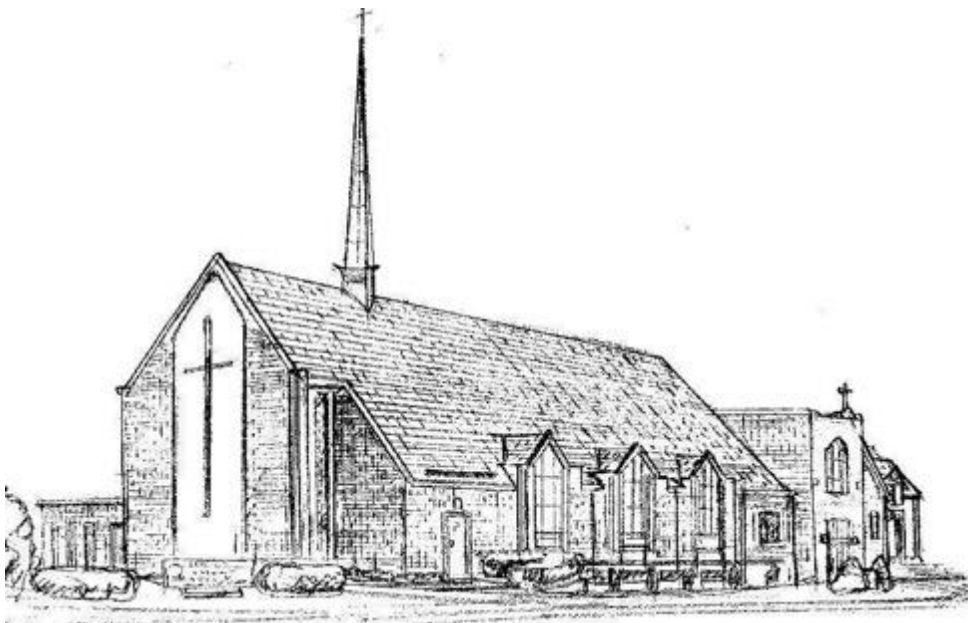


BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



Serving, accepting, and loving all.

Bulletin
October 19, 2025

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

1719 Mt. Royal Boulevard – Glenshaw, PA 15116
Phone: 412-486-0550 E-Mail: office@belc.org

Web Page: www.belc.org

Sunday, October 19, 2025

Lectionary 29, Year C

Introduction

Pray always. Do not lose heart. This is Christ's encouragement in the gospel today. Wrestle with the word. Remember your baptism again and again. Come regularly to Christ's table. Persistence in our every encounter with the divine will be blessed.

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE – ABIDE WITH ME, ARR. E. FONCANNON, PIANO DUET

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,

C: 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.

GATHERING SONG NO. 669 Rise Up, O Saints of God

1 Rise up, O saints of God!

From vain ambitions turn;
Christ rose triumphant that your hearts
with nobler zeal might burn.

2 Speak out, O saints of God!

Despair engulfs earth's frame;
as heirs of God's baptismal grace,
the word of hope proclaim.

3 Rise up, O saints of God!

The kingdom's task embrace;
redress sin's cruel consequence;
give justice larger place.

4 Give heed, O saints of God!

Creation cries in pain;
stretch forth your hand of healing now,
with love the weak sustain.

5 Commit your hearts to seek

the paths which Christ has trod;
and, quickened by the Spirit's pow'r,
rise up, O saints of God!

Text: Norman O. Forness, b. 1936

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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. 99)

