

Benton & Willow Creek Lutheran Churches
46784 257th Street, PO Box 706
Crooks, SD 57020
B & W Office- (605)-543-5384
bentonwillowoffice@gmail.com
Address Service Requested

October Newsletter 2026



Benton & Willow Creek Lutheran Churches

Newsletter—October 2026

Note from Vicar Kendra Kappler

Beginning this fall, we will be starting a new children's message series called WOW: Wonders of Worship. Throughout this series, we will spend time noticing and exploring the different parts of our worship service, as well as the seasons of the church year. Each Sunday, we will focus on a different piece of what we do together in worship: the words we say, the movements we make, the symbols we see, the songs we sing, and the many ways we encounter God when we gather.

But WOW is about more than simply teaching children what the different parts of worship are. Children are worshippers now. They do not have to wait until they are older, quieter, or understand everything before they can fully participate in the life of the church. They already bring their attention, questions, bodies, voices, and imaginations to worship. In fact, children often notice things that adults have stopped noticing. They may wonder why we use a particular color, why we stand at one point and sit at another, why we say certain words every week, or why we do something the way we do. Their questions can remind all of us that the things we do every Sunday are not simply routines. They are ways we tell the story of God's love, remember God's promises, and encounter God together.

And: worship is learned by worshipping. We can explain the liturgy, the church year, and our worship practices to people, but they become meaningful through repeated participation. Children learn that the font is where we remember God's promise in baptism because they see it and experience it again and again. They learn that communion is something we share because they come to the table. They learn the words of our prayers and songs because they hear the congregation saying and singing them around them.

And I think most importantly, they learn that they belong here. That is why WOW is not simply content for children; rather, it is a child-attentive, arts-enriched practice of congregational attention and formation. We want to lean into curiosity together. We will notice what is already happening in worship, name the symbols, movements, seasons, words, and practices we share, make room for questions and imagination, and help children discover that "this worship belongs to me, too." We hope that what begins during the children's message will continue beyond Sunday morning, finding its way into conversations at home and throughout our life together as a congregation.

I think there is something so amazing about approaching worship this way. We do not come to worship because we have already figured everything out. We come because God has called us together. We come with questions, distractions, joys, worries, wonder, and sometimes very little understanding at all. And God meets us there. God does not say, "Come back when you understand more." God simply says, "come." Come to the water. Come to the table. Come hear the story. Come sing. Come pray. Come wonder. Come worship. Children do not need to become something else before they belong in God's church. They already belong. In baptism, God has already claimed them as God's own, just as God has claimed each of us. And so when we make room for their questions and curiosity and excitement, we are not simply teaching children about worship. We are reminding ourselves of the good news at the heart of worship: God's grace is already here, and there is a place for all of us in it. So as we begin WOW: Wonders of Worship, I invite all of us to join in. Pay attention to what the children notice. Listen to their questions. Let their curiosity make familiar things new again. And... maybe we'll allow ourselves to wonder, too.

God's Blessings to You! ☺

Vicar Kendra Kappler
605-951-8841
kappler2002@gmail.com

“PARISH NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS”



**Willow Creek Worship, 9am, followed by
Sunday School, Treats and Coffee**

**Benton Sunday School, 9:30am,
Treats/Coffee served during Sunday School
Worship 10:45am**

**Communion is offered every Sunday at both
churches.**



© 2015

“Dates to Remember”

Sunday, Oct. 4th - 3rd Graders receive their Bibles during worship

Sunday, Oct. 11th – No Sunday School, both churches

Tues. Oct. 13th – Benton Council, 6:30pm

Saturday, Oct. 17th – Benton Fall Family Fun Festival, 3pm-8pm

Wed. Oct. 21st, Evening of Honor, 9th Grade Confirmands, 6:30pm at Benton

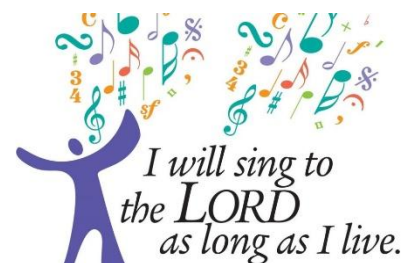
NO 7th & 8th grade confirmation

Sunday, Oct. 18th. Special Music at Benton – family of Edna Haase

Sunday, Oct. 25th, Confirmation Sunday for the 9th Graders

Wed. Oct. 28th, Youth Group- 6th-12th graders at Benton, 7:30pm

**Mark your calendars for Nov. 8th
Joint Worship at Benton, 10am, Worship,
Joint Sunday School, 9am.
We will be having special music during
worship “The Hallelujah Hooligans”.**





OFFERINGS - WAYS TO GIVE:

If you are unable to attend services but would like to give, we have made some convenient ways to continue your offerings. We appreciate your faithfulness, Thank you.

