

# BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



*Serving, accepting, and loving all.*

**Bulletin**

**November 17, 2024**

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**Sunday, November 17, 2024**  
**26<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, Year B**

**Introduction**

*November begins with All Saints Day and ends in or near Advent, when we anticipate Christ's coming again. It is fitting, then, that the readings today tell of the final resurrection and the end time. In the turmoil of hope, fear, and disbelief that these predictions provoke in us, Hebrews sounds a note of confident trust. Christ makes a way for us where there is no way, and we walk it confidently, our hearts and bodies washed in baptismal water, trusting the one who has promised forgiveness. The more we see the last day approaching, the more important it is to meet together to provoke one another to love.*

**GATHERING**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

**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: Most merciful God,

**C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.**

**We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

**We have squandered your bountiful gifts.**

**We have considered the blessings of the harvest our due.**

**We have been indifferent in planning and planting  
for the future needs of your church.**

**For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.  
Forgive us, cause gratitude to ripen in our hearts,  
and wisdom to mature in our minds,  
so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P: In the mercy of almighty God,  
Jesus Christ was given to die for us,  
and for his sake God forgives us all our sins.  
As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ,  
and by his authority, I therefore declare to you  
the entire forgiveness of all your sins,  
in the name of the Father,  
and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

### **GATHERING SONG NO. 870 We Praise You, O God**

- 1 We praise you, O God, our redeemer, creator;  
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.  
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;  
we bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.
  
- 2 We worship you, God of our fathers and mothers;  
through trial and tempest our guide you have been.  
When perils o'ertake us, you will not forsake us,  
and with your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.
  
- 3 With voices united our praises we offer  
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.  
With you, Lord, beside us,  
your strong arm will guide us.  
To you, our great redeemer, forever be praise!

## **GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

# Kyrie

*Cantor*



We pray for peace, O Lord, make plow - shares of our swords, make



plow - shares of our swords: hear us when we cry to you.

*Assembly*

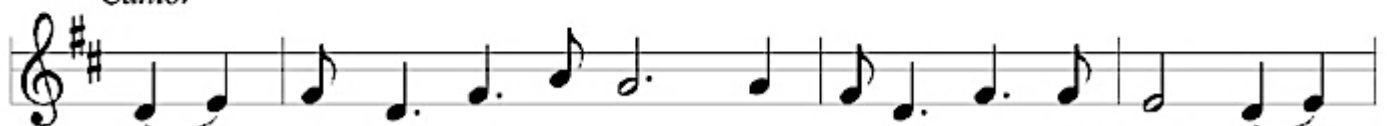


Lord, have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, Lord, have



mer - cy on us: hear us when we cry to you.

*Cantor*



Christ, make us grow in grace un - til we see your face, un -



til we see your face: hear us when we cry to you.

*Assembly*



Christ, have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, Christ, have



mer-cy on us: hear us when we cry to you.

*Cantor*

De - fend your church, O Lord, and root it in your word, and  
 root it in your word: hear us when we cry to you.

*Assembly*

Lord, have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, Lord, have  
 mer-cy on us: hear our cry. A - men.

Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, based on the Kyrie

Music: MY FATHER, HOW LONG, African American spiritual

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## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray,

Almighty God, your sovereign purpose brings salvation to birth. Give us faith to be steadfast amid the tumults of this world, trusting that your kingdom comes and your will is done through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## WORD

### FIRST LESSON: Daniel 12:1-3

*The book of Daniel is an example of apocalyptic literature, which is full of strange visions and symbolism. Arising during times of great persecution, apocalyptic literature is concerned with God's revelation about the end time and the coming kingdom of God, when God will vindicate the righteous who have been persecuted.*

<sup>1</sup> “At that time Michael, the great prince, the protector of your people, shall arise. There shall be a time of anguish such as has never occurred since nations first came into existence. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book. <sup>2</sup> Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life and some to shame and everlasting contempt. <sup>3</sup> Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.”

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

**PSALM: Psalm 16** (*Sung responsively*)

<sup>1</sup> Protect me, O God, for I take ref- | uge in you;

I have said to the Lord, “You are my Lord, my good a- | bove all other.”

<sup>2</sup> **All my delight is in the godly that are | in the land,  
upon those who are noble a- | mong the people.**

<sup>3</sup> But those who run after | other gods  
shall have their troubles | multiplied.