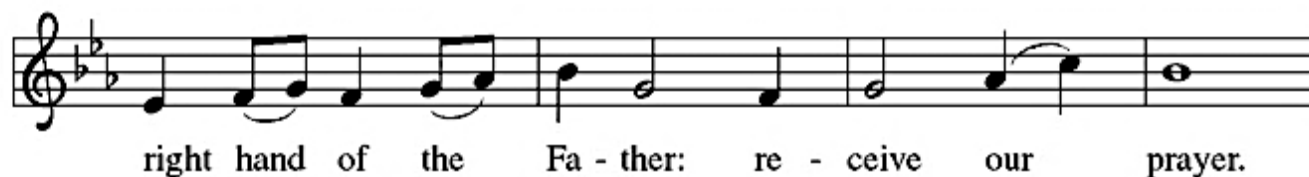
Glo - ry to God in the high -

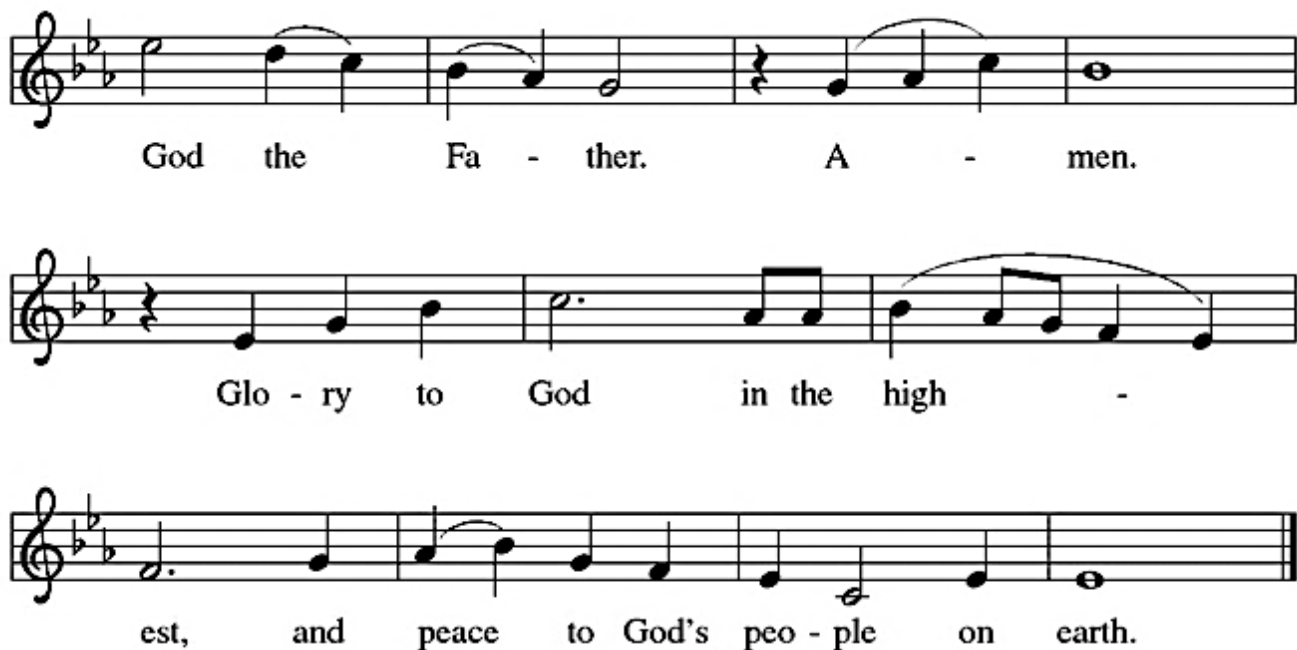
est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

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,

O Lord God, tireless guardian of your people, you are always ready to hear our cries. Teach us to rely day and night on your care. Inspire us to seek your enduring justice for all this suffering world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

WORD

FIRST READING: Genesis 32:22-31

Returning to the home he had fled many years before after stealing his brother's birthright and his father's blessing, Jacob wrestles all night long with a divine adversary who ultimately blesses him and changes his name to "Israel," a name that means "he wrestles with God."

A reading from Genesis,

²² The same night [Jacob] got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³ He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. ²⁴ Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until

daybreak. ²⁵ When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ²⁶ Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." ²⁷ So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." ²⁸ Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed." ²⁹ Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. ³⁰ So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, yet my life is preserved." ³¹ The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 121 (The Psalm will be sung responsively by whole verse)

¹ I lift up my eyes | to the hills;

from where is my | help to come?

² **My help comes | from the LORD,**

the maker of heav- | en and earth.

³ The LORD will not let your | foot be moved

nor will the one who watches over you | fall asleep.

⁴ **Behold, the keep- | er of Israel**

will neither slum- | ber nor sleep;

⁵ the LORD watches | over you;

the LORD is your shade at | your right hand;

⁶ **the sun will not strike | you by day,**

nor the | moon by night.

⁷ The LORD will preserve you | from all evil

and will | keep your life.

⁸ **The LORD will watch over your going out and your | coming in,**

from this time forth for- | evermore

SECOND READING: 2 Timothy 3:14—4:5

The writer of this letter continues his instruction of Timothy, his younger colleague in ministry, by emphasizing the importance of faithful teaching despite opposition.

