



A Publication of Bethlehem Lutheran Church - Aloha, OR

LISTEN AND LEARN

BY: PASTOR BRIAN FRANCIK

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

What a joy it is to be part of the Bethlehem family. I am truly humbled and blessed to be the pastor here. I pray that the Lord grows us all closer together and that we would walk together and work together in bringing the hope of Jesus to others.

I want to use the first article to repeat a bit of what I said at the beginning of my first sermon on Rally Day. It really is what I want to focus on during this first year as the pastor at Bethlehem:

Listen and Learn – I'm the new guy! You know what is going on here at Bethlehem. You know the history and the context of ministry here in the area. I don't know the history and the context. The best way for me to learn is to do a lot of listening. James 1:19 says that everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry. So, I am going to be doing a lot of listening and asking questions to learn more about the church and ministry here at Bethlehem.

I also want to learn more about you and your story. I want to learn about your joys and your struggles. I want to learn more about how I can pray for you. I want to listen to and learn about your thoughts when it comes to the ministry here at Bethlehem. Also, I am going to be learning names and faces, and it is going to take some time. Please be patient with me and show me some

(Continued on page 2)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

SCHOOL NEWS - 3

YOUTH & CHILDREN - 4

OUTREACH - 5

EVENTS - 8

BIBLE STUDIES - 9

CALENDAR - 10

SERVICE ROSTER - 11

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY - 12

BIRTHDAYS &
ANNIVERSARIES - 13



Bethlehem
Lutheran Church & Preschool

Bethlehem Mission Statement

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

LISTEN AND LEARN (CONT.)

(Continued from page 1)

grace in case I get your name wrong or it takes me a little time to put names with faces. Having pictures in the directory is a huge help to me as well as wearing your name tag on Sunday if you have one.

Love – Above all, I just want to love you with the love of Jesus. I am looking forward to getting to know you more and sharing with you the love of Jesus. Being around the preschool, Forest Hills, different events at church, and just building relationships is really important to me. I want to get to know and you get to know me.

I would love to hear more about you, your story, your experiences at Bethlehem, what you see for ministry here and how I can pray for you. You can call, text, email, make an appointment here at church so we can visit more. I am so thankful and blessed that God has led me here.

In Jesus,

Pastor Brian

FROM THE TREASURER

BLC Financial Update and Vision

Throughout our lives, we move through many chapters—growing up, choosing careers, raising families, and facing change. Bethlehem has moved through its own chapters as well. In recent years, we were blessed by Pastor Jeff Shearier's 10 years of spiritual leadership. We adapted through the disruption of COVID-19 and expanded our ministry by adding livestreamed worship services. We persevered through the ups and downs of multiple pastoral calls during nearly three years of vacancy. Now, with Pastor Brian Francik joining our Bethlehem family, a new chapter is beginning.

This new chapter brings both challenges and opportunities. At our June Voters Meeting, we adopted a challenging fiscal-year budget with a projected deficit of about \$124,000. While that may seem significant, we can tackle it together. We started the fiscal year with \$56,000 in Equity Reserves and a strong Balance Sheet. Income receipts for the seasonally low summer months of July and August came in slightly above the budget projections, and our expenses for those months remained within the budget model.

On the opportunity side, we are grateful for your steady and faithful financial support, which has sustained us through our years of pastoral vacancy. To help eliminate the projected deficit, we are establishing a special fund called "**BLC Cornerstone.**" Our goal is to raise \$100,000 by June 30, 2027. The fund has already received more than \$15,000 in seed contributions to get us started. Please prayerfully consider contributing to help us reach—and even exceed—this goal.

To help your gifts go further, consider several Tax Advantaged ways to contribute. Options include Donor-Advised Funds, Benevity, Thrivent Choice Dollars, Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD's), and direct transfers of appreciated stock. Please contact me or your financial advisor to learn more about these options.

Thank you for your continued support of Bethlehem Lutheran Church. This is an exciting new chapter in our Bethlehem journey together.

In His Service.

Dave Cook

Congregation Treasurer

PRESCHOOL NEWS

WRITTEN BY JULIE BEDARD, DIRECTOR

We are off to a great start to our Preschool year. We have 16 students on MWF and 10 on TTH. Here are some highlights:

1. In Bible time, we are learning about Creation and making creation books. We also had the story about Noah and enjoyed Rainbow Week!
2. Students had their first chapel services.
3. We love having Pastor Brian and Eric greet us when we come to school and go home.
4. The MWF class had Apple Day with some math activities.

How you can help.

