

MIDWEEK LENT 2

Wednesday, March 12, 2025



Bethlehem

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Gathering – Welcoming – Serving – Restoring

WHO WE ARE

*As forgiven children of God, Bethlehem Lutheran Church
shows Christ's love through acts of service
so that we can share the hope of the Gospel with others.*

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

We are so glad you're here! Bethlehem is a caring community of believers committed to being a birthplace of hope in southeast Fort Wayne. We are a congregation of the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, where Christ's sacrificial love shapes who we are and how we serve.

Our worship centers on God's gifts to us in His Word and Sacraments. Here, Jesus meets us through His promises of forgiveness, life, and salvation, and we respond with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving. Whether this is your first time worshiping with us or your spiritual home, you are part of our family today.

Thank you for joining us as we rest in God's grace and grow in His love. May you be refreshed by the beauty of Christ's sacrifice and sent out to reflect His light in the world!

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

3705 South Anthony Boulevard
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46806-4329

www.bethlehemlcms.org

Church Office, (260) 744-3228 Fax Number, (260) 744-3229

Office Hours: 10:00am – 4:00pm (Monday – Friday)

Our Worship Schedule:

Saturday Afternoon Worship Service at 4:00pm

Sunday Morning Worship Service at 9:00am

+ SERVICE OF PRAYER AND PREACHING +

PRESERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME

RINGING OF THE BELLS

HYMN

LSB #424

O CHRIST, YOU WALKED THE ROAD



- 1 O Christ, You walked the road Our wan-d'ring feet must go.
- 2 No bread of earth a-lone Can fill our hun-g'ring hearts.
- 3 No blind-ing sign we ask, No won-der from a-bove.
- 4 When lures of eas-y gain With prom-ise bright-ly shine,
- 5 O Christ, You walked the road Our wan-d'ring feet must go.



You faced with us temp-ta-tion's pow'r And fought our an-cient foe.
Lord, help us seek Your liv-ing Word, The food Your grace im-parts.
Lord, help us place our trust a-lone In Your un-serv-ing love.
Lord, help us seek Your king-dom first; Our wills with Yours a-lign.
Stay with us through temp-ta-tion's hour To fight our an-cient foe.

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

Tune: William Daman, c. 1540–1591

Text: © 1997 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001608

Tune: Public domain

(Stand)

OPENING VERSICLES

LSB pg.260

Pastor This is the day which the Lord has made;

Congregation let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Pastor From the rising of the sun to its setting,

Congregation the name of the Lord is to be praised.

Pastor Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,

Congregation slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and repents of evil.

Pastor Jesus said: If any man would come after Me,

Congregation let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.

Pastor Christ was wounded for our transgressions.

Congregation He was bruised for our iniquities.

Pastor From the rising of the sun to its setting,

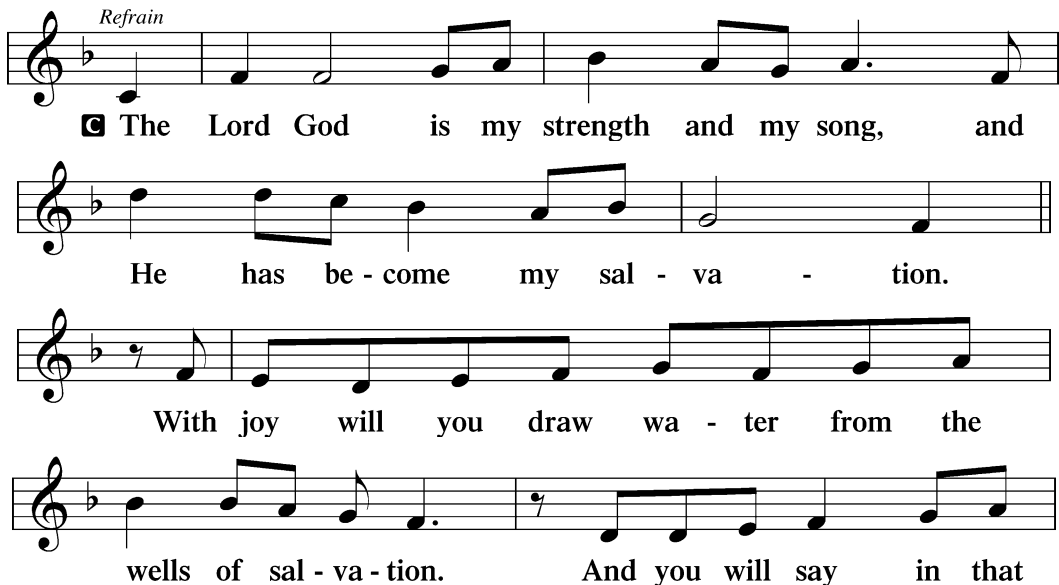
Congregation the name of the Lord is to be praised.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT CANTICLE

LSB pg.261

Refrain



☐ The Lord God is my strength and my song, and
He has be - come my sal - va - tion.
With joy will you draw wa - ter from the
wells of sal - va - tion. And you will say in that



day: "Give thanks to the Lord, call up-on His name,



make known His deeds a-mong the peo-ples, pro-



claim that His name is ex-alt-ed."



