THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Saturday, March 29 and Sunday, March 30, 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!

HOLY COMMUNION EXAMINATION

In the Bible the Apostle Paul wrote, "A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup." (I Corinthians 11:28) In order to examine yourself before attending the Lord's Supper, ask yourself the following questions:

Do I believe that I am a sinner, and am I sorry for my sins? (Proverbs 28:13; Romans 3:23; I John 1:8-9)

Do I believe that Jesus Christ by His death offers me forgiveness for all my sins? (Romans 5:8; Colossians 2:13; Hebrews 9:28; I John 1:7)

Do I believe that I receive the body and blood of Christ in and with the bread and wine (not merely symbolically present)?

(Matthew 26:26-28; I Cor. 10:16; I Cor. 11:24-25)

Do I desire to turn from my sinful ways and live a God-pleasing life? (Isaiah 1:16; John 8:11; Romans 6:12)

If you are unable to answer "yes" to these questions or believe further instruction is needed, please talk to a pastor or an elder before communing as participating without a proper understanding of Holy Communion can be spiritually harmful (I Corinthians 11:27-29). If you can answer "yes" to these questions, then come with a repentant heart and join us in the reception of the Lord's Supper. If not, adults and children who have not yet taken part in communion instruction classes are invited to come forward for a blessing and are asked to keep their arms folded over their chest during the distribution.

(Children's Activity bags are available in the Narthex. Please remember to return them to the rack after the service.)

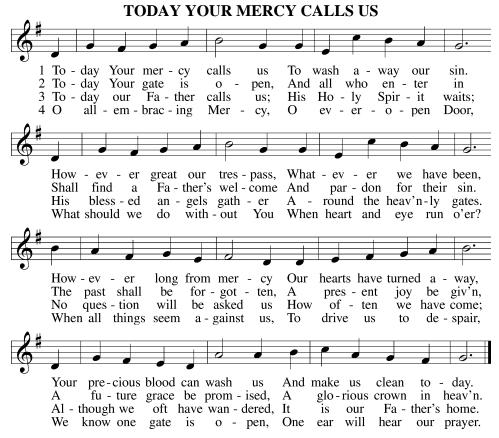
+ PREPARE +

PRESERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME

RINGING OF THE BELLS

HYMN LSB #915



Text: Oswald Allen, 1816-78, alt.

Tune: Friedrich K. Anthes, 1812-after 1857

Text and tune: Public domain

(Stand)

INVOCATION AND OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation Amen.

Pastor Behold, God is my salvation;

Congregation I will trust, and will not be afraid;

Pastor for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song,

Congregation and He has become my salvation.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor Beloved in the Lord, Paul reassures us, saying, "No temptation has

overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability." Let us with confidence and gladness enter God's presence, confessing our sins

and receiving His grace, assurance, and forgiveness.

Congregation Lord God, we are exceedingly glad to enter Your house this day,

for we have heard and believe in the invitation of Your loving kindness and redemption through Jesus Christ, Your Son. In the trust and hope of the faith You have given us as Your baptized children, we confess to You all our sins and failures to share Your gifts of mercy with others. Grant us the forgiveness for which we ask and give us a renewed heart and spirit to sing Your

praises in worship of You and to the joy of all.

Pastor "Sing to the LORD, bless His name; tell of His salvation from day to

day." Upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son

and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation Amen.

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor The Lord be with you.

Congregation And also with you.

Pastor Let us pray. Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new

every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with

You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Congregation Amen.

(Sit)

OLD TESTAMENT:

Isaiah 12:1–6

¹You will say in that day: "I will give thanks to you, O LORD, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, that you might comfort me. ²"Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation." ³With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. ⁴And you will say in that day: "Give thanks to the LORD, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is exalted. ⁵"Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth. ⁶Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel."

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE: 2 Corinthians 5:16–21

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. ¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

²⁰Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation Thanks be to God.

(Stand)

GOSPEL: Luke 15:1–3, 11b–32

¹Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear [Jesus]. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them." ³So he told them this parable: . . . "There was a man who had two sons. ¹²And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them. ¹³Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. ¹⁴And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷"But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! ¹⁸I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants." ²⁰And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. ²¹And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²²But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. ²³And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. ²⁴For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate. ²⁵ Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. ²⁷And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.' ²⁸But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, ²⁹but he answered his father, 'Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him! ³¹And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found."

Pastor This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Congregation Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN



Courtesy of the Cuber HymnalTM

SERMON

(Stand)

NICENE CREED

(Sit)

OFFERING / FRIENDSHIP REGISTER

OFFERTORY (4:00pm)

Saturday Lenten Choir

"In the Shadow of the Cross" (Music and lyrics by Lee and Susan Nauseous Dengler)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

(Stand)

PREFACE LSB pg. 208

Pastor The Lord be with you.

Congregation And also with you.

Pastor Lift up your hearts.

Congregation We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Congregation It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

SANCTUS LSB #208



■ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san-na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

LORD'S PRAYER

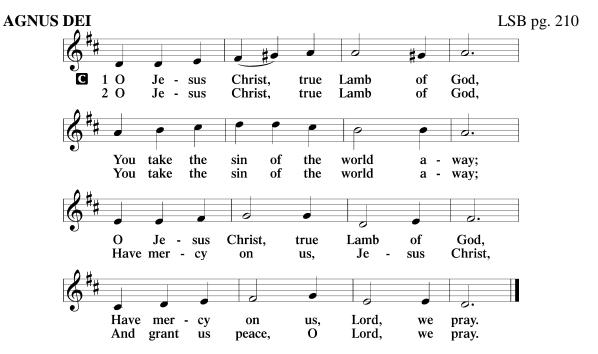
THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI LSB pg. 209

Pastor Congregation

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Congregation Amen.



Text: Stephen P. Starke

(Sit)

DISTRIBUTION

PRAYERFUL MEDITATION

NUNC DIMITTIS



POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

BENEDICTION

Pastor The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

Congregation Amen.

WHAT WONDROUS LOVE IS THIS



Text: A General Selection of . . . Hymns and Spiritual Songs, 1811, Lynchburg, alt.

Tune: Southern Harmony, 1835, New Haven

Text and tune: Public domain

MINISTRY TEAM

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Email janelle.buford@my.wheaton.edu.

Dan Bates

Rachelle Dance

David Schult

BOARD OF DIRECTORS At Large Members:

President – Greg Shediack

Vice President – Evans Branigan Secretary – John Stafford

Treasurer – Brian Bates 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.

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

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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

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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