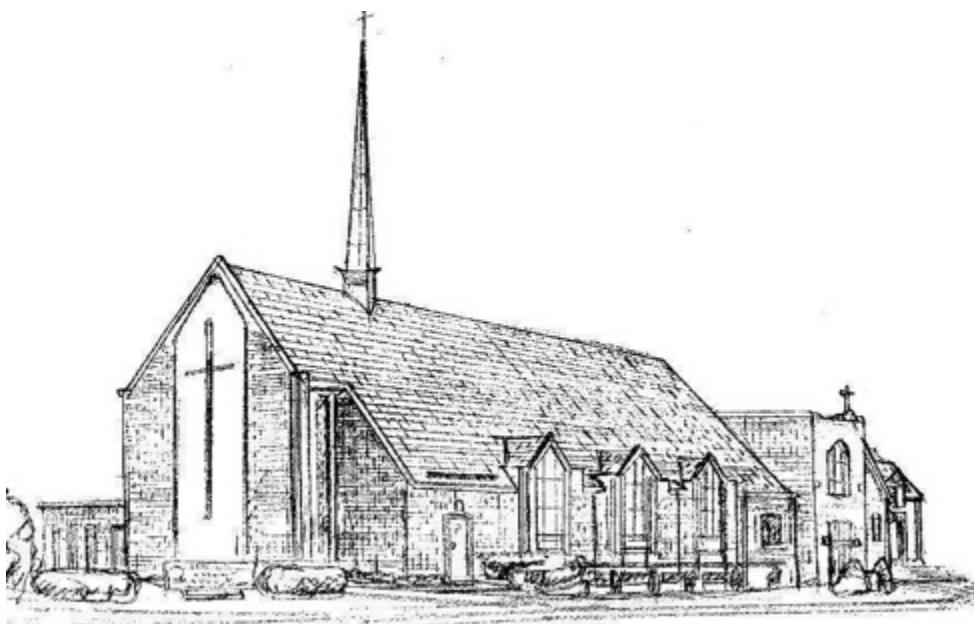


# **BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**



*Serving, accepting, and loving all.*

**Bulletin**  
**September 7, 2025**

**Daniel P. Smail & Ellen S. Lundie, Pastors**  
**Laura M. Henri, Organist and Director of Choirs**

**1719 Mt. Royal Boulevard – Glenshaw, PA 15116**  
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**Web Page: [www.belc.org](http://www.belc.org)**

**Sunday, September 7, 2025**

**Lectionary 23, Year C**

**Introduction**

*Called to contemplate the cost of discipleship, we might be helped by translating Paul's request to Philemon into our prayer of the day: Refresh my heart in Christ. Strengthened by the company and forgiveness of Christ in holy communion and recalling God's grace in remembrance of baptism, we can be strengthened in this hour to "choose life"—to choose life in God as our own.*

**PRELUDE - Trumpet Voluntary, Henry Purcell**

**Ian Gordon, trumpet**

**GATHERING**

**GATHERING SONG**

***God's Work, Our Hands***

- 1 God's work, our hands: working together,  
building a future, repairing the world,  
raising up homes, planting new gardens,  
feeding the hungry and shelt'ring the cold.  
Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,  
sharing the good news of your gospel.
- 2 God's work, our feet: trav'ling together,  
following Jesus to places unknown,  
walking as friends, marching for freedom,  
running the race with God's future the goal.  
Bless, God, our feet as we follow your way,  
sharing the good news of your gospel.
- 3 God's work, our voice: singing together,  
praising, proclaiming to all who will hear,  
praying for peace, shouting for justice,  
claiming God's love for the lost and the least.  
Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,  
sharing the good news of your gospel.

4 God is at work in and around us:  
seedlings are sprouting and bread's on the rise!  
Washed and set free, humbled and honored,  
gifted by grace, we respond in God's love.  
Bless, God, our lives as we answer your call,  
sharing the good news of your gospel.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

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## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS SATURDAY

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,  
our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

**C: Amen.**

A: Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence  
of God and of one another.

*(The assembly may kneel as able)*

A: Merciful and loving God,  
**we are your stiff-necked people.**  
**We trample on the needy.**  
**We grumble about your grace to others.**  
**We turn away from the poor.**  
**Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.**  
**Rejoice over us as ones who were lost**  
**and have been found. Amen.**

P: Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful.  
Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.  
You who were lost have been found.