<sup>4</sup> **I will not pour out drink offerings | to such gods,  
never take their names up- | on my lips.**

<sup>5</sup> O Lord, you are my portion | and my cup;  
it is you who up- | hold my lot.

<sup>6</sup> **My boundaries enclose a | pleasant land;  
indeed, I have a | rich inheritance.**

<sup>7</sup> I will bless the Lord who | gives me counsel;  
my heart teaches me night | after night.

<sup>8</sup> **I have set the Lord al- | ways before me;  
because God is at my right hand, I shall | not be shaken.**

<sup>9</sup> My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spir- | it rejoices;  
my body also shall | rest in hope.

<sup>10</sup> **For you will not abandon me | to the grave,  
nor let your holy one | see the pit.**

<sup>11</sup> You will show me the | path of life;  
in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are  
pleasures for- | evermore.

## **SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:11-14 [15-18] 19-25**

*Images of worship and sacrifice are used throughout Hebrews to highlight what Christ has uniquely accomplished through his death. Because we have received forgiveness through Christ's death, we live with sincere hearts by trusting in God's promises and encouraging love and good works from each other.*

<sup>11</sup> Every priest stands day after day at his service, offering again and again the same sacrifices that can never take away sins. <sup>12</sup> But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, "he sat down at the right hand of God," <sup>13</sup> and since then has been waiting "until his enemies would be made a footstool for his feet." <sup>14</sup> For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. [<sup>15</sup> And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us, for after saying,

<sup>16</sup> "This is the covenant that I will make with them  
after those days, says the Lord:  
I will put my laws in their hearts,  
and I will write them on their minds,"

<sup>17</sup> and he adds,

"I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more."

<sup>18</sup> Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.]

<sup>19</sup> Therefore, my brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup> by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), <sup>21</sup> and since we have a great priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup> let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. <sup>23</sup> Let us hold fast to



the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. <sup>24</sup> And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup> not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual Hymn -- Gospel Acclamation**

# O God, Whose Word Well-Planted



1 O God, whose word well-plant - ed yields fruit a hun - dred - fold,  
2 O God of seed and har - vest, of sun and soil and rain,  
3 O God, your fi - nal har - vest of his - t'ry's an - cient field



we praise your grac - es grant - ed to those who sowed of old,  
at - tend the word we sow, lest its plant - ing be in vain.  
will test with truth the proud - est that hu - man work can yield.



who by their wit - ness scat - tered good seed up - on the soil  
Send show - ers of your Spir - it, bright sun - shine of your grace,  
Op - pres - sion's blight will van - ish, fair free - dom's fruits in - crease;



where oth - ers, reap - ing, gath - ered the har - vest of their toil.  
that mul - ti - tudes who hear it your gos - pel may em - brace.  
and love and joy will flour - ish to clothe the earth with peace.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007

Music: ABIDING PRESENCE, Stephen P. Folkemer, b. 1952

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## GOSPEL: Mark 13:1-8

*In the last week of his life, Jesus warned his disciples concerning trials that were to come upon them and upon the world. He exhorts the listener: Do not be alarmed.*

**P:** The holy gospel according to Mark.

**C:** Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup> As [Jesus] came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!” <sup>2</sup> Then Jesus

asked him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.”

<sup>3</sup> When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, <sup>4</sup> “Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?” <sup>5</sup> Then Jesus began to say to them, “Beware that no one leads you astray. <sup>6</sup> Many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and they will lead many astray. <sup>7</sup> When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. <sup>8</sup> For nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

**SERMON- *The Rev. Ellen S. Lundie***

**HYMN OF THE DAY NO. 785 When Peace like a River**

***It Is Well with My Soul***

1 When peace like a river attendeth my way,  
when sorrows like sea billows roll,  
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,  
it is well, it is well with my soul.

*Refrain*

It is well (it is well)  
with my soul, (with my soul,)  
it is well, it is well with my soul.

