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

November Newsletter 2026



Benton & Willow Creek Lutheran Churches
Newsletter—November 2026



Note from Vicar Kendra Kappler

Last month, we gathered to celebrate Confirmation Sunday, a joyful milestone in the life of faith. It is a day where students stand before the congregation to affirm promises made to them by God at their baptisms. In many ways, Confirmation marks both an ending and a beginning. It celebrates years of learning, prayer, conversation about who God is, and just the beginning of a lifelong journey of faith. Watching these young people take that step reminds us that God is always at work, shaping hearts, nurturing faith, and calling each of us to live out the faith that has first been given to us. It was a moment of gratitude for these students, their mentors, their families, sponsors and friends, and the Spirit who continues to move among us.

One of the things I love about Confirmation is getting to see the ways our students connect with God's Word and begin to make their faith their own. Each year, I ask our Confirmation students to choose a favorite Bible verse and incorporate it into a project. This year, something particularly special caught my attention: three of our four confirmands at Benton and Willow Creek independently chose the exact same verse! Blakeley, Lilli, and Max chose Philippians 4:13: “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” Braelynn chose Isaiah 40:31: “But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” I love that all four of these students chose verses about strength. And I think there's something important for all of us to notice about these passages. They do not tell us that we need to find enough strength within ourselves to face everything in life. Instead, they point us to God as the source of our strength. Our faith isn't about being strong enough to have everything figured out, never struggle, or never have questions; rather, it is about trusting the God who remains faithful to us through all of it.

As we celebrated our Confirmands' faith journeys, I was reminded of a question one of our younger Confirmation students asked during a game a few weeks ago. When I asked if this statement was true: “You can be a Christian and still have doubts and questions,” one student paused and asked, “Wait, but doesn't being a Christian mean believing?” It is a great question! Sometimes we think that if our faith is strong enough, we should not have doubts or uncertainties. But faith does not mean having all the answers. We can trust in God's goodness and still wonder about things we don't understand. We can have questions and still belong to God. Because the good news is that our relationship with God doesn't depend on how perfectly we believe or how certain we feel or how strong we are. In baptism, God claims us as God's own, and at the communion table, Christ continues to meet us with forgiveness and grace. These promises do not disappear when we struggle or when our faith feels shaky. Our hope rests in the God who holds onto us.

As we enter November and prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving, I hope we can give thanks for the many ways God sustains us, including through the faith of the young people in our congregations. We can be grateful for what we know while continuing to wonder about what we do not. We can keep learning, keep asking questions, and keep growing in faith, trusting that God's grace and strength meets us wherever we are. And to Blakeley, Lilli, Max, and Braelynn, congratulations on this important milestone in your faith journeys! And to all of us, may we remember that the strength of our faith is not that we can hold onto God perfectly. It is that God holds onto us. Thanks be to God for that promise, this November and always!

God Bless You!

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



Veterans Day is Wednesday, November 11th, 2026.
May God keep a watchful eye over all our past and present Veterans and their Families.
They have all done so much for all of us.
Take time to Thank a Veteran.

"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.

You can follow us on Facebook.

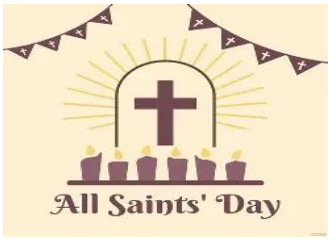
Daylight Savings Time!!!
Don't forget to turn your clocks back!!!
Nov. 1st at 2:00am!!!



