



The Starlett Weekly Newsletter | February 8, 2026

Today's Sunday in the Church Year: Sexagesima

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.

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.

Call Committee Update



Congregational members may again nominate pastors to be included on our next call list. This time we are seeking nominations for candidates with less than 8 years of experience. *The last day for nominations is Sunday, February 15.*

Pastoral Nomination Forms and Job Descriptions are available in the **Document Library of our website**, on the table at the back of the Sanctuary, or by contacting any Elder at Bethlehem or Teresa in the Church Office.

Fellowship Opportunities



Our annual Pie Auction and Soupili will be held **next Sunday, 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 online at bit.ly/Soupili OR 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



Come play some Bunco — open to ALL! Join the laughs and chatting from 1-3pm each 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month. 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!
- Need: individuals interested in serving on a VBS advertising committee.

Point of contact: Julie Hall, blessings98@juno.com.

Serving Opportunities



TODAY is the last day to bring your canned food and soup for the Souper Bowl drive. Choose the conference you're rooting for and place donations in the blue AFC or blue NFC barrel. Recipients of this year's collection is The Bridge Over Troubled Water Food Pantry. Visit for more information: mofamilyresource.org/bridge-over-troubled-water-food-pantry.



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 (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.*

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.

Sunday School, Midweek, and Small Group Studies



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*

Serving This Morning

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Matthew D. Priem | **Musician:** Teresa Henny

Elders: (Readers) Darren Hall (Communion) Tom Hecker

Acolytes: (8:00) Aaron Hoemann (10:45) Emma Sellmeyer

Greeters: (8:00) Gerry & Deb Moennig (10:45) James & Michelle Neugebauer

Altar Guild: Linda Bolton | **Children's Message:** (10:45) Amy Sellmeyer

Stream: (8:00) Kay Freeman | **Video:** (8:00) Joni Hartman (10:45) Rick & Jennifer DeLuca

Ushers: (8:00) Ronnie Thompson/Paul Matney (10:45) Steven Coleman/Tim Benson

This Week at Bethlehem

February 8–15, 2026

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)

Monday, February 9

9:15 am	Staff Meeting (Conf Rm)
10:00 am	Seasoned Saints' Bible Study (Sanctuary)
7:00 pm	Scout Troops 1032/7032 (Conf Rms, Library, Narthex, FH)

Tuesday, February 10

12:00 pm	Blood Drive (Fellowship Hall)
6:30 pm	Men's Bible Study (Serendipity Farms, Stilwell, KS)

Wednesday, February 11

11:30 am	SALT Admin Luncheon (Amazing Grace, Pleasant Hill)
6:00 pm	Midweek Adult Bible Class (Fellowship Hall and Zoom)
7:00 pm	Youth Catechism Club (Fellowship Hall)

Thursday, February 12

6:30 pm	Finance Committee (Conf Rm)
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Friday, February 13 (Pastor Priem: Day Off)

Saturday, February 14

3:00 pm	Private Party (Fellowship Hall)
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Sunday, February 15

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
12:00 pm	Soupili/Pie Auction (Fellowship Hall)

Our Response: January 26–February 1

Worship, 2/1: In-person: 104/96 Guests: 13 Virtual: 38	Sunday School, 2/1: Students/Teachers: 25/6 Adult: 56 (4-Zoom)
Men's Bible Study, 1/27: 7 Adult Midweek, 1/28: 11 (1-Zoom) Youth Catechism Club, 1/28: 7 FAITH Youth, 2/1: 39	1/26–2/1 Regular Offering: \$20,657.00 Capital Fund: \$180.00 Renovate Our House: \$0.00

Ongoing and Upcoming



We will celebrate Fellowship Sunday on March 8, Time Change Sunday, with a **combined, all-church service at 9:30 am**. This service will also be live streamed to our Facebook page. A potluck brunch will be held following the service. Sunday School classes will not be held; our regular schedule of Sunday School and Adult Bible Class will resume March 15.



Kitchen Lost & Found: Are you missing your lovely quilted apron? Your crock pot? That special cake pan? An area at the hallway kitchen entrance has been set aside for dropping off food in preparation for meals *and* for picking up dishes unclaimed after an event. Please check this area regularly for items that may belong to you. It's also very helpful to label your containers with your name so we know who to contact. *Thank you!*

Would you like to provide altar flowers to adorn the altar on a Sunday morning? Order envelopes are available on the bulletin board outside the sanctuary. Arrangements are \$25 each; payment is requested at the time of your order. Make checks payable to Bethlehem and indicate "altar flowers" in the memo; order/pay online at bethlehem-raymore.org/give-form.

In-person Attendance: Let us know you are with us by completing the Fellowship Registration. Please be sure to note if you commune.

Virtual Attendance: Leave a Facebook comment, sharing names of all from your location who join with you in worship. NOTE: If you "attend" after the live stream or don't have a Facebook account, let us know of your presence using the **Online Attendance form: bit.ly/blc-attend**.

Lutheran Community



Women's Retreat: February 27—March 1 at Heit's Point

Join Lutheran ladies from Missouri and Kansas to study the Fruit of the Spirit in a retreat setting. We'll encourage each other in Christ, pray together, make friends, and have FUN! To register, email info@heitspointlutheran.org or call 660-668-2363 by February 15.

- All-inclusive 2-night stay in Bunk House (with retreat group) \$100 per person
- All-inclusive 2-night stay in Spitz Center (motel-style rooms) \$120 per person

Heit's Point Lutheran Ministries | 28345 Heit's Point Ave, Lincoln, MO | heitspointlutheran.org



Lutheran High School of Kansas City is looking for candidates interested in serving as assistant boys golf coach. The season runs from the beginning of March to the middle of May. Please reach out to athletics@lhskc.com or 816-241-5478 if interested or for more information.