The STAR of Bethlehem

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
An LCMS Congregation
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https://www.facebook.com/BLCAikenSC/?ref=nf_target

Redacted Website Edition **November 2026**

Grace, peace and mercy be to us
from God the Father and Jesus Christ.
(2 John 1:3)

Yesterday, October 25, we extended a Call to Pastor John Drosendahl. It was a long process and is still not complete. We will know sometime in the next 3 weeks whether he accepts or not. If he does accept, it will start another long process of getting him moved here and installed. Since we are coming on the holiday season, I do not anticipate him arriving before the turn of the year. If he declines the Call, we are not quite back to square one, but just means it wasn't the time. As Steve reminds me, everything in God's time and in God' s will. We ask for your continued prayers for Bethlehem and for Pastor Drosendahl as he prayerfully considers the Call.

In Christ,
Joel

[37] Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; [38] therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." (ESV)
Matthew 9:37–38

All items for the newsletter are to be submitted to Debbie C., editor, no later than **the 23rd of the month** and, upon approval, may be edited for space or clarity. *Early submissions are appreciated.*

The STAR of Bethlehem newsletter is published monthly. The website and large print versions have been modified. The LCMS triple-cross logo is used with permission.
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Lutheran Resources

LCMS- Free to be Faithful
www.lcms.org/socialissues/freetobe-faithful

Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty
www.LCRLFreedom.org

Lutheran Hour Ministries
https://www.lhm.org/

The Lutheran Witness
https://witness.lcms.org/

Southeastern District, LCMS
https://se.lcms.org/

Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
www.lcms.org/

Concordia Publishing House
www.cph.org/

International Lutheran Council
www.ILCouncil.org

[FROM THE EDITOR:]

During visiting Pastor Reichert's sermon on Sept. 27, his remarks reminded of one of my husband's frequent sayings (quoting a medieval rabbi, name forgotten), "Man needs four essential things in life: food, shelter, clothing, and someone to blame." 😊

I normally try to get each *Star* edition finalized, approved, and sent to Joel for distribution no later than the 27th of the month. (I make printed copies for those who need them at that time as well.) Given the upcoming holidays, his schedule, and mine, the date you receive the *Star* may change just a little bit.

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Debbie C., Recording Secretary

Our last council meeting was on October 22. Donations are 4% below anticipated giving. The parsonage has been repainted (thanks, Dana). Plans are being made to improve the pastor's office. We spent most of the time discussing data for both the Special Voters' Assembly and the Call Service on Oct. 25. Please see announcements for other items. Our next meeting is on Monday, Nov. 16 at 6:30 P.M.

We had tremendous attendance for the Voters' Assembly & Call Service! Thank you so much for your attendance and participation. We approved a financial compensation package and voted on a new pastor. Now, we wait to see if Pastor John Drosendahl accepts our call. Continue to pray for God's will.

Please plan on attending the **Year-End Voters' Assembly** after the service on **Dec. 6**. We'll be electing council members and approving the annual budget. Save the date! Your Voters' Packets will be distributed no later than Nov. 21.

> Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.
>
> Philippians 4:6

BLC CELEBRATES!

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Marie W
Matthew W
Beverly V
Chuck M
Angela R
Ursula S

ANNIVERSARIES

NONE

Contact Debbie C. to add your special occasions or to make corrections.

STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

Mark Z., Stewardship Chairman

When considering topics for this month's article, I ran across some thoughts regarding stewardship between a Pastor and his Congregation. As we anticipate filling our Pastoral vacancy, I felt this topic was appropriate at this time.

Luther's Small Catechism is a magnificent tool. This handy masterpiece has introduced generations of people to the central doctrine of justification by grace, through faith, the cornerstone of all our LCMS doctrine.

More than a textbook, the Small Catechism also serves as a handbook for Christian living. As a part of its treasure, there is an element that teaches a message of stewardship. The section I chose to "rediscover" is called the Table of Duties. I must confess, I did not remember about the Table when I began my preparation for this article.

The Table of Duties is basically a categorized gathering of Bible verses. These verses are set apart for Pastors and Congregations, advising them about their duties and responsibilities. Most importantly, these assembled passages teach one important truth: we are stewards of one another!

Titus 1 highlights the need for the Pastor to be faithful to those under his care and 1 Corinthians 9 addresses the need for the people to support the Pastor. 1 Timothy 6 talks about the honor that is owed to the Pastor, not because of WHO he is, but rather WHAT he is teaching! Hebrews 13 shows the impact of this stewardship on the Pastor.

Joyful pastors and people are always going to be better stewards of the Gospel! The Table of Duties shows us our stewardship is more than just a "me and Jesus thing!"