2 Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,  
let this blest assurance control,

that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,  
and has shed his own blood for my soul. *Refrain*

3 He lives--oh, the bliss of this glorious thought;  
my sin, not in part, but the whole,  
is nailed to his cross and I bear it no more.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! *Refrain*

4 Lord, hasten the day when our faith shall be sight,  
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,  
the trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;  
even so it is well with my soul. *Refrain*

Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828-1888

## **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

Rooted in God's abundant love for the world, let us pray for our neighbors, the church, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

O God, in the washing of water you set us free from the power of sin and death. Unite all the baptized in the covenant you have made with us, as we strive for your justice and peace in all the earth. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

By your merciful might you sustain all creation. Stir us from complacency with the harm we inflict on the earth, and urge us to adopt sustainable ways of life that protect and restore our planet. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

With a selfless power you protect all who take refuge in you. As nations rise against nations, defend all who are displaced or affected by war or violence. Empower all people and nations to pursue peace. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

In your presence you give fullness of joy. Care for all for whom joy feels distant. Be present with persons experiencing depression, anxiety, addiction, or any mental illness (*and all those we name in our hearts.*) Bring them healing and wholeness. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Through the years you have gathered your church and this community for worship, fellowship, formation, and service. Enable us to look beyond the walls of our building to perceive where you are calling us forward. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

With thanksgiving we remember saints and angels who delight in your everlasting presence. As their lives inspire ours, provoke us always to love, holding fast to the confession of our hope in you. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We offer our prayers to you, gracious God, trusting in your boundless love for all that you have made, through 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 located in the narthex and the back of the sanctuary.*

# Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring



1 Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to  
2 The vines were plant - ed, seeds were sown. They  
3 Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we



place up - on your ta - ble. We do not wor - ship  
grew in your good plea - sure. What once was com - mon,  
lift in prayer be - fore you. Lord, by your grace now



as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.  
dai - ly food be - comes a ho - ly trea - sure.  
come to us, as hum - bly we a - dore you.

Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer

Music: BARB'RY ELLEN, Appalachian traditional

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## OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

**C: Gracious God, you bless us with gifts of guidance, new life, growth in grace, and fruitful labor. Accept the first fruits of time and toil, field and orchard we offer here. Bless and multiply these gifts to our nurture and the care of your creation; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also 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.**

## PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### Long, Long Ago In Jerusalem

*Verses: Cantor or choir*



1 Long, long a - go in Je - ru - sa - lem, as the  
2 High on a throne sat the might - y Lord, robes  
3 Oh, what a sight it was to see and



scrip - tures do re - cord, I - sa - iah to the  
flow - ing through the hall, while six - wing - ed an - gels  
oh, what a sound to hear! The tem - ple door - posts



tem - ple came to see the ho - ly Lord.  
flew a - bove. I - sa - iah heard them call.  
shook and quaked, and smoke was in the air.

*Refrain: Assembly*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, God's



glo - ry fills all heav'n and earth, God of pow - er and might.

Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, based on the Sanctus

Music: SHADY GROVE, Appalachian traditional

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## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.  
You are most holy,  
and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish  
but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world  
to fulfill for us your holy will  
and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,  
his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension,  
and the promise of his coming again,  
we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,  
not as we ought but as we are able;  
we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving

and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,  
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,  
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ  
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,  
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,  
may be formed to live as your holy people  
and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory in your holy church, 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**

**P:** Just as this broken bread was first scattered on the hills, then was  
brought together and became one, so let your church be brought together  
from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours are the glory and  
the power through Jesus Christ forever.

**C: Amen.**

## COMMUNION

*Gluten free wafers and grape juice available. Please ask the pastors or communion assistants.*

## COMMUNION SONG

### O Lamb of God, to Earth You Came



1 O Lamb of God, to earth you came to  
2 O Lamb of God, the on - ly Son, to

save us all from grief and shame. Shorn of your life, up -  
us show mer - cy, Ho - ly One. You save the world from

on the tree you hung in deep hu - mil - i - ty.  
all its sin. Lord, give to us your peace. A - men.

Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, based on the Agnus Dei

Music: THE SUFFOLK MIRACLE, Appalachian traditional

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**Senior Choir - For the Beauty of the Earth, Mark Patterson, Nicole Myers, cello**

## COMMUNION HYMN NO. 470 Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

1 Draw us in the Spirit's tether,  
for when humbly in your name  
two or three are met together,  
you are in the midst of them.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Touch we now your garment's hem.

