BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



Serving, accepting, and loving all.

Sunday Bulletin August 24, 2025

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

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Sunday, August 24, 2025 Lectionary 21, Year C

Introduction

Remember the sabbath day. Call the sabbath a delight. This is the Lord's day, and the Lord will do for us what the Lord does: feed us, forgive us, help and heal us. Rejoice at all the wonderful things God is doing.

GATHERING WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

A: Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

A: Merciful God,
you free us to love others,
but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.
You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,
but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.
You surround us with patience, kindness,
and generosity,
but we grow weary in doing what is right.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Do not give up on us.
Heal us, break our bonds,
and show us the path of life. Amen.

P: You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith. In the cross of + Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation. C: Amen.

GATHERING SONG NO. 556 Morning Has Broken

- 1 Morning has broken like the first morning; blackbird has spoken like the first bird. Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning! Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!
- 2 Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven, like the first dewfall on the first grass.

 Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden, sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.
- 3 Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning, born of the one light Eden saw play!

 Praise with elation, praise ev'ry morning, God's recreation of the new day!

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881-1965 Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates.

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE





PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

O God, mighty and immortal, you know that as fragile creatures surrounded by great dangers, we cannot by ourselves stand upright. Give us strength of mind and body, so that even when we suffer because of human sin, we may rise victorious through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 58:9b-14

God promises those who have returned from exile that where justice and mercy prevail, the ruins will be rebuilt and light will rise in the darkness. It is a day for new beginnings.

A reading from Isaiah,

- ^{9b} If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
- ¹⁰ if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
- then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.
- ¹¹ The LORD will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places and make your bones strong,
- and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water

whose waters never fail.

- ¹² Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.
- ¹³ If you refrain from trampling the Sabbath, from pursuing your own interests on my holy day;
- if you call the Sabbath a delight and the holy day of the LORD honorable;
- if you honor it, not going your own ways, serving your own interests or pursuing your own affairs;
- ¹⁴ then you shall take delight in the LORD, and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth;
- I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 103:1-8

- ¹ Bless the LORD, [|] O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's [|] holy name.
- ² Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all God's benefits—
- ³ who forgives | all your sins and heals all | your diseases;
- ⁴ who redeems your life | from the grave and crowns you with steadfast | love and mercy;
- ⁵ who satisfies your desires | with good things so that your youth is renewed | like an eagle's.
- ⁶ O LORD, you provide | vindication and justice for all who | are oppressed.
- ⁷ You made known your | ways to Moses and your works to the chil- | dren of Israel.
- ⁸ LORD, you are full of compas- | sion and mercy, slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 12:18-29

Using images of Moses, the writer presents a striking vision of the new covenant of God made possible in Christ. There is no longer fear; only awe in the new promise in Christ into which we are invited.

A reading from Hebrews,

¹⁸ You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, ¹⁹ and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. ²⁰ (For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death." ²¹ Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear.") ²² But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, ²³ and to the

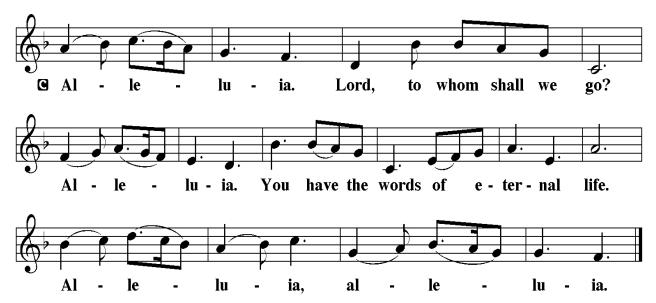
assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴ and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

²⁵ See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking, for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! ²⁶ At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven." ²⁷ This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of what is shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain. ²⁸ Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe, ²⁹ for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Luke 13:10-17

Jesus heals a woman on the sabbath, offering her a new beginning for her life. When challenged by a narrow reading of the sabbath command, Jesus

responds by expanding "sabbath work" to include setting people free from bondage.

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord

- ¹⁰ Now [Jesus] was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath.
- ¹¹ And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight.
- ¹² When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." ¹³ When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. ¹⁴ But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the Sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured and not on the Sabbath day." ¹⁵ But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger and lead it to water? ¹⁶ And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the Sabbath day?" ¹⁷ When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame, and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things being done by him.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON - The Rev. Daniel P. Smail

HYMN OF THE DAY NO. 865 Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

1 Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;

to his feet your tribute bring.

Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,

evermore his praises sing.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the everlasting King!

- 2 Praise him for his grace and favor to our forebears in distress.

 Praise him, still the same forever, slow to chide and swift to bless.

 Alleluia! Alleluia!

 Glorious in his faithfulness!
- 3 Tenderly he shields and spares us; well our feeble frame he knows. In his hands he gently bears us, rescues us from all our foes. Alleluia! Alleluia! Widely as his mercy flows.
- 4 Angels help us to adore him, who behold him face to face.
 Sun and moon bow down before him; all who dwell in time and space.
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Praise with us the God of grace.

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793-1847

APOSTLES' CREED

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

Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God, for God is near.

A brief silence.

You call your church to proclaim liberation and freedom to all. Give wisdom to bishops, synod councils and staff, and congregation leaders as they pursue a more just and equitable church and society. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You inspire all creation to sing and bless your holy name. Send healing rains to parched places and relief to flooded lands. Lead us to enact policies to rebuild ruined ecosystems and habitats. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You work vindication and justice for all who are oppressed. Strengthen the resolve of world leaders and local officials in the way of love and mercy, so that all persons may experience abundant life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You satisfy your people with good things. In your steadfast love, receive the cries of all who are bent over under the weight of addiction, isolation, and mental or physical illness; especially those we name within our hearts (*a moment of silence*). Manifest your healing presence in their midst. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You call us to delight in the sabbath. Invigorate worship planners and leaders with creativity to aid this assembly in fresh and faithful prayer and praise. Enable all who gather here to be nourished and renewed. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

With all your apostles, prophets, and saints, we give thanks and bless your holy name. As they now rest from their labors, guide us by the witness of their lives to pursue your reign, which can never be shaken. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion.

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.

C: Creator God,

in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful.

Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor,

that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

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.

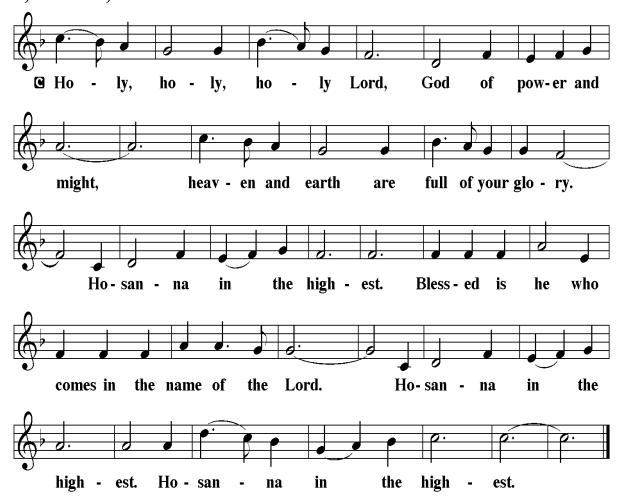
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God,

our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer, in the harmonious world of your creation, the plants and animals, the seas and stars were whole and well in your praise. When sin had scarred the world, you sent your Son to heal our ills and to form us again into one.

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.

Remembering, therefore,

his acts of healing,

his body given up,

and his victory over death,

we await that day when all the peoples of the earth

will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.

Send your Spirit upon us and this meal:

as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread,

so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth,

that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,

Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,

in your holy Church,

both now and forever.

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.

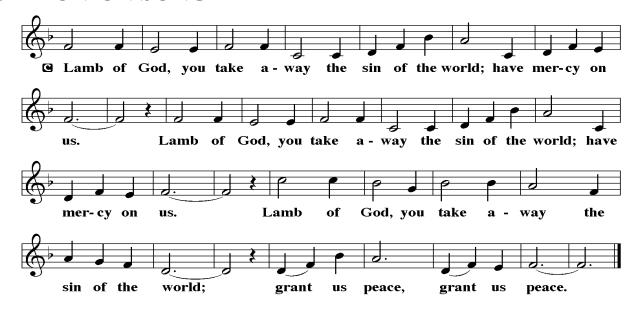
Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.

COMMUNION Gluten free wafers and grape juice available. Please ask the pastors or communion assistant.

COMMUNION SONG



COMMUNION HYMN NO. 482 I Come with Joy

1 I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved, and free, the life of Jesus to recall in love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.