In the name of ✠ Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

**C: Amen.**

## GREETING

**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C:** And also with you.

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW P. 99)

The musical score is written on five staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some phrases spanning across bar lines. The lyrics are printed below the notes, aligned with the syllables. The text is: "Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth. Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus".

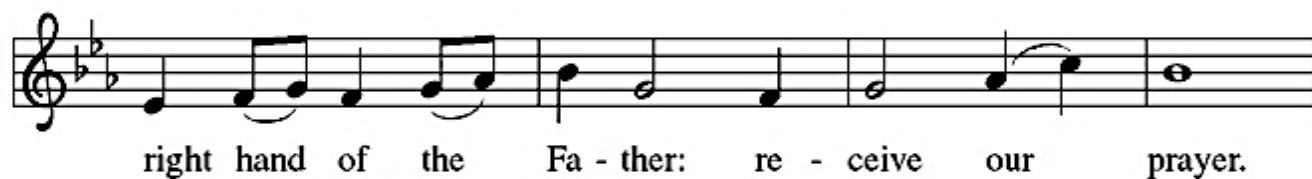
Glo - ry to God in the high -

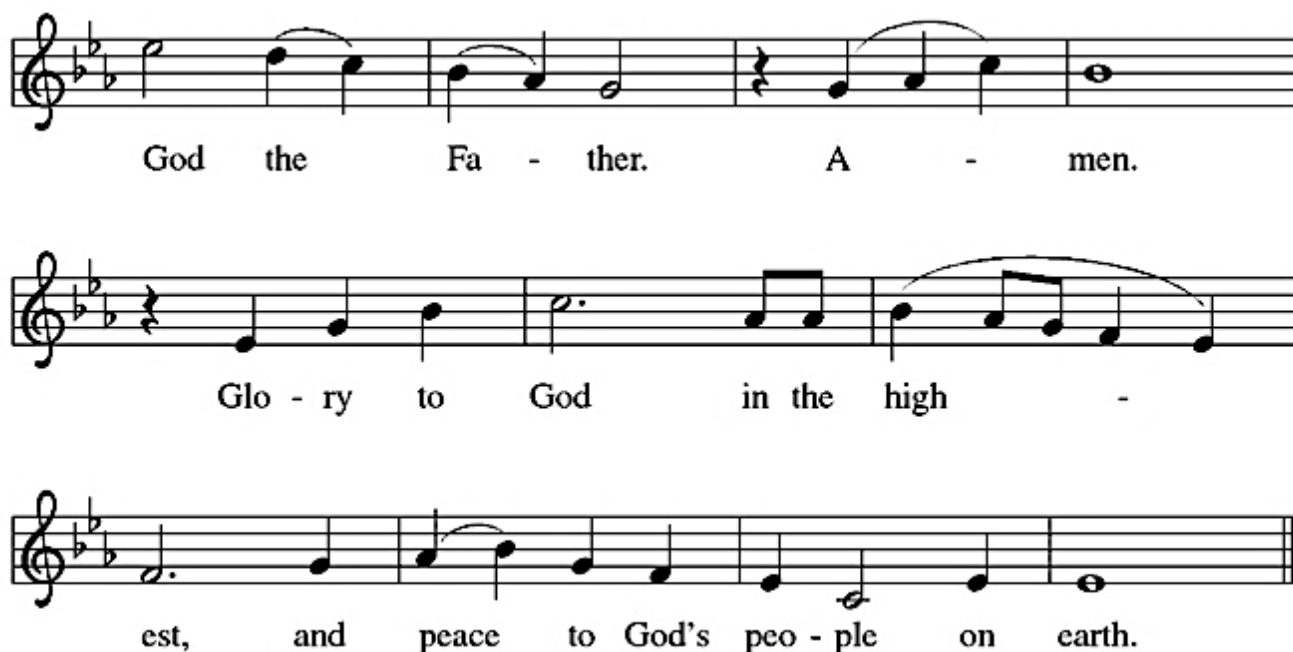
est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and

Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we

praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus





## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray,

Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

## WORD

### FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

*Moses speaks to the Israelites, who are about to enter the land promised to their ancestors. In this passage, he lays out the stark choice before them: choose life by loving and obeying the LORD; or choose death by following other gods.*

A reading from Deuteronomy,

<sup>15</sup> “See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. <sup>16</sup> If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. <sup>17</sup> But if your heart turns away and you do not hear

but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, <sup>18</sup> I declare to you today that you shall certainly perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. <sup>19</sup> I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, <sup>20</sup> loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him, for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.”

