

Bethany Lutheran Church

Newsletter ~ November 2025



Dear Church Family,

I often wonder if part of the ache many Americans feel—the loneliness, the disconnection, the search for meaning—comes from the fact that many of us don't have a shared culture. We live in a land of incredible diversity, innovation, and freedom. But we also live in a time where traditions are fading, families are scattered, and the question "Where do I belong?" echoes louder than ever. We have holidays, sports teams, and social media trends. But do we have a culture that truly binds us together?

That question became even more real for me after spending time learning from other cultures—especially Indigenous and ancestral ones. I was honored to witness and participate in a Native American smudging ceremony, a sacred act of cleansing and prayer. I was taught the meaning behind offering tobacco, not as superstition, but as a gesture of deep respect and spiritual connection. I've stood in awe at powwows, where generations gather in song, dance, and storytelling—passing down identity through rhythm and reverence. I've learned about the Māori people of New Zealand and their haka—a powerful war cry that isn't just about battle, but about unity, identity, and spiritual strength. It's a declaration: We are here. We are one. We remember who we are.

And it left me asking: What is our cry? What is our sacred rhythm? What is the culture we pass down?

What if our shared identity wasn't built on trends or politics, but on the person of Jesus Christ? What if Jesus wasn't just our Savior, but our culture? What if grace was our language, forgiveness our rhythm, service our status symbol, truth our compass, and love our legacy? This wouldn't be a culture of rules—it would be a culture of relationship. A way of life shaped by the teachings of Jesus, the fruit of the Spirit, and the radical hospitality of the Gospel. It would mean slowing down to listen. Showing up for one another. Sharing meals not just for nourishment, but for connection. It would mean honoring elders, cherishing children, and welcoming strangers as family.

I remember a church dinner years ago—nothing fancy, just spaghetti and garlic bread. A young woman sat alone at the edge of the room. I walked over, introduced myself, and asked if she'd like to join my table. She smiled, but her eyes were tired. Later, she told me she hadn't spoken to anyone all week. She'd just moved to town, was between jobs, and felt invisible. That night, she found more than a meal. She found a place. A conversation. A beginning. That's what happens when Jesus becomes our culture. The table becomes sacred. The ordinary becomes holy. And people find home. To those who live this culture every day—thank you. You are building something beautiful. You are showing the world what it means to belong. You are creating a space where people are seen, heard, and loved.

If you've felt disconnected, disillusioned, or just plain tired—come back to the table. Not just the literal one, but the spiritual one. The one where Jesus sits with sinners and saints, with doubters and dreamers, with you and me. Let's build a culture that doesn't depend on trends, borders, or bloodlines—but on the eternal love of Christ. Let's make Jesus our culture. Let's be a people who remember who we are.

We'll save you a seat.

With love and hope, Destiny, SAM

Welcome on board, Renee!

Hi! My name is Renee Townsend. I have been a Christian my whole life.

I am married to pastor/doctor Charles W Townsend, the pastor of Northern Lakes Church and we have one son, Christopher who is 11 yrs old.

I have been in ministry with my husband our entire 13 years of marriage.

I enjoy crafting with sand dollars and making jewelry and spending time with my family. ~Renee



Bethany Lutheran Council Minutes for October 16, 2025

The meeting was called to order by President Betty Wignes.

Present: Jacky Lien, Betty Wignes, Nancy Lewis, Robyn Bennett, Rick Pribyl, Barb Durham, Cindy Greene, and Destiny Halvorson, SAM. Absent Mike Spry, Matt Kirchoff, and Josh Holte

Nancy led devotions.

Motion to approve the agenda by Robyn, seconded by Jacky. U/A

Consent Agenda: Secretary report, Treasurer report and committee reports accepted.

Committee Liaison reports: heard updates from worship committee.

Pastor/SAM Report: Destiny reported on prayer walk, baptisms, release time and confirmation class. Continue to work on improving the youth space. Youth have requested bean bag chairs. Fundraising ideas were discussed.

Old Business:

Harvest Dinner – discussed attendance and financial results. Decided future Harvest dinners will take place every other year or every three years instead of annually.

New Business:

Church Secretary – applicant Renee Townsend has been hired. Jody will work with Renee as needed for training.

Reconciling in Christ – council discussed and decided not to move forward with partnership.

Mission Endowment Fund – council reviewed bylaws and discussed what should be done with the fund. Motion by Cindy to have the congregation vote on dissolution of the fund at annual meeting. Seconded by Robyn. U/A

Barb motioned to adjourn, seconded by Jacky. U/A

Closed meeting with Lord's Prayer

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Lewis - Council Secretary



The council would like to take this time to extend a very warm thank you to Jody Wizik for serving as Bethany's secretary for the last two and a half years. As the face of Bethany, she has given her fellow brothers and sisters in Christ her heart, her all, her infectious smile but most importantly her love. THANK YOU, Jody for your hard work, your willingness to go above and beyond, and your fun-loving spirit!!
In Christ's love,
Bethany Lutheran Church Council

Bethany Lutheran Church Women November News 2025

What a week we had getting the Harvest Dinner ready! We had six people come on Tuesday, led by Mel Spry, to make 628 meatballs. Then on Friday morning, 12 people showed up to peel potatoes, carrots, make cabbage salad, and set the tables for the dinner. Twenty-six people helped during the dinner on Saturday. We made \$1,936.00 for Bethany. The Harvest Dinner Committee would like to thank all who donated food, helped to prepare food, helped serve the food and serve the people at the tables, wash dishes, clean up, advertise the event, make lefse, jams and jellies.
So many people worked together to make an outstanding event. Thank you!



