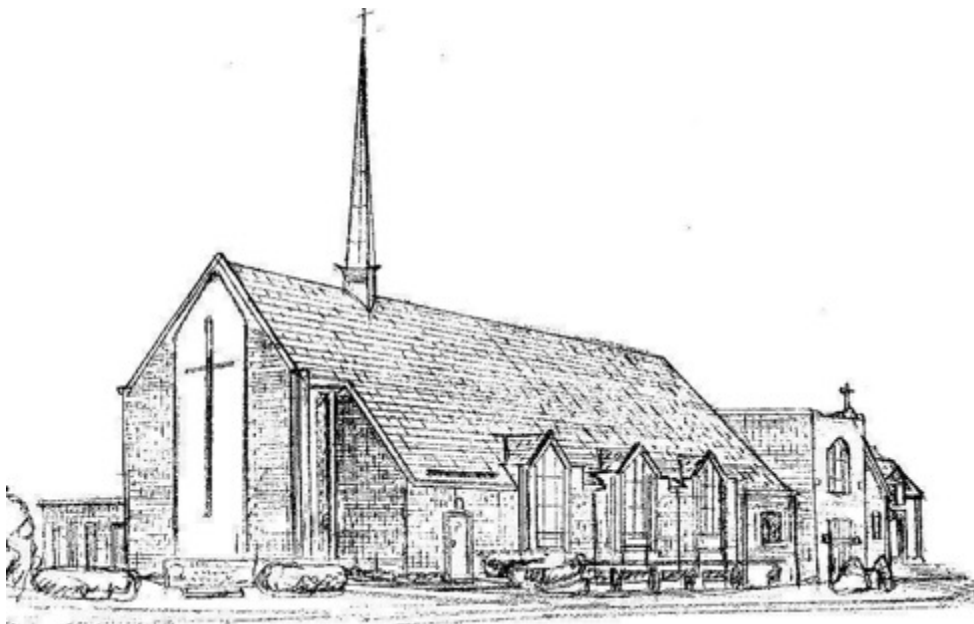


BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



Serving, accepting, and loving all.

Bulletin

May 18, 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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Sunday, May 18, 2025
Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year C

Introduction

Easter initiates a new day. It anticipates a new heaven and a new earth. The risen Christ is making all things new. In the mystery of holy baptism God has made new people of us. Today Jesus invites us to see everyone in a new light—through the lens of love.

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS (8:00 am)

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

P: In the name of ✠ the One

who was, who is, and who is to come.

C: Amen.

A: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

A: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

A: Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to

**you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: Amen.

GATHERING SONG NO. 400 God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind

1 God of tempest, God of whirlwind,
as on Pentecost descend!

Drive us out from sheltered comfort;
past these walls your people send!
Sweep us into costly service,
there with Christ to bear the cross,
there with Christ to bear the cross!

2 God of blazing, God of burning,
all that blocks your purpose, purge!
Through your church, Christ's living Body,
let your flaming Spirit surge!
Where deceit conceals injustice,
kindle us to speak your truth,
kindle us to speak your truth!

3 God of earthquake, God of thunder,
shake us loose from lethargy!
Break the chains of sin asunder,

for earth's healing set us free!
Crumble walls that still divide us;
make us one in Christ our Lord,
make us one in Christ our Lord!

4 God of passion, God unsleeping,
stir in us love's restlessness!
Where the people cry in anguish,
may we share your heart's distress.
Rouse us from content with evil;
claim us for your kingdom's work,
claim us for your kingdom's work!

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923

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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. 101)



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and



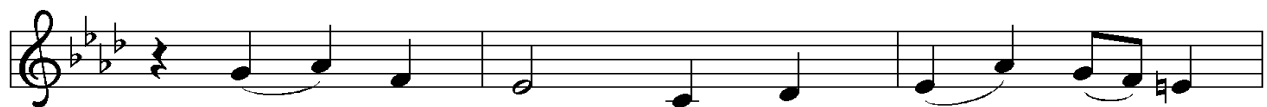
blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to



hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

WORD

First Reading: Acts 11:1-18

In defense of his earlier baptism of non-Jewish believers, Peter demonstrates to the members of the Jerusalem church that God's intention to love Gentiles as well as Jews is revealed in Jesus' testimony. In this way the mission to the Gentiles is officially authorized.