A reading from 2 Timothy,

¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have known sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the person of God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

^{4:1} In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: ² proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage with the utmost patience in teaching. ³ For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound teaching, but, having their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires ⁴ and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. ⁵ As for you, be sober in everything, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

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: Luke 18:1-8

Jesus tells a parable of an unjust judge who is worn down by a widow's pleas. Jesus is calling God's people to cry out for justice and deliverance. For if an unethical judge will ultimately grant the plea of a persistent widow, how much more will God respond to those who call.

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord

¹ Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. ² He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. ³ In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my accuser.' ⁴ For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.' " ⁶ And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷

And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? ⁸ I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

P: The gospel of the Lord,
C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON – The Rev. Daniel P. Smail

HYMN OF THE DAY NO. 770 Give Me Jesus

1 In the morning when I rise,
in the morning when I rise,
in the morning when I rise,
give me Jesus.

Refrain

Give me Jesus,
give me Jesus.
You may have all the rest,
give me Jesus.

2 Dark midnight was my cry,
dark midnight was my cry,
dark midnight was my cry,
give me Jesus. *Refrain*

3 Just about the break of day,
just about the break of day,
just about the break of day,
give me Jesus. *Refrain*

4 Oh, when I come to die,
oh, when I come to die,
oh, when I come to die,
give me Jesus. *Refrain*

5 And when I want to sing,
and when I want to sing,
and when I want to sing,
give me Jesus. *Refrain*

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

Renewed in God's everlasting grace, let us pray for the church, the world,
and all creation.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church universal. O God, who unites the church across the
globe, bring unity and peace to a world divided by hatred and opposition.
Turn our hearts toward the gospel of Jesus Christ. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We pray for creation. O God, who made heaven and earth, draw us to the
beauty of the whole creation. Turn us toward a right relationship with the
entire cosmos. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We pray for all nations, states, cities, and towns. O God, you rule over all the earth. Grant our elected officials humility in their decision-making for the sake of the entire world. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We pray for those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. O God, who heals and strengthens, our help comes from you in times of need. Support, comfort, and heal those who suffer; especially those we name within our hearts (*a moment of silence*). God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We pray for Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Glenshaw. O God, who guides this congregation, encourage us to share the good news of Jesus Christ. Nurture our relationships with the community, that we serve and advocate for those who come to us in need. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We offer thanksgiving for the faithful departed. O God, whose promises never end, we thank you for all the saints who have shown us the way of your Son, Jesus Christ. God of grace,
receive our prayer

We offer our prayers, O God, trusting in your everlasting grace and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
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: 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. 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

Holy God,

our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food,
you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance.
You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life,
and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven.
You sent your Son to eat with sinners
and to become food for the world.

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 given for us
and his rising from the grave,
we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast.
By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal:
strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want,
and by this bread and cup make of us the body of 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.**

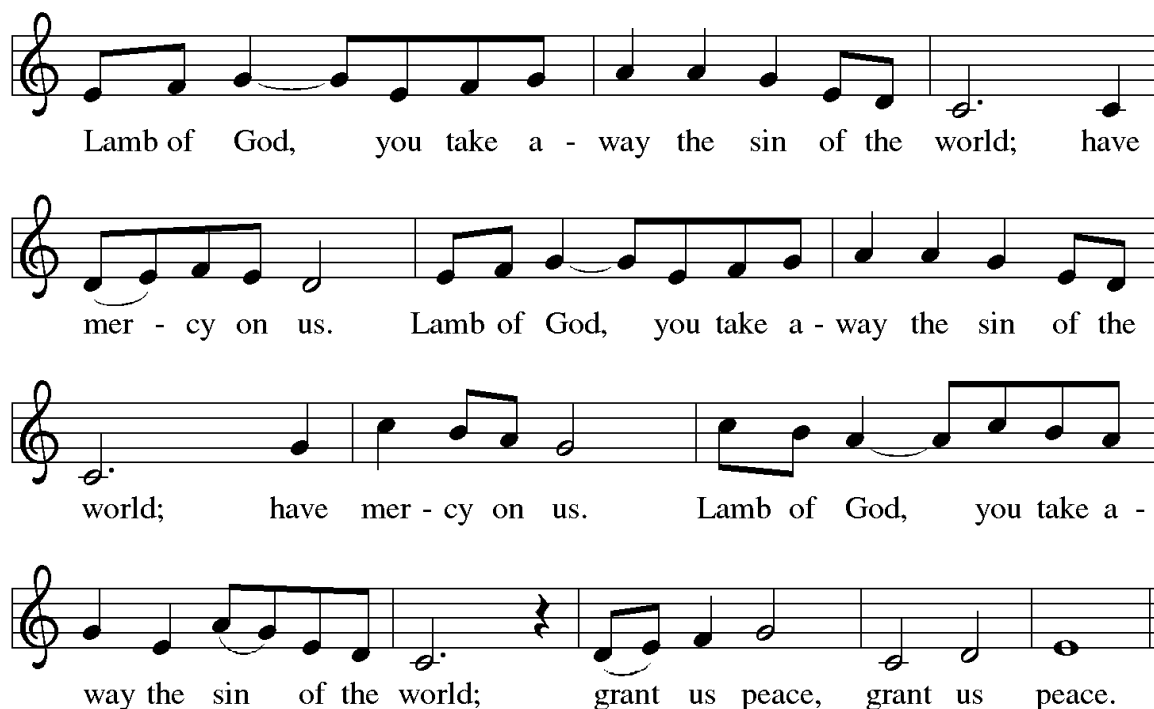
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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)



