and thanks to the youth for making Christmas ornaments. It was a blessing that members stepped up given the short season and higher food and supply prices.

January is Blood Donor Month and Bethlehem is partnering with The American Red Cross Red Cross to host a blood drive Wednesday, January 21<sup>st</sup> 2:00pm to 7:00pm in our Community Center. The Red Cross finds it difficult to find sufficient January blood donors to avoid disruptions in patient care. The ability to be a blood donor is a God given lifesaving gift not granted to everyone. Resolve to use your gift the lifeline patients need. Schedule your appointment at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) using the sponsor code "bethlehemaloha", by using Red Cross blood donor app, or contact Greg Geist. Over the past few years the number of regular Betlehem donors has dwindled. A congregation the size of Bethlehem should be able to routinely produce twenty donors. We really need new donors to meet that goal. Please consider donating and encourage family, friends, and neighbors to donate. Being among family and friends in the familiar

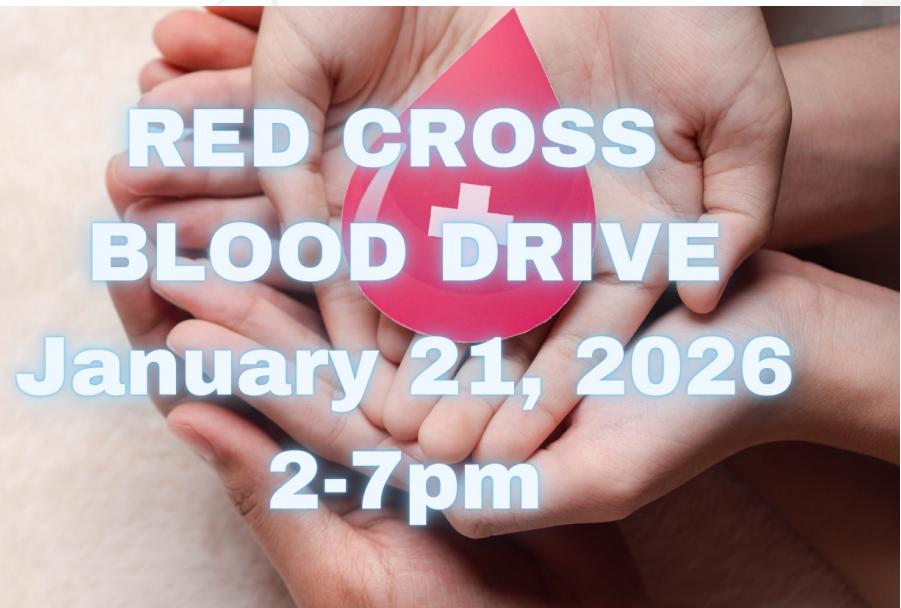
surroundings of our community center can be comforting start for first-time donors and donating blood in January is a terrific way to start the year by saving a life.

We have been notified by Samaritans Purse that destination information is now available. If you saved the tracking number(s) for your box(es) you can look them up now at <https://links.samaritanspurse.mkt5705.com/ctt?ms=MzYxMzAyMjAS1&kn=6&r=NjM0OTI1NzU4MDM0S0&b=0&j=MzA0MzY5MzU3MAS2&mt=1&rt=0>. We will publish summary for the 41 boxes sent from Betlehem next month. Thanks for supporting the Operations Christmas Child Ministry and special thanks to those who supplied materials and/or helped to sew shorts, skirts, or backpacks. We are looking forward to continuing the program in 2026. Boxes are available to fill all year—just ask.

As always, bring your questions or suggestions to Barb Bernard, Mary Loseke, Heather Cammack, or Greg Geist. Input from Bethlehem members is always welcome. Thanks once again to all who donated or volunteered in Jesus' name for 2025 and wishing all a blessed and Happy New year!