1. Pray for the health and safety of our students and staff.
2. Pray that we get more 3 year old students.
3. There is still a lot of sorting to do of toys and equipment. If you can spare a couple of hours to help, let Julie know. (blc.preschool@frontier.com)
4. We could use a volunteer on Thursdays to help in the classroom.
5. Join us at Chapel! Our chapel days in October are October 28 and 29 at 11:35 AM in the Worship Center.

Serving the Lord with gladness -

Julie Bedard, Preschool Director



**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

FROM THE DCE



Dear Bethlehem,

I want to say thank you to the many who served on the call committee over the last three years. Mark Temme and Jim Cullen both led the committee early on. Laiva and Joel

Hoffman, John Werner, Naomi Beale, Ivan Weichbrodt, Joe Bernard, Wayne Moses, Toby Van Altvorst, and Eli Plopper, all served as committee members over the last four years. Toby and Ivan we believe are the only ones who made it all the way through. Kerry Bauer and Laura Baker also were advisory members. Heather Cammack was around at the beginning as president of the congregation but ended it up being the one to lead us through the finish line- so she also was around in some form through the whole thing.

I'm very thankful the team stuck with it. They held us together in prayer weekly, Naomi's posts kept us disciplined and focused. They asked good questions of the candidates. They watched hundreds of sermons and read around 75 Pastor's resumes- also known as PIFs and SETs. They helped us make three calls- travel arrangements and hospitality was had for three candidates. At the same time the call committee had members of this congregation question them, debate them about bylaws, about what should be on the ballot, who should be at call meetings, and when information should be given to the congregation. Phone calls were made behind their backs. I don't

know why they were seen as being in the wrong. They were simply trying to get us a pastor. I don't know if I should say all this, but I want you to know how hard they fought and worked for you to get us to this moment. We actually beat the average length of a vacancy in our church body by one month.

I say all that to tell you this- support the people at Bethlehem who serve you. Do support the new pastor and his family and the staff here. That should be obvious. But support the people who volunteer to serve you as well- there are many among you from Bible study leaders to altar guild members, quilters, comforts of home volunteers, trustees, elders, Sunday School teachers, and church council. We're all just trying to make Bethlehem a better place and point to Jesus. Galatians 6 puts it well: "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."

You did good Bethlehem. Be good to one another- because God is good to us.

God bless,

Eric Oswald DCE

Youth and Children's Minister

801-518-9411

YOUTH & CHILDREN NEWS

Youth Ministry: For those in 6th- 12th grade we will be gone for a retreat the first weekend in October. We will meet for a youth night Oct. 11th from 5:30-7:30pm- that's the only one for the month. On the 18th we will drive after second service to Sauvie's Island for a corn maze adventure with other area Lutheran churches. Saturday October 24th from 12:30-3:15pm we will help run the Harvest festival in the community center.



LWML

Ladies of the Rebekah Mission Society gathered for a luncheon/meeting.

Upcoming Business:

- 1) LWML Sunday-Oct. 11, quilts will be displayed on pews.
- 2) Bazaar-Sat. Nov. 21 (set up on Fri. Nov. 20)
- 3) Sponsoring a student at Concordia Seminary, more information after the Bazaar.

West Hills Zone Rally and Ingathering will be held Saturday, November 7 at Pilgrim Lutheran. More information to follow.

**NEXT MEETING: September October 15
@ 11:30a**

Bring a salad or a dessert and join us!



**Lutheran
Women
in Mission**

LOVE INC NEWS

November 6, 2026

**5:30 PM @ Trinity Lutheran Church
Hillsboro, Oregon**
Celebrating 15 years of Love INC!

Night of Vision is an in-person benefit for Love INC of Greater Hillsboro. The night includes a ministry fair, silent and oral auctions, food, fun, fellowship and more. Come hear about the last year's accomplishments and their plans for the future.

Learn about each of the churches involved with ministries like BLC's Comforts of Home. The live auction will include items such as a two-night's stay for up to six people at Cannon Beach; two round-trip plane tickets to anywhere in the US that Alaska airlines travels (including Hawaii and Alaska); a pair of football tickets to a U of O game with seats in the Club area with private concession stands, restrooms and Duck Store admission, and more items to come.



**Greater
Hillsboro**

In the past the event lasted about three hours - including the ministry fair, dinner, the live auctions and dessert. Please consider this event as BLC and the other involved churches help to support Love INC, which is a non-profit.

There is no cost to you. Our table for eight BLC friends is paid for and by filling it we will be showing our support. Come and enjoy - learn about Love INC and visit with up to 200 other supportive people.

