Bethesda Bits

Bethesda Lutheran Church
301 W. South Street, Morrison, IL 61270
Office #(815) 772-4896
Interim Pastor: Rev. Leo Patterson
⇒ Cell#: 815-677-1139
✉ **E-mail: bethesdalc@frontiernet.net**
✪ **Website: bethesdalutheranmorrison.org**
✪ **Find us on Facebook:** *Bethesda Lutheran Church, Morrison, Il*

November 2026

A Thanksgiving Prayer of Gratitude

Almighty God, our Creator, Redeemer and eternal Companion, we come before you overwhelmed by the boundless goodness you bestow upon us.

On this special day, we remember how you blessed those who came to this land seeking the freedom to worship without restraint or hindrance.

We are immeasurably grateful for our heritage. We pray that our faith may be as fervent as the faith of those who left everything familiar to journey to a strange land, where they themselves were strangers.

We gather as grateful beneficiaries of your faithful servants who paid a costly price to glorify you and serve you. Mindful of the first Thanksgiving meal shared by newcomers and Native peoples, we now gather around our own tables with family and friends.

We come before you with love and deep appreciation for your constant grace and abundant gifts. The beautiful food before us is a visible reminder of your generous provision.

Ever-giving and ever-loving God, we humbly thank you for all your blessings. We ask for one gift more: the honor of your presence. Be our Guest, so that we may enjoy fellowship with you and with one another.

We pray in the name of your greatest gift to us, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.





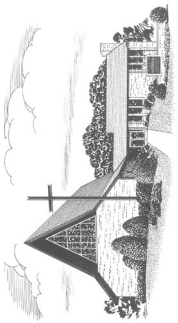
Bethesda Lutheran Church
301 West South Street
Morrison, IL 61270

Return Service Requested

Sunday Worship Service
⇑ In-person every Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School
⇑ Sundays at 10.15 a.m.

Find us on Facebook



Highlights—October 12, 2026

Meeting called to order by VP, Monica Anderson *(Pres. Eric Benson was unable to attend.)* Opening Devotions led by Tracy O'Shea. Agenda and minutes from September meeting accepted as presented.

Correspondence:

- City of Morrison – License required – Monica will discuss further with Deb – deadline Dec 1 - $20
- Beckwith – quote on roof - $1,500 (quote from Boss over $2,000 and did not address vent). Beckwith will repair flat roof and remove vents and repair roof where vents were – advised in future we should have different style installed. Motion to proceed with Beckwith made by Tracy, 2nd Kate – Motion is to approve Beckwith contingent on getting an understanding from them the risk of not having a vent until alternative is addressed. Funds to come from Building Refurbishment.

Old Business:

- Constitution—Council in progress, will continue to polish and update – Next meeting Nov 3rd at 6 pm
- Call Process -no update – Tracy to reach out to Dawn – where are we on letter of bound conscious meeting

New Business

- Pastor's report – It was great to see detailed outline report on Pastor's hours and actions over the last month. Pastor Leo requested reimbursement for mileage for attending the Leadership Conference at Lutherdale in Elkhorn, WI *(approved)*
- Both Financial Secretary and Treasurer's reports were reviewed – previously approved action to disburse funds from maturing CD not needed. Per the Financial Secretary, adequate funds were in checking already.
- Pastor's report, Financial Sec., and Treasurer's reports were all accepted as presented.
- Property committee – Excellent detailed list from property committee of recent items identified that need attention. Looking forward to follow up requests and quotes if needing approval. Council happy to support anyway we can.

All other committee reports submitted were reviewed and accepted as presented.