A: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 1** (*Sung by cantor and congregation responsively by whole verse*)

<sup>1</sup> Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel <sup>|</sup> of the wicked,  
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats <sup>|</sup> of the scornful!

<sup>2</sup> **Their delight is in the law <sup>|</sup> of the LORD,**  
**and they meditate on God’s teaching <sup>|</sup> day and night.**

<sup>3</sup> They are like trees planted by streams of water,  
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that <sup>|</sup> do not wither;  
everything they <sup>|</sup> do shall prosper.

<sup>4</sup> **It is not so <sup>|</sup> with the wicked;**  
**they are like chaff which the wind <sup>|</sup> blows away.**

<sup>5</sup> Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when <sup>|</sup> judgment comes,  
nor the sinner in the council <sup>|</sup> of the righteous.

<sup>6</sup> **For the LORD knows the way <sup>|</sup> of the righteous,**  
**but the way of the wicked shall <sup>|</sup> be destroyed**

**SECOND READING: Philemon 1-21**

*Onesimus, a new Christian and a man enslaved by Philemon, has helped Paul, who is in prison. Paul writes this letter to his friend Philemon to encourage him to receive Onesimus, upon his return, as a sibling in Christ.*

A reading from Philemon,

<sup>1</sup> Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To our beloved coworker Philemon, <sup>2</sup> to our sister Apphia, to our fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church in your house:

<sup>3</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup> I thank my God always when I mention you in my prayers, <sup>5</sup> because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup> I pray that the partnership of your faith may become effective as you comprehend all the good that we share in Christ. <sup>7</sup> I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

<sup>8</sup> For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to command you to do the right thing, <sup>9</sup> yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus.

<sup>10</sup> I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. <sup>11</sup> Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. <sup>12</sup> I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. <sup>13</sup> I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel, <sup>14</sup> but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. <sup>15</sup> Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for the long term, <sup>16</sup> no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

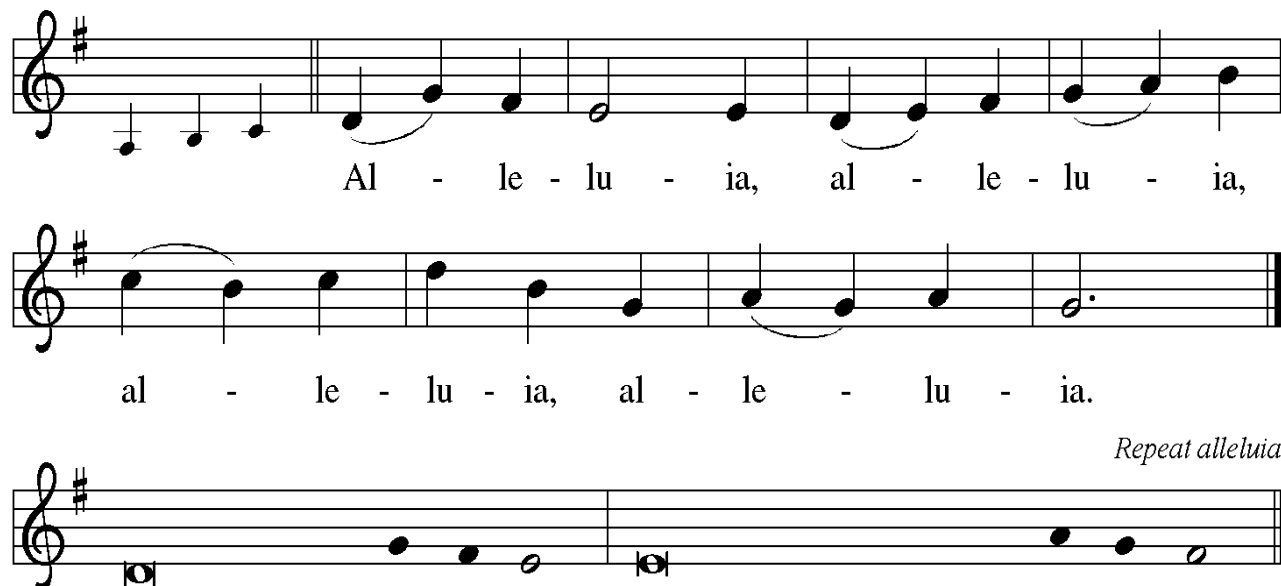
<sup>17</sup> So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. <sup>18</sup> If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me. <sup>19</sup> I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. <sup>20</sup> Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. <sup>21</sup> Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