Peace be with you,

Your Service Team



## LWML

Looking back at the last several months since we met in October, we have been busy with holiday activities. The Bazaar took place on November 22, 2025. We did not generate as much in sales this year, so we're wondering if the economy may have affected that outcome.

We accepted an invitation from Concordia Seminary to sponsor a student, and made one installment on a donation so far. Come to the meeting to find out who it is, and more about them. In December, the LWML decorated the Narthex and the hallway to the Fellowship Hall. Thank you to all the ladies who contributed your time and talents to that effort.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, January 15, 2026 at 11:30 in the Sonrise Room. All ladies of Bethlehem are welcome to attend. Please bring a salad or dessert to share. An entree will be provided. Ideas and plans for 2026 activities, and donations to various groups will be discussed. Please join us!

**NEXT MEETING: Jan 15th @ 11:30a**  
Bring a salad or a dessert and join us!



**Lutheran  
Women  
in Mission**

## LOVE INC NEWS

On November 7, approximately 160 people, including Love INC of Greater Hillsboro staff and volunteers, individuals from partner and potential partner churches, and business sponsors, came together for our 2025 Night of Vision. God blessed us with more than \$33,000 in donations and pledges!

It was a night of fun, learning more about and dreaming for the future of Love INC of Greater Hillsboro.

In keeping with our word of the year for 2025, this year's theme was, "FAITHFUL. SEED. GROW. MULTIPLY."

Guests arrived and enjoyed a "Garden Ministry Fair," a 50/50 raffle, a silent auction and dinner, as well as a review of 2025 and a look at the future of Love INC of Greater Hillsboro.

Our word of the year was *Faithful*, reminding us that God is faithful and we are called to model His faithfulness. The imagery and model of a dandelion helps us understand the persistent faithfulness of God that continues to be *Faithful. Seed. Grow. Multiply.*

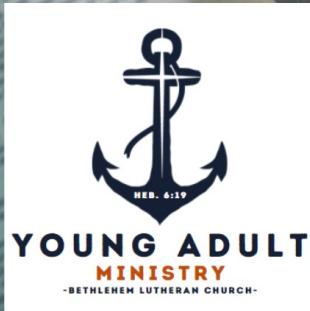
Our program celebrated God's faithfulness in each of these stages for our neighbors, our churches, our



programs, etc.

We celebrated God's faithfulness by singing together "Great Is Thy Faithfulness."

**love**  
in the name  
of Christ | **Greater**  
**Hillsboro**



# Young Adult Bible Study

**2nd & 4th Mondays**  
**6:30p | Youth Room**

For those in the 18-29 age range.