Be sure to mark your calendar for Love INC's Night of Vision - November 6, with doors opening at 5:30 PM at Trinity Lutheran Church in Hillsboro. Check with Ivan and Lesley Weichbrodt and join them and other BLC members to receive a ticket to attend. If driving at night is an issue, just let us know and we will help.

Ivan & Lesley Weichbrodt
503-246-6902

(land line, leave a message please)

PASTOR FRANCIK INSTALLED– SEPTEMBER 27

On Sunday, September 27, 2026, Bethlehem Lutheran Church celebrated a significant and joyful milestone as we gathered for the installation of Pastor Francik.

Surrounded by family, friends, fellow pastors, and members of the congregation, Pastor Francik was formally installed into his call as pastor of Bethlehem. The service was filled with worship, prayer, Scripture, and thanksgiving to God for His faithful provision.

An installation service is a special occasion in the life of a congregation. It is an opportunity to recognize God's work in calling a shepherd to serve His people through the preaching of His Word, the administration of His Sacraments, and pastoral care. We give thanks that the Lord has brought Pastor Francik to Bethlehem and look forward to the years of ministry ahead.

We are grateful to everyone who attended the service and helped make the day a meaningful celebration. The fellowship shared afterward was a wonderful reminder of the blessings God gives through the family of faith.

As we begin this new chapter together, we ask for your continued prayers for Pastor Francik, his family, and the ministry of

Bethlehem Lutheran Church. May God strengthen us through His Word, deepen our faith in Christ, and guide us as we serve our community in His name.

"I will give you shepherds after My own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding."
Jeremiah 3:15

We thank God for His faithfulness and look forward with confidence and joy to all that He will do in the years ahead.

Building the Family of God Through Relationship With Jesus Christ



THANK YOU

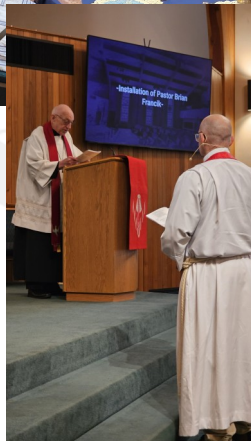
A huge "thank you" to the following people who helped make Pastor Brian's Installation dessert reception so wonderful:

Ironing and Set Up: Brenda Shults, Linda Jungferman, Laura Baker, Nan Dubberke, Joel Hoffman;
Flowers: Becky Oswald; Bakers: Lil Harn, Naomi Beale, Grace DuPre, Noella Romeo, Brenda Shults, Becky Healy; Coffee: Marjie Johnson, Sarah Hengel; Clean Up: Randy and Brenda Shults, Amy Hoffman.

Thank you all so very, very much! It was such a blessing to have so many hands helping to make our reception a success, and I appreciate each one of you!

With much love,
Mary Heck







BETHLEHEM
Preschool
PLAY-GROW-LEARN IN CHRIST

Harvest FESTIVAL

HARVEST THEMED GAMES & CRAFTS,
GAMES, CRAFTS, COLORING, COOKIE DECORATING!

24 OCTOBER, 2025
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
18865 SW JOHNSON ST | ALOHA, OR
WWW.BLPALOHA.ORG



BECOMING THE GRIEF INFORMED CHURCH

Equipping communities of faith to become
counter-cultural in this grief avoidant society.

*Speaker Becky Oswald,
Thanatologist and Grief Educator*

November 14, 2026 | 9:00am-3:30pm

Hillsboro Presbyterian Church
172 N.E. 32nd Ave, Hillsboro, OR



Space is Limited!

Scan the QR Code or
visit <https://tinyurl.com/hpcgrief>
to register by November 6

