



The STAR of Bethlehem



Bethlehem Lutheran Church
An LCMS Congregation

902 Hitchcock Drive SW, Aiken SC 29803

Pastor John Engwall, 803-649-6417, blcaikensc@gmail.com

<https://sites.google.com/view/blcaikensc/home>

https://www.facebook.com/BLCAikenSC/?ref=nf_target

REDACTED WEBSITE EDITION

October 2025

PASTOR'S MESSAGE:

Reflections on the Readings

(St. Matthew)

“Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?”

Matthew 9:11

Matthew knew the mercy of Jesus, not by seeing how Jesus interacted with others, but through his own place at the table. To “see” the mercy of Jesus at work in others may be powerful, but not in comparison to receiving this undeserved mercy oneself. I am not St. Matthew, but like the whole Church, I still have the call to speak the truth in love (Eph 4:15). Out of the mercies that I have received am I best able to share the same with others – as Matthew also did – for which we praise our God.

From LCMS Southeastern District SED Connect article



**Women's Bible Study
resumes October 28th.**

See page 10 for
information about
subscribing to Lutheran
Witness, upcoming church
work day, Oktoberfest,
and more.

[FROM THE EDITOR:]

All items for the newsletter are to be submitted to Debbie C., editor, no later than the 23rd of the month and, upon approval, may be edited for space or clarity.

Early submissions are appreciated.

The STAR of Bethlehem newsletter is published monthly. The website and large print versions have been modified. The LCMS triple-cross logo is used with permission. All rights reserved.

Lutheran Resources

LCMS- Free to be Faithful
www.lcms.org/socialissues/freetobefaitiful

Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty
www.LCRLFreedom.org

Lutheran Hour Ministries
<https://www.lhm.org/>

The Lutheran Witness
<https://witness.lcms.org/>

Southeastern District, LCMS
<https://se.lcms.org/>

Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
www.lcms.org/

Concordia Publishing House
www.cph.org/

International Lutheran Council
www.ILCouncil.org

The **2025 BLC Photo Directory** is nearing completion. If life goes according to plan, I'll have it ready very soon. They will be placed in your file folder in the east narthex information center. I know many of us are not comfortable in front of the camera. Thanks for being such good sports. The Directory has been designed to allow you to 3-hole punch and place it in a binder or slide on a report cover. And, as always, to better ensure members' privacy, it is not to be published or distributed electronically.



CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Debbie C., Recording Secretary

We had a council meeting on Sept. 7.

- Finances are looking good.
- Pastor is taking a free, online, 3-month Biblical Hebrew class!
 - We currently have 91 members.
 - He'll be out-of-town much of October for circuit visitor duties as well as his final 2-weeks of annual vacation. If you are unable to reach him, please contact an elder for pastoral needs.
- Our 2026 nominating committee, Dana A. and Juanita R., is actively seeking volunteers. They will particularly be seeking volunteers to serve 2-year terms as education chairman and evangelism & missions chairman. Also, we need volunteers to serve for one year to complete the terms for vice president and fellowship chairman. Speak up if you are willing to serve God in one of these roles. Thanks!
- We'll soon be appointing the 2026 budget committee. Talk to Joel or Dana A. if you're interested.
- Please see announcements page information about church work day, stewardship, and fellowship,

Our next meeting will be at 6 p.m. on October 7.



MUSICAL NOTES

Rebecca W.

On Wednesday evenings, we have been learning about the role music plays in the Divine Liturgies we celebrate each week at church, and will continue these discussions throughout the month of October. Please join us for an amazingly informative discussion.



Special thanks to my beautiful wife of 37 years, Marie, and our dear friend in Christ, Sandy, for their help in making the **Woodside Country Club Tunnel to Towers Tennis & Pickleball Day** such a success. With their support — and the generosity of our community — we were able to raise **\$2,855** for this worthy cause honoring our heroes.



Steve and Marie at event

"You Are a Gift"

September 17, 2025

Ephesians 4:7-16 – But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore, it says, "When He ascended on high, He led a host of captives, and He gave gifts to men." (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that He had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? He who descended is the One who also ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) And He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into Him who is the Head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

I don't know if you've ever thought of yourself this way, but according to the Holy Spirit, you are a gift! You are one of the many gifts that Jesus gave to His church as described in this Bible reading. Every one of us has a function in the body of Christ, even if we don't realize what it is yet—apostles and prophets and evangelists, yes, but also pastors and teachers, givers and caregivers, those who know how to keep administration running smoothly, those who encourage, those who pray, those who notice when someone else is not in church and check on them to be sure they're okay—even those who know where the mop is, and who make sure to restock the toilet paper!

And Jesus gave you to the church out of love. He gave His life for you, to set you free from death and evil, and to make you a child of God, living forever with the life of your resurrected Savior. And now that you belong to Jesus, He intends to use you to help the whole body of Christ grow up and mature. He put you here for a purpose: to help all of us as we listen to Jesus, our Head, and grow up in Him, more and more united in faith and love.