A reading from Acts,

¹ Now the apostles and the brothers and sisters who were in Judea heard that the gentiles had also accepted the word of God. ² So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, ³ saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" ⁴ Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ⁵ "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners, and it came close to me. ⁶ As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. ⁷ I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' ⁸ But I replied, 'By no means, Lord, for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' ⁹ But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' ¹⁰ This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. ¹¹ At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. ¹² The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. ¹³ He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; ¹⁴ he will give you a

message by which you and your entire household will be saved.’ ¹⁵ And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶ And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’

¹⁷ If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?” ¹⁸ When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, “Then God has given even to the gentiles the repentance that leads to life.”

A: The word of the Lord.

C : Thanks be to God.

PSALM 148 *(Sung Responsively)*

¹ Hallelujah! Praise the LORD | from the heavens;
praise God | in the heights.

² **Praise the LORD, | all you angels;
sing praise, all you | hosts of heaven.**

³ Praise the LORD, | sun and moon;
sing praise, all you | shining stars.

⁴ **Praise the LORD, heav- | en of heavens,
and you waters a- | bove the heavens.**

⁵ Let them praise the name | of the LORD,
who commanded, and they | were created,

⁶ **who made them stand fast forev- | er and ever,
giving them a law that shall not | pass away.**

⁷ Praise the LORD | from the earth,
you sea monsters | and all deeps;

⁸ **fire and hail, | snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, do- | ing God’s will;**

⁹ mountains | and all hills,
fruit trees | and all cedars;

¹⁰ **wild beasts | and all cattle,
creeping things and | flying birds;**

¹¹ sovereigns of the earth | and all peoples,
princes and all rulers | of the world;

¹² young | men and maidens,
old and | young together.

¹³ Let them praise the name | of the LORD,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over | earth and
heaven.

¹⁴ The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise
for all | faithful servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near
the LORD. | Hallelujah

SECOND READING Revelation 21:1-6

John's vision shows us that in the resurrection the new age has dawned; God dwells with us already. Yet we wait for the time when the tears that cloud our vision will be wiped away. Then we will see the new heaven, new earth, and new Jerusalem.

A reading from Revelation,

¹ I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them and be their God;

⁴ he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away.”

⁵ And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” ⁶ Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.”

A: The word of the Lord.

C : Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Repeat alleluia
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

GOSPEL John 13:31-35

After washing the disciples' feet, predicting his betrayal, and then revealing his betrayer, Jesus speaks of his glorification on the cross. This deep complicated love of Jesus, even to death on the cross, will be the distinctive mark of Jesus' community.

P: The holy gospel according to John,

C **Glory to you, O Lord**

³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³² If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³ Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' ³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

P : The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON - The Rev. Dr. Daniel P. Smail, S.T.M.

HYMN OF THE DAY NO. 398 Holy Spirit, Truth Divine

- 1 Holy Spirit, truth divine,
dawn upon this soul of mine;
breath of God and inward light,
wake my spirit, clear my sight.
- 2 Holy Spirit, love divine,
glow within this heart of mine;
kindle ev'ry high desire;
purge me with your holy fire.
- 3 Holy Spirit, pow'r divine,
fortify this will of mine;
by your will I strongly live,
bravely bear, and nobly strive.
- 4 Holy Spirit, peace divine,
still this restless heart of mine;
speak to calm this tossing sea,
stayed in your tranquility.
- 5 Holy Spirit, right divine,
king within my conscience reign;
be my guide, and I shall be
firmly bound, forever free.