Our Thank-Offering Service will be held Sunday, November 9, 2025. Please bring your Thank-Offering Box to this service. Extra boxes are available in the Narthex.

Our Christmas potluck and program will be held Tuesday, December 9, 2025 at 6:00 pm. Rebecca Circle will clean up, Esther Circle will set up, and Hannah Circle will give the program.



God's Blessings to you, Jacky Lien



Harvest Dinner 2025



Bethany will present students in the 3rd grade with a Bible during the Sunday church service on Nov. 16, 2025. Please contact the church office 218-652-2030 if you would like to have your child receive one.

Youth Calendar:

Nov. 2 - SS (Sunday School) Pre-k thru 2nd graders will leave after the children's message and 3rd graders and up will have PUPPET practice after the service.

Nov. 9 - SS - Pre-k thru 2nd graders will leave after the children's message and 3rd graders and up will have BELL practice after the service.

Nov. 16 - SS - Pre-k thru 2nd graders will leave after the children's message and 3rd graders and up will have PUPPET practice after the service.

Nov. 23 - Start Christmas Program practice

Nov. 30 - No SS for Thanksgiving holiday

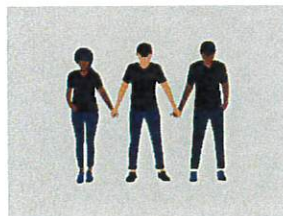
Dec. 7 - Christmas program practice

Dec. 14 - Youth Christmas Program during Sunday Service at 9:00 am

*Sunday School resumes in January



HELP SUPPORT OUR YOUTH



How exciting to be reestablishing a youth room at Bethany. The TV is in, the tables are up, but now the kids need some place to sit. Their wish is for bean bag chairs and you can help with that wish. Donate to the BEAN BAG FUND. If writing a check, make it to Bethany Lutheran with 'youth' on the memo. Cash can be put in an envelope with 'YOUTH' written on the front. Donations can be put in the offering plate or mailed, dropped off at the church.





Mission of the Month – Nevis/Akeley Food Shelf

November offers us a wonderful opportunity to share our abundance with our neighbors by donating to the Nevis/Akeley Food Shelf. Bethany parishioners are challenged this year to bring at least one of the items listed below to add to the food shelf cart.

Top Three Items Needed:

- Toilet Paper
- Sugar (sm. bag)
- Flour (sm. bag)

Other Ideas for Items: Peanut Butter, Cereal, Elbow Macaroni, Mayonnaise, Soup (chicken noodle, tomato, cream of mushroom, vegetable).

Generic or store brands are encouraged as quantity is needed more than a name brand. Monetary donations are also needed. Cash or checks can be placed in the Mission of the Month box in the Narthex. You can make a check out to Bethany with “food shelf” in the memo line. Confirmation students will try to outdo last year’s sculptures by building an even bigger, more dramatic sculpture this year!



Reminder: NO Community Dinners in November or December.

Online Giving Option



Bethany Lutheran Church has an online giving option through Tithe.ly. On our website (bethanylutherannevis.org) there is a button to click for online giving. When you’ve clicked, it takes you directly to Tithe.ly where you can send your donation/offering to the church. This is helpful if you are unable to attend worship or if you want to set up weekly or monthly giving.

Advent is Approaching!

The first Sunday of Advent is Sunday, November 30th. As we quickly approach this Advent season, prepare your hearts to celebrate this tiny babe, wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. The celebration is near, are you ready?



Thank you to the ditch-picking crew!



10.9.2025



Winter Porch Pots

Join us in making a special arrangement for your front step.

All materials are provided.

Cost \$45

Classes:

Saturday, November 22@ 2:00

Sunday, November 23@ 2:00

Limit 20 per session

Location: Bethany Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall

To register email Mel Buckholtz@ mbuckholtz@nevis308.org.