A: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**



## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



### GOSPEL: Luke 14:25-33

*Jesus speaks frankly about the costs of discipleship. Those who follow him should know from the outset that completing the course of discipleship will finally mean renouncing all other allegiances.*

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>25</sup> Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus], and he turned and said to them, <sup>26</sup> “Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. <sup>27</sup> Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. <sup>28</sup> For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? <sup>29</sup> Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, <sup>30</sup> saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ <sup>31</sup> Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup> If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. <sup>33</sup> So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

## **CHILDREN'S SERMON- *INCLUDING PRESENTATION OF BIBLES***

**SERMON – The Rev. Daniel P. Smail**

### **HYMN OF THE DAY NO. 504 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God**

- 1 A mighty fortress is our God,  
a sword and shield victorious;  
he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod  
and wins salvation glorious.  
The old satanic foe  
has sworn to work us woe!  
With craft and dreadful might  
he arms himself to fight.  
On earth he has no equal.
- 2 No strength of ours can match his might!  
We would be lost, rejected.  
But now a champion comes to fight,  
whom God himself elected.  
You ask who this may be?  
The Lord of hosts is he!  
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,  
God's only Son, adored.  
He holds the field victorious.
- 3 Though hordes of devils fill the land  
all threat'ning to devour us,  
we tremble not, unmoved we stand;

they cannot overpow'r us.  
Let this world's tyrant rage;  
in battle we'll engage!  
His might is doomed to fail;  
God's judgment must prevail!  
One little word subdues him.  
4 God's Word forever shall abide,  
no thanks to foes, who fear it;  
for God himself fights by our side  
with weapons of the Spirit.  
Were they to take our house,  
goods, honor, child, or spouse,  
though life be wrenched away,  
they cannot win the day.  
The kingdom's ours forever!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship* Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.  
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## **INSTALLATION OF SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS**

### **APOSTLES CREED (ELW p. 104)**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

We pray for the church to follow in your ways, that it may be a witness to your love for all people. Help us choose all that is life-giving and confront the forces of death. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

We pray for creation, that it may be cherished and nurtured. Sustain farmlands, animals, and waters; restore places affected by calamities; and shield coastlands from rising seas. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

We pray for those in authority. Grant them wisdom to govern justly and compassion to care for the marginalized. Equip them for actions that further the common good. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

We pray for those who are sick, hungry, unhoused, or lonely (*especially*). May they find healing through your love and the care of those around them. Lead us to be your hands and feet in the world. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

We pray for this congregation, that we may be united in love and faith. Refresh our hearts in Christ, and deepen our support of one another. We pray that our sharing of faith may transform lives. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We thank you for those who have died and now dwell with the saints.  
Surround them with your divine mercy, that they find peace and rest in  
your loving embrace. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our  
redeemer and friend.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

## **MEAL**

**OFFERING** - *Offering boxes are located in the narthex and in back of the sanctuary.*

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

A: Let us pray.

Lord of the harvest,

we return to you a portion of what you have given to us.

Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches,

but on you, who richly provides for us.

Multiply what we have gathered

to bless all who are suffering and in need,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