"Dates to Remember"

Nov. 1st – Sunday – All Saints Day
Nov. 3rd – Tuesday – Election Day
Nov. 8th – Sunday – JOINT WORSHIP 10am AND JOINT SUNDAY SCHOOL 9am at Benton
Nov. 10th -Tuesday – Joint Council at Benton, 7:00pm, Regular Council, 6:30pm
Nov. 11th – Wednesday, Youth Group, 7:30pm at Benton
Nov. 14th – Saturday – Horse Creek, Mission, SD
Nov. 25th – Wednesday, NO Confirmation, No Youth Group
Nov. 26h – Thursday – Thanksgiving Day
Nov. 29th – Sunday – NO SUNDAY SCHOOL at either church

*We invite people to bring framed pics of their loved ones, if they want to, for **All Saints Day** on November 1st. We'll have a table up front with candles to put your pictures on. No pressure and no need to bring ahead – just bring that day!*



The Fellowship of Christ We Share

"Willow Creek and Benton Lutheran Churches"

Joint Worship and Joint Sunday School

at Benton Lutheran Church,



Sunday, November 8th, 2026,

Sunday School-9am, Worship-10am

The musical group, "Hallelujah Hooligans" will be taking part in our worship.

There will be an opportunity for a freewill offering at the end of worship for the musical group.

There will also be a Potluck Dinner after worship.

All are welcome to attend!

Come and enjoy some great music and fellowship!

Benton Lutheran Church

46784 257th St. Crooks, SD 57020

Horse Creek, Mission, SD.

Benton, Willow Creek and West Nidaros will again this year be taking gifts to Horse Creek. We will go on Saturday, Nov. 14th.

Annual Trip to our Brothers and Sisters at Horse Creek- We are packing food/necessities boxes for 65 families so Benton is collecting 4 rolls of toilet paper per box (260 rolls) and 2 cans of fruit (130 cans), we appreciate donations of either of those, or money to go bulk purchase. Willow Creek is collecting boxes of cereal. We could also use a few more gallons or so sized jugs of laundry detergent. And Benton and Willow Creek are asked to donate 3 dozen cookies each for the meal we'll share once we get there.

We're working on getting names/ages of all the children under 8 so we can purchase $15-20 gifts for them. I will have those at church as soon as we get them.

Any donations of clean cold weather clothing, men's larger sized sweatshirts, flannel shirts or jeans, and linens can be brought to the church.

We'll be making the trip on Nov. 14th, leaving early in the morning and returning by early evening. If anyone is interested in going out, please let Maria Kendle know so we can coordinate vehicles- 605-310-1053.

Anyone that wants to help on Nov. 11th at West Nidaros at 5:45pm with the packing of the boxes and sorting clothing or sandwich building on the 13th at 4:30 at West Nidaros, is more than welcome.

Thank you so much for your support of this mission project. They are always so grateful for our continued commitment to our special relationship.

Youth Group is for 6-12th graders.
Please come and join us for fellowship and fun!
Watch the bulletin for times and places.
Wed. Nov 11th, 7:30 at Benton
Wed. Dec. 2nd
Wed. Dec. 16th





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, paper towels, 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 first Monday of every month from 10:30-11:30, the second Wednesday of every month from 6:00-7:00 p.m., and the fourth Sunday of every month from 10:30-11:30 a.m. **Please note (and spread the word, if you are able): Saturday Open Hours for November will be held on November 21 (the third Saturday) to prepare for Thanksgiving.**
Food or other 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)

"Thanksgiving Day"
Thursday,
November 26th, 2026
We have so much to be thankful for.
Give Thanks.



"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.

Nov. 1st, Team 2 – Communion- altar, "All Saints Day"
Nov. 8th, No Service at Willow Creek, Joint Worship at Benton
Nov. 15th, Team 3, Communion - continuous
Nov. 22nd, Team 4, Communion – continuous
Nov. 29th, Team 5, Communion, continuous



LEFSE TIME!!!!!!

Willow Creek will again be making Lefse after Church on Nov. 15th.
We would like to invite everyone to help! No experience necessary.
If you have any questions, please see Kris Smart.
If you would like to order Lefse, call Kris Smart at 605-359-4939.
3 rounds per package - $6.00
Lefse pick up day will be Saturday, Nov. 21st at Willow Creek, 10am-11am.



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.