Our prayers and sympathy to BLC member Collette G. on the passing of her husband **Carl B.** May God grant you peace.

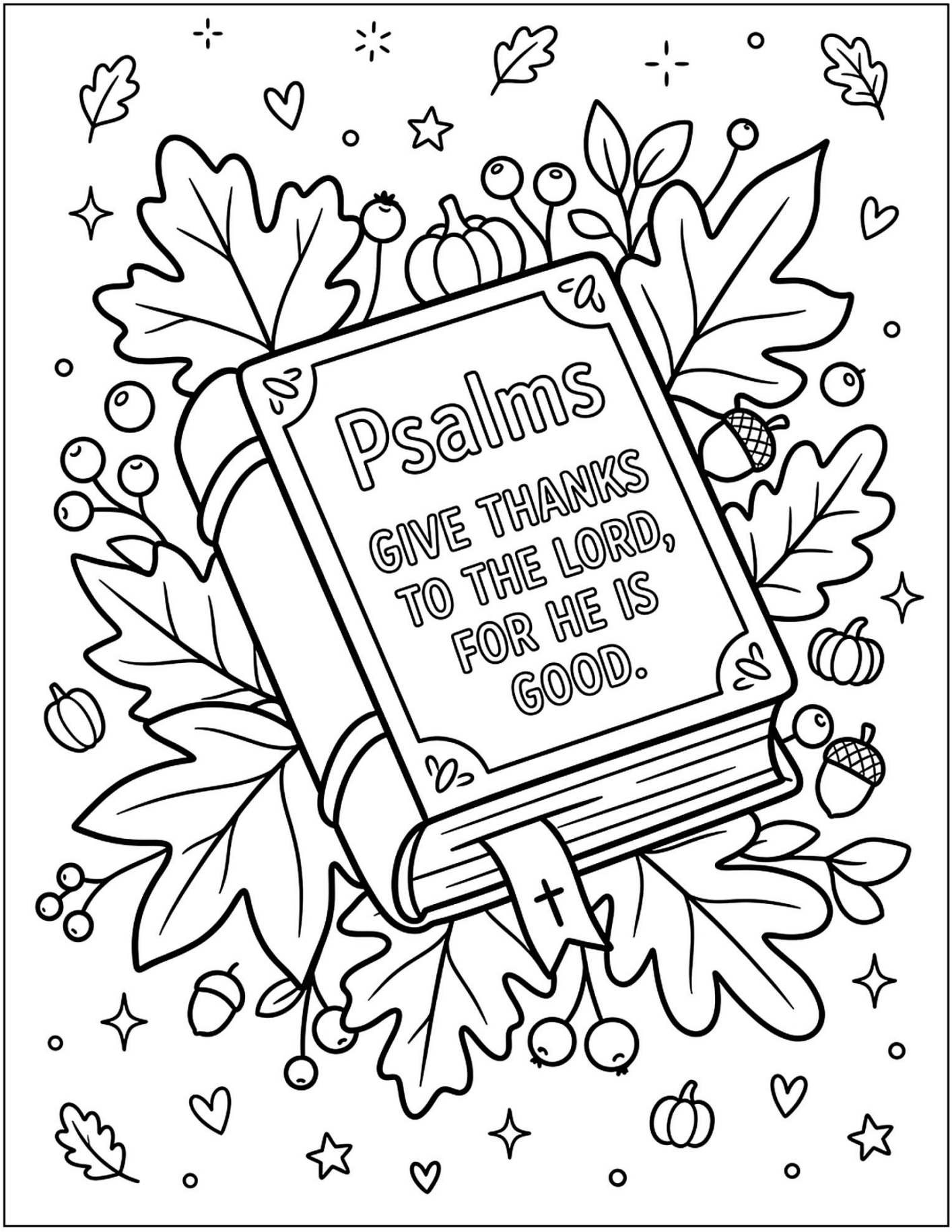
JUANITA'S 95TH BIRTHDAY PARTY

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY

REFORMATION / OKTOBERFEST POTLUCK

Oct. 25

Wow! At least 45 people stayed for the potluck! Thanks to all who worked to make it possible, and who provided all the food! Rebecca W's music students provided piano pieces during the Divine Service. Pictured are Rebecca, David C,. and Jo S.


Psalms
GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD, FOR HE IS GOOD.

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

Find the words in the grid. When you are done, the unused letters in the grid will spell out a hidden message. Pick them out from left to right, top line to bottom line. Words can go horizontally, vertically and diagonally in all eight directions.

