

Fall/Winter 2026

BEACON - LITE

Bethany Lutheran Church

What is happening in the life of the church?



Rally Day



Musical Offerings



Game Nite



Coffee at Sunflower Terrace

Fun for everyone!

BETHANY COLLEGE



Children's Choir

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Check out the website for more pictures.
www.blclindsborg.org

What We Do with Grief

I have two fish in my office. Well, I should say I *had* two fish.

Six and a half years ago, when our family first moved to Lindsborg, we bought two little fish for Anders. One was pink, one was blue. They were named Pinky and Bluey—though, confusingly, their names didn't match their colors. Bluey was the pink one. Pinky was the blue one.

Over the years, those fish survived everything a couple of office fish can survive: They have been fed an entire container of food at once, there was a snail infestation, a tank dirtier than it should have been, and stretches when someone (me) forgot to feed them. They just kept swimming.
Until a couple of weeks ago.

I noticed Bluey swimming strangely. Then one day I found Bluey lying on the gravel at the bottom of the tank, still. I knew what I had to do. Removing Bluey from the tank was harder than I expected.

What surprised me even more was what happened afterward. Pinky was alone for the first time, and Pinky kept hovering over the place where Bluey had died. Even now, weeks later, I'll look over and see Pinky circling that same spot. There's no scientific explanation. Experts say fish don't have the emotional complexity we do. Maybe that's true. But sometimes I wonder if Pinky is reminding us that we don't know everything about grief.

We do know grief changes us.

In John's Gospel, Jesus arrives after Lazarus has died. Martha and Mary are grieving, along with their friends. Jesus knows Lazarus will not remain in the tomb. And yet, when Jesus sees their grief, Jesus weeps. He doesn't tell Mary to get over it, or that resurrection makes tears unnecessary. He enters her grief.

Jesus weeps.

That is where our hope begins—not in explaining grief away, but in a God who enters it. As Lutherans, we believe our hope doesn't depend on understanding death or having enough faith to overcome grief. Our hope rests in what God has done for us in Jesus Christ. In baptism, we are joined to Christ's death and resurrection. That promise doesn't mean we won't grieve. It means we grieve as people already claimed by Christ.

Our tears do not mean our faith has failed.
Our questions do not mean we have lost our faith.
Our grief does not mean we have forgotten the resurrection.

We grieve deeply because we have loved deeply. And we grieve with hope because Christ has entered death himself—betrayed, crucified, buried. But the grave could not hold him.

So, if you are grieving today: there is room for tears, for memories, for silence, and for hope.

I don't know what Pinky understands about Bluey's death, or whether a fish can mourn. But watching Pinky hover near that same spot reminds me that loss changes the world we inhabit. We wake up and everything looks the same, but something—someone—is missing.

And yet, in the middle of that changed world, Christ remains. Death will not have the final word.

Until that day, we grieve, we remember, and we trust—not in the strength of our own faith, but in the faithfulness of God.

Peace, Pastor Chris

FALL 2026

Global Missions

MEETINGS

First Monday of Each Month, at 4:00 p.m. in the home of Verneda Bowman.

WORLD HUNGER

ELCA Good Gifts Ornament Tree; starts in November.
Happily collecting food items for Dala Pantry.

NOISY OFFERINGS

Donate your noisy coins in October for Salina Rescue Mission & in December for Rev. Buerkle