2 As disciples used to gather  
in the name of Christ to sup,  
then with thanks to God the giver  
break the bread and bless the cup,  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
so now bind our friendship up.

3 All our meals and all our living  
make as sacraments of you,  
that by caring, helping, giving,  
we may be disciples true.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
We will serve with faith anew.

Text: Percy Dearmer, 1867-1936, alt.

Text from *Songs of Praise* Enlarged Edition © Oxford University Press 1931.

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## **NO. 724 All Who Love and Serve Your City**

1 All who love and serve your city,  
all who bear its daily stress,  
all who cry for peace and justice,  
all who curse and all who bless,

2 In your day of loss and sorrow,  
in your day of helpless strife,  
honor, peace, and love retreating,  
seek the Lord, who is your life.

3 In your day of wealth and plenty,  
wasted work and wasted play,  
call to mind the word of Jesus,  
"You must work while it is day."

4 For all days are days of judgment,  
and the Lord is waiting still,  
drawing near a world that spurns him,  
offring peace from Calv'ry's hill.

5 Risen Lord, shall yet the city  
be the city of despair?  
Come today, our judge, our glory.  
Be its name "The Lord is there!"

Text: Erik Routley, 1917-1982

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## **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

**A:** Let us pray.

Gracious God, we give thanks for your pruning, planting, and nurture. We rejoice that you have used the harvest of field and vineyard to renew and sustain us. Lead us as we go from this life-giving meal into lives of grateful service to you and your cherished creation; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## **SENDING**

### **BLESSING**

**P:** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

## **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

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.  
**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.

## ***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](mailto:d.smail@belc.org) or Pastor Ellen, [e.lundie@belc.org](mailto: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!

Thanksgiving Eve --- Change to service time!!!!

Ecumenical Worship Service Once again this year one of our neighboring churches will host a community Thanksgiving Eve service on Wednesday, November 27th. The service will take place at Parkwood Presbyterian Church in Allison Park at **7:30pm**. **It is not at 7:00pm as we were originally told.** Check their church web-site for details.

### ***A little look ahead.***

The 2025 Flower Chart is here and will be posted on the wall in the hallway across from the office on the weekend of Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> & Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>. Start to think of important dates and events that you and your family would like to honor or remember someone on. Then, plan to sign up for altar flowers on that date or one that is open close to it when the chart is hung.

## The Week at Bethlehem

- Sunday, Nov. 17th      8:00 am Worship & Communion  
                                 9:15am Sunday School  
                                 \*10:30am Worship & Communion  
\* Live streaming of worship service  
                                 4:30p Madgrigal Dinner Rehearsal  
                                 6:30-8:30pm Confirmation/High School  
                                 Hangout and Early Church Games  
                                 6:30-7:30pm J.A.M. Group Night
- Monday, Nov. 18th      9:00-2:30p PACC (Fellowship Hall)  
                                 11a-2p Passage to Recovery (Library)  
                                 6:30-8:30pm Girl Scouts (Fellowship Hall)
- Tuesday, Nov. 19th      10:30-11:30a AA (Schmid Hall)  
                                 6:00-8:30pm NA (Fellowship Hall)  
                                 7:00p Christian Ed & Youth Comm. Meeting
- Wednesday, Nov. 20th      7-8:30p Boy Scouts Mtg. (Fellowship Hall)  
                                 7:15pm Handbell Choir (Music Rm)
- Thursday, Nov. 21st      NO Stained Glass & Other Crafts Class  
                                 4:30-7pm ACT-1 Fellowship Hall &  
Classrooms
- Friday, Nov. 22nd      Shelter Meal
- Saturday, Nov. 23rd      8a-12/noon Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast  
                                 **NO** 6:00pm Worship tonight - Shaler Twp. Lite-Up Night



**\*THEY'RE FREE \***

\*Now is a good time to start thinking about COVID-19 protection. You might consider getting updated COVID vaccines -- including the new Novavax vaccine.

The COVID-19 vaccine is available at no cost through most insurance plans, including Medicare Part B.

\*Using the [COVIDTests.gov](https://www.covidtests.gov) website, US households can once again order four free at-home COVID test kits. The government opened the ordering system on Sept. 26, 2024. You may also call 1-800-232-0233 to order your tests.

