

# **BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**



*Serving, accepting, and loving all.*

**Bulletin**

**August 17, 2025**

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

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**Sunday, August 17, 2025**

**Lectionary 20, Year C**

## **Introduction**

*The word of God is a refining fire. Jesus is the great divide in human history. He invites our undivided attention and devotion. Today in worship we are surrounded by a great “cloud of witnesses.” In the word and in holy communion we are invited yet again to look to Jesus, “the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.”*

## **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. 815 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light**

1 I want to walk as a child of the light.  
I want to follow Jesus.  
God set the stars to give light to the world.  
The star of my life is Jesus.

### *Refrain*

In him there is no darkness at all.  
The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.  
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.  
2 I want to see the brightness of God.  
I want to look at Jesus.  
Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path,  
and show me the way to the Father. *Refrain*

3 I'm looking for the coming of Christ.  
I want to be with Jesus.  
When we have run with patience the race,  
we shall know the joy of Jesus. *Refrain*

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934

## **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



**☐** Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, 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.



**☐** Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



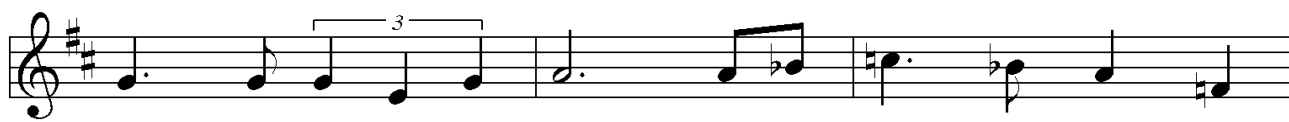
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo- ple on earth.



**☐** Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



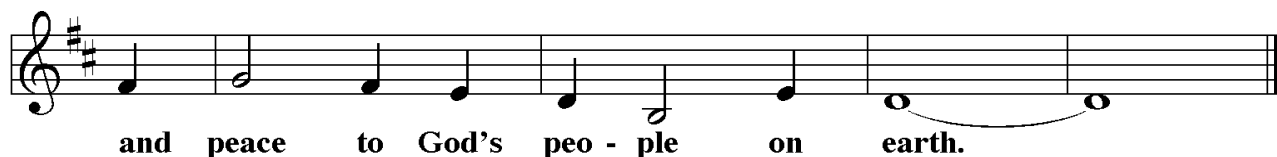
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re- ceive our prayer.



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

O God, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

## WORD

### **FIRST READING: Jeremiah 23:23-29**

*Because Jeremiah preaches the unpopular message of God's judgment, he suffers rejection. Today's reading distinguishes between the true prophet, like Jeremiah, who speaks God's word, and the false prophet who misleads the people through dreams. One is like wheat; the other like worthless straw.*

A reading from Jeremiah,

<sup>23</sup> Am I a God near by, says the LORD, and not a God far off? <sup>24</sup> Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the LORD. <sup>25</sup> I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed! I have dreamed!" <sup>26</sup> How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? <sup>27</sup> They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. <sup>28</sup> Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the LORD. <sup>29</sup> Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

A: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 2**

<sup>1</sup> God stands to charge the divine council assembled,  
giving judgment in the midst of the gods:

<sup>2</sup> **"How long will you judge unjustly,  
and show favor to the wicked?**

<sup>3</sup> Save the weak and the orphan;  
defend the humble and needy;

<sup>4</sup> **rescue the weak and the poor;  
deliver them from the power of the wicked.**

<sup>5</sup> They do not know, neither do they understand;

they wander a- | bout in darkness;  
all the foundations of the | earth are shaken.  
<sup>6</sup> **Now I say to you, | ‘You are gods,**  
**and all of you children of | the Most High;**  
<sup>7</sup> nevertheless, you shall | die like mortals,  
and fall like | any prince.’ ”  
<sup>8</sup> **Arise, O God, and | rule the earth,**  
**for you shall take all nations | for your own.**

## **SECOND READING: Hebrews 11:29—12:2**

*The author of Hebrews presents us with rich stories of faith. In a long list of biblical heroes, we find examples of trust in God that enabled them to face the trials of life faithfully. In addition to this “cloud of witnesses,” we have Jesus, the perfect model of faithful endurance.*

A reading from Hebrews,

<sup>29</sup> By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. <sup>30</sup> By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. <sup>31</sup> By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

<sup>32</sup> And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, <sup>33</sup> who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, <sup>34</sup> quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. <sup>35</sup> Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. <sup>36</sup> Others suffered mocking and flogging and even chains and imprisonment. <sup>37</sup> They were stoned to death; they were sawn in two; they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented <sup>38</sup> of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains and in caves and holes in the ground.

<sup>39</sup> Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not

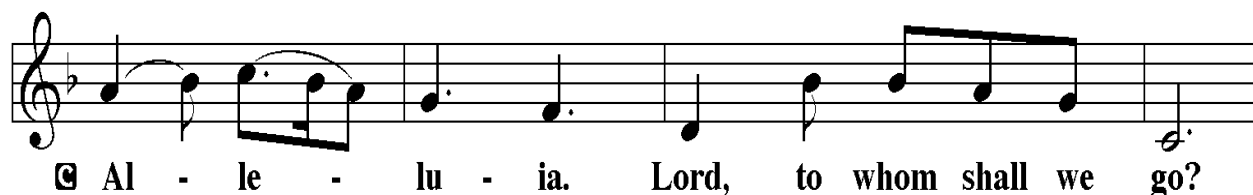
receive what was promised, <sup>40</sup> since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

<sup>12:1</sup> Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## GOSPEL: Luke 12:49-56

*Jesus delivers harsh words about the purifying and potentially divisive effects of obedience to God's call. The way of the cross often leads followers to encounter hostility and rejection, even from those they love.*

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord



[Jesus said:] <sup>49</sup> “I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already ablaze! <sup>50</sup> I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! <sup>51</sup> Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! <sup>52</sup> From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; <sup>53</sup> they will be divided:

father against son  
and son against father,  
mother against daughter  
and daughter against mother,  
mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law  
and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

<sup>54</sup> He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, ‘It is going to rain,’ and so it happens. <sup>55</sup> And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat,’ and it happens. <sup>56</sup> You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

**SERMON – The Rev. Ellen S. Lundie**

**BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS**

**HYMN OF THE DAY NO. 796 How Firm a Foundation**

1 How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,  
is laid for your faith in Christ Jesus, the Word!  
What more can he say than to you he has said  
who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?

2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,  
for I am your God and will still give you aid;  
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand."

3 "When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,  
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply.  
The flames shall not hurt you; I only design  
your dross to consume and your gold to refine."

4 "Throughout all their lifetime my people shall prove  
my sov'reign, eternal, unchangeable love;  
and then, when gray hairs shall their temples adorn,  
like lambs they shall still in my bosom be borne."

Text: J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt.

## **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.*

Raise up faithful leaders for your church around the world. Inspire global missionaries with a spirit of accompaniment, as they walk alongside our partners in the gospel in solidarity, interdependence, and mutuality. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Safeguard rivers and lakes from pollution. Sustain the work of conservationists, policy makers, and advocacy groups seeking to protect fresh water sources. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Bridge divisions across partisan lines. Strengthen cooperative efforts among lawmakers who enact policies that protect our neighbors who are most vulnerable. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Embrace all who suffer in isolation: for those who are incarcerated or detained, those who are fleeing from unsafe environments, and those who are sick or homebound; especially those we name within our hearts (*a moment of silence*). Reassure them of your care in all times and places. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Guide the leaders of this congregation. In these late summer weeks, inspire their planning for a new program year ahead. Kindle in us a spirit of collaboration and support for their work. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

With thanksgiving, we remember the cloud of witnesses who surround us. By the example of their faith, enable us to run with perseverance the race set before us, until that day when we join their unending praise. 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

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff begins with a common time signature 'C' which is then changed to 4/4. The lyrics are: '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. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.' The score ends with a double bar line.

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. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## 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.**

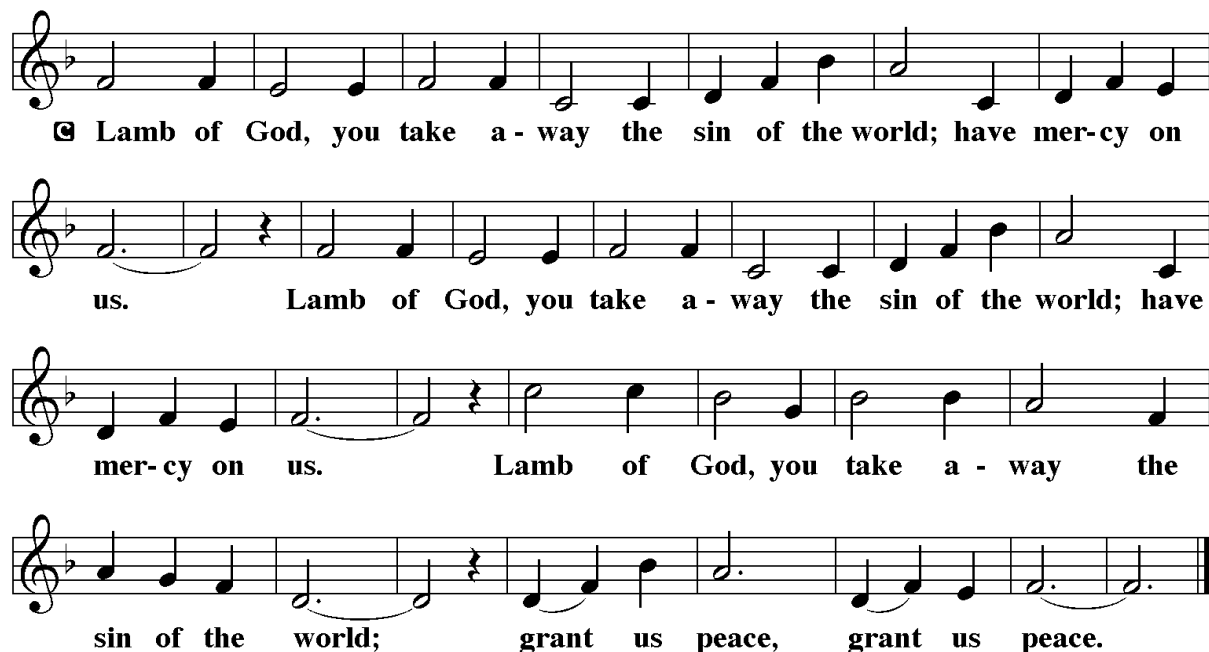
**Amen.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

