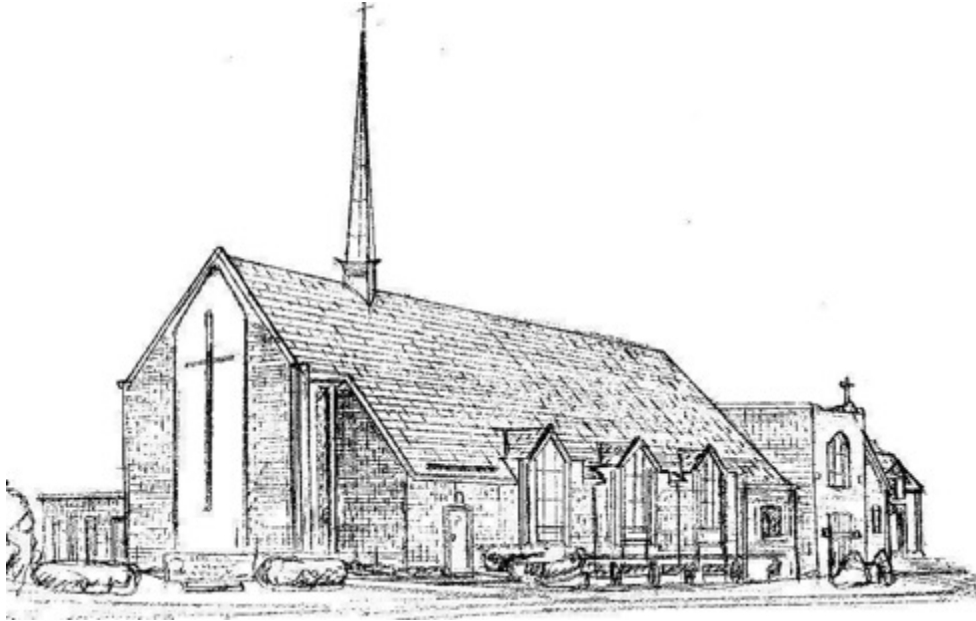


BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



Serving, accepting, and loving all.

Bulletin

September 1, 2024

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, September 1, 2024

Lectionary 22, Year B

Introduction

Jesus protests against human customs being given the weight of divine law, while the essence of God's law is ignored. True uncleanness comes not from external things, but from the intentions of the human heart. Last week Jesus told us "the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life" (John 6:63). Now James says God has given us birth by the word of truth. We who were washed in the word when we were born in the font return to it every Sunday to ask God to create in us clean hearts.

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

A: Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.
Silence is kept for reflection.

A: Gracious God,
have mercy on us.

**We confess that we have honored you with our lips,
but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues.**

**The cravings at war within us
cause conflicts and disputes.**

**In our desire to be first
we make distinctions among ourselves.**

**We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last.
In your great mercy, forgive us our sins.**

Draw near to us with grace in time of need,

**and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ,
our Savior and Lord.**

Amen.

P: God promises to forgive our iniquity
and to remember our sin no more.

By grace you have been saved.

In the name of † Jesus Christ,

the source of eternal healing,

your sins are forgiven.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG NO. 879 For the Beauty of the Earth

1 For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies:

Refrain

Christ, our God, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.

2 For the wonder of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flow'r,
sun and moon and stars of light: Refrain

3 For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight: Refrain

4 For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above;
for all gentle thoughts and mild: Refrain

5 For each perfect gift of thine,
peace on earth and joy in heav'n;
for thyself, best gift divine,
to our world so freely giv'n: Refrain

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.



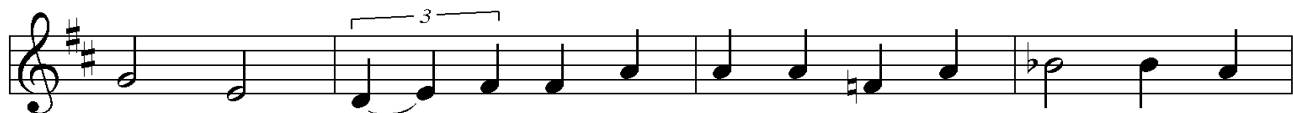
☐ Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