Upcoming meetings:

- Nov 3rd at 6 pm – Constitution

(Continued on page 3)

Bethesda Council Members for Congregational

Names & Contact Information

Interim Pastor: Rev. Leo Patterson

⇒ Cell#: 815-677-1139 Email: llpatgrics.net

THIS PAGE

INTENTIONALLY

LEFT BLANK

- President — Eric Benson
- Vice Pres. — Monica Anderson
- Secretary — Tracy O'Shea
- Financial Secretary — Al Janicek
- Treasurer — Marcia Haag



Once again we will be helping with gifts for LSSI for those in need. This year will be collecting gift cards for various stores. There will be tags on the Christmas Tree beginning on **Sunday, November 8.** Please take a tag, purchase and return the gift card to the church. Cards are to be in increments of $25 ea. There will be a box by the tree to put cards in. Please return by **Sunday, November 29**. The cards will then be brought to the LSSI office the first of December. Thank you so much!

- *(Questions? Call Nancy Usterbowski @ 815-772-0153*



Save the Date!

Bethesda members & guests of all ages are invited to join together for a time of food & fellowship.

We are combining November and December for a special holiday gathering at the "Forest Inn" (Hwy 30, Morrison), on **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10**, at 6:00 PM. Those attending may order from the full menu, which includes their salad bar.

To assist in planning, there will be a sign up sheet on the table in the Fellowship Room OR you may call Andrea at the number below. Please sign up no later than **Sunday, December 6**.

Questions – contact Andrea Dalton 772-4929, or Monica Anderson at 815-772-4970.



GET INTO THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS!

We will be putting up the tree and all the decorations in the sanctuary and the fellowship room after church on ***Sunday, November 29*** (First Sunday in Advent). We welcome and appreciate all volunteers. Please join us for a time of fun and fellowship by lending a hand to accomplish this annual activity. Let's make a thing of it, shall we? The more the merrier! We can even play some Christmas music over the speakers to get us in the spirit! We hope you can join us for the fun!

(Continued from page 2)

- Nov 9th at 6pm – regular monthly meeting. *(Angie H. is to lead devotions)*

Meeting adjourned with Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted by—
Tracy O'Shea



We continue to be grateful for the many ways our church family shares of their time and talents. Many thanks to those who have stepped in and assisted with several projects around the church to repair or improve our building and property. The Council received a detailed list from the Property Comm. of items brought to attention that still need to be addressed. If you can help us check off some of these items off the "to do" list, please feel free to jump in!

- Sand and paint outside door at the front of the Sanctuary *(the North door).*
- Door knob in sacristy bathroom—we have a new one, just needs to be installed.
- Decluttering of unused items around the church *(choir loft, Sunday school area, cabinets & shelves, etc.)*

This is a short list, but are the top priority of tasks that need to be done. Contact the church office if you have questions.

BECAUSE OF GOD'S GREAT MERCY

a stewardship program for our congregation

"Because of God's Great Mercy" is the title of our stewardship emphasis this year. The scriptural basis of this focus on our stewardship of all that God has entrusted into our care is from I Peter 2:9, *"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness and into his marvelous light."*

We begin by proclaiming all that God has done for us, hence the title "Because of God's Great Mercy." God has made us God's own people. We will also consider how generous giving is an important part of every Christian's life, and how our combined generosity can make even greater things possible through our congregation.

We will think together about how our giving is an important part of our Christian faith, and how we use our offerings to do God's work within the congregation's walls, in our community, and around the world.

"Because of God's Great Mercy" will use mail, e-mail, and time during our Sunday worship services to share information with you. Please make a special effort to watch for material during this important time in our congregation's life.

For those battling cancer:

- Kathy Nielsen
- Jennifer Bramm-Patten
- Kellie Kohl
- Ben Logan
- Arnie Schroeder
- Deb Szabo
- Catherine Phelps
- Vern Schroeder
- Karl Wolf
- Doug Adams
- Charlie Tucker
- Diane Grobe

For healing and support:

- Alan Geerts
- Natalie Buck
- Jeg Weets
- Larry Geerts
- Janice Mussmann
- Sandy Crouse
- Jamie O'Shea
- Tonya Leatherman
- Alexandria Shields
- Jentry Smith
- Jim Anderson
- Sunny Porter
- Mark Schuler
- Pr. Janet Wold
- Asher Burgess
- Suzanne Walaszek
- Everett Pannier
- Aiden Patterson
- Eric Phend
- David Bratlie
- ...all those serving in a US branch of service stateside or abroad.

