



The Starlett Weekly Newsletter | February 1, 2026

## *What is Septuagesima?*

**The Sundays of Septuagesima, Sexagesima, and Quinquagesima** follow Transfiguration Sunday in the historic church calendar and precede the season of Lent. Their names are Latin for 70, 60, and 50, rough figures for the number of days until Easter. This time is intended to be a kind of pre-Lent, a time to transition from the joy of Christmas and Epiphany to the focus on examination and repentance in Lent. As we look ahead to Good Friday and countdown to Easter, we pray that God would give us strength to walk with Christ and follow Him no matter what the cost.

## *Lent at Bethlehem*



The Season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 18. Worship services will be held each Wednesday through March 25 at 4:00 and 7:00 pm.

A meal will be served by volunteer groups each Wednesday during Lent. If your small group, ministry team, Bible class, or family would like to sponsor the meal (prepare and serve) on March 18 please contact Pastor Priem or Teresa in the Church Office. A *potluck* will be held March 25, the last Wednesday service of Lent.



**Please bring in your palm branches** from last year's Palm Sunday by February 15. They will be burned and used for the Imposition of Ashes before worship on Ash Wednesday, February 18. A collection box is in the Narthex.

## *Fellowship Opportunities*



**Our annual Pie Auction and Soupili will be held February 15** after the 10:45 service. Bring a pot of your prized soup or chili and prepare your favorite pie for the Auction – and your recipes to share if you'd like! Sign up is located in the narthex. Please be sure to *label* your soup/chili with your name and what you brought.

*Point of contact: Ann Monnig or Kelly Dhyne*



**Calling all ladies of the congregation to play some Bunco!** Come and join the laughs and chatting on **Wednesday afternoon, February 4 at 1 pm** in the Fellowship Hall. We'll discuss how future Bunco Days will go, so plan to come and throw the

dice! Absolutely NO experience necessary!! Easy to learn and play! *Point of contact: Sharon Diley, 918-605-5754*



## VBS 2026: Tropical Trek

VBS is scheduled for July 20-23, 2026, from 9-11:30 am. The next planning meeting will be Saturday, February 21 at 9:00 am. All are welcome! *Point of contact:* Julie Hall, [blessings98@juno.com](mailto: blessings98@juno.com).

## Serving Opportunities



Seasoned Saints is hosting the annual Souper Bowl drive, collecting canned food and soup through next Sunday, February 8. Blue AFC and NFC barrels are in Narthex—choose whichever Conference you would like to see collect the most soup. Recipients of this year's collection will be The Bridge Over Troubled Water Food Pantry. For more information, visit [mofamilyresource.org/bridge-over-troubled-water-food-pantry](http://mofamilyresource.org/bridge-over-troubled-water-food-pantry).

**Immanuel Lutheran Church Food Pantry:** Check out the bulletin board for ways to support the Food Pantry. Among their needs: food, baking staples, warm clothing, blankets, and quilts. *Point of Contact:* Sharon Reque, 816-322-1603

- **In short supply each week:** Pasta, Spaghetti sauce, Canned fruit, Pork and beans, Canned soup, Tomato products (paste, sauce, & diced), Canned Meat (chicken, beef, Vienna sausage, Sardines), Instant dry milk, laundry detergent, Hand soap, Dish soap, Shampoo, and Clorox wipes. *Please continue to check expiration dates as they are not allowed to give food that's expired.*
- **Monetary donations** may be sent to Immanuel Lutheran Church, 4205 Tracy Ave, KC, MO 64110 (note "Food Pantry") which can be used to purchase food from Harvester's at a reduced rate.



The next blood drive at Bethlehem is Tuesday, February 10, from 12:00-5:00 pm. Schedule at [donate.savealifenow.org/donor/schedules/sponsor\\_code](http://donate.savealifenow.org/donor/schedules/sponsor_code) (Bethlehem sponsor code 9H). Walk-ins are welcome! *If you are unable to donate* at our February drive, we urge you to schedule a donation as soon as possible. Community Blood Center supports over 70 hospitals in the Greater KC Metropolitan area, eastern KS and Western MO.