2 I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed, the new community of love in Christ's communion bread, in Christ's communion bread.

3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud division ends.

The love that made us, makes us one, and strangers now are friends, and strangers now are friends.

4 The Spirit of the risen Christ, unseen, but ever near, is in such friendship better known, alive among us here, alive among us here.

5 Together met, together bound by all that God has done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936 Text © 1971, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart, and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. C: Amen.

SENDING SONG NO. 858 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

- 1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
 O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!
 Let all who hear now to his temple draw near,
 joining in glad adoration!
- 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning and, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.

 Have you not seen all that is needful has been sent by his gracious ordaining?
- 3 Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you; surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you. Ponder anew what the Almighty can do if with his love he befriend you.
- 4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!
 All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!
 Let the amen sound from his people again.
 Gladly forever adore him!

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650-1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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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.



Here are some of the most desired foods:

Single serve Hormel meals small pkg. of Cereals Individual: fruit cups, or pudding cups 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!!!

The Week at Bethlehem

Sunday, August 24th 8:00 am Worship & Communion *9:30am Worship & Communion

* Live streaming of worship service

Monday, August 25th 9:00a-2:30p PACC (Fellowship Hall

11a-2p Passage to Recovery (Library)

6:30-8:00p Girl Scouts Mtg. (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, August 26th 10:30-11:30a AA (Schmid Hall)

6:00-8:30pm NA (Fellowship Hall)

Wednesday, August 27th MoB Steak Fry - Arrive around 5:30pm Point Grove in North park.

7-8:30p Boy Scouts Mtg. (Fellowship Hall)

Saturday, August 30th 6:00pm Worship/Comm.

Monthly Special Offering for AUGUST is: Bethlehem Campership Fund

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Sunday School Registration 2025-2026

(Sunday School begins on Rally Day, Sept. 7th @ 9:15am)

Name:		
Address:		
Grade Entering: Nickname:		
Date of Birth: Date of Baptism:		
Emergency Contact during Sunday School:		
Name: Phone:		
Email:		
Relationship: OR In the Building:		
Food Allergies:		
Helpful hints to help your child learn:		
Special Needs:		

Thank you,

Bethlehem Sunday School Staff

*** Please return the completed form to the church office ASAP!!

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 14th 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. 5th & 6th at 7:00pm in Fellowship Hall.



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.

HYMN SING REQUEST FORM	
My favorite hymn Is:	No:
Name:	

BETHLEHEM'S 95THANNIVERARY 1930 -2025

Plans were made at a recent Worship Committee meeting to celebrate the 95th 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^{th.}** 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 musician Budget. In honor of the 95th anniversary, w would consider donating \$5 each to cover the second seco	e are hoping that 95 'new Music Ange	
., e uzu e ezzezuez wezzuzz e 4 e e uezz e e e e e u		
My music angel gift		
Given by NAME:	Amt.\$	_

LEMONADE & LAUGHTER

Please join us each Sunday in August following our 9:30am service, when one of our committees will provide lemonade and cookies. *You bring the good conversation and help create the laughter*.

**8-24 Serving today is - MoB/Stewardship

Future Hosts are: 8-31 L.I.F.T. Group

MOB – Men of Bethlehem Annual Steak Fry

If you signed-up to attend, please plan to arrive around 5:30pm

This coming Wednesday, August 27th at Point Grove in North park.

Don't forget if you have horseshoes or wiffle ball or another game please feel free to bring it along...Let's have some friendly competition!!!







LIFT to Hartville, OH – day trip 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!



Bethlehem Book Club - September 2025

On the evening of September 23rd 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!



CHURCH PICNIC September 7th

Come join in the fellowship and fun following the 10:30 am service on September 7th. We will enjoy some hot dogs and burgers on the grill to celebrate Rally Day. *Please RSVP by September 2nd*, either through the form below, or the weekly announcements.

We ask those with last names starting with **A-M to bring a dessert** to share while those with last names starting with **N-Z to bring a side dish** to share.

If you ordered a yellow Bethlehem t-shirt or if you already have one (God's Work
Our Hands) please wear that to the picnic. We're hoping to get a group photo!
Detach and return to the church office or deposit into the offering boxes.

RSVP for Rally Day Picnic by September 2nd

Name:	
Number of adults:	Number of children: