



The Starlett Weekly Newsletter | July 12, 2026

Altar flowers are given to the glory of God this morning in celebration and thanksgiving for Gary & Linda Baldrige's 59th wedding anniversary on Friday, July 17.



◆ *TODAY: Combined Services & Special Voter's Meeting* ◆

A combined worship service with holy communion at 9:30 am in place of the 8:00 and 10:45 services. Sunday School will not be held.



A Special Voter's Meeting will take place immediately following the worship service. Childcare will be available for parents of young children.

The Call Committee will present two candidates for consideration as Associate Pastor. This meeting will be to vote on calling a pastor to work with Pastor Priem and expand the ministry at Bethlehem or vote to refrain from calling a pastor at this time.

The candidates put forward by the Call Committee are Rev. Philip Bartelt currently serving Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, New Fairfield, CT; and Rev. Erik Sorenson currently serving St. Peter Lutheran Church in Columbus, IN.

May the Lord bless and direct His church throughout this process!

Worship Service Attendance



Worship service and communion participation are self-reported.

In-Person Attendance

Let us know you are with us by completing the Fellowship Registration.

Please note ✓ if you commune as we will never assume that you do. Voter

eligibility is based on *active* participation (commune at least twice with the congregation in the 365 days preceding a Regular or Special Voter's Meeting).

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** (a link is available on our website's homepage and each issue of BLCUpdates, the emailed weekly news).

VBS 2026: July 20-23



Tropical Trek VBS is scheduled for July 20-23, 2026, from 9-11:30 am. Online registration is OPEN! Visit bit.ly/blc-vbs for student and volunteer registration. The next Planning Meeting is TODAY, July 12 at 4pm. All are welcome! Point of contact: Julie, blissing98@juno.com

Sunday School, Midweek, and Small Group Studies



If you are interested in learning more about the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and membership at Bethlehem, please contact Pastor Priem.

Sunday School 9:30-10:30 am for ages 2 and up. ****No classes this morning, July 12.****

- 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 led by **Pastor Priem**

FAITH (Friends All In Together for Him) Youth Group for students 4th grade and up. Point of contact: Alicia Russell, 660-890-4772 or aruss.rd22@yahoo.com

Midweek Adult Bible Study (MABS): Led by Pastor Priem and open to all, this group meets Wednesday evenings at 6:00 for topical study. *Class will not be held Wednesday, July 15.*

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! *This group will not meet on Wednesday, July 15.*

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 Opportunities



We have added a second date to our July drive at Bethlehem in response to the need facing our community: Tuesday, July 14 AND Thursday, July 16, from 12-6:00 pm.

Community Blood Center is already facing a significant summer shortage with collections down due to seasonal declines, donor no-shows, and World Cup-related impacts across the metro. Their blood supply, *relied on by every local hospital*, is at risk.

Each presenting donor at one of our July dates will receive an exclusive co-branded Royals T-shirt! Schedule at donate.savealifenow.org/donor/schedules/sponsor_code with sponsor code 9H for Bethlehem. Walk-ins are welcome! *If neither date works for you, please find a drive that's best for your schedule, and use Bethlehem's sponsor code 9H.*



Immanuel Lutheran Church Food Pantry: Currently 30-50 families are served each week, up from 20-30 families just a year ago. Now more than ever your donations are needed and very much appreciated! Monetary donations for the Food Pantry may be sent directly to Immanuel Lutheran Church, 4205 Tracy Ave, KC, MO 64110 (note your gift "Food Pantry"). Thrivent members may apply for and use Thrivent Action cards to purchase food and supplies! Point of Contact: Sharon Reque, 816-322-1603

Serving This Morning

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

Elders: (Reader) Kyle Krull (Communion) Darren Hall/Doug Bolton/Scott Kastman/Tom Hecker

Acolyte: Heidi Priem | **Greeters:** Matt & Rachel Hoemann | **Altar Guild:** Debbie Green

Stream: Gretchen Krull | **Video:** Isaiah Hoemann/Joni Hartman

Ushers: Ronnie Thompson/Craig Rogge/Steve Coleman/Tim Benson



The Children's Message, offered at the 10:45 service, is on hiatus through August.