BENTON NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 NOVEMBER 2026 (team leaders are listed)

Nov. 1st, First Team – Doug & Sandy, Communion (altar) **All Saints Day**
Nov. 8th, Second Team – Roger & Linda, Communion, 10AM, JOINT WORSHIP - POTLUCK DINNER
Nov. 15th, Third Team – Cheryl & Connie, Communion
Nov. 22nd, Fourth Team - Butch & Lori, Communion
Nov. 29th, 5th Team – Russ & Becky, Communion

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

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!!!!!!

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS 2026



2	Alton Tokheim
2	Doug Larson
3	Boston Backus
4	Spencer Mann
5	Jared Deters
6	Jacke Warne
7	Julie Person
8	Cody Hill
9	Sawyer Fischer
10	Shiloh Warne
11	Sandra Kinder
11	Darla Halvorson
12	Jared Questad
13	Rose Mary Gregerson
15	Sadie Schuette
18	Gary Hilmoe
19	John Mohr
20	Ronelle Opland
21	Sarah Hoffman
23	Cauy Oien
24	Jolene Siemonsma
24	Suwa Otten
24	Alicia Tiesen
26	Jennifer Mohr
23	Cash Warne
26	Josie Arens
26	Sandra Zwart
27	Marin Foster
28	Easton Hegge
30	Craig Halvorson

Name: _____ Date: _____

Thanksgiving

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

CORNUCOPIA
CASSEROLE
SCARECROW
CRANBERRY
HAYSTACK
FOOTBALL
POTATOES
STUFFING
BONFIRE
HAYRIDE
FOLIAGE
DESSERT
COBBLER
PUMPKIN
HARVEST
SQUASH
APPLES
DINNER
FAMILY
TURKEY
MAPLE
GRAVY
FALL



November 2026

BENTON AND WILLOW CREEK CHURCHES

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Turn Your Clock Back, 2am! 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
COMMUNION- *All Saints Day* Willow Creek Worship, 9:00am, Sunday School-Coffee/treats to follow, Team 2 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.* *"ELECTION DAY"*	*Confirmation, 6:30pm at Benton, 7th & 8th graders*			8:30am Men's Coffee at Willow
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
COMMUNION *JOINT WORSHIP, 10AM AT BENTON* *JOINT SUNDAY SCHOOL, 9AM AT BENTON* *SPECIAL MUSIC "HALLELJAH HOOLIGANS"* *Coffee & Treats before worship,* *POTLUCK DINNER TO FOLLOW WORSHIP* Benton Group-2, Roger & Linda	9am Quilting at Willow	*Church Council 6:30pm at Benton* *JOINT COUNCIL, 7:00pm at Benton* *Bulletin Announcements due by noon in Church office.*	*Confirmation, 6:30pm at Benton, 7th & 8th graders* *Youth Group, 7:30pm at Benton* *"VETERANS DAY"* 			8:30am Men's Coffee at Willow *Horse Creek Mission, SD*
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
COMMUNION Willow Creek Worship, 9:00am, Sunday School-Coffee/treats to follow, Team 3 *Lefse Making after worship at Willow* Benton Sunday School 9:30am Coffee/Treats during SS, Worship 10:45am Group Leaders- Cheryl & Connie	9am Quilting at Willow *Newsletter announcements due to the church office by noon.*	*Bulletin Announcements due by noon in Church office.*	*Confirmation, 6:30pm at Benton, 7th & 8th graders*			8:30am Men's Coffee at Willow
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
COMMUNION Willow Creek Worship, 9:00am, Sunday School-Coffee/treats to follow, Team 4 Benton Sunday School 9:30am Coffee/Treats during SS, Worship 10:45am Group Leaders-Butch & Lori	9am Quiilting at Willow	*Bulletin Announcements due by noon in Church office.*	*NO confirmation for 7th & 8th grade, No Youth Group*			8:30am Men's Coffee at Willow
29	30					
COMMUNION Willow Creek Worship, 9:00am, No Sunday School, Coffee/treats to follow, Team 5 Benton NO Sunday School Coffee/Treats 10am, Worship 10:45am Group Leaders- Russ & Becky	9am Quilting at Willow					