This may sound like fancy words to describe the very humble things that you actually do in your life—but these are the words of the Holy Spirit speaking through Paul, so we know they are true. Don't downgrade your role in the life of the church. You matter, because Jesus has given us you. You are needed.

WE PRAY: Dear Lord, show me how I can serve You, and thank You for giving me this privilege! Amen.

This Daily Devotion was written by Dr. Kari Vo.
[Received 9.17.25 via email from LHM]



Indeed, yes!! You are needed.
Please consider volunteering for council, helping
on a committee, and/or joining in on special
projects and works days.

POTLUCK, AUGUST 31

BLC CELEBRATES!

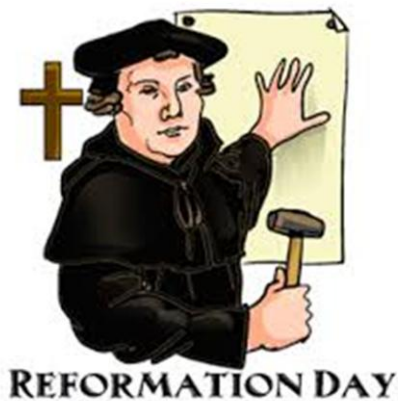
[Oops! I was so busy getting photos for the new directory that I forgot to take event pictures.]

As always, thanks to the Fellowship Committee and all who prepared food!

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Juanita R
Steve W
Bob A
Angela S
Joanne M
Benton B
Mike O
Roger B
Noah D
Betty B

ICE CREAM SOCIAL September 14



OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

Theron & Kelli R
Bob & Eileen A
Matthew and Dana W

Let us know your special events
to include: baptism, retirement,
promotion, graduation...

Please notify the office of
corrections and additions.