MISSIONS ON TARGET

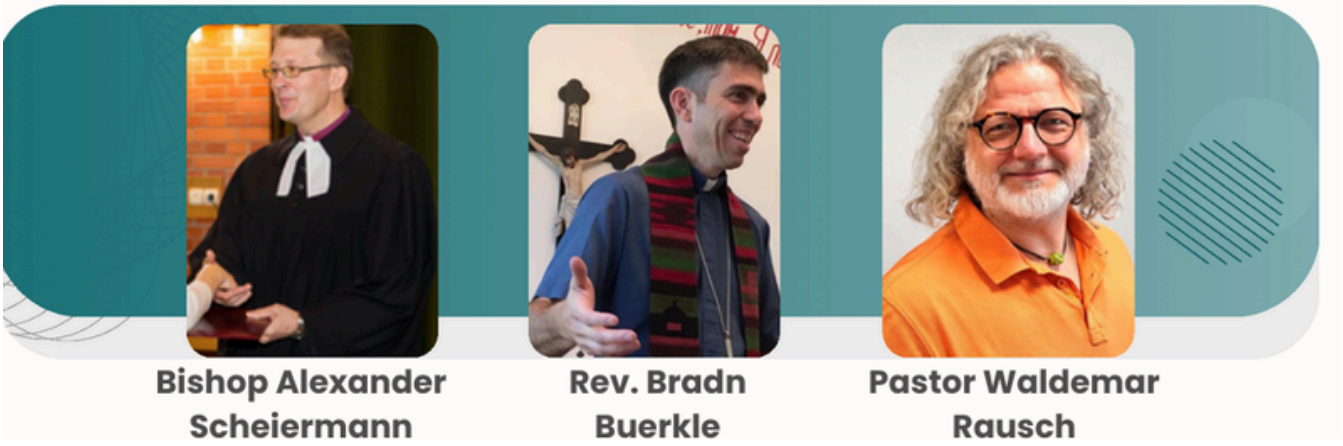
Our Missionary Support for Rev. Bradn Buerkle continues to grow. We have pledged $1500 for the year and currently have received $1082. Consider designating an offering for Mission Support.

September was a joyous surprise for Bethany Church; when Bradn & members of our companion synod in Germany came for a visit.

Our October mission support goes to The Salina Rescue Mission. They provide shelter, warm meals, medical & personal help to any man seeking a life off the streets.

Check out our Global Missions table at the November Ministry Fair, to learn more!

COMPANION SYNOD VISITATION



Bishop Alexander Scheiermann | Rev. Bradn Buerkle | Pastor Waldemar Rausch

W/ELCA

Luncheon: November 5, 2026
12 p.m. (noon)
Thank Offering Service with Pastor Warren Hett
RSVP for Luncheon with the church office. - $12 per person.

Piece Artists meet the 2nd Thursday each month at 9 am
Any skill set is welcome.

Sing in the Choir!

Chancel Choir Director:
Britney English
britney.a.english@gmail.com

Men's Choir Director:
Leah Ann Anderson
leah209@gmail.com



Our church directory is a great resource tool that allows you to get to know our church family better!

Simply go to the App Store, search for *Instant Church Directory* and download the FREE app to begin.

Enter your email listed in the directory, and click "Send Secure Sign-In Link." Check your email, and click the "Log in to Instant Church Directory" button.

If you're not listed in the directory, OR if you have trouble logging into the app, please contact the church office.

Member sign in

Sunday School News

Christian Education Director

Hi there! I am Jenni Snider and I am the new Christian Education Director.

I am a Bethany College alum and currently work full time as the College Registrar!

My husband and I met at Bethany College when we were in school and moved back to Lindsborg in 2019.

I am so excited to be a part of the life of the church and serve in this role!





Sunday School at Bethany

Children's Music at 9 a.m.

SS Classes at 9:30 a.m.

Treats and Fellowship

Worship at 10:30 a.m.

Bring a freind to Sunday School.

All are welcome!

Prepare the way for Advent!



December 2, 9, 16, 2026
5:15 p.m. Advent Meal
6:00 p.m. Worship

Pastor Cathy Fritzgerald & Pastor Chris Deines

Joint worship services with Bethany Lutheran Church & Trinity United Methodist Church.

Christmas Services

December 24 at 7:00 p.m. - Christmas Eve

December 25 at 6:00 a.m. - Julotta

December 26 at 10:00 a.m. - Annandag Jul

December 27 at 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. - Lessons & Carols







Sunday, October 25, 4-6 p.m.

BETHANY Lutheran Church

Food & Drinks
Trunk or Treat
Games & Activities
Sweets Stroll (cake walk)
Fun & Fellowship
Free to everyone.



GIVE AN OFFERING TO BETHANY CHURCH.

SCAN HERE!

Scan this QR Code with your Phone to give using Tithe.ly!

Mail to:
320 N. Main St.
Lindsborg, KS 67456

785-227-2167

E-mail!

office@blclindsborg.org

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Lindsborg, KS 67456

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's Work Our Hands.

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This publication will be available on a quarterly basis.

Pictures provided by Jim Turner & members of Bethany Church.