



# Bethel

by God, each other, family, friends and community

October 31, 2023

Bethel Lutheran Church, White Rock, SC

*We give thanks for the saints who have gone before us, for the saints still among us, and for the saints of God still to come.*

We begin November with All Saints Day on November 1, and we celebrate the saints in worship on Sunday, November 5. Each year as I prepare for this service, in which we remember the saints who have died during the past year, I recall those who I have been shaped by over the years. I remember the saints who taught me faith. My parents brought me to church and taught me the scriptures. Youth leaders at Faith Lutheran in West Columbia and around the SC Synod invited me to grow deeper in faith. Tommy, Debbie, Stephanie, Marty, Lee. Eric, Susan, Andrea, Kyle, Janine. Joe, Dan, Brian.



These are just a few saints both living and, in the church triumphant, who taught me about faith. This month I am giving thanks for these people whose relationships have supported me throughout life. A recent Sunday school discussion led me to consider how we are in relationship within our congregation. Are we talking ABOUT people or

TO people? We talk about youth programs (or lack of) but rarely talk straight to the youth and their families. What might it look like if you took a special interest in checking in with our younger members and their parents? Learn something about them and what they have going on. We tend to stay in our close “circles”, sitting with the same people and checking on the same people. What would it look like to write a note or talk to someone not on your “regular” list? We are, after all, a community of saints. Together we are in growing in faith. As we spend time in this month of thanksgiving, and as we remember the saints who shaped us, consider how we can expand our circles and support one other...from our youngest to oldest. Maybe that “check in” will shape one of our saints. I have no doubt, we are stronger when we are connected. And I am thankful for each of you saints of Bethel.

Peace,

Pastor Megan Lineberger



**Bethel is participating in the We Care Christmas Project** again this year. Last year we gave over \$1500 for Walmart gift cards! It would be wonderful if we could meet, or even exceed, last year's total!! A gift card may be the only thing a less fortunate family receives this Christmas. So please help to put a smile on a child's face on Christmas morning. Make checks out to Bethel and clearly mark for the We Care Christmas Gift Cards. Thanks and Merry Christmas.



**Confirmation** will be held on Sunday, November 5 and November 19, at 4:30 pm.



**Council** will meet on Sunday, November 5, following worship.



**On Sunday, November 12**, we will celebrate the baptism of Willow Monts during our Worship Service.



We will have our **Called Congregation Meeting on Sunday, November 19** after worship. The purposes of this meeting are: 1) to discuss and approve the 2024 Ministry Spending Plan and 2) elect new council members. Please plan to attend this important meeting.



**A PANCAKE BRUNCH**, hosted by the Girl Scout Troops who meet at Bethel, will be held after our meeting on **Sunday, November 19**. Please join us for this time of good food and fellowship as we get a chance to meet the Girl Scouts.



**CAMPFIRE WORSHIP** will be held on Sunday, November 19. We will have evening worship and a hot dog roast at 6:00 pm under our picnic shelter.



**REFORMATION AND LUTHER THEMED BIBLE STUDY & FELLOWSHIP SERIES:**

Join us **Wednesdays, November 1, 8**. Each evening will include dinner and study. We will gather from 6-7:30 pm. Come to one or all! If you would like to donate food or bring something to share, please let Pastor Megan know.



**The church office** will be closed Wednesday, November 22, and Thursday, November 23, for Thanksgiving holidays.



**WILD WOMEN AT LUTHERIDGE** - If you are interested in a weekend away on the mountain alongside other women for faith formation and renewal, contact Pastor Megan. There are two weekends in March. Pastor Megan is on the planning team and is a leader for one of the two weekends. We hope to gather a group to go share this meaningful time together.



**Our last We Care donation** totaled 84 pounds.



**Prayer List:** Patsy McCartha, Julie Allen, Harvey Stone, Grady Slice, Phil Wunder, Pebble Briggs, Vannie Toy, Sue Elliott, Claude Leviner, Irene Leviner, Ronnie Taylor, Bertha McCartha, Paul and Bonnie Bates, Bella Raniszewski, Sheri Southworth, Richard Torres, Sheri Johnson (friend of Ron and Patrick), Betty Rhodes (Donna Torres' sister), Nicole Ganz (friend of Patrick George), Daniel George (Patrick's brother), Wayne Prescott (friend of Bob and Sue Elliott), Monica McCartha, Ruby Merritt and Richard Chouinard.

**Currently deployed:** Drake Upchurch (Aleena Stone's husband), Brittney Bingham (Becky Smoak's granddaughter).



**November 1: Diane McCartha**  
**November 4: Chad Wadford**  
**November 13: Troy Cheesman**  
**November 22: Onedia Crowder**  
**November 27: Ginny Aull**

**November 3: Irene Leviner**  
**November 10: Bertha McCartha**  
**November 20: Troy Wadford**  
**November 25: Julia Parker**  
**November 27: Barry Stone**

**November 29: Ann Cameron**



**November 9: Marilyn and Jimmy Bull IV**  
**November 10: Shannon and Kevin Kochems**  
**November 29: Roxanne and Wesley Shealy, Jr.**

### **December Save the Dates**

**Sunday, December 5 – 8:00 am – Lutheran Men Meeting**  
**11:00 am – Prayer Group**

**Sunday, December 10 – Council meeting**  
**Confirmation**

**Sunday, December 17 – 3:00 pm – Blue Christmas Worship Service**

**Sunday, December 24 – 4:00 pm – Christmas Eve Worship**

**Monday, December 25 – Monday, January 1 – Church office closed for Christmas**