H C A G N I B M U L P R O O D N I P L P Y T H
A O M N Y T I C I R T C E L E K S G R O I V I
N M G O G Q K W J V Y N P C X R Y T Q E V C K
P M F T N P M C K G S L O W R H M M V R S E W
T U Y J K E L T X M H Z I I C E H O P E T T H
R N T N R O Y V G V E Y T M T X A B Q N E W Y
P I I Z T N K K H E L Z Q R A A G T O X P O Z
L O L H T Y N D H N T C K L E F M I I H X R B
K N I C H U R C H D E M M Y K T T R E O T K Z
T N B N K X Q G J U R Q K N M A A A I S N S P
G B O L J T P Y K R G T R E T J L W E F E N P
X N M M N B M W L A N H Q R E T F N H O N Y B
H B Q G O T G M R N K M O D H R O J H S W O F
T K M O I H Z F N C P P R L V H U S K K E G C
Y R K Y T W M R T E S D Q I P R S T Q M M R G
K S M Z A N X W R N F O D H H D F P I D F H F
X Z P B V F M H A K G O R C N R N H K N T G R
T Q P M L Z W R N L Z F L E E Q R K Q I R Y Y
B H N K A T T P K J X L I E D M N C A Q Y U N
A S S I S T A N C E Z R D M V Z K F W Y T K F
J L H M S I T P A B F O F O R G I V E N E S S
R I A N A E L C L L M E R A C L A C I D E M C
B D K K F M R K R T C S R E T U P M O C H Z V

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Assistance	Confirmation	Friends	Pets
Baptism	Electricity	Furniture	Phones
Books	Endurance	Health	Recreation
Children	Faith	Hope	Rest
Church	Family	IndoorPlumbing	Salvation
CleanAir	Food	Love	Shelter
Clothing	Forgiveness	MedicalCare	Shoes
Communion	Freedom	Mobility	Transportation
Computers	FreshWater	Money	Work

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Many thanks to our call committee! - Elders Joel, Steve, and Tom as well as Joanne M, Mark Z., Rebecca S., and Doug K.

And, thank you also to all who volunteered for the Fall clean-up day!!

November ACTS Collection – PASTA SAUCE (no glass jars, please)
Don't forget, ACTS can always use manual can openers and cleaning supplies.

The annual **Friendsgiving Dinner will be November 15** after the service. Listen to announcements for details. (No dining out in Nov.)

We don't yet know if we'll have a Thanksgiving Eve service. Stay tuned.

Please note, the women's Bible study has been suspended until further notice.

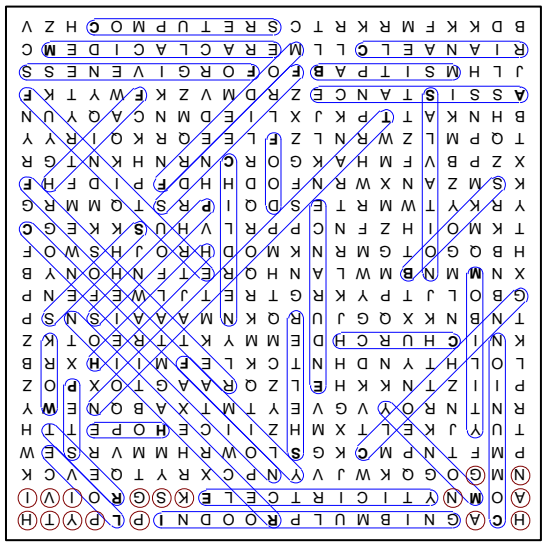
Advent begins Nov. 29. There will be an evening meal preceding **Wednesday Advent services on Dec. 2, 9, and 16**. Watch for details.

BLC CLASSIFIEDS

To place a classified ad in the *Star*,
please submit the information by the usual
monthly deadline- noon on the 23rd day of the month.
Please use your BLC Directory for contact information.
~DC

SERVICES OFFERED:
Dana A. (in his "semi-retirement") is providing residential painting services, available to members and non-members alike. He offers great work at an affordable price, with MANY references available. Services include trim, ceilings, and cabinets.

FOR SALE, etc:



November 2026

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
AIKEN, SC

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9am Bible Study 10:30 Service Reformation Day	2	3 Election Day	4 7pm Bible Study	5	6	7
8 9am Bible Study 10:30 Service	9	10	11 7pm Bible Study Veteran's Day	12	13	14
15 9am Bible Study 10:30 Service Friendsgiving Dinner	16 6:30pm Council mtg	17	18 7pm Bible Study	19	20	21
22 9am Bible Study 10:30 Service	23	24	25	26 Thanksgiving	27	28
29 9am Bible Study 10:30 Service 1st Sunday of Advent	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	*Notes*	ACTS: pasta sauce, no glass jars			