\$15 registration fee payable online or by check



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

October 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 Bethlehem Lutheran Church & Preschool				1	2 Youth Retreat 7:00pmAA Meeting (Sonrise)	3 Youth Retreat
4 Youth Retreat 8:30amTraditional Worship Service w/Communion 9:45amSunday School 11:00amMorning Song Worship Service w/ Communion 4:30pmSerene & Clean NA Group (Sonrise) 5:30pmYouth Night!	5 9:30amQuilting 3:00pmTOPS Meeting (Inn) 5:00pmAA Group (Sonrise) 6:30pmMen's Bible Study (Inn)	6 7:00pmElder's Mtg (Inn) 7:00pmGuide Dogs (CC) 7:00pmMen's AA (Sonrise)	7 10:30amAdult Bible Study (Inn) 6:00pmMK Harp Class (Dbl Clsrm) 6:00pmPreschool Board Meeting (Inn)	8 10:00amAloha Garden Club (CC)	9 6:30pmFolk Dancing (CC) 7:00pmAA Meeting (Sonrise)	10
11 "Mite Box" Sunday 8:30amTraditional Worship Service 9:45amSunday School 11:00amMorning Song Worship Service 4:30pmSerene & Clean NA Group (Sonrise) 5:30pmYouth Night!	12 9:30amQuilting 3:00pmTOPS Meeting (Inn) 5:00pmAA Group (Sonrise) 6:30pmYoung Adult Bible Study (Yth Rm) 7:00pmWomen's Bible Study (CC)	13 7:00pmAdmin Council (Inn) 7:00pmGuide Dogs (CC) 7:00pmMen's AA (Sonrise)	14 10:30amAdult Bible Study (Inn) 6:00pmMK Harp Class (Dbl Clsrm)	15 11:30amLWML Meeting (Sonrise)	16 7:00pmAA Meeting (Sonrise)	17
18 8:30amTraditional Worship Service w/Communion 9:45amSunday School 11:00amMorning Song Worship Service w/ Communion 4:30pmSerene & Clean NA Group (Sonrise) 5:30pmYouth Night!	19 9:30amQuilting 3:00pmTOPS Meeting (Inn) 5:00pmAA Group (Sonrise) 6:30pmMen's Bible Study (Inn)	20 7:00pmGuide Dogs (CC) 7:00pmMen's AA (Sonrise)	21 10:30amAdult Bible Study (Inn) 6:00pmMK Harp Class (Dbl Clsrm)	22 12:30pmBook Club	23 10:00amComfort s of Home 7:00pmAA Meeting (Sonrise)	24 1:00pmPreschool Harvest Festival (CC)
25 Reformation Sunday 8:30amTraditional Worship Service 9:45amSunday School 11:00amMorning Song Worship Service 4:30pmSerene & Clean NA Group (Sonrise) 5:30pmYouth Night!	26 9:30amQuilting 3:00pmTOPS Meeting (Inn) 5:00pmAA Group (Sonrise) 6:30pmYoung Adult Bible Study (Yth Rm) 7:00pmWomen's Bible Study (CC)	27 7:00pmGuide Dogs (CC) 7:00pmMen's AA (Sonrise)	28 10:30amAdult Bible Study (Inn) 6:00pmMK Harp Class (Dbl Clsrm)	29	30 7:00pmAA Meeting (Sonrise)	31