MAIL : Benton PO Box 706 Crooks,

Willow Creek 24795 470th Ave Dell Rapids, SD 57022

ELECTRONIC GIVING Check the websites giving image.

www.wclcdellrapids.org & www.bentonelca.org

BENTON'S 'TEXT TO GIVE'

1: Text "give" to the number **1-605-205-7789**. The automated response will direct you to the webpage. Once the system has your number stored, this will be a simple way to give right during the offering time!

2: The donations webpage through your browser is

<https://bentonchurch.breezechms.com/give/online>

Benton, Vanco - Here is the site link for your online giving tiles.

<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZEX9>

Vanco users- you may have to create a new account. If you don't want to do that, you may email Dennis Aker with your changes, daker@alliancecom.net



Baltic Food Bank Needs List:

Hearty soups, crackers, sugar (white, brown, powdered), oil, juice, tea or coffee, cereal, breakfast bars, canned fruit, ramen, chicken/tuna helper, condiments (mayo or miracle whip, ketchup, barbeque sauce), salad dressings, pancake mix and syrup, pasta or rice sides, spaghetti sauce, pasta, Jell-O and pudding, cake/brownie/muffin mixes, dish soap, laundry soap, personal hygiene products (tissues, bar soap or body wash, toothpaste, toothbrushes, dental picks or floss).

The Baltic Food Bank, 550 3rd Street, is open to all residents of Baltic and Crooks. It is open the second Wednesday of every month from 6:00-7:00 p.m., as well as the fourth Sunday of every month from 10:30-11:30 a.m., as well as by emergency appointment by calling 605-529-5032.

Food donations can be dropped off at: Baltic School Commons, Baltic City Hall, Baltic Lutheran Church, East Nidaros Lutheran Church, or West Nidaros Lutheran Church.

Monetary donations can be sent to: PO Box 244, Baltic, SD 57003.

Thank you for supporting families in your community!

REMINDER!!! ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEWS: All Willow Creek & Benton Announcements for the weekly bulletin should be **emailed by Tuesday at Noon** each week
Newsletter Announcements by the **15th of each month**. Thank you! (bentonwillowoffice@gmail.com)

“WILLOW CREEK NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS”

Willow Creek Church Council Members – 2026

President – Katie Hoekman

Vice President- David Olson

Secretary-Mary Mesner

Treasurer-Kevin Hoekman

Trustee-Jarod Deters, Sandy Zwart

Deacons-Kevin Jackson, Steve Bazata

Education Committee-Kim Bazata, Lyndsey Koepp

Worship & Music Committee- Paul Mesner, Courtney Hansen

Mission Committee- Steve Schmidt, Phyllis Koepp, Pat Nytroe

Cemetery Committee- Craig Dybedahl, Keith Warne, Matt Dybedahl Paul Sunderman

Auditing Committee- Kris Smart, Linda Linge, Ann Sunderman

Willow Creek - WORSHIP TEAMS

Duties are listed at the church - this includes helping throughout the service, coffee, cleaning up.

Team 1 - Tim & Lisa Rave, Pat Nytroe, Rick & Sandy Zwart, Phyllis Koepp, Chad & Alyssa Warne, Steve & Sherri Tokeim

Team 2 - Kevin & Katie Hoekman, Jarad & Brenda Deters, Shane & Beth Warne, Zach & Jayni Schroeder, Courtney Hanson & Kevin Jackson

Team 3 - Craig & Bonnie Dybedahl, Justin & Lindsey Koepp, Jay & Tina Soderquist, Jordan Schemmel, Melissa Dellman, Linda Linge

Team 4 - Jason & Erin Mitzel, Paul & Mary Mesner, Andy & Laura Berg, Keith & Shiloh Warne, Steve Schmidt, Shawn & Danielle Geigle

Team 5 - Terry & Kris Smart, Ken & Debbie Mader, Steve & Kim Bazata, David Olson, Matt & Sarah Dybedahl

Coffee is not served at Easter or Christmas, but the TEAM still must help guide the worship.

Oct. 4th, Team 3 – Communion- altar

Oct. 11th Team 4, Communion, continuous

Oct. 18th Team 5, Communion -continuous

Oct. 25th Team 1, Communion – around the altar, Confirmation



***Coffee/Treats are served after worship each Sunday.
All are welcome to join us for a great fellowship opportunity.***

MEN'S COFFEE- Join us Saturdays at 8:30am at Willow Creek for food, coffee, and fellowship.



QUILTING LADIES - Join us on Mondays at 9am as we enjoy quilting and fellowship at Willow Creek.

JOIN US FOR A

FALL FAMILY FUN Festival

October 17 | 3PM - 8PM

Games - Food - Pumpkin Painting
Indoor & Outdoor Activities
Hay Rides
Fun for All Ages!

