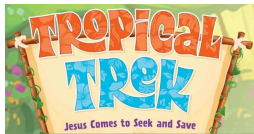




The Starlett Weekly Newsletter | July 26, 2026



Our VBS Tropical Trek Adventure was a tremendous success! The planning committee would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to each and every volunteer who helped make this week possible. With *68 dedicated volunteers* serving an *average of 65 children each day*, it truly took a team effort to create a fun, safe, and meaningful experience for everyone involved. Your time, energy, creativity,

and willingness to serve made a lasting impact on the lives of these children. Thank you for your commitment, your servant hearts, and for helping make this year's VBS an unforgettable adventure. We are deeply grateful for each of you!

Altar flowers are given to the glory of God this morning in celebration and thanksgiving for Kyle & Gretchen Krull's 45th wedding anniversary on Saturday, July 25.

◆ *Combined Services & Special Voter's Meeting: August 2* ◆

Although a quorum was met for the 1st vote needed in the July 12 Special Congregational Meeting, a quorum was not available for subsequent votes. The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, August 2.



A combined worship service with holy communion will be held at 9:30 am on Sunday, July 12 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.

This meeting will be to vote on calling Rev. Philip Bartelt from Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in New Fairfield, CT as an Associate Pastor at Bethlehem.

Members are encouraged to do their own research; however, Kyle Krull has made his results (using ChatGPT) available to anyone interested. If you would like an emailed PDF of his results, please contact **Teresa in the Church Office**. *The congregation is strongly counseled not to contact Pastor Bartelt or anyone in his circle.* 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 Mission Projects: Feed God's Children HERE and THERE

"Feed God's Children Here and There"

HERE: The congregation is invited to participate in the *collection of shelf-stable food and household items* for the food pantry at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Kansas City.

THERE: The congregation is invited to support this mission project with *monetary gifts* for the Bush Babies Environmental Education Program in South Africa, in partnership with the Kansas City Zoo. The Bush Babies is part of Scouts South Africa, a program modeled after scouting programs in the United States and includes monitoring of grades and school participation. Monetary donations will go directly to feeding the children in the Scouts program: children are provided 2 meals a day during school days and 3 meals a day on school holidays. Each meal costs \$0.85 and includes meat, vegetables, and a carb. *Donations will be received through Sunday, August 2.*

- Make checks payable to Bethlehem and note "VBS Mission Project"; or
- Give online at Bethlehem's website. Select "VBS Missions" from the drop down menu; or
- Use VBS Missions offering envelopes from the back of the sanctuary

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.

- 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.

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!

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/Scott Kastman (Communion) Carl Sellmeyer

Acolyte: (8:00) Gabby Kuhns (10:45) Mia Russell

Greeters: (8:00) Gerry & Debbie Moennig | **Altar Guild:** ReAnna Sperle

Stream: Jimbo Diley | **Video:** (8:00) Courtney Morrill (10:45) Brittney Coleman

Ushers: (8:00) Matthew Hoemann/Tim Hoemann (10:45) Stephen Dhyne/Randy Priem



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: July 13–19

Sunday, 7/19: In-person: 116/96 Guests: 30 Virtual: 22	Sunday School, 7/19: Students/Teachers: 18/6 Adult: 50 (4-Remote)
Adult Midweek, 7/15: NA Catechism Club, 7/15: NA	Month-to-Date: 6/29–7/19 Regular Offering: \$45,289 Capital Fund: \$1,685 Renovate Our House: \$35

Giving Statements



Giving Statements for the 2nd quarter of 2026 were emailed on Monday, July 20 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 did not receive your statement, first please check your spam or junk folder. The sender is *Bethlehem Lutheran Church-LCMS* noreply@bethlehem.shelbynextchms.com and the subject line is "Bethlehem Lutheran Church-LCMS 2026 Giving Statement."

This Week at Bethlehem

July 26–August 2, 2026

Sunday, July 26: LWML Mitey Mite Sunday

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

Monday, July 27

9:30 am Staff Meeting (Conf Rm)
 6:30 pm Governance Board (Conf Rm)
 7:00 pm Scout Troops 1032/7032 (Fellowship Hall/Narthex/Library/Conf Rm2)

Tuesday, July 28

6:30 pm Men's Bible Study (Serendipity Farm, Stilwell, KS)

Wednesday, July 29

6:00 pm Midweek Adult Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
 7:00 pm Youth Catechism Club (Fellowship Hall)

Thursday, July 30

1:00 pm Quilting Small Group (Fellowship Hall)
 5:00 pm Adult Instruction Class (Library)

Friday, July 31 (Pastor Priem-Day off)

Saturday, August 1

9:00 am Worship Committee (Conf Rm)

Sunday, August 2: Combined Service

9:30 am Combined Worship/Holy Communion (and Live Stream to [Facebook](#))
 11:00 am Special Congregational Meeting (immediately after the service)



Today is Mite Sunday! Please help Bethlehem's Women in Mission by depositing your pocket change (dollars, too!) in the large Mite box in the Narthex. Collectively, your offerings support mission projects locally, nationally, and world-wide.

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.

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.



Congregational Communications



BLCUpdates is our weekly email newsletter sharing new, highlighted, or time-sensitive information and is sent from "*Teresa Blackley* noreply@shelbynexthms.com." Please add this address to your safe-senders list to avoid correspondence landing in your junk or spam folder. If you aren't receiving this email news and would like to, contact **Teresa in the Church Office** with your name and email address.