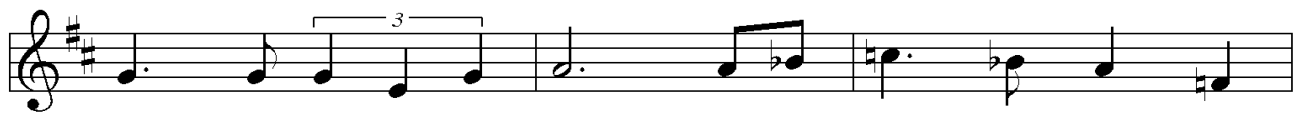
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



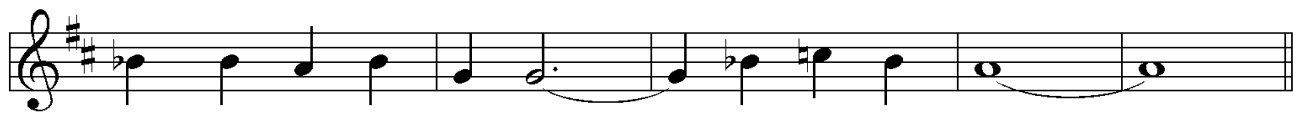
☐ Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



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.



C 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.



I
II For you a- lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



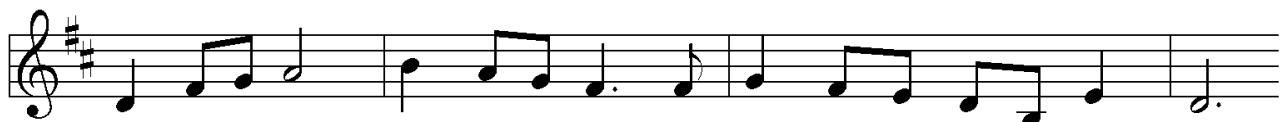
you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



Spir- it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa- ther, A - men.



C 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,



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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray,

O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures.

Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

The Israelites believed the law was a divine gift that provided guidelines for living out the covenant. Moses commands the people to obey the law and to neither add to nor subtract from it. The Israelites are also to teach the law to their children and their children's children.

A reading from Deuteronomy,

¹So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. ²You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you.

⁶You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" ⁷For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? ⁸And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

⁹But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 15

¹LORD, who may dwell in your | tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your | holy hill?

²**Those who lead a blameless life and do | what is right,
who speak the truth | from their heart;**

³they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil | to their friends;
they do not cast discredit up- | on a neighbor.

⁴**In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those
who | fear the LORD.**

They have sworn upon their health and do not take | back their word.

⁵They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes a- | gainst the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be | overthrown

SECOND READING: James 1:17-27

The letter of James was intended to provide first-century Christians with instruction in godly behavior. Here Christians are encouraged to listen carefully and to act on what they hear, especially by caring for those least able to care for themselves.

A reading from James,

¹⁷Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

¹⁹You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. ²¹Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

²²But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

²⁶If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

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

GOSPEL: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Mark's gospel depicts Jesus as challenging traditional ways in which religious people determine what is pure or impure. For Jesus, the observance of religious practices cannot become a substitute for godly words or deeds that spring from a faithful heart.

The holy gospel according to Mark,

Glory to you, O Lord

¹Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus], ²they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) ⁵So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” ⁶He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

‘This people honors me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;

⁷in vain do they worship me,
teaching human precepts as doctrines.’

⁸You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

¹⁴Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.

²¹“For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, ²²adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON – The Rev. Daniel P. Smail

HYMN OF THE DAY NO. NO 685 Take My Life, That I May Be

- 1 Take my life, that I may be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.
- 2 Take my hands and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee.
- 3 Take my voice and let me sing
always, only, for my King;
take my lips and let them be
filled with messages from thee.
- 4 Take my silver and my gold,
not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect and use

ev'ry pow'r as thou shall choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine,
it shall be no longer mine.