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

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

## COMMUNION SONG



☐ 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.

## COMMUNION HYMN NO. 557 Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun

1 Awake, my soul, and with the sun  
thy daily stage of duty run;  
shake off dull sloth, and joyful rise  
to pay thy morning sacrifice.

2 All praise to thee, who safe hast kept  
and hast refreshed me while I slept.  
Grant, Lord, when I from death shall wake,  
I may of endless light partake.

3 Lord, I my vows to thee renew.  
Disperse my sins as morning dew;  
guard my first springs of thought and will;  
and with thyself my spirit fill.

4 Direct, control, suggest, this day,  
all I design or do or say,



that all my pow'rs, with all their might,  
in thy sole glory may unite.

5 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God, all creatures here below;  
praise God above, ye heav'nly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711, alt.

## **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. 618 Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer**

1 Guide me ever, great Redeemer,  
pilgrim through this barren land.  
I am weak, but you are mighty;  
hold me with your pow'rful hand.  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,  
feed me now and evermore,  
feed me now and evermore.

2 Open now the crystal fountain  
where the healing waters flow;  
let the fire and cloudy pillar  
lead me all my journey through.  
Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer,  
shield me with your mighty arm,  
shield me with your mighty arm.

3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
bid my anxious fears subside;  
death of death and hell's destruction,  
land me safe on Canaan's side.  
Songs and praises, songs and praises,  
I will raise forevermore,  
I will raise forevermore.

Text: William Williams, 1717-1791; tr. William Williams and Peter Williams, 1722-1796, 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 17th** 8:00 am Worship & Communion

\*9:30am Worship & Communion

\* Live streaming of worship service

**Monday, August 18th** 9:00a-2:30p PACC (Fellowship Hall)

11a-2p Passage to Recovery (Library)

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

**Tuesday, August 19th** **First Day of School – Shaler Area**

**God Bless you all & Driver's please be alert!**

10:30-11:30a AA (Schmid Hall)

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

7:00pm Christian Ed & Youth Comm. Mtg. (lounge)

**Wednesday, August 20th** 10:30a & 7:00p Bible Study (Church Sanctuary)

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

**Thursday, August 21st** 7:00pm Stewardship Comm. Mtg. (lounge)

**Saturday, August 23rd** 10:00a-3:00pm Century Club (Schmid Hall)

6:00pm Worship/Comm.

**Monthly Special Offering for AUGUST is: Bethlehem Campership Fund**



**BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS is taking place at all service this weekend August 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>. Children of all ages are welcome and encouraged to come forward for a special blessing as they prepare for the start of a new school year.**

**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 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.

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

The final summer bi-weekly gathering of this series will take place on August 20<sup>th</sup> as we have been making 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. Pastor Ellen and Pastor Dan will offer study sessions at 10:30 and 7:00 as usual. Please do join us, as this wonderful way to engage the spiritual imagination and invest in serious faith formation wraps up for summer.

**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.

-----  
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 .***

***\*\*8-17 Serving today is - Youth & Christian Ed***

***Future Hosts are: 8-24 MoB/Stewardship 8-31 L.I.F.T. Group***

## **MOB – Men of Bethlehem Annual Steak Fry**

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

The menu is: steak, chicken wings, salad, potato salad, baked beans, dessert, and drinks. Cost per person: \$20.00

***If you are planning to attend -- please sign-up by: TODAY, Aug.17<sup>th</sup> to allow enough time for shopping and prep.***

***\*\*Sign-up sheet can be found on the Bulletin board across from the church on MoB Section.***

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 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!



# CHURCH PICNIC

## September 7th

Come join in the fellowship and fun following the 10:30 am service on September 7<sup>th</sup>. We will enjoy some hot dogs and burgers on the grill to celebrate Rally Day. **Please RSVP by September 2<sup>nd</sup>**, 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 (God's Work, Our Hands) please wear that to the picnic. We're hoping to get a group photo!

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Detach and return to the church office or deposit into the offering boxes.

**RSVP for Rally Day Picnic by September 2<sup>nd</sup>**

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

Number of adults: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of children: \_\_\_\_\_