BENTON LUTHERAN CHURCH

46784 257th St., Crooks SD



SCAN ME

All are Welcome!

2026 Benton Council Members

President-Wade Mulder	Vice President-Gay Jongewaard
Council Secretary-Julie Person	Treasurer-Dave Vinzant
Mission-Natalie Lind	Worship-Russ Schmidt
Evangelism-Roger Person	Education-Jenny Mohr, Amanda Schuette
Property-Gary Jongewaard, Roger Person, Nate Stroschein	

BENTON WORSHIP TEAMS FOR OCTOBER 2026 (team leaders are listed)

Oct. 4th, First Team – Doug & Sandy, Communion (altar) 3rd grade Bibles
Oct. 11th, Second Team – Roger & Linda, Communion, POTLUCK DINNER
Oct. 18th, Third Team – Cheryl & Connie, Communion, Special Music
Oct. 25th, Fourth Team - Butch & Lori, Communion (altar), Confirmation

BENTON WORSHIP TEAMS – updated 5/2026

Below is a list of the members of each Worship Team. It may look like we always have enough help but due to everyone being so busy, often not enough people show up to help. As you can see each Sunday there is quite a bit of responsibility. Please try to help us out with your assignment. If you are not assigned a Sunday, please call the church office so we can add you. You will never be alone on your Sunday; there is always someone to help.

First Sunday – Leaders – Doug and Sandy Larson: Wade & Angie Mulder, Garrison Mulder, Bryant & Lori Filler, Nate & Kim Strosheim, Shannon Lofswold, Dave Phelps, Dave & Dixie Rogness, Chantel Olson, Dan & Laura Larson (Dawson & Dominick), Joe & Jayna Backus (Boston,& Brystal), Jordan Person, Tammy Person (Justin & Jessalynn), Edna Haase, Rocky & Jackie Foster (Marin, Hadlee, Payson & Conlin)

Second Sunday - Leaders Roger & Linda Person: Jolene Izadaness, Keith & Lisa Johnson (Tyler & Trey), Patty Mork, Gary & Rhonda Jongewaard (Gabrielle, Nash), Dave & Faye Gilderhus, Dennis & Cheryl Aker, Todd & Maria Kendle & Brittany (Braylynn & Nora), Lynda Fonder, Kari Vosburg, Bob & Sandi Schuette, Eric & Amanda Schuette (Ethan & Audrey), Lee & Julie Person (Connor), Gwyn & Joyce Reiners

Third Sunday- Leaders Connie Foster & Cheryl Schoer: Jim & Jackie Johnson, Ashton Benson (Riley), Kenny & Linda Benson, Judy Bernards, Susie Schmidt (Nolan, Blake & Logan), Scott & Bonnie Mews, Tom & Barb Lanning, Pat & Noel Ahl, Darryll & Jan Lason, Ryan McNamara & Lacie Foster (Bridger, Sutton & Leighton), Kay Peterson, Evan & Lenae Schnaidt (Elliot, Elizabeth), Jim Leines

Fourth Sunday –Leaders Butch & Lori Oseby: Larry Person, Dale & Pat Benson, Derry & Jan Benson, Tyler & Melissa Klein (Blakeley, Cooper, & Shiloh), Ron & Judi Person, Ronae Foster (Dalton & Tori), Jamen & Jackie Benson (Trevor & Brady), John & Jenny Mohr (Landon, Lilli, Jaxton & Jace), Trevor & Annie Freudenthal (Jace, Rhett & Liam), Christopher & Sara Rokeh (Kipton, London), Mike & Holly Ralston (Sam and Will)

Fifth Sunday – Leaders Russ & Becky Schmidt, Matt & Amy Schmidt (Emmitt), Scott & Natalie Lind, Cam & Sharon Lind, Jeremy & Taylor Hubers (Ava and Liam), Jordan & Megan Dunham (Marshall and Zoey)

Volunteers are needed when we have special services (Lent, Maundy Thursday, Christmas Eve...)

BENTON WORSHIP SERVICE DUTIES EACH SUNDAY

ALL DUTIES FOR THE TEAMS ARE POSTED ON THE FRIDGE DOOR IN THE KITCHEN AND THE BULLETIN BOARD BY THE ENTRANCE TO THE SANCTUARY.

Team Members - Should be the last to leave the church to make sure all lights, computers, screens – everything is off.

Please call your team leader if you are unable to help on your assigned weekend.

Team Leaders-

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Doug & Sandy Larson 605-360-5912 | 4. Butch & Lori Oseby 605-359-5537 |
| 2. Roger & Linda Person 605-351-0959 | 5. Russ & Becky Schmidt 605-360-1697 |
| 3. Cheryl Schoer 605-366-6562, Connie Foster 605-359-7859 | |



Coffee Fellowship

Benton-Coffee/Treats are offered during Sunday School (9:30am). Please join us for fellowship.