CONFIRMATION (10:30)

THE NICENE CREED (8:00)

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit
and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified
under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge
the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,**

who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.**

Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Fill the church with the spirit of your redeeming love. Make us steadfast in our proclamation of your grace for all people without exceptions, especially those often overlooked in our communities. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Awaken joy in the beauty and abundance of your creation. Show us the wonder of your presence from the smallest flower to the tallest tree. Recommit us to preservation of wild places. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Instruct all world leaders to protect the most vulnerable among us. Guide those in power toward equitable and just economic policies, so that all might have sufficient resources to live safely and with dignity. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Pour out your love on all in need of care: those mourning losses, enduring trauma, experiencing broken relationships, yearning for companionship, or facing illness; especially those we name within our hearts (*a moment of silence*). Wipe away every tear. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Abide with all who are marginalized. Destroy all forms of systemic oppression and renew our commitment to healing the wounds of our collective body in this community and beyond. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for all the saints whose lives bear witness to your redeeming love. Guide us by their example, until we join them in your eternal home. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

Amen

SHARING OF THE 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

L: Let us pray,

C: Risen One,

**you have gathered us around your table of grace
along with these gifts we bring.**

Come among us again,

breathe your life into us,

and enliven us with this meal,

that we may live as your risen body in the world.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

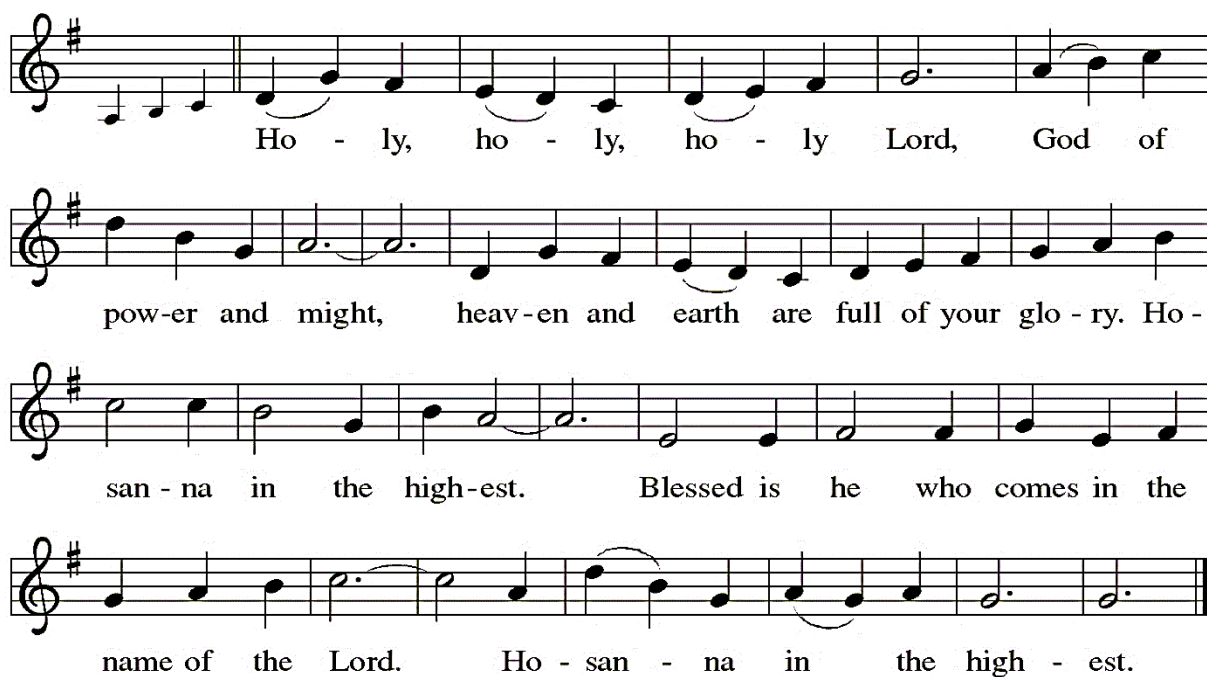
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

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

HOLY HOLY HOLY Page 108



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy, living, and loving God,

we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth.