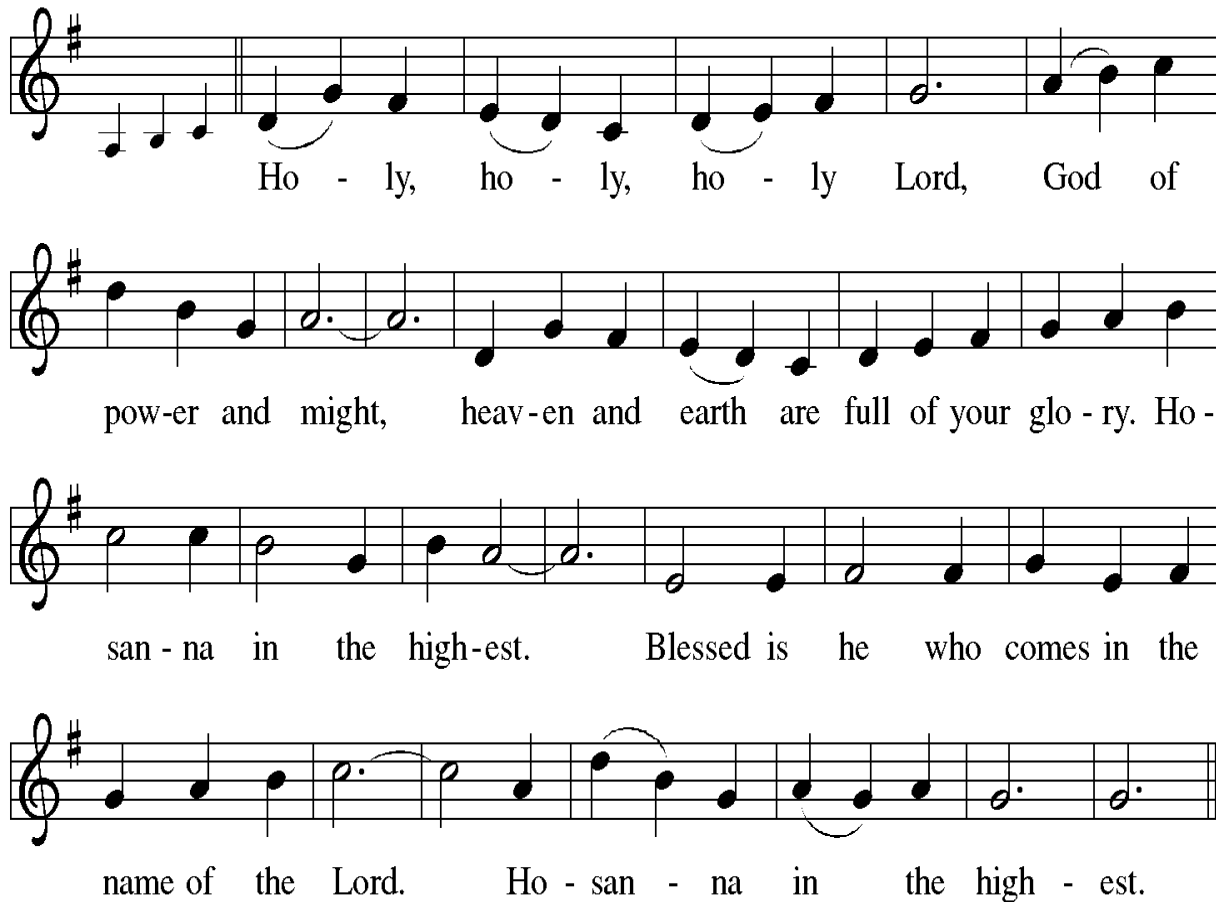
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW P. 108)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of  
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (ELW P. 108)

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.  
You are most holy,  
and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish  
but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world  
to fulfill for us your holy will

and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,  
his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension,  
and the promise of his coming again,  
we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,  
not as we ought but as we are able;  
we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving  
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,  
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,  
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ  
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,  
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,  
may be formed to live as your holy people  
and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

**C: Amen, amen, amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy name,**

**thy kingdom come,**

**thy will be done,**

**on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;**

**and forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those**

**who trespass against us;**

**and lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,**

**and the power, and the glory,**

**forever and ever.**

**Amen.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.

## **COMMUNION**

*Gluten free wafers and grape juice available. Please ask the pastors or communion assistants.*

## **COMMUNION SONG (ELW P. 112)**





## **SENIOR CHOIR - A Joyful Call to Praise, Lloyd Larson (10:30 am)**

### **COMMUNION HYMN NO. 807 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing**

1 Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,

tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
call for songs of loudest praise.

While the hope of endless glory  
fills my heart with joy and love,  
teach me ever to adore thee;  
may I still thy goodness prove.

2 Here I raise my Ebenezer:

"Hither by thy help I've come";  
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,  
safely to arrive at home.