Please join us for a Potluck Dinner at Benton following worship the second Sunday of every month unless notified of a change.

Happy Birthday Everyone!!!!!!



2026 October Birthdays

1	Cheryl Schoer
1	Jayna Backus
1	Charlie Benshoof
2	Paul Sunderman
5	Haley Dahl
7	London Rokeh
7	Linda Benson
8	Frank Hobart
8	Tina Soderquist
8	Kristi Van De Rostyn
9	Terry Anderson
9	Tracy Kinder
12	Vicki Tombasi
12	Leighton McNamara
13	Lanae Schnaidt
15	Renae Vinzant
16	Nicholas Schmidt
16	Lily Schmidt

17	Dave Rogness
18	Renae Dumdei
19	Dawson Larson
20	Lori Oseby
20	Rachael Vinzant
21	Joyce Reiners
22	Esther Hoekman
22	Beth Warne
23	Katie Hoekman
24	Hunter Joppa
26	Justin Koepp
27	Lori Blake
29	Ryan Vinzant
29	Dawn Erickson
30	Carol Goodrich
31	Armen Janjigian



AUTUMN COMFORT FOODS

D	P	I	N	X	T	N	G	A	V	V	P	S	L	I
J	N	S	A	U	S	A	G	E	H	B	E	X	H	Q
Z	W	D	W	N	U	N	J	V	U	I	C	B	N	U
S	S	P	A	K	R	I	A	T	R	B	G	R	G	B
R	V	D	R	E	A	Q	T	R	S	G	Q	I	I	Z
B	T	S	M	P	X	E	E	Q	D	R	I	S	F	D
U	R	T	P	A	R	B	U	O	T	D	C	K	O	K
Y	N	L	T	N	N	A	K	K	W	O	D	E	Y	M
R	E	L	U	A	S	D	R	Q	T	P	M	T	V	U
T	A	T	R	H	C	P	O	T	A	T	O	E	S	F
S	H	C	E	S	Y	N	I	P	V	F	B	T	H	F
A	S	O	B	V	M	A	R	P	T	S	A	O	R	I
P	H	D	N	P	A	C	I	U	J	W	H	L	A	N
D	Q	D	A	E	J	E	M	R	U	G	O	Q	E	S
K	Y	E	C	J	Y	P	S	S	Y	J	F	H	O	S

APPLE
BISCOTTI
BRISKET
BUTTERNUT
CRANBERRIES
HONEY

MUFFINS
PASTRY
PECAN
PIE
POTATOES
ROAST

SAUSAGE
SQUASH
WARM



OCTOBER 2026				BENTON AND WILLOW CREEK CHURCHES		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
						8:30am Men's Coffee at Willow
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
COMMUNION, 3rd Graders receive Bibles Willow Creek Worship, 9:00am, Sunday School-Coffee/treats to follow, Team 3 Benton Sunday School 9:30am Coffee/Treats during SS, Worship 10:45am Group Leaders-Doug & Sandy Benton Committee Meetings following worship	9am Quilting at Willow	Bulletin Announcements due by noon in Church office.	Confirmation, 6:30pm at Benton, 7th & 8th graders			8:30am Men's Coffee at Willow
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
COMMUNION Willow Creek Worship, 9:00am, <u>NO Sunday School</u> -Coffee/treats to follow, Team 4 <u>NO Sunday School</u> 10am Coffee/Treats during SS, Worship 10:45am Group Leaders-Roger & Linda	9am Quilting at Willow <i>Columbus Day</i>	Church Council 6:30pm, Benton Bulletin Announcements due by noon in Church office.	Confirmation, 6:30pm at Benton, 7th & 8th graders	Newsletter info due to the church office by noon.		8:30am Men's Coffee at Willow FALL FAMILY FUN FESTIVAL- BENTON, 3PM- 8PM
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
COMMUNION Willow Creek Worship, 9:00am, Sunday School-Coffee/treats to follow, Team 5 Benton Sunday School 9:30am Coffee/Treats during SS, Worship 10:45am Group Leaders-Cheryl & Connie Special Music at Benton	9am Quilting at Willow	Bulletin Announcements due by noon in Church office.	Evening of Honor for 9th grade Confirmation class, 6:30 at Benton. NO confirmation for 7th & 8th grade			8:30am Men's Coffee at Willow
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
COMMUNION - CONFIRMATION SUNDAY Willow Creek Worship, 9:00am, Sunday School-Coffee/treats to follow, Team 1 Benton Sunday School 9:30am Coffee/Treats during SS, Worship 10:45am Group Leaders-Burch & Lori	9am Quilting at Willow	Bulletin Announcements due by noon in Church office.	Confirmation, 6:30pm at Benton, 7th & 8th graders Youth Group at Benton 7:30pm, 6th-12th graders			8:30am Men's Coffee at Willow