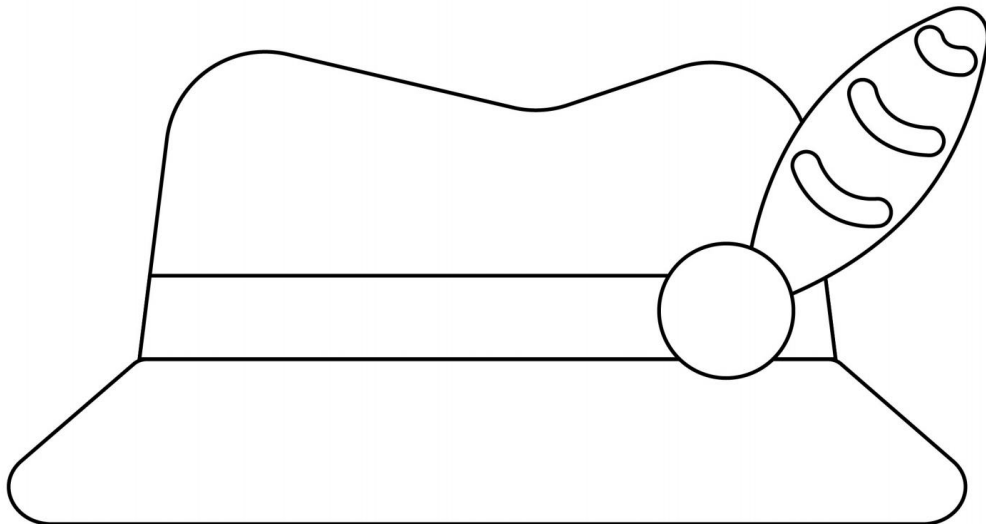


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LUTHER'S 95 THESIS



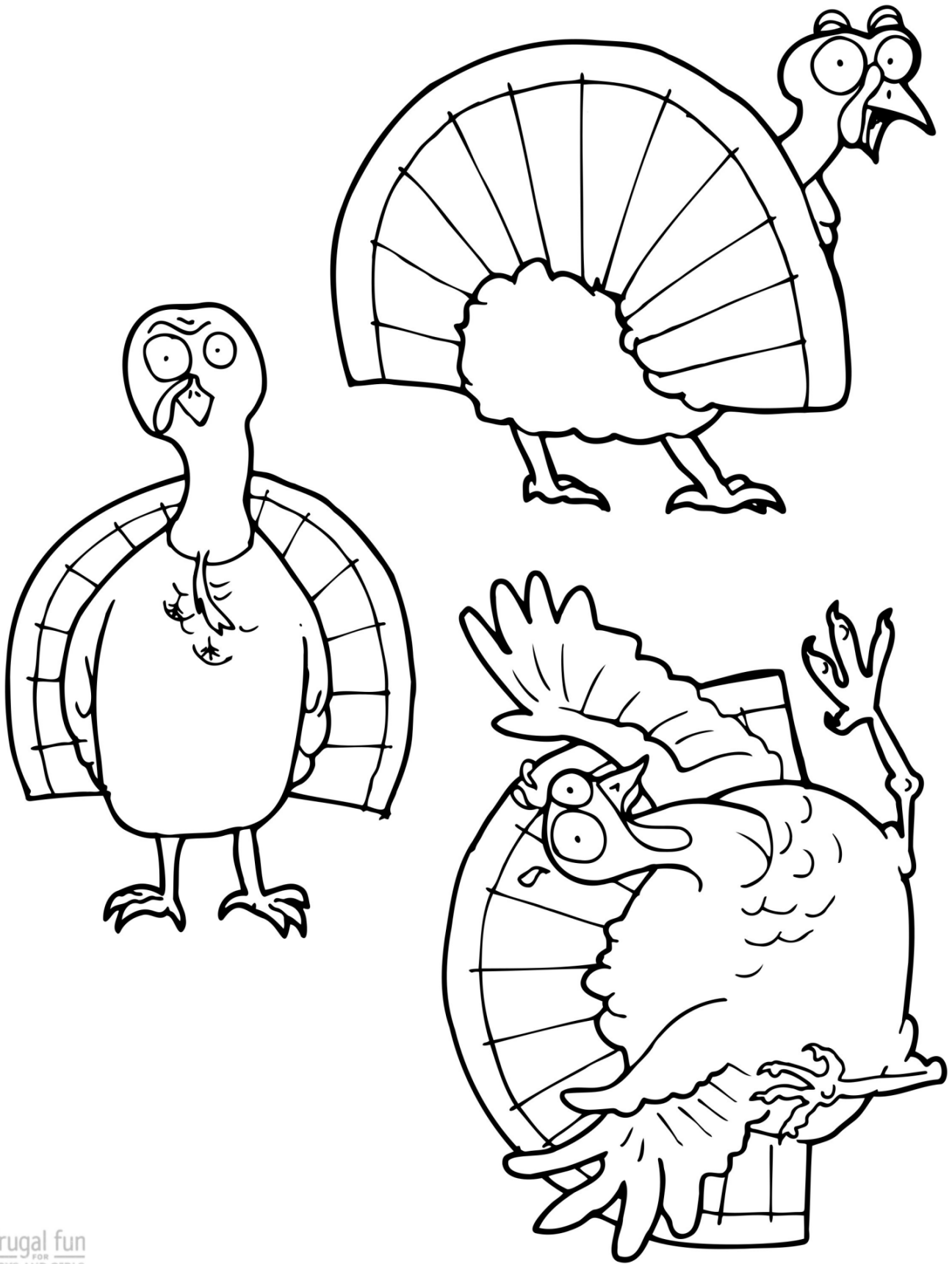
print the world
SUPER
COLORING



print the world
SUPER
COLORING

[The next page has flying turkey targets for nerf-style guns. See link for ideas.]

<https://frugalfun4boys.com/flying-turkey-nerf-targets/>



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMINDERS

ACTS Collection – canned meats/fish

CHURCH WORK DAY – Oct. 11

Work starts at 8 a.m. Please help!
Tree trimming, aeration, rye seeding, etc.
Check with Jonathan for more details.

STEWARDSHIP

Attention Lutheran Witness subscribers: If you wish to renew your subscription, please provide a check to the church office, or place in the collection plate, by Sunday Oct. 19, for \$22.00, made out to Bethlehem Lutheran Church. If you wish to become a new subscriber, please do the same as above and notify Mark Z.

Witnesses for counting the offering:

The Stewardship Board is looking for 2-3 more volunteers to witness the process of counting the offering after Sunday services. If interested, please contact Mark Z.

Serving on the Stewardship Board

The Stewardship Chairman is looking for volunteers to serve on the Stewardship Board. If interested, please contact Mark Z.

FELLOWSHIP

Oct 26, Reformation Sunday / Oktoberfest celebration after the Divine Service.

Watch for further announcements and food sign-up sheet.

The Mike and Marie's bounce house is returning for Oktoberfest. Bring the kids!



BLC CLASSIFIEDS

To place a classified ad in the *Star*, please submit the information to me by the usual monthly deadline- noon on the 23rd day of the month.

Please use your BLC Directory for contact information.

~DC

SERVICES OFFERED:

Dana Aubel (in his "semi-retirement") now is providing residential painting services, available to members and non-members alike. He offers great work at an affordable price, with MANY references available. Services include trim, ceilings, and cabinets.

FOR sale, wanted, etc. Your entry here...

October 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	1	2 Pastor Shut-in Visits	3	4 Pastor's Day Off
5 9am Bible Study 10:30 Service ACTS Collection TLC Meals	6	7	8 7pm Bible Study	9	10	11 Pastor's Day Off
12 9am Bible Study 10:30 Service	13	14	15 7pm Bible Study	16	17	18 Pastor's Day Off
19 9am Bible Study 10:30 Service TLC Meals	20	21	22 7pm Bible Study	23	24	25
26 9am Bible Study 10:30 Service Oktoberfest/Ref Obs	27	28 10am Women's Bible Study	29 7pm Bible Study	30 Pastor Shut-in Visits	31 Reformation Day	1
2	3	NOTES * Pastor away Oct 6-9 for Church Workers' Conference and vacation the last two weeks				