Our heartfelt sympathies to *Vern Schroeder* and family upon the loss of his beloved wife, *Carol Schroeder*. Her funeral was held Friday, Oct. 23, 2026, at Bethesda. May they find peace and comfort in the promise of eternal life through the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

**Prayer concerns are not listed unless requested by individual or family member.*



A date for an annual fall clean up day has not yet been determined, but will take place sometime in November.

When the time is right, with adequate shedding of leaves from the trees, and weather permitting, a date will be set. Be sure to watch bulletin inserts for updates, & emails requesting volunteers to help!

I wanted to say thanks to everyone for their cards, calls and best wishes, and the big cupcake that was put in my yard for my 90th birthday this year. ☺ You made the day very special.

Thank you. —*Mona Milder*

It's time to order poinsettias. We are buying them from Blue Violet again this year. There is no color choice. Plants will be in a 6 1/2" pot, one stem with 3 blooms for $18. If you wish to order, please complete the form below and return it to *Marcia Haag by **Sunday, November 15** (*no later than Wed., Nov. 18.) You may leave your order in her church mailbox. ***Make checks payable to Marcia Haag.** You may bring your own plant, but please let us know if you intend to do so and be sure to have them at the church no later than 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 19. Thank you.

==========

_____ # of Poinsettias x $18 = _____

OR check here if you will bring your own. _____

Given by: _____

Given in honor / memory of: _____

_____

_____

WELCA will have their business meeting and a Bible study on ***Thursday, November 12*** at 1:00 p.m. in the church chapel, and will be preparing the Christmas Card packets, which will then be available for you to pick up starting Sunday, November 18. Write a note, sign and return to church by Sunday, December 6. Cards will be delivered by WELCA to our church friends who are shut-in. Hope to see many members participate to help make this a special Christmas season for our members.

- Please note that all women of Bethesda are invited to attend the meetings, and you need not attend every meeting to participate. Come whenever you are available. Notices are usually posted in the newsletter, and the meeting listed in the Sunday insert weekly calendar. Please considering attending and participating! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Nancy Usterbowski, Monica Anderson, or Andrea Dalton. *(*Note: Welca does not meet in the month of December.)*

Birthdays

2 Alex Riggen
5 Madeline Walaszek
6 Denise Bramm
7 Kyle Pannier
9 Kevin Janssen
11 Cassie Wiersema
13 Jennifer Green
14 Doug Adams
Carol Onken
15 Kyle Janssen
17 Linda Patterson
18 Owen Mussmann
20 Phillip Carlson
23 Annette Rose
Dawn Bush
24 Jo Ellyn Mackey
Violet Benson

Anniversaries

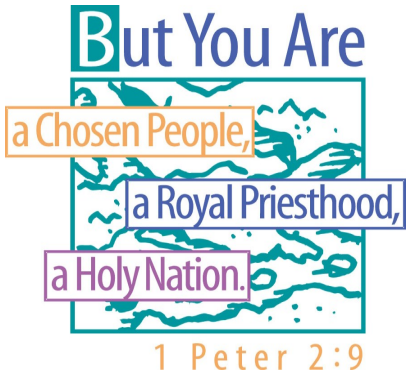
7 Barb & Bob Vegter
10 Greg & Kyla Hanson
14 Steve & Dee Janssen
15 Jeff & Angie Hanson
17 Andrew & Kendra Vittitow
20 Al & Donna Geerts (56)
23 Ron & Shirley Kelly (60)
30 Ray & Vicki Peterson (52)



We invite everyone to join us after the worship service on **Sunday, Nov. 22** for our **Stewardship Commitment Sunday Potluck**, which will be the culmination of our annual Stewardship campaign, and is intended to be a time of Christian fellowship and celebration.