We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood,

for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery,

and for sending your Son to be our Redeemer.

We give you thanks for Jesus

who, living among us,

healed the sick,

fed the hungry,

and with a love stronger than death,

gave his life for others.

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 life-giving death and glorious resurrection,
we await your promised life for all this dying world.

Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup:
carry us in your arms from death to life,
that we may live as your chosen ones,
clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

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

Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

COMMUNION

Lamb of God (Page 112)

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

SENIOR CHOIR - *Cantate Domino* "Sing to the Lord" G. O. Pittoni

Sing to the Lord, your God, O Sing a new song

O praise Him in the company of His saints.

Let all the world be joyful in Him that made us all:

And let all the people be joyful,

Be joyful and sing to their King.

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.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

L: Let us pray,
Living One,
in this feast you have made yourself known to us.
Send us now to tell of your wonders,
sing of your glory,
and proclaim your risen life
to a wounded and weary world.
Amen.

SENDING BENEDICTION

P: The triune God,
who was, who is, and who is to come,
Sovereign, ✠ Savior, and Spirit,
light your way with resurrection dawn,
now and always.
C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN 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.

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DISMISSAL

A: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

A: Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

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.

LIFT BREAKFAST + FELLOWSHIP - SATURDAY, 5/24/25 @ BELC

Join the LIFT group as we enjoy breakfast and fellowship together on Saturday, May 24th @ 9 am in Fellowship Hall. Please bring a breakfast food to share (think "egg bake", french toast bake, coffee cake, bagels, fruit salad, fruit juice, etc.) Look for the sign-up sheet on the Narthex bulletin board to sign up and note what you will be bringing. Hoping to have a good turnout! Please feel free to invite a friend.

Octogenarian Brunch (for BELC members ages 80+) Sunday, June 29th - immediately following the 9:30 am Worship Service FREE - RSVP now!

Were you born in 1945 or earlier? You may have grown up listening to swing music, early rock and roll, or folk music. You might remember watching classic Hollywood films, westerns, and musicals in black and white. Perhaps you still reminisce about poodle skirts and the jitterbug. This special event is for you! The BELC Hope & Compassion Team is celebrating our members ages 80+ by hosting a summer brunch gathering on Sunday, June 29th. Please join us for FREE food, music, activities, social time, and more immediately following the 9:30 am Worship service.

RSVP now for the Octogenarian Brunch

Please complete this form and place in the offering or return to the church office.

Name(s) of those attending: _____

Special dietary restriction(s): _____

The Week at Bethlehem

Sunday, May 18th - 8:00am worship / Communion

9:30am Confirmation Breakfast for Confirmands and their families

*10:30am Worship / Communion w/Confirmation

Coffee hour celebration following 10:30 worship.

* 10:30 am--- Live Streamed

NO Youth Group – spend time with family

Monday, May 19th 9:00am-2:30pm PACC – (Fellowship Hall)

11a-2p Passage to Recovery (Library)

6:30p Girl Scouts (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, May 20th 10:30a AA (Schmid Hall)

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

7:00pm Boy Scout Committee Meeting (Lounge)

Wednesday, May 21st 10:30am & 7:00pm Bible Study (Schmid Hall)

7-8:30pm Boy Scouts (Fellowship Hall)

7-8pm CWA Mtg. (Lounge)

Thursday, May 22nd 10:00a Stained Glass Class

4:30-6:30pm ACT-1 (Fellowship Hall)

Saturday, May 24th 9:00am L.I.F.T. Group Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)

6:00pm Worship/Comm.

Bible Study in May 2025!