\*Autumn is also a good time to get your flu vaccine. The flu vaccine is available at no cost through most insurance plans, including Medicare Part B.

*Information from your Health & Wellness Team*



**CAN WE BORROW YOUR LIGHT?** The Madrigal Dinner will be held here at Bethlehem on December 7 & 8. We are looking to borrow floor lamps to use for accent lighting. If you have an older looking floor lamp we can borrow for the two nights, please contact the office. We can pick up and return.

Thank you.

**Bethlehem Backchat Podcast:**

**How Does Jesus Heal People?** Pastor Dan and Vicar Wendy share the difference between curing and healing, address common questions about struggling, and the complex nature of spiritual healing. Listen at your favorite podcast host or at [www.belc.org/podcast](http://www.belc.org/podcast).



## ***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:

Single serve meals      Cereals small packages      Individual: fruit cups, rice pkg., potato pkg.

Spaghetti sauce      Condiments      Juices individual bottles

Pasta / spaghetti cheese      Hash      Peanut butter -- crackers small sized boxes

Hearty soups with lift off tops      Tuna—in foil packages      Ensure individual bottles

**\*NO MEDICATIONS OF ANY KIND\***



## **Bible Study**

We are taking a break until December 4<sup>th</sup> and we will continue thru the 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> with our Advent classes. We have a morning opportunity at 10:30am and also an evening one at 7:00p. Everyone is welcome to attend as your schedule allows.



## **DON'T THROW THOSE AWAY!**

*Have you started receiving 2025 calendars yet?* How many can one family use? We will begin collecting 2025 calendars **Oct. 1 and continue thru Nov 30.** to be distributed to local food banks. So please save them for our drive. Thank you for your continued support of Bethlehem's many social ministry projects.



### ***YOUTH NEWS:***

- Nov. 17th***            6:30-8:30pm Confirmation/High School  
Hangout and Early Church Games
- 6:30-7:30pm    J.A.M. Group Night

### **Annual Report**

Committee Chairs - Start thinking about your committee report for in our annual report to the Congregation....before we blink it will be 2025 and we will be putting all the reports together.

# Time to get a jump start in purchasing your needed supplies for the:

## Nancy Price Memorial Wreath Party

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church (Fellowship Hall)**

**Sunday, December 1, 1 p.m.**

*Many years ago, Nancy Price began hosting wreath parties in her Cleveland basement. After moving to Pittsburgh, she brought the tradition to Bethlehem, where for decades, friends gathered to ring in the holiday season with Christmas tea, cookies, music and wreath making. Please join us to honor her memory and continue this timeless tradition!*

### A few things to remember:

- The wreath party is informal - wear old clothes!
- Bring your own greens (see list of recommended nurseries if not cutting). Pieces should be at least eight inches long. Fill a laundry basket (packed) and keep outside to stay fresh.
- Frazier, Balsam, Douglas and Scotch are the easiest pines to work with. Blue Spruce and White Pine are not recommended.

### What should I bring?

- Greens
- Wire cutters
- Rose clippers
- Garden gloves
- Decorations
- Garbage bag for trash
- A friend!
  
- CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

### Where should I buy pine?

- Glenshaw Feed
- LMS Greenhouse & Nursery (Allison Park)
- McTighe's Nursery (Glenshaw)
- Overbeck's Nursery & Landscaping (Blawnox)

NOTE: One bale of greens or a small tree (approximately \$15) should make two 20" wreaths.

**Available to purchase at the event: 16" and 18" frames for \$2.50 and \$3,  
as well as wire for \$2.**

**Register also available online at <https://tinyurl.com/2vp5b9c3>**



### **POINSETTIA PLANTS for Christmas**

Below is the form if you wish to purchase a red poinsettia plant to adorn the Chancel on Christmas Eve. Plants may be picked up on Christmas Eve following the 10:30 p.m. service or during the week at a time when the office is open. If you have any questions, please contact Marianne in the church office. You may also use this form to give a donation to help defray cost of general Christmas decorations used around the church.

\*\* All orders and money due by Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> to guarantee your dedication(s) is listed in our Christmas bulletin.

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#### **POINSETTIA ORDER FORM**

I would like to give # \_\_\_\_\_ red poinsettia plant(s) at \$6.50each for a six-inch pot.