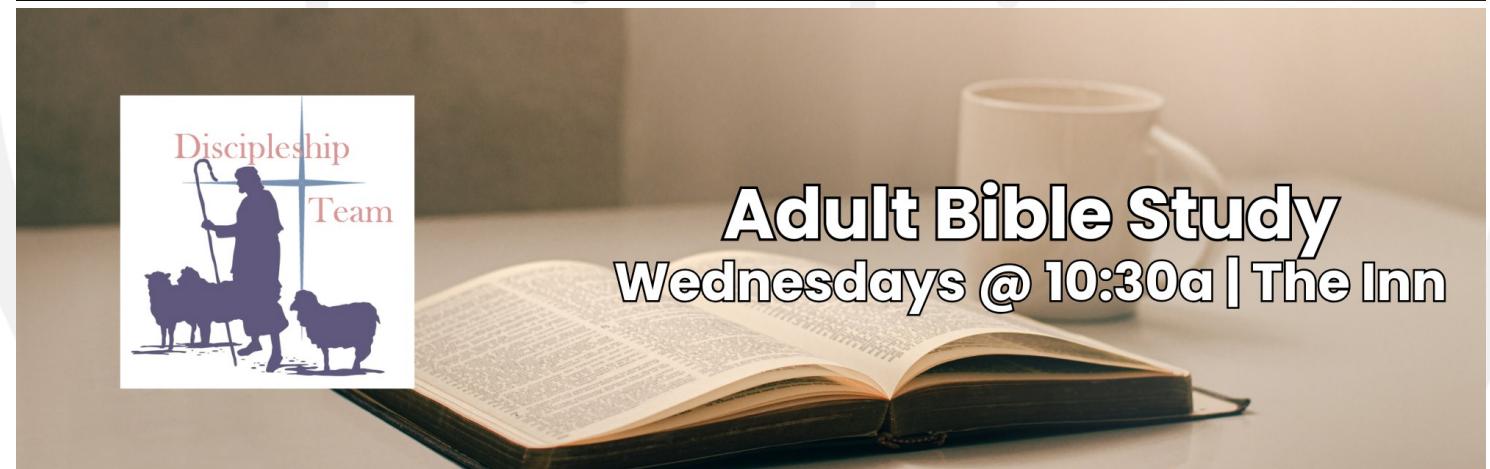
# Men's Bible Study

**1st & 3rd Mondays**  
**6:30p | The Inn**



# Adult Bible Study

**Wednesdays @ 10:30a | The Inn**



## January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <b>Bethlehem</b> Lutheran Church & Preschool				1 OFFICE CLOSED	2 OFFICE CLOSED 7:00pm AA Meeting (Sonrise)	3
<b>4</b> 8:30am Traditional Worship Service w/Communion 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Morning Song Worship Service 4:30pm Serene & Clean NA Group (Sonrise)	<b>5</b> 9:30am Quilting 3:00pm TOPS Meeting (Inn) 5:00pm AA Group (Sonrise) <b>6:30pm Men's Bible Study (Inn)</b>	<b>6</b> <b>7:00pm Elder's Mtg (Inn)</b> 7:00pm Guide Dogs (CC) 7:00pm Men's AA (Sonrise)	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 10:00am Aloha Garden Club (CC)	<b>9</b> 6:30pm Folk Dancing (CC) 7:00pm AA Meeting (Sonrise)	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> "Mite Box" Sunday 8:30am Traditional Worship Service 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Morning Song Worship Service w/Communion 12:30pm Call Committee Forum (CC) 4:30pm Serene & Clean NA Group (Sonrise) <b>5:30pm Youth Night!</b>	<b>12</b> 9:30am Quilting 3:00pm TOPS Meeting (Inn) 5:00pm AA Group (Sonrise) <b>6:30pm Young Adult Bible Study (Yth Rm)</b> 7:00pm Women's Bible Study (CC)	<b>13</b> <b>7:00pm Admin Council (Inn)</b> 7:00pm Guide Dogs (CC) 7:00pm Men's AA (Sonrise)	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> <b>11:30am LWML Meeting (Sonrise)</b>	<b>16</b> 7:00pm AA Meeting (Sonrise)	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 8:30am Traditional Worship Service w/Communion 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Morning Song Worship Service 4:30pm Serene & Clean NA Group (Sonrise) <b>5:30pm Youth Night!</b>	<b>19</b> 9:30am Quilting 3:00pm TOPS Meeting (Inn) 5:00pm AA Group (Sonrise) <b>6:30pm Men's Bible Study (Inn)</b>	<b>20</b> 7:00pm Guide Dogs (CC) 7:00pm Men's AA (Sonrise) <b>7:00pm Trustees Meeting (Inn)</b>	<b>21</b> 2:00pm Red Cross Blood Drive (CC) 6:00pm Preschool Board Meeting	<b>22</b> 12:30pm Book Club (Inn) <b>6:30pm Adult Choir (Inn)</b>	<b>23</b> 7:00pm AA Meeting (Sonrise)	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 8:30am Traditional Worship Service 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Morning Song Worship Service w/Communion 4:30pm Serene & Clean NA Group (Sonrise) <b>5:30pm Youth Night!</b>	<b>26</b> 9:30am Quilting 3:00pm TOPS Meeting (Inn) 5:00pm AA Group (Sonrise) <b>6:30pm Young Adult Bible Study (Yth Rm)</b> 7:00pm Women's Bible Study (CC)	<b>27</b> 7:00pm Guide Dogs (CC) 7:00pm Men's AA (Sonrise)	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> <b>6:30pm Adult Choir (Inn)</b>	<b>30</b> 7:00pm AA Meeting (Sonrise)	<b>31</b>



