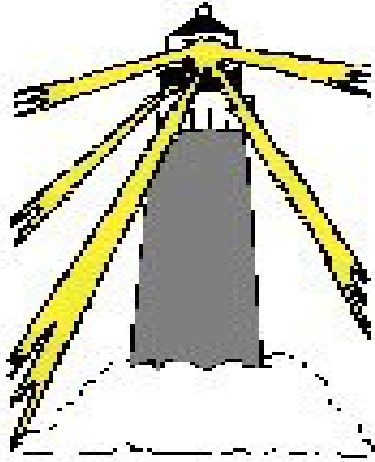




Bethany Beacon

November 2025

Dear Bethany Members and Friends,

'Tis the season!! So, we embark again on the many holiday events that mark November and December. We might already have that fatigue that comes from being too busy trying to prepare for those family events seem to take months of prep work and then...are over. Even as we sing joy to the world on Christmas Eve, we might be thinking that real joy would be a warm bed and a good sleep.

Think about it...October 31 is All Hallows Eve (better known as Halloween) when, according to an ancient Celtic festival, the boundary between the living and the dead is not distinct and that the spirits of the dead are active. It has become a fun evening in our culture, but for most of its life as Halloween, it has been a fearful event. Thus, November 1 was designated All Saints' (or Souls) Day to honor all who have died in Christ and who rest the blessed rest in the arms of Jesus. Our cycle of events has begun.

And soon comes Thanksgiving. Although it is not a designated Church holiday (holy day), it is always a reminder of how we are to give thanks to God in all circumstances. It began, probably, as a harvest festival and was celebrated by immigrants (the pilgrims) and the natives. In 1863, Abraham Lincoln formally designated the 4th Thursday in November as a day of Thanksgiving. Lincoln hoped that such a day might help the nation unify.

Advent is just around the corner from Thanksgiving beginning Sunday, November 30. Advent is always about preparation--of preparing the way for the Messiah who has come and will come again. Many of us tend to think of Advent as prep time for the birth of Jesus, which we celebrate on December 24 and 25. But it is so much more--it is a time for reflection on Jesus' return someday and what Jesus will find.

Will Jesus find faith on this earth? Will Jesus find those virtues that we celebrate during Advent--hope, joy, peace and love? How do we wait for the Lord? What are we called to do? Big questions for Advent.

Christmas with all its glitz is ushered in at the end of Advent. We celebrate the birth of the Christ, the chosen One of God, who is God, who brings the kingdom of God into the world in the flesh. Even as we celebrate this holy day, we do so with a tinge of melancholy, knowing that Jesus will die...and will die for us. There's good news in there, however, for we also know that Jesus will live...and live for us, so that we might have life also. Perhaps that's the best preparation for the new year that comes quickly.

In all the bustle of the next two months, let's work at keeping our hearts and minds in Christ so that our holidays truly become holy days. Blessings on your journey!!

Pastor Vicki Taylor



CHILI SUPPER

Friday November 7th, 4:00pm – 6:00pm. Deer River United Methodist Church. Free will offering.

LIGHTS IN THE PINES

November 28, 2025 - December 23, 2025, 5:00pm-9:00pm. Cost: \$10. Itasca County Fairgrounds 12 Nights of Northern Minnesota's Biggest Drive-Thru Light Spectacular. After you have seen all the lights, join us at NORTH POLE JUNCTION. You can find Santa and Mrs. Claus waiting for you too! Don't miss out on this great winter wonder adventure! Look for us on Facebook!

CHRISTMAS AT THE EDGE

Christmas community celebration performance on December 14, 2025 at 2:00pm at the Edge Center for the Arts.



Please send your Bethany news to:

Jenna Lyytinen

maki.lyyt@gmail.com

218-410-1957

Sunday Service Schedule

Date	Greeters/ Ushers	Reader	Fellowship	Communion
11/2/25	Andy & Paula Shaw	Andy Shaw	Liz Sprague Diane Nelson	Diane Cook
11/9/25	Myron Hahn & Ron Drake	Diane Loudon	Abby Kuschel Janet & Marty Christensen	
11/16/25	Larry & Shirley Nixon	Chris Vinson	Sheila & Tim Maki Jenna & Kyle Lyytinen	Diane Loudon
11/23/25	John & Barb Tornes	Barb Tornes	Paula & Andy Shaw Amy & Jeff Carter	
11/30/25	Chad & Margie Schumacher	Rich Anderson	Margie & Chad Schumacher Mary & Jeff Grife	
12/7/25	Chuck & Liz Elton	Larry Nixon	Jeannine Jensen Barb & John Tornes	Barb Tornes



Volunteers appreciated! If you would like to take a turn serving coffee for fellowship, greeting, ushering, reading or assisting with communion, please let Diane Nelson know so you can be added to the list

November Birthday Wishes!

1 Marty Christensen
2 Mary Grife
 Kyle Lyytinen
6 Tori Anttila
7 Jody Anderson
10 Charlotte Bieganski
11 Shannon Anttila
12 Chuck Elton
13 Terri Smith

17 Shirley Olesen
18 Ben Storlie
19 Rhett Mundt
21 Stacy Olson
22 Ron Drake
24 Roy Maki
28 Carol Bean

Anniversary Wishes

5 Bob & Nancy Olson

Newsletter of Bethany Lutheran Church
Box 218 - 33297 State Hwy 6
Deer River, MN 56636
Office (218) 246-8398
Email: bethany@paulbunyan.net

Bethany Lutheran Church
Box 218
Deer River, MN 56636-0218