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

Seek Ye First

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu, alleluia.
Ask and it shall be given unto you; seek and ye shall find;
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you, Allelu, alleluia.
We do not live by bread alone, but by every word
That proceeds from the mouth of God, Allelu, Alleluia.

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NO. 399 O Holy Spirit, Root of Life

1 O Holy Spirit, root of life,
creator, cleanser of all things:
anoint our wounds, awaken us
with lustrous movement of your wings.

2 Eternal vigor, Saving One,
you free us by your living Word,
becoming flesh to wear our pain,
and all creation is restored.

3 O holy Wisdom, soaring pow'r,
encompass us with wings unfurled,
and carry us, encircling all
above, below, and through the world.

Text: Jean Janzen, b. 1933; based on Hildegard of Bingen, 1098-1179 Text © 1991 Jean Janzen, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
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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.

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. 632 O God, Our Help in Ages Past

- 1 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home:
- 2 Under the shadow of your throne
your saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is your arm alone,
and our defense is sure.
- 3 Before the hills in order stood
or earth received its frame,
from everlasting you are God,
to endless years the same.
- 4 A thousand ages in your sight
are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.
- 5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.
- 6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home.

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

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.

Calling all Bethlehem Bakers!

We'll be hosting a reception after Wendy Farone's Ordination on Thursday, 10/30 at 7pm...think Pittsburgh Cookie Table! If you are able to contribute cookies, please drop them off at church on Thursday afternoon.

Thank you and hope to see you there to celebrate this special occasion!

Monthly Special Offering for October is: Lutherlyn

The Week at Bethlehem

Sunday, Oct. 19th 8:00 am Worship & Communion
 9:15am Sunday School
 *10:30am Worship & Communion
* Live streaming of worship service
 5:30pm Madrigal Dinner Rehearsal
 6:30-7:30pm Confirmation Class
 6:30-7:30pm High School Hangout
 7:30 -8:30pm Youth Group

Monday, Oct. 20th 9:00-2:30p PACC (Fellowship Hall)
 6:30-8:00p Girl Scouts Mtg. (Fellowship Hall)
 7:00pm Boy Scout Comm. Mtg. (Lounge)

Tuesday, Oct. 21st 10:30-11:30a AA (Schmid Hall)
 6:00-8:30pm NA (Fellowship Hall)

Wednesday, Oct. 22nd 10:30a & 7p Bible Study (Schmid Hall)
 7-8:30p Boy Scouts Mtg. (Fellowship Hall)

Thursday, Oct. 23rd 10:00am Stained Glass & Other Crafts Class
 4:30-6:30pm ACT-1

Saturday, Oct. 25th 4:00-7:00pm Spaghetti Dinner at Northmont-NSCM
 NO 6:00pm Worship/Comm.
One service only this weekend to celebrate Reformation Sunday
and 95th Anniversary of BELC @10:30am on Sunday



Here are some of the most desired foods:

Single serve Hormel meals Small pkg. of instant mashed potatoes or rice
 small pkg. of Cereals small pkg. of muffin or brownie mix
 Pasta & Spaghetti sauce small size jars of Condiments Juice boxes
 Boxes of Pop Tarts – that can be opened & given 1 serving of 2 in a pkg.- to an individual
 Peanut butter or Jelly & saltine crackers or club crackers(w/individual wrapped sleeves)
 Individual bottles of Ensure snack size pkgs. Cookies or granola bars
 Tuna in foil pkg. for easy opening can of carnation milk soups boxed stuffing 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!!!**



**Please stay after late worship
 For: IMPORTANT MEETING**



**Please attend a brief congregational meeting this, Sunday-
 October 19 immediately following our late worship service.
 We will be discussing and seeking approval of a church council
 motion to renovate Schmid Hall and ancillary areas of the
 church.**

**Your attendance is needed to hear about this exciting new
 project proposal and to cast your vote.**



Spaghetti Dinner next 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!