## Bethlehem Lutheran Church

SERVICE ROSTER FOR JANUARY 2026



	Jan 4	Jan 11	Jan 18	Jan 25
Eternal Candle	Wayne & Ellen Moses			
Altar Flowers		Eric & Becky Oswald		
Elder on Duty	8:30 11:00	Terry Beale Dennis Fredrick	Joel Prusi Matt Boelter	John Loseke Mark Leinhos
Acolytes	8:30 11:00	Axel Pfund Ezra Pfund Erik Agard	Spike Van Altvorst Clara Plopper Anna Hoffman	Henry Davis Jillian Davis Erik Agard
Lay Reader	8:30 11:00	Heather Cammack Eric Oswald	Greg Geist Becky Oswald	Lee Kauth Jeff Hoffman
Ushers	8:30 11:00	Dave Dubberke Hank Modro Charles Finster Gayna Flake	Darrell Hagen Ken Feldhaus Trevor Hoffman	Lee Kauth Hank Modro Charles Finster Lorna Zimbrick
Communion Servers	8:30 11:00	Greg Starts	Bob Baker	Greg Starts Dennis Fredrick
Altar Guild	Set Up Clean Up	Heather Cammack Lisa Siewert	Megan Davis Pat Winkler	Nan Dubberke Lee Kauth
Organist @ 8:30	Dwight Siewert	Phyllis Murken	Dwight Siewert	Phyllis Murken
	Epiphany Sunday	The Baptism of Our Lord	2nd Sunday After The Epiphany	3rd Sunday After The Epiphany



# ANNIVERSARIES



# BIRTHDAYS

Jan 1 Lee Kauth

Jan 1 Jane Rosato

Jan 1 Kathy Wagner

Jan 4 Emmalynne Johnson

Jan 6 Anna Van Altvorst

Jan 7 Erik Refsland

Jan 8 Kerry White

Jan 9 Michael Browning

Jan 9 Laura Harn

Jan 14 Hannah Krantz

Jan 15 Lilian Loseke

Jan 17 Nick Braem

Jan 17 Robbie Williams

Jan 18 Wayne Moses

Jan 18 Rae Nelson

Jan 18 Shay Willhite

Jan 21 Martha Browning

Jan 21 Janice Healy

Jan 26 Pam Finney

Jan 27 Keith Harn

Jan 30 Ken Feldhaus

A decorative graphic for January birthdays. It features a large, stylized snowflake at the bottom, with a snowman wearing a hat and scarf, and a snowflake on its nose, positioned behind the snowflake. Below the snowflake is the word "JANUARY" in large, bold, gold-colored letters. Underneath "JANUARY" is the word "BIRTHDAYS" in a smaller, gold-colored font.

Bethlehem Lutheran  
Church & Preschool  
18865 SW Johnson St.  
Aloha, OR 97003-3164  
[www.blcfamily.org](http://www.blcfamily.org)



## We Worship

Live-Streamed & In-Person  
Sundays 8:30am & 11:00am  
[www.BLCfamily.org/bethlehem-online](http://www.BLCfamily.org/bethlehem-online)



JANUARY 2026, VOL. 16 NO. 1

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

-2 Corinthians 5:17  
ESV



Bethlehem Lutheran  
Church & Preschool

Youth & Children  
Worship Coord.  
Preschool Dir.

Eric Oswald  
Joel Hoffman  
Laiva Hoffman

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