I would like to give \$ \_\_\_\_\_ toward Christmas decorations.

IN MEMORY OF \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

IN HONOR OF \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

GIVEN BY \_\_\_\_\_

(Name as you want it printed in the bulletin)



**GOOD GIFTS ANIMALS TO "FILL THE STABLE"**

The yearly tradition at Bethlehem is to donate poinsettias to decorate our church home to 'welcome the baby Jesus'. We know too that the shepherds found baby Jesus lying in a manger, surrounded by God's animals. Many of our Christmas songs refer to the animals in the stable: "Away in a Manger" mentions "the cattle are lowing", and "The Friendly Beasts" refers to the donkey – shaggy & brown, the cow – all white and red, the sheep – with the curly horn.

This is the twelfth year -- and maybe now a tradition at Bethlehem -- that the option is provided to "**fill the stable**" with animals to welcome the baby Jesus. We believe that God's love in Jesus is a gift to us, and through ELCA Good Gifts and World Vision we can share that love with others. Our donations to buy animals can transform the lives of families in need. Many of these animals can be used not only for food, but also to generate income.

The costs of the animals are listed below. Donations for animals may also be given in memory and honor of loved ones and be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

cow	\$500	share of a cow	\$50	piglet	\$30
goat	\$50	sheep	\$150	10 chicks	\$10
Rooster	\$15	2 chickens	\$25		

**What better way to celebrate the birth of Christ than to share these same animals so that families can prosper! Sheep produce warm wool, cows and goats give protein and milk, and chickens provide an abundance of nutritious eggs. As the animals multiply, families can sell surplus food for extra income. A bountiful and enduring blessing! These gifts can make a real, life-changing difference and care for those around the world who live with hunger and poverty.**

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 Donations must be received by Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> to be guaranteed that your dedication is listed in the Christmas bulletin.

Dedication .....

.....

Given by..... Amount given: .....

## Men of Bethlehem (MoB)

The Boy Scouts are back at it, cooking up their delicious made-to-order pancakes on Sat, Nov 23 from 8am-noon. Will you receive the correct pancakes? Probably. Will you receive them in the correct order? Possibly. Will you have a blast fellowshiping with your fellow MoBsters? Definitely.

This time, we're expanding the invite to include your children, grandchildren, nieces & nephews, or any other young ones who would appreciate a delicious pancake breakfast. Let's plan on meeting up around 8:30am, but feel free to join at whatever time works for you.



## SHALER LITE-UP NIGHT

*Please Note!*

***There will be no Saturday evening worship  
on November 23<sup>rd</sup>!***

Dear friends, we will not be offering a worship service on Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>. That Saturday evening happens to be the evening of Shaler Township's annual "Lite" Up Night. We want to cooperate with the community and do what we can to assure a successful event. So, please spread the word, and we'll certainly look forward to returning to our regular worship schedule on November 30<sup>th</sup>!

Possibly you and your family will consider coming out and being a part of this special community holiday tradition. There is a parade and other scheduled activities. Check it all out on the Shaler Township website.



## THANKSGIVING OFFERING FOR FOOD BANKS

In keeping with the spirit of Thanksgiving, members of Bethlehem are encouraged to bring contributions of canned goods and foodstuffs for North Hill Community Food Bank throughout the month of November. Non-perishable items may be placed on the plant stands on either side of the altar before the service. As we offer praise and thanksgiving for our many blessings, may we have an overflowing display of generosity for others in need during this Thanksgiving and holiday season. Suggested donations are: canned soups, canned fruits, canned vegetables, baked beans and canned potatoes along with juice and the standards like peanut butter, jelly, pastas & sauce, mac & cheese, cereals, paper products and even a few general supplies –like dish and bath soaps and shampoo/deodorants. A great opportunity to help a neighbor(s) in need!!!



### *Christmas Music Angels*

Those who appreciate and support the instrumentalists and special music are invited again to make a contribution toward this expense, perhaps as a memorial to a loved one to be included in the Christmas bulletin. All amounts given are welcome and appreciated. Use the tear off below to make your donation/memorial and drop it in the offering box or in the church office. **Must be received by Dec, 8th to guarantee your dedication will be in the bulletin.**

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Dedication- In Honor or Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name – given by: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount \_\_\_\_\_