Take my heart, it is thine own,
it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879, 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

Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

God of every generation, give the church a sense of purpose and belonging. Sustain and build up leaders and lay people as we accompany one another in our life with Christ. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of creation, you named humans as co-creators with you. Where the earth cries out in pain, bring wholeness. Guide governments and industry, that environmental laws and practices seek to heal and not harm. Bring relief and justice to people and places suffering from climate catastrophe. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Sovereign God, we pray for local communities of every kind: rural and urban; established and new. Lead those in authority to seek the good of all through their words and actions and to mentor others in honest and generous ways. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Healing God, you draw near to all who are hurting. Be with all who desire relief from chronic and acute illness, cancer, and post-traumatic stress disorder. Strengthen health care workers, therapists, and caregivers. Tend to those who are close to our hearts. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

On this Labor Day weekend we remember and give thanks for all who have fought for workers' rights around the world. Continue to improve working conditions and establish fair wages so that all people may thrive. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Comforting God, console us as we mourn our departed. We hold fast to the promise that death has been defeated by our Savior Jesus Christ.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

MEAL

OFFERING - *Offering boxes are in the narthex and in back of the sanctuary, thank you for your ongoing generosity.*

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

C: Blessed are you, O God,

source of every gift of your creation.

By these gifts and with our lives,

help us to serve one another and all in need,

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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

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 musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It begins with a treble clef and a common time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below the notes. The first line of music covers the first two lines of text. The second line of music covers the next two lines. The third line of music covers the final line of text. The score ends with a double bar line.

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,

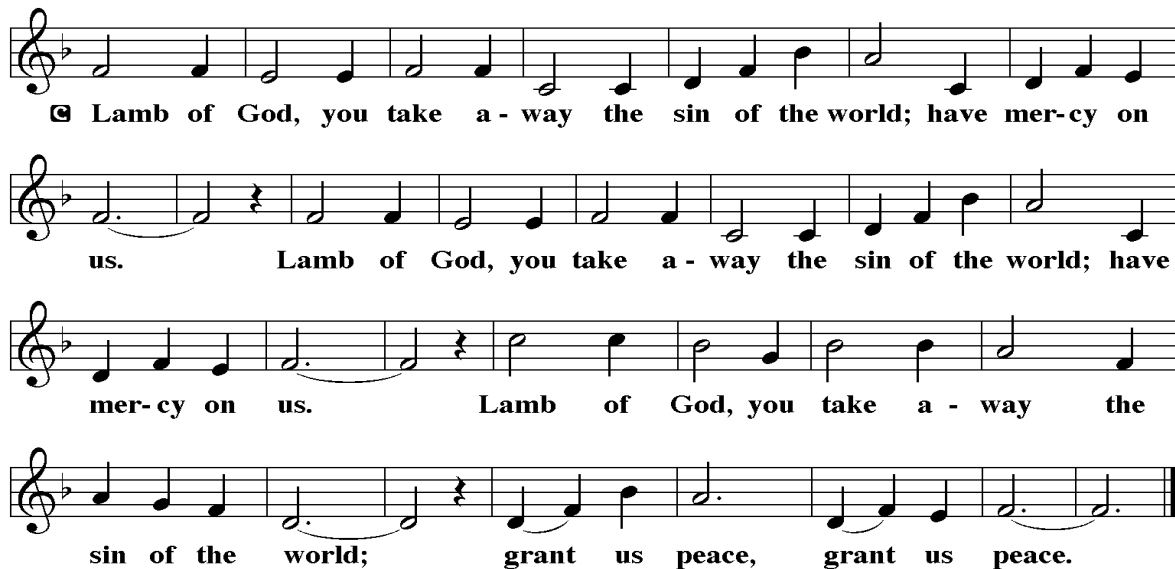
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus welcomes you to this table. Come, here is your God.

COMMUNION *Gluten free wafers and grape juice 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. 765 Lord of all Hopefulness

- 1 Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy:
be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
- 2 Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:

be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

3 Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace:
be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

4 Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm:
be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Text: Jan Struther, 1901-1953

Text © Oxford University Press 1931.

All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE #A-733689.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

Holy God,
you have welcomed us to this meal
and fed us with dignity at your table.
Send us now to welcome others
and to be at peace with one another,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

SENDING

SENDING SONG NO. 543 Go, My Children, with My Blessing

- 1 “Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.
In my love’s baptismal river
I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.”
- 2 “Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.

Here you heard my dear Son's story,
here you touched him, saw his glory.

Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.”

3 “Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.

Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.

Here my Spirit's power filled you,

here my tender comfort stilled you.

Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.”

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.

Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House

All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE #A-733689.