October Bible Study: Adventures in the Book of Acts

The Book of Acts is not only action packed, it also provides an intriguing and inspiring glimpse into the life of the early Christian church!

Join us for Bible study this October and we will have some extremely engaging conversations and harvest some important lessons from our forebears in the Body of Christ! Join us for a couple of sessions or all of them, you will be blessed by any class you are able to attend.

Bible study is scheduled continues for Wednesday, October 22nd, and 29th, after our October 15th our mid-term break. As is our custom at Bethlehem Lutheran, we will be offering classes at both 10:30 and 7:00, with a “Zoom” remote option available during the evening session. Please consider joining us for these empowering and insightful studies!

October Book Club.

This month, Bethlehem's Book Club will be considering Kathleen Norris', "Amazing Grace." This is an engaging text that raises and entertains critically important concepts within the Christian faith in an inviting and accessible way. Our group will be gathering on October 21st at 6:30, please do consider joining us for a meaningful conversation. This promises to be an enlightening time together!

Time to sign-up is running out for :

Our 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! "Campership funds are available for those who need them". Do you already know you are planning to attend? Then, simply reach out with your registration and we will be glad to reserve your spot. Thanks in advance for your consideration!

Retreat Registration form

Registration and fee is due by October 26.

Registration includes meals, bedding, pillows, towels, WiFi.

Double occupancy - per person \$210

Single occupancy - per person \$330

Name - _____

Cell phone - _____

Email address - _____

Dietary restrictions - _____

Roommate - _____

Campership Assistance- _____

Who Is My Neighbor?

Second Harvest, a community thrift store, is located at **624 Clay Street, Sharpsburg just 3.1 miles from our church.** It is not only a community thrift store but the location of a freezer, refrigerator, and pantry where all are encouraged to:

“Take what you need” and “Leave what you don’t.”

One of the urgent needs of the pantry is baby diapers and



This October, your Health and Wellness Team will be collecting unopened boxes of these much needed products for the babies in our neighboring communities. Please just deposit them in the labeled bin located in the narthex. The team will see that they are delivered to the pantry at Second Harvest.

Collections will be received October 5th – 26th.

GA-GA TOURNAMENT

FUNDRAISER

OPEN TO ALL AGES

PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE YOUTH TRIP FUND

Please join us on

Sunday, October 19th from 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. for a
night of Ga-Ga, Giggles, and Snacks

Entry Fee \$5.00

Age Levels (Please Select One):

_____ 12 years old and under;

_____ 13 years old to 18 years old;

_____ Over 18 years old.



Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Celebrating our 95th Anniversary
1930-2025

Please join us for a Festival Worship Service,
united as one body in Christ, on
Reformation Sunday, October 26th, 2025 - 10:30 am
(i.e., No Saturday or Sunday 8:00 am services!)

A Luncheon to Follow

Menu: Roasted Pork Tenderloin, Potatoes au gratin,

Glazed Carrots, Tossed Salad

With a FREE WILL OFFERING

To enable all members / families to attend

Suggested donation: Adults - \$12.50

Children under 12 – No charge.

*** * * * ***

95th Anniversary Luncheon Reservation

Return to the Church Office, Deadline: Sunday, October 19th

Name _____

No. Adults: _____ No. Children: _____ Offering Enclosed: _____



2026 Calendars Are Being Collected

for the “North Hills Community Outreach”
Collection will begin October 1st and
continue through December 14th.

Calendars can be placed in the labeled box
in the Narthex.

Thank You for your continued support
of this social ministry project.

JOIN IN THE CELEBRATION



BY THE GRACE OF GOD AND
CALL OF THE CHURCH

DR. WENDY S FARONE

WILL BE ORDAINED INTO THE
MINISTRY OF WORD & SACRAMENT

THE REV. MELISSA STOLLER, PRESIDING
BISHOP OF THE SOUTHWESTERN PA SYNOD

THURSDAY | OCTOBER 30 | 7:00 PM

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
1719 MT. ROYAL BLVD. GLENSHAW, PA

*Livestream available on YouTube at
Bethlehem Lutheran Church Glenshaw*