Jesus sought me when a stranger,

wand'ring from the fold of God;  
he, to rescue me from danger,  
interposed his precious blood.  
3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor  
daily I'm constrained to be;  
let that grace now like a fetter  
bind my wand'ring heart to thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;  
prone to leave the God I love.  
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it;  
seal it for thy courts above.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735-1790, alt.

## **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

A: Let us pray.

O God,  
through this meal you have strengthened us  
and appointed us to be your servants.  
Send us to do good and to share our possessions  
with all in need.  
We ask this in Jesus' name.  
C: **Amen.**

## **RECOGNITION AND THANKSGIVING FOR BISHOP EMERITUS KURT F. KUSSEROW AND FAMILY SENDING**

### **BLESSING**

The God of righteousness,  
who gives justice to the oppressed,  
who gives food to the hungry,  
who sets the prisoners free,

✚ bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**SENDING SONG NO. 576 We All Are One in Mission**

1 We all are one in mission;  
we all are one in call,  
our varied gifts united  
by Christ, the Lord of all.  
A single great commission  
compels us from above  
to plan and work together  
that all may know Christ's love.

2 We all are called for service,  
to witness in God's name.  
Our ministries are different;  
our purpose is the same:  
to touch the lives of others  
with God's surprising grace,  
so ev'ry folk and nation  
may feel God's warm embrace.

3 Now let us be united,  
and let our song be heard.  
Now let us be a vessel  
for God's redeeming Word.  
We all are one in mission;  
we all are one in call,  
our varied gifts united  
by Christ, the Lord of all.

## **DISMISSAL**

**L: Go in peace. Do not lose heart.**

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

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**Welcome back choir members! Not a member but thinking of joining yet you have questions, please reach out to Laura Henri at the church on extn. 102. She will be happy to assist you.**

### **Rehearsals :**

**Beginning today Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> and each Sunday following 9:00am Senior Choir**

**Beginning Wednesday Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> and each Wednesday following 7:15pm Handbell Choir (No handbell rehearsal on Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>)**

### **Children's Space**

We encourage children to worship in the sanctuary as much as possible. However, we know that some days, a break may be needed. Please stop in the lounge for shorter breaks where there are coloring activities and snacks provided. All children must be accompanied by an adult. The nursery is also available downstairs in Fellowship Hall with the ability to hear the service.

## **Calling All College Students!!**

**The Hope and Compassion Ministry wants to support our college students with love, encouragement, and prayer throughout the school year. If you have a student in college, please share their mailing address with us! We'll be sending out care packages, cards, and lifting them up in prayer as they navigate this exciting chapter of life. Please submit the following ASAP to the church office:**

-----

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Year (Freshman, Sophomore, etc): \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Here are some of the most desired foods:

Single serve Hormel meals                      small pkg. of Cereals  
 Pasta & Spaghetti sauce                      small size jars of Condiments                      Juice boxes  
 Boxes of Pop Tarts – that can be open to give 1 serving of 2 in a pkg.- to an individual person  
 Peanut butter & saltine crackers or club crackers                      snack size pkgs. Cookies or granola bars  
 Tuna in foil pkg. for easy opening                      Individual bottles of Ensure                      can of carnation milk  
 small pkg. of instant mashed potatoes                      small pkg. of muffin or brownie mix

**\*NO MEDICATIONS OF ANY KIND\***

Of Note\* When purchasing your items for donating, remember to please try and get flip off lids and small size packages to accommodate those who may come for food but have no can opener or anywhere to store what they take. Think grab and eat!!!

*Did you hear BELC has a new podcast episode? Check it out.*

Title: What makes a Lutheran a Lutheran?

*Www.belc.org/podcast* or the action button on the website or wherever you get your podcasts!

*2025 Madrigal Dinner 2nd*

*Interest and Organizational Meeting!*

Last year we had a great time pulling together our very first Madrigal Dinner production. Well, here we are, and it is time to continue making plans once again for this year's event . Our second organizational meeting will be held on ***Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup> following our 10:30 worship service.*** And please know, there are all kinds of ways to get involved! We need dramatists and thespians, set designers and lighting experts, choristers and cooks, and a whole host of other things too! So, if you are ready to join the fun, please check out the weekly online announcements for the lists of areas where helping hands are needed. If you but cannot make the meeting, and are interested, please feel to reach out to Pastor Ellen or Pastor Dan and they will be sure to get you plugged in! The event will take place on Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in Fellowship Hall.