If you are interested in serving in this area, please contact Amy Sellmeyer or Kelly Dhyne.

Our Response: June 28—July 5

Sunday, 7/5: In-person: 93/65 Guests: 11 Virtual: 19	Sunday School, 7/5: Students/Teachers: 12/7 Adult: 37 (4-Remote)
Adult Midweek, 7/1: 8 (2-Remote) Catechism Club, 7/1: 6	Month-to-Date: 6/29—7/5 Regular Offering: \$14,174 Capital Fund: \$175 Renovate Our House: \$0

This Week at Bethlehem

July 12—19, 2026

Sunday, July 12: Combined Worship Service

- 9:30 am Worship/Holy Communion (and Live Stream to [Facebook](#))
- NO Adult Bible Class/Children's Sunday School
- 11:00 am Special Congregational Meeting (immediately following worship service)
- 12:30 pm Elder Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
- 4:00 pm VBS Planning Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

Monday, July 13

- 9:15 am Staff Meeting (Conf Rm)
- 7:00 pm Scout Troops 1032/7032 (Fellowship Hall, Narthex, Conf Rms, Library)

Tuesday, July 14 (Pastor Priem: Vacation through Friday, July 17)

- 12:00 pm Blood Drive to 6pm (Fellowship Hall)

Thursday, July 16

- 12:00 pm Blood Drive to 6pm (Fellowship Hall)

Saturday, July 18

- 11:00 am Private Party (Fellowship Hall)

Sunday, July 19: Installation of VBS Leaders & Helpers

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

Calendar Note: Pastor Priem will be on vacation from Tuesday, July 14 through Friday, July 17. Pastor Emshoff from Holy Trinity, Grandview, will be available for emergencies. Please contact the Church Office at Bethlehem, 816-322-3606 or tblackley@bethlehem-raymore.org, if this is a need.

In Our Community

The Lutheran High School of Kansas City is seeking a part-time Music teacher to lead the choir and handbell programs. The teacher is a learning leader responsible for helping carry out the mission of the school by creating and maintaining an environment conducive to learning and to the artistic, emotional, social, and spiritual development of each individual student. The ideal candidate would demonstrate a commitment to Christian principles and be well-rounded as a musician and in teaching. Interested applicants should contact Executive Director Adam Kirsch at akirsch@lhskc.com for a detailed position description and more information.



Sounds of South Kansas City (SSKC) Community Band: This outstanding regional concert band will present their final summer concert on **Thursday, July 23 at 7pm** at the Harrisonville Community Center — free and open to the public! Bethlehem members participating this year are Jessica LeRoux, Shawn Hornbeck, David Winfrey, and Carl Reque.

The City of Raymore will host a "Kids and Families Emergency Preparedness Night" on Thursday, **August 13** at 6 pm at Centerview (227 Municipal Circle) in Raymore. Join Raymore's Emergency Management Director Tim Baldwin and staff from the American Red Cross in Kansas City as they discuss how kids can be involved in disaster preparedness at home. Topics will include how kids can help build an emergency supply kit, what to do during severe weather, how to stay calm during a disaster, general home safety tips and more! Activity books and other fun items will be distributed and there will also be a few drawings for door prizes! Families from across the Raymore area are welcome to attend this free event and no advance registration is required!

The Annual Karl Birnstein Memorial Golf Tournament benefiting The Lutheran High School of Kansas City will be held **August 31** at the Creekmoor Golf Course, Raymore.

Noon—Registration; 1:00—Shotgun Start; Dinner/prizes after Golf
More information, a link to register for the Tournament, and sponsorship opportunities are available at lhskc.com/support/karl_birnstein_memorial_golf_tournament.