The meal will begin at approximately 10:30AM. Those planning to attend are encouraged to bring anything suitable for a "brunch" in the form of a dish to pass. We encourage all members to gather together "Because of God's Great Mercy" in all that has been given to each of us in our lives by sharing in a meal together.

- Bring your dish to pass and tableware.
- Coffee and cold drinks provided.



November Volunteers

Ushers & Greeters
Steve & Marsha Geerts

Lectors & Comm. Asst.
1 ~*Volunteer Needed*~
8 Kate Rambo
15 ~*Volunteer Needed*~
22 ~*Volunteer Needed*~
29 Jan Horberg [Carol O.]

Refreshments
1 MaryEllen B. & Mona M.
8 Joyce Erdmann
15 Terry & Sue Costello
22 *STEWARDSHIP POTLUCK*
29 Dee Janssen & Nancy U.

Offering Counters
Al Janicek & Deb Stone continue these duties. Offerings can be mailed in or dropped off at the church. Thank you.

Altar Flowers
DATES OF NOV. 1, 8, 15 & 22 ARE OPEN AT THE TIME OF THIS MAILING.

29 MaryEllen Brackemyer

Altar Guild
Vicki Hood, Andrea Dalton

Giving Thanks for All Things

It's easy to list the blessings in life: good health, family, a satisfying career, a comfortable home. We might even be thankful for things others take for granted such as freedom and clean drinking water, reliable transportation and food enough to eat. Then there are the little things, such as gardens, sunrises, pets and coffee.

But what about life's storms or unanswered prayers? Should we be thankful for these? Loss and hardship remind us of our dependence on God. He uses trials to draw us closer to him, to show us that He is our rock and refuge. In misfortune and grief, we discover God's comfort and strength. Should we not, then, be thankful for the storms, too?



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH
WELCOMES ALL AND JOYFULLY SHARES GOD'S LOVE



Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour when you go to bed Saturday night on October 31!



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1  **9:00AM WORSHIP** ***Guest: Pr. Janet Wold*** **10:00AM Fellowship** **10:15AM Sunday School**	*2* **9:00AM Diet Club**	*3*  **8AM - Noon Quilters** **9:00AM—NOON** **Pr. Leo in Office** **7:00PM Sr. Choir Reh.**	*4* **8AM - Noon Quilters** **9:00AM—NOON** **Pr. Leo in Office** **7:00PM Sr. Choir Reh.**	*5*	*6*	*7*
8 **9:00AM WORSHIP** ***Guest: Pr. Leo Patterson*** **10:00AM Fellowship** **10:15AM Sunday School**	*9* **10:00AM W & M Comm.**	*10* **3:00PM WATANYE**	*11*  **8AM - Noon Quilters** **9:00AM—NOON** **Pr. Leo in Office**	*12* **1:00PM WELCA** Bus. Mtg. & Bible Study *(in Chapel)*	*13*	*14*
15 **9:00AM WORSHIP** ***Guest: Pr. Paul Holmer*** **10:00AM Fellowship** **10:30AM Stewardship**	*16* **9:00AM Diet Club**	*17*	*18* **8AM - Noon Quilters** **9:00AM—NOON** **Pr. Leo in Office** **7:00PM Sr. Choir Reh.**	*19* **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**	*20*	*21*
22 **9:00AM WORSHIP** ***Guest: Pr. Leo Patterson*** **10:00AM Fellowship** **10:15AM Sunday School** **10:30AM Commitment Sunday *"Because of God's Great Mercy" Potluck* (*SEE PG. 9!)**	*23*	*24*	*25* **8AM - Noon Quilters** **9:00AM—NOON** **Pr. Leo in Office** **6:30PM Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service & Pie Fellowship**	*26*  *(Office Closed)*	*27* **NEWSLETTER ASSEMBLY & MAILING DAY**	*28*
29 ~Advent One~ **9:00AM WORSHIP** ***Guest: Pr. Quentin Fleming*** **10:00AM Fellowship** **CHURCH DECORATING (SEE PG. 10!)**	*30*			 NOVEMBER 2026		