**Monthly Special Offering for SEPTEMBER is:**

**Northside Common Ministries**

**The Week at Bethlehem**

**Sunday, September 7th** 8:00 am Worship & Communion  
9:15am Adult & Children's Sunday School  
\*10:30am Worship & Communion

\* Live streaming of worship service

**Monday, Sept. 8th** 9:00a-2:30pm PACC (Fellowship Hall)  
11am-2pm Passage to Recovery (Library)  
5-7pm Monday Community Meal (Fellowship Hall)  
NO- Girl Scouts Mtg. this week

**Tuesday, Sept. 9th** 10:30-11:30a AA (Schmid Hall)  
6:00-8:30pm NA (Fellowship Hall)  
7:00pm Council Meeting

**Wednesday, Sept. 10th** 10:30am & 7pm Bible Study (Schmid Hall)  
10:30-11:30am Memory Café (Lounge)  
7-8:30p Boy Scouts Mtg. (Fellowship Hall)

**Thursday, Sept. 11th** **We remember 9-11**  
10:00am Stained Glass & Other Crafts (Music Rm.)

**Saturday, Sept. 13th** 9:00am L.I.F.T. Group Trip to Hartville OH  
6:00pm Worship/Comm.

**LIFT Night at Katie's Clay Studio – Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup> 5-7:30 pm.**

Join the LIFT group as we 'get creative' at Katie's Clay Studio (5562 William Flinn Hwy., Gibsonia, PA 15044 724-502-4700) on Friday evening, October 17 from 5 – 7:30 pm. Katie's has a very large assortment of pottery pieces to paint (and leave at the Studio to have 'fired' for a later pick-up). Cost starts at \$29 (which includes your class fee and varies depending on the pottery you choose). Please look for the sign-up sheet on the Narthex bulletin board to sign up and plan to join us for a fun, creative evening. Perhaps we'll go out for a bite to eat after class is over. Hoping to have a good turnout! Please feel free to invite a friend.



***Bethlehem Book Club - September 2025***

On the evening of September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 the Bethlehem Book Club will gather to discuss Robert Dugoni's, "Hold Strong." "Hold Strong," has been described as a "one of a kind novel," so join us for a meaningful conversation and let's discover the uplifting ways in which the things we are reading have the power to inform our lives of faith in meaningful ways. Thanks in advance for your participation!





## **WORSHIP AND MUSIC NOTES**

With another Hymn Sing service planned for the fall, members are requested over the rest of the summer to take a moment to submit your favorite hymn to be included. Perhaps use the quiet time before the worship service begins to leaf through the sections of the hymnal to help recall those hymns that have a special meaning. And if you have more than one favorite, be sure to submit the form below.

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HYMN SING REQUEST FORM

My favorite hymn is: \_\_\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## **FALL / WINTER SCHEDULE RETURNS this weekend Sept. 6th-7th**

Starting this weekend we will worship at 6pm on Saturday evenings and on Sunday at 8am and **10:30am until next spring.**

**TODAY, Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> is Rally Day** beginning at **9:15am** with another Programmatic Year of Sunday School for both children and adults.

Finally we are blessed to have Bishop Kusserow and his family at worship with us and for our picnic on this Rally Day as we celebrate his years of dedication and service as Bishop of The Southwestern PA Synod.

Happy Retirement!



### **LIFT to Hartville, OH – day trip Next Saturday, September 13 @ 9 am.**

Join the LFT group (and friends) as we head out for a day trip to Hartville, OH for shopping, fun and fellowship! We'll plan to leave at 9 am from the church parking lot. We'll have lunch, shop and return in the late afternoon. Look for a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

We'll need drivers for the trip. If you are willing to drive, please add that info to the sign-up sheet. There is a great Farmers Market, as well as an indoor Flea Market, a giant hardware store, gift shops, Amish bakery and restaurant in Hartville – all under one roof! You'll find great fall decorations (lots of pumpkins!) and, of course, it's not too early to think about Christmas shopping! Hope you can join us. PS. Invite a friend!

## Stained Glass & Other Crafts



Thursday, September 11th the BELC Stained Glass & Other Crafts will start back up for the season. We meet at 10:00am in the Music Room and all are welcome. We will be learning a new technique during some of our upcoming sessions. Mosaic interested? Then come along and see what it is all about. If you are not wanting to try stained glass or mosaic projects but would like to fellowship and good conversation grab a project of your own and join in the FUN each week. ALL ARE WELCOME!