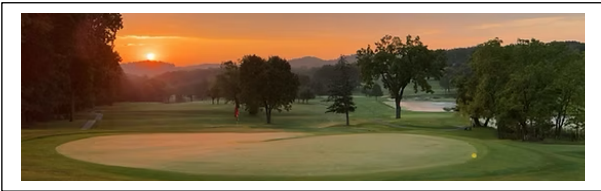
Please join us in the coming weeks as we will be looking into the Hebrew Scriptures. More Specifically, we will be studying 1 and 2 Samuel, which will provide us with a deeper appreciation of the critically important reigns of Saul and David. There will be interesting biblical history, some political intrigue, and lots of meaningful and impactful conversation concerning the implications of the biblical witness... so do not miss it. We'll gather on April 30th, May 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th. As is our custom, we will have study sessions at 10:30 in the morning and at 7:00 in the evening. And as a friendly reminder, even if you can only make a couple of studies, it will still be well worth your time!

The big question is: BOXERS OR BRIEFS??

Well, in this case – **BOTH!** Northside Common Ministries has made us aware of the need for new (in packages) men's underwear in EITHER style! The most needed sizes are LARGE and EXTRA LARGE. If you would like to pick up a package or two, when you're out shopping for clothes for the upcoming summer season, your donation will be much appreciated!

Please place your donations in the large box that will be in the Narthex beginning the last weekend in April! The collection will continue thru the end of May.

As always, NCM is so thankful for the generosity of the good folks at Bethlehem. ...and we'll let you know, based on the BELC collection, whether Boxers or Briefs are the most popular style!



Bethlehem Golf Nights!

Ready for some good times on the links? Great! Please join us at LakeVue North Golf Course for this summer's series of ***Bethlehem Golf Nights***. Mark your calendars for June 1st, July 6th, and August 3rd. We'll start teeing off between 5:00 and 5:30, feel free to show up a little early for some friendly banter. If you plan to attend on any of these evenings, please sign up in the narthex or RSVP to Pastor Dan (d.smail@belc.org), so we know who to expect. Thanks in advance for participation in this wonderful fellowship opportunity!*

*LakeVue North has asked that everyone who turns out for our congregation's golf events needs to be a paying golfer with clubs who can maintain appropriate pace of play, no "ride-alongs," thanks so very much!



Pentecost Sunday
Coffee Hour
June 8
Following the 9:30am Service

Please join us for cookies and coffee to celebrate Pentecost Sunday!



GERANIUMS

On Pentecost weekend, June 7-8, the chancel will be decorated with beautiful red geraniums. If you would like to have one placed on the altar in memory or in honor of someone, please indicate the number of plants you would like at a cost of \$4.75 each at the bottom of this form and return payment along with the completed form to the church office by Sunday, May 25th for the dedication to be included in the bulletin on Pentecost Sunday weekend.

Contact Marianne Reed at (412) 486-0550 in the church office, if you have any questions.

Any orders received after the deadline date of May 25th will not have the dedication listed in the bulletin on Pentecost, they will be printed in a bulletin at a later date.

Geranium order form deadline May 25th

_____ No. of Geraniums @ \$4.75 = \$ _____

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

Given by: _____

(Name as you want it printed in the bulletin)

****Plants can be picked up after the 9:30am service on Sunday or during the week.**



SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

May 25th ---- Late Service time change. Worship will begin at **9:30am weekly** until after labor day when we begin our fall/winter schedule.



Confirmation News:

TODAY, May 18th 10:30am - Worship with Confirmation
with Coffee Hour following worship

No Youth May 18th Confirmation or May 25th Memorial Day Weekend

A Look into Summer At Bethlehem's Summer Study

"C.S. Lewis, Uncle Screwtape, and a Reinvestment in Virtue"

This summer we will gather bi-weekly and make our way through portions of C.S. Lewis' classic, "The Screwtape Letters." With the help of Lewis' writing, pertinent pieces of scripture, and robust conversation we may just find our way to a deeper appreciation of personal Christian ethics and more virtuous lives; lives increasingly characterized by love, patience, and generosity. We will gather on June 11th and 25th, July 9th and 23rd, and August 6th and 20th. On each of those days Pastor Ellen and Pastor Dan will offer study sessions at 10:30 (except on July 9th) and 7:00. Please do join us, as this is a wonderful way to engage the spiritual imagination and invest in serious faith formation throughout the summer months!