## Sunday School, Midweek, and Small Group Studies

**NEW!**

**Youth Catechism Club:** Led by Pastor Priem and open to all youth, this group meets each Wednesday evening at 7:00 for study and conversation on Luther's Small Catechism—and whatever else comes up! (*No meeting during Lent.*)

**Sunday School** 9:30-10:30 am for ages 2 and up.

- Downstairs: Parents & 2s, Preschool/Kind, 1st/2nd Grade, 3rd/4th Grade, 7th Grade, 8th Grade
- Upstairs: 5th/6th Grade, 9th Grade/High School; Adult Bible Class (and Zoom) led by **Pastor Priem**.

**Men's Bible Study** meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 6:30 pm, led by Pastor Priem, hosted by Tabb Renzelman at Serendipity Farms, 4674 W 183rd St, Stilwell, KS. *Point of contact:* Tabb, 816-716-5845

**TODAY!**

**FAITH (Friends All In Together for Him) Youth Group** for students 4th grade and up, meeting TODAY, February 1 after the 10:45 service. Lunch is provided! *Point of contact:* Alicia, 660-890-4772, [aruss.rd22@yahoo.com](mailto: aruss.rd22@yahoo.com)



**Seasoned Saints Bible Study**, normally meeting the 1st Monday of each month, has been rescheduled to Monday, February 9 at 10 am due to the extreme cold weather. *Point of contact:* Mike Scholtes, 816-550-9021

## *Serving This Morning*

**Pastor:** Rev. Dr. Matthew D. Priem | **Musician:** Jordan Fox

**Elders:** (Readers) Steve Gfeller (Communion) Darren Hall

**Acolytes:** (8:00) Gabby Kuhns (10:45) JD Neugebauer

**Greeters:** (8:00) Paul & Stacy Matney (10:45) Jimbo & Sharon Diley

**Altar Guild:** Candy Schmoll | **Children's Message** (10:45) Amy Sellmeyer

**Stream:** (8:00) Gretchen Krull | **Video:** (8:00) Tiffany Kuhns (10:45) Megan Kuhns

**Ushers:** (8:00) Jason Rockman/Craig Rogge (10:45) David Frazier/Randy Priem

## *This Week at Bethlehem*

*February 1—8, 2026*

### *Sunday, February 1*

8:00 am           Worship/Holy Communion (and Live Stream to [Facebook](#))  
9:30 am           Adult Bible Class (Fellowship Hall and Zoom) and Children's Sunday School  
10:45 am          Worship

### *Monday, February 2*

9:15 am           Staff Meeting (Conf Rm)  
6:00 pm           Scout Troops 1032/7032 (Conf Rms, Library, Narthex, FH)

### *Wednesday, February 4*

1:00 pm           Women's Bunco (Fellowship Hall)  
6:00 pm           Midweek Adult Bible Class (Fellowship Hall and Zoom)  
7:00 pm           Youth Catechism Club (Fellowship Hall)

### *Thursday, February 5*

1:00 pm           Quilting Small Group (Fellowship Hall)  
6:30 pm           Girl Scout Troop 2256 (Fellowship Hall)

### *Friday, February 6 (Pastor Priem: Day Off)*

### *Saturday, February 7*

8:00 am           LERT Chainsaw Training (Fellowship Hall)  
9:00 am           Worship Committee (Conf Rm)

### *Sunday, February 8*

8:00 am           Worship (and Live Stream to [Facebook](#))  
9:30 am           Adult Bible Class (Fellowship Hall and Zoom) and Children's Sunday School  
10:45 am          Worship/Holy Communion  
12:30 pm          Elder Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

## *Our Response: January 19—25*

Worship, 1/25: In-person: <b>31/29</b>   Guests: <b>1</b>   Virtual: <b>60</b>	Sunday School, 1/25: Students/Teachers: <b>NA</b>   Adult: <b>23</b> (8-Zoom)
Adult Midweek, 1/21: <b>8</b> (0-Zoom) Youth Catechism Club, 1/21: <b>9</b>	1/19—1/25 Regular Offering: <b>\$10,752.00</b> Capital Fund: <b>\$100.00</b>   Renovate Our House: <b>\$20.00</b>

**2025 end-of-year Giving Statements** were emailed on Wednesday, January 21 to those with an email address, and sent by USPS to those with no email address or who had requested this method of delivery. *If you do not see your statement*, check your spam or junk folder. The subject line is "Bethlehem Lutheran Church-LCMS 2025 Giving Statement."