Payment given at class

WORSHIP SERVICE THANKSGIVING EVE

NOV. 26TH 7PM

NOVEMBER 27TH, 2025



Serving In November

Ushers – November 2: Jim & Jacky Lien
November 9: Dave Bergman & Robert Schroeder
November 16: _____
November 23: Robert Schroeder & _____
November 30: _____

Lector – November 2: Jim Lien
November 9: _____
November 16: Deb Sandahl
November 23: _____
November 30: _____

Greeter/s – November 2: _____
November 9: Deb Sandahl
November 16: The Pribyl's
November 23: Deb Sandahl
November 30: Pat Roehl & Carol VanNyhuis

Overhead Projection – November 2: _____
November 9: Jodi Bergman
November 16: _____
November 23: Nick & Hudson
November 30: _____

Communion Assistants – November 2: Robyn Bennett & Barb Durham
November 23: Chuck & Barb Durham

Acolyte – November 2: _____
November 9: _____
November 16: Chloe Anderson
November 23: _____
November 30: _____

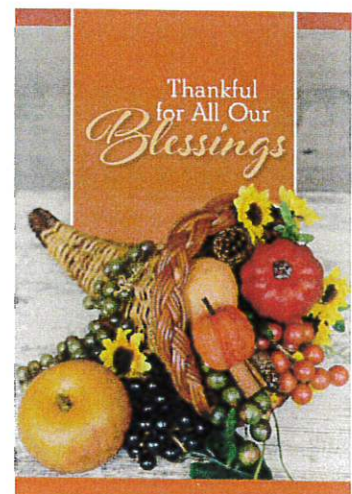
Fellowship Coffee – November 2: _____
November 9: _____
November 16: The Pribyl's
November 23: The Holte's
November 30: _____



2. Jaime Anderson
3. Elijah Gilmore
4. Marlis Husby
7. Chuck Rice
8. Sherm Anderson
9. Jodi Haar
10. Shirley Olson
11. Kristin Gilmore
12. John Davis
17. Chloe Anderson
20. Dan Martin
21. Eli Lewis, Betty Wignes
23. Miette Phillips
25. Ethan Lewis, Finley Gunderson, Gary Stennes



1. Mark Mohr & Renee Buggert 1 year
28. Steve & Betty Wignes 55 years



Bethany Lutheran Church Nevis Holidays in United States

Nov 2025 (Central Time - Chicago)

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 9am - Confirmation 9am - Worship Service 9:15am - Sunday School 10am - Fellowship Coffee	27 10am - Wellness Workout	28 8am - Men of Bethany - Bible 10am - Wellness Workout 11:45am - Release Time 6pm - Confirmation	29 9am - Quilting	30 Halloween 9am - Cleaning 4:30pm - Trunk or Treat - BLC 5pm - Community Dinner	31 1
2 Daylight Saving Time ends 9am - Worship Service 9:15am - Sunday School 10am - Fellowship Coffee	3 Election Day 9am - Worship Committee	4 8am - Men of Bethany - Bible 10am - Wellness Workout 11:45am - Release Time 6pm - Confirmation	5 9am - Quilting 11am - NHS 10th gr girls NWC	6 9am - Cleaning	7 8
9 9am - Worship Service 9:15am - Sunday School 10am - Fellowship Coffee	10 10am - Wellness Workout	11 Veterans Day 4pm - Outreach Committee 6:30pm - Hannah Circle	12 8am - Men of Bethany - Bible 10am - Wellness Workout 11:45am - Release Time 6pm - Confirmation	13 9am - Cleaning	14 15
16 3rd Grade Bible Sunday 9am - Worship Service 9:15am - Sunday School 10am - Fellowship Coffee	17 10am - Wellness Workout 1pm - Rebecca Circle	18 10am - PRAMA mtg 12:30pm - Nevis Women's 6:30pm - Education Comm.	19 8am - Men of Bethany - Bible 10am - Esther Circle 10am - Wellness Workout 11:45am - Release Time 6pm - Confirmation	20 9am - Cleaning 9am - Quilting 11am - NHS 10th gr girls NWC 6pm - Council Meeting	21 22 6pm - 4H ? Story Lake
23 9am - Worship Service 10am - Fellowship Coffee 10am - SS Christmas practice	24 10am - Wellness Workout	25 8am - Men of Bethany - Bible 10am - Wellness Workout 11:45am - Release Time 7pm - Thanksgiving Eve	26 Thanksgiving Day 9am - NO Quilting	27 Black Friday 9am - Cleaning	28 29
30 9am - Worship Service 10am - Fellowship Coffee 10am - SS Christmas Practice 10am - SS Christmas practice	1 10am - Wellness Workout	2 9am - Worship Committee	3 8am - Men of Bethany - Bible 10am - Wellness Workout 11:45am - Release Time 6pm - Confirmation	4 9am - Cleaning	5 6

NOVEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

100 3rd Ave, PO Box 137

Nevis, MN 56467

Destiny Halvorson, SAM

halvord205@gmail.com

218-766-5884

Bethany Lutheran Church Office Hours

Tuesday through Friday

9:00AM—12:00PM

Phone: 218-652-2030

Fax: 218-652-3355

secblc@arvig.net

www.bethanylutherannevis.org

Daylight Savings Time Ends

Remember to set your clocks back 1 hour!

Daylight Savings Time ends Sunday, November 2



Worship Schedule

Worship: 9 am Sunday

Sunday School

Fellowship Coffee: 10 am

Mission Statement:

*We are followers of Christ equipped with gifts by the Holy Spirit,
sharing the Biblical witness with all people.*