A little look into the summer



Plans are underway for another week of adventure this year at our
BELC -- (Road Trip Themed) Vacation Bible School

We hope that while you are planning for your children's summer Fun & Learning that you keep Bethlehem's VBS at the top of the list of places to go.

VBA will be taking place the week of July 7th – 11th
All the details and registration will be forthcoming.

Vacation Bible School Volunteer Meeting

We're so excited for VBS and need your help for our Road Trip themed week, July 7-11 from 9:30 am-12:00 pm! Volunteers are needed for all sorts of roles during VBS. If you'd like to volunteer, please let Pastor Ellen (e.lundie@belc.org) know. A meeting for all volunteers will be Tuesday, June 17 at 7 pm.



EVERYTHING'S COMING UP..... STRAWBERRIES

*Mark your calendars for BELC's 6th Strawberry Festival
being held on Saturday, June 14th from 4-8pm!*

*There will be Strawberry Shortcake, Strawberry Sundaes,
a Bake Sale, Chocolate Covered Strawberries,
homemade Strawberry Jam in addition to
Blueberry Jam for sale!*

There will also be a kid's corner with Strawberry activities they can do.

Also, don't forget the ever-popular Baskets Raffle.

We are looking for anything and everything Strawberry!

*And as always, we're counting on the support of our
very generous congregation!*

We'll need bakers, crafters, and donations for the Baskets Raffle.

Then as time gets closer, look for tickets to be sold in the Narthex .

Admission will be \$6.00

*That price will get you a yummy dessert (Angel food cake, pound cake
with strawberries and ice cream) and drink of your choice)*

"All profits of the festival will go toward purchasing food for the BELC Blessing Box and local food pantries."

In conjunction with the 125th Anniversary of Shaler Twp. there is a special event upcoming over the Memorial day weekend. See all the details below.

Have you ever heard of The Wall That Heals ?

Well, it is coming to Shaler Twp. For the Memorial Day Weekend.

**Where: Anderson Field located at -
1350 Anderson Road, Pittsburgh 15209**

When: Thursday, May 22 through Monday, May 26

A three-quarter replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., will make its only appearance in the Pittsburgh area this year in Shaler.

The Wall That Heals and a mobile education center will be at Shaler Area High School over the Memorial Day weekend, May 22-26, as the cornerstone of the township's 125th anniversary observances this year.

The last time it was in the Pittsburgh area was in 2019 in Indiana.

Tentative schedule for The Wall That Heals.

Wednesday, May 21

Escort into Shaler Township

Thursday, May 22 at 2:00pm

Soft opening - the public can begin visiting.

Friday, May 23 at 2:00pm

Official first day featuring a Welcome Home Ceremony to honor those listed on The Wall.

Saturday, May 24 - 30 minutes after sunset

Candlelight Ceremony for Agent Orange Awareness

Monday, May 26 at 11:30am

Memorial Day Service

Monday, May 26 at 1:45pm

Closing Ceremony to recognize those that sponsored, donated, and volunteered. The Wall will be closing at 2:00pm.



Save the date!

**BETHLEHEM BARBERSHOP JUBILEE - SHALER COMMUNITY
IN HARMONY**

When? Sunday, June 22, from 2 to 4 p.m.

Where? Bethlehem Lutheran Church and the Huddleston Pavilion

Bethlehem has a vibrant history as a part of the life and legacy of Shaler Township, which is celebrating its 125th anniversary this year. We look forward to bringing our church family and the community together to honor that history and have a little fun -- more like a LOT of fun! It will be a FREE, community-wide afternoon of olde tyme family fun, games, music and refreshments - - rain or shine, with entertainment provided by the North Hills Harmony Line Chorus.

Mark your calendars for June 22, and look for updates about all the excitement in the coming weeks!