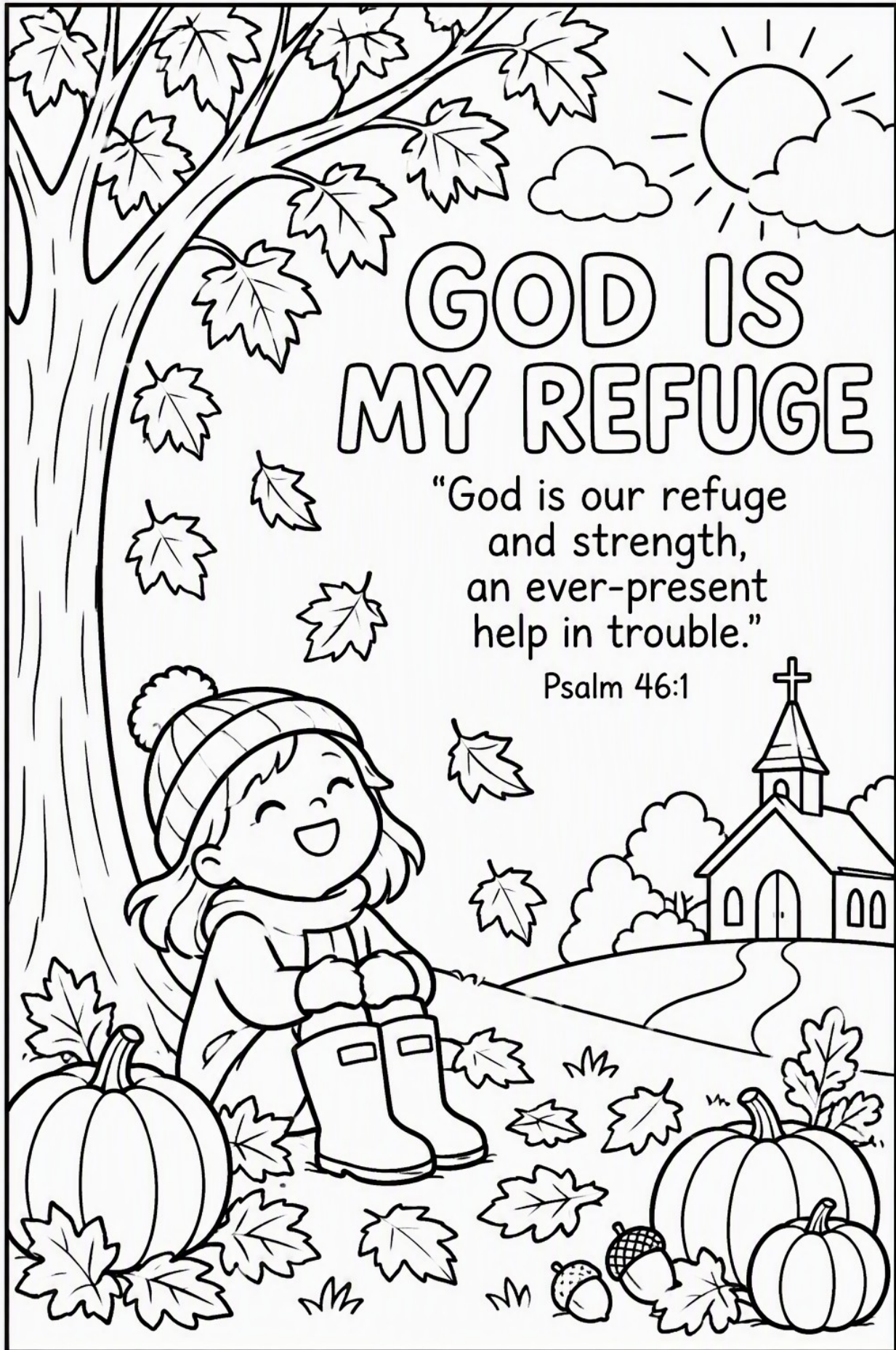


Bethlehem Lutheran Church

SERVICE ROSTER FOR OCTOBER 2026



	Oct 4	Oct 11	Oct 18	Oct 25
Eternal Candle	Ryan & Angela Larson			
Altar Flowers	Sarah Hengel & Marjie Johnson		Ruthie White	
Elder on Duty 8:30 11:00	Matt Finney Bob Baker	Joel Prusi Matt Boelter	Matt Finney Dennis Fredrick	Terry Beale Bob Baker
Acolytes 8:30	Clara Plopper		Lily Hartman	Clara Plopper
11:00	Erik Agard	Anna Hoffman	Clara Plopper	Anna Hoffman
Lay Reader 8:30 11:00	Martha Browning Mark Leinhos	Lee Kauth Becky Oswald	Joel Prusi Mark Leinhos	Heather C. Eric Oswald
Ushers 8:30	Hank Modro Darrell Hagen	Dave Dubberke Nan Dubberke	Gayna Flake Lee Kauth	Dave Dubberke Nan Dubberke
11:00	Lorna Zimbrick		Rick Refsland JoAnna Refsland	Charles Finster Lorna Zimbrick
Communion Servers 8:30	Joel Prusi		Joel Prusi	Matt Finney
11:00	Mark Leinhos		Mark Leinhos	Matt Boelter
Altar Guild Set Up Clean Up	Heather Cammack Kay Starts Sharon Werner		Nan Dubberke Kathryn Plopper Lorna Zimbrick	Lisa Siewert Martha Browning Lorna Zimbrick
Organist @ 8:30	Dwight Siewert	Dwight Siewert	Phyllis Murken	Dwight Siewert
	19th Sunday After Pentecost	20th Sunday After Pentecost	21st Sunday After Pentecost	Reformation Sunday



ANNIVERSARIES



BIRTHDAYS

Oct 2 Roger Lindquist	Oct 23 Eric Agard
Oct 7 Hank Modro	Oct 23 Craig Rowley
Oct 11 Shelly Allen	Oct 24 Jillian Davis
Oct 11 Lil Harn	Oct 24 Emma Healy
Oct 13 Dan Werries	Oct 25 Shane Jenkins
Oct 15 Jaymin Bernhardt	Oct 27 Abby Loseke
Oct 19 Valorie Laws	Oct 28 Daniel Loseke
Oct 21 Dennis Fredrick	Oct 29 Greg Starts

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

OCTOBER 2026, VOL. 16 NO. 10

Bethlehem Lutheran Church & Preschool

“O death, where is your victory?
O death, where is your sting?”

-1 Corinthians 15:55-
ESV

Pastor
Youth & Children
Worship Coord.
Preschool Dir.

Rev. Brian Francik
Eric Oswald
Joel Hoffman
Julie Bedard

Phone: 503.649.3380
BLCfamily.org
office@blcfamily.org