BLESSING

God all mighty,

God most merciful

✠ bless you, keep you,

and give you peace.

C: Amen.

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Follow Jesus

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2013 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #43759. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

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.

Are You Interested in Becoming A Member at Bethlehem Lutheran?

Dear friends, as we enter the autumn months this is a time think about new starts and blessed beginnings. Have you been visiting Bethlehem, considering becoming a member of the congregation? Do you have questions about our congregation or the ministry we share here? Please feel free to reach out to one of our pastors (Pastor Dan, d.smail@belc.org or Pastor Ellen, e.lundie@belc.org), they would be delighted to spend some time with you, answer your questions, and faithfully discern the next steps. Thank you for being an important part of this joy filled family of faith!

Madrigal Dinner Organizational Dinner Please join us!

Dear friends, this December 6th, 7th, and 8th we hope to host our first Madrigal Dinner here at Bethlehem Lutheran; there will be drama, music, delicious food, and all of it serving as a wonderful way to get the most out of the Advent and Christmas season. Would you consider being in the cast? How about helping in the kitchen? Are you a gifted decorator? Are you good with publicity? We need all the help we can get to make this one more signature Bethlehem event! Please join is on July 7th after our 9:30 worship service for our first official organizational meeting. Couldn't make the meeting last week, but still interested? Not a problem, just reach out to the church office and we'll be sure to get you involved!

Monthly Special Offering for SEPTEMBER is:

Bethlehem Campership Fund

The Week at Bethlehem

Sunday, September 1st 8:00 am Worship & Communion
*9:30am Worship & Communion

* Live streaming of worship service

After late service - Lemonade on the lawn.. All are welcome.

Monday, Sept. 2nd **Office Closed - Labor Day**

Tuesday, Sept. 3rd 10:30-11:30a AA (Schmid Hall)
6:00-8:30pm NA (Fellowship Hall)
7:00pm Stewardship Committee (Lounge)

Wednesday, Sept. 4th 10:30a & 7:00p Bible Study (Schmid Hall)
7-8:30p Boy Scouts Mtg. (Fellowship Hall)

Thursday, Sept. 5th 10:00am Stained Glass & Other Crafts (Music Room)

Saturday, Sept. 7th 6:00pm Worship/Communion

Sunday, Sept. 8th 8am Worship /Communion
9:15am Sunday School
10:30am Worship /Communion

Following late service our Church Picnic --- Please RSVP ahead of time by filling out form in today's bulletin and place it in the offering boxes or call the office by end of day on Tuesday, Sept. 3rd. - It helps when we are shopping for our food so we do not waste any items.

Our Blessing Box

Our outdoor food pantry has been a blessing to our community providing needed items to those who are food insecure. Your generosity shows your commitment to do God's work but still day after day the box is being emptied by those in need. Here are some of the most desired foods:

<u>Single serve meals</u>	Cereals	<u>Individual:</u> fruit cups, rice pkg., potato pkg.
Spaghetti sauce	Condiments	<u>Juices individual bottles</u>
Pasta / spaghetti cheese	Hash	Peanut butter crackers small sized boxes
Hearty soups <u>with lift off tops</u>	Tuna— <u>in foil packages</u>	Ensure <u>individual bottles</u>

NO MEDICATIONS OF ANY KIND



CHURCH PICNIC

September 8th

Come join in the fellowship and fun following the 10:30 am service on September 8^h. We will enjoy some hot dogs and burgers on the grill to celebrate Rally Day. **Please RSVP by September 1st** either through the form below, or the weekly announcements. We ask those with last names starting with **A-M to bring a side dish** to share while those with last names starting with **N-Z to bring a dessert** to share.

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

RSVP for Rally Day Picnic -- by September 1st

Name: _____

Number of adults: _____ Number of children: _____



Get yours today!
While supplies last!
A BELC Original!

REFORMATION RAG



Price: \$15

(If you're feeling really generous) \$15.17

**All proceeds benefit this year's production of
Bethlehem's Madrigal Dinner*

Name: _____

Number of Reformation Rags: _____

Total contribution: _____

Thank you in advance for your
kind support of our shared ministry!



Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Sunday School Registration 2024-2025

(Sunday School begins NEXT WEEK --- Rally Day, Sept. 8th @ 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!!