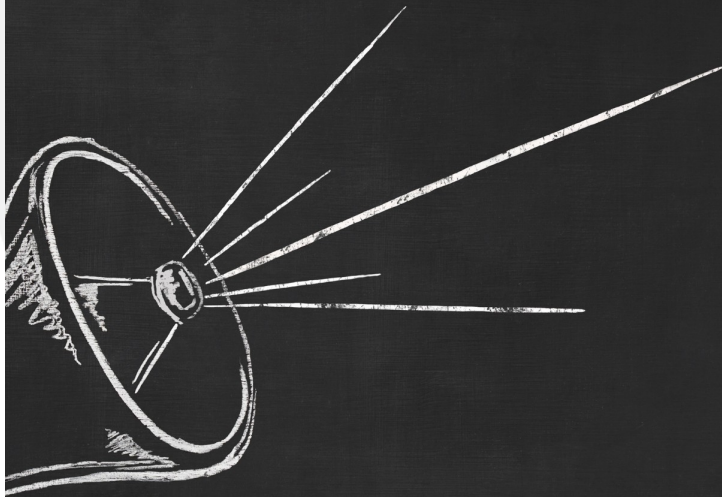




A Publication of Bethlehem Lutheran Church - Aloha, OR

Call Committee Forum



January 11 | 12:30p
Community Center



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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 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

18865 SW Johnson St
Aloha, OR 97003

FOREST HILLS NEWS



**Forest Hills Lutheran
Christian School**

503.359.4853

www.fhls.org

info@fhlds.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 6th. Mark your calendars!

Youth:

Youth nights for those in 6th-12th grade will be Sundays from 5:30-7:30pm Jan 11th, 18th, and 25th. We will be going on a beach retreat Jan 30-Feb. 1st. Also we're heading to Lutherhaven in July 5th-10th- 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 21st 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 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 Bethlehem 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 Bethlehem 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

**RED CROSS
BLOOD DRIVE**

**January 21, 2026
2-7pm**

Kindness is in your blood

Help save a life.
Schedule your blood donation appointment today.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
American Red Cross

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."





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



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 | Terry Beale Ivan Weichbrodt |
| Acolytes 8:30 11:00 | Axel Pfund Ezra Pfund Erik Agard | Spike Van Altvorst Clara Plopper Anna Hoffman | Henry Davis Jillian Davis Erik Agard | Spike Van Altvorst Thomas Williams Anna Hoffman |
| Lay Reader 8:30 11:00 | Heather Cammack Eric Oswald | Greg Geist Becky Oswald | Lee Kauth Jeff Hoffman | Eli Plopper Becky Oswald |
| 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 | Lee Kauth Gayna Flake Lil harn |
| 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 | Kathryn Plopper Lorna Zimbrick |
| 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 17 Nick Braem |
| Jan 1 Jane Rosato | Jan 17 Robbie Williams |
| Jan 1 Kathy Wagner | Jan 18 Wayne Moses |
| Jan 4 Emmalynne Johnson | Jan 18 Rae Nelson |
| Jan 6 Anna Van Altvorst | Jan 18 Shay Willhite |
| Jan 7 Erik Refsland | Jan 21 Martha Browning |
| Jan 8 Kerry White | Jan 21 Janice Healy |
| Jan 9 Michael Browning | Jan 26 Pam Finney |
| Jan 9 Laura Harn | Jan 27 Keith Harn |
| Jan 14 Hannah Krantz | Jan 30 Ken Feldhaus |
| Jan 15 Lilian Loseke | |



Bethlehem Lutheran
Church & Preschool
18865 SW Johnson St.
Aloha, OR 97003-3164
www.blcfamily.org



We Worship

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

The
STAR

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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