The Lord God is my strength and my song, and



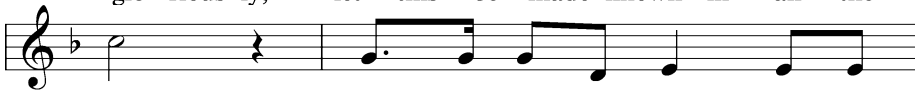
He has be-come my sal-va-tion.



Sing prais-es to the Lord, for He has done



glo-rious-ly; let this be made known in all the



earth. Shout, and sing for joy, O in-



hab-i-tants of Zi-on, for great in your midst is the



Ho-ly One of Is-ra-el.



The Lord God is my strength and my song, and



He has be - come my sal - va - tion.



Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son



and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will



be for - ev - er. A - men.



Refrain

The Lord God is my strength and my song, and



He has be - come my sal - va - tion.

(Sit)

READINGS FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

Matthew 4:1-11

¹Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” ⁴But he answered, “It is written, “‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” ⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple ⁶and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, “‘He will command his angels concerning you,’ and “‘On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.’” ⁷Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’” ⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written, “‘You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.’” ¹¹Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORY

LSB pg.263

Pastor We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

Congregation He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

Pastor Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

Congregation He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

Pastor We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

Congregation He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

(Stand)

APOSTLES' CREED

LSB pg.264

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life † everlasting. Amen.**

(Sit)

SERMON

“Christ in the Wilderness”

HYMN

LSB #430 (verses 1,3)

MY SONG IS LOVE UNKNOWN

1 My song is love un-known, My Sav-ior's love to
3 Some-times they strew His way And His sweet prais-es
me, Love to the love-less shown That they might love-ly
sing; Re-sound-ing all the day Ho-san-nas to their
be. Oh, who am I That for my sake
King. Then "Cru-ci-fy!" Is all their breath,
My Lord should take Frail flesh and die?
And for His death They thirst and cry.

Text: Samuel Crossman, c. 1624–1683

Tune: John N. Ireland, 1879–1962

Text: Public domain

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OFFERING

(Stand)

PRAYER

LSB pg.265

Pastor In peace let us pray to the Lord:

Congregation Lord, have mercy.

Pastor For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:

Congregation Lord, have mercy.

Pastor For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:

Congregation Lord, have mercy.

Pastor For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:

Congregation Lord, have mercy.

Pastor For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:

Congregation Lord, have mercy.

Pastor For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:

Congregation Lord, have mercy.

Pastor For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:

Congregation Lord, have mercy.

Pastor For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:

Congregation Lord, have mercy.

Pastor Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:

Congregation Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

COLLECT FOR THE WORD

LSB pg.265

Pastor Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Congregation Amen.

EVENING PRAYER

LSB pg.266

**I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son,
that You have graciously kept me this day;
and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong,
and graciously keep me this night.
For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things.
Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me.
Amen.**

NEW TESTAMENT CANTICLE

LSB #422

ON MY HEART IMPRINT YOUR IMAGE



On my heart im - print Your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus, King of grace,



That life's rich-es, cares, and plea-sures Nev - er may Your work e-rase;



Let the clear in - scrip-tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,



Is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, And my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. Peer O. Strømme, 1856–1921, alt.

Tune: Johann Balthasar König, 1691–1758

Text and tune: Public domain

BLESSING

LSB pg.267

Pastor

Let us bless the Lord.

Congregation

Thanks be to God.

Pastor

The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.

Congregation

Amen.

MINISTRY TEAM

The Reverend Ben Ahlersmeyer

Office 744-3228 ext. 302 Cell (989) 907-9481

Email pastorben@bethlehemlcms.com

Rhonda Cheng, Office Manager

Office 744-3228 ext. 300 Email bethfw@yahoo.com

Sharon Shediack, Accounting Manager

Office 744-3228 ext. 307 Email bethfwfin@gmail.com

Kasey Needham Hapner, Music director

Email kaseyneedham92@gmail.com.

Janelle Deal, Organist

Email janelle.buford@my.wheaton.edu.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President – Greg Shediack

Vice President – Evans Branigan

Secretary – John Stafford

Treasurer – Brian Bates

At Large Members:

Dan Bates

Rachelle Dance

David Schult

Blake Sebring

SCHOOLS

Lutheran South Unity School.....lsusfw.org.....**744-0459**

Concordia Lutheran High School.....clhscadets.com.....**483-1102**

COUNSELING NEEDS

Please talk to Pastor Ben Ahlersmeyer for a referral for counseling to Cross Connections.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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