## **BETHLEHEM'S 95<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

**1930 -2025**

Plans were made at a recent Worship Committee meeting to celebrate the 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Bethlehem in 1930, with a theme developed around Luther's 95 Theses. The Committee agreed to hold a single celebration service on **Reformation Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup>** at the regular worship time of 10:30 a.m. All members are encouraged to join together as "one body in Christ" for worship. Our retiring Bishop Kurt Kusserow has accepted our invitation to preach. Plans are also underway for a celebratory luncheon following the service. Watch for further details as arrangements are finalized.

**Music Angels for Reformation:** Adding a special choral piece for the Anniversary service that would require brass musicians would be outside the planned Music Budget. In honor of the 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we are hoping that **95 'new Music Angels'** would consider donating \$5 each to cover this additional cost.

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My music angel gift.

Given by NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Amt.\$ \_\_\_\_\_

## **NEW Bishop's Installation Service**

**Saturday, October 18: 1 PM**

**In celebration of this special occasion -- Bethlehem Lutheran Church is planning to host a watch party here at the church...Details are all forthcoming so please watch upcoming bulletins.**

**SAVE THE DATE** - Saturday, October 25, 2025 Join your friends and family at the Fundraiser/Spaghetti Dinner to benefit Northside Common Ministries on Saturday, 10/25/25 from 4-7 pm. The dinner will be held at Northmont Presbyterian Church (8169 Perry Highway, Pittsburgh, PA 15237). Dinners can be 'dine in' or "to go". There will be a freewill offering to cover costs and one of our 'famous' basket raffles! Hope you'll be able to join us!

**Save the Date!** Fall Discipleship Retreat, November 7th through the 9th Our fall discipleship retreat is scheduled for November 7th through the 9th at Camp Sequanota in the beautiful Laurel Highlands. Every year this time away provides an impactful opportunity to pray, worship, study, reflect, and connect in meaningful ways with our siblings in Christ. And this year, we have an important focus: we'll be considering how to sustain our commitment to Christ over the long haul. We will be honest about the ups and downs inherent in spirituality and service; and with the help of the Holy Spirit and the writings of J.R.R. Tolkien we will work together to reignite a sense of adventure in our lives of discipleship. Need a boost, need to recharge, need a fresh perspective to power through the months ahead? Then, this weekend away might be just the time you have been hoping for! Please be sure to check upcoming bulletins, weekly announcements, and website for more details about the retreat, pricing information, and registration forms. Do you already know you are planning to attend? Then, simply reach out and we will be glad to reserve your spot. Thanks in advance for your consideration!



**We heard you—and listened.** We have found a way to bring Living Lutheran back to print in a quarterly fashion. Each issue (spring, summer, winter and fall) will feature the stories you know and love, along with updates on the church and your ELCA community.

Thank you for your support in the past—and in the future. We look forward to again sharing in print our church's stories of God's people living their faith.

To start receiving the print magazine, congregations can sign- up for a group rate of \$17.00 per year but we must have a (minimum of 10 sign-ups to get the discounted rate.

Even though it says click to subscribe up above, to get the special rate we ask that you use the form below and fill in your information and place that along with your check for \$17.00 made payable to BELC into an envelope marked Living Lutheran on the outside of it and drop it into the offering box and we will get you signed-up from the church office. **Deadline to sign-up is: Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> to allow enough time for us to get everyone registered online for receiving the fall edition by mail.**

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You're Invited!!!

1st Monday Meal – Free Community Dinner

Bethlehem Lutheran Church 1719 Mt. Royal Blvd., Glenshaw, PA 15116.

The next 1st Monday meal Bethlehem Lutheran Church will be hosting, is going to be held on **Monday, September 8th** Our Free Community Dinner is from 5-7 pm. in Fellowship Hall.

Dinners will continue the first Monday of each month throughout 2025, ***except Sept. 8th (actually the 2nd Monday of the month, due to Labor Day)***

Menu will feature: “hamburgers and hotdogs, tater tots and a vegetable”

Please feel free to join us for dinner and fellowship! Any questions, please contact the church office at 412-486-0550