

THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Saturday, January 24 and Sunday, January 25, 2026



Bethlehem

LUTHERAN CHURCH

100th Anniversary
1926 - 2026

Proclaiming Christ. Nurturing Faith. Restoring Hope.

Welcome to Worship

We're so glad you're here. For a century, Bethlehem has gathered God's people around His gifts. Rooted in the historic liturgy and the teachings of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, worship here has always centered on what God does for us. We gather around His Word and His Sacraments, where Jesus Himself is present—speaking forgiveness, sustaining life, and giving hope. Worship is not first about what we bring, but about how God serves us, and how we respond with praise, prayer, and thanksgiving.

For one hundred years, this has been our shared calling: Proclaiming Christ. Nurturing Faith. Restoring Hope. Generation after generation, God has been at work here—gathering His people, forming them through His Word and gifts, and sending them into the world. And He is not finished yet. As a Gospel presence in our neighborhood, we trust that the same faithful God who carried us through the past is shaping what is to come. Whether this is your first visit or your spiritual home, you belong here. May this time of worship nurture your faith, fill you with Christ's hope, and send you out ready to proclaim His love in word and deed.

REGARDING THE LORD'S SUPPER

At Bethlehem, we believe that in the Lord's Supper, Jesus gives us more than a symbol—He gives us Himself. In, with, and under the bread and wine, we receive His true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins, the strengthening of faith, and the unity of His people. This is how Christ continues to proclaim His saving work and nurture our faith today.

As we prepare to receive this gift, we follow the Scriptures and the Small Catechism in examining ourselves: Do I believe I am a sinner in need of God's grace? Do I trust in Jesus as my Savior? Do I believe that Christ is truly present in this meal? Do I desire to turn from sin and live in faith and love? Whoever answers yes to these is truly worthy and well prepared.

Bethlehem is a congregation of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and we ask that all who commune share our confession of faith. If you are not yet instructed in this teaching or have questions, we warmly invite you to come forward for a blessing—simply cross your arms over your chest—or speak with our pastor after the service. We are glad you're here, and we would love to walk with you as we grow in Christ together.

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

+ PREPARATION +

PRESERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME

RINGING OF THE BELLS

HYMN

LSB#839

O CHRIST, OUR TRUE AND ONLY LIGHT



1 O Christ, our true and on - ly light, En - light - en
2 Fill with the ra - diance of Your grace The souls now
3 O gent - ly call those gone a - stray That they may
4 Shine on the dark - ened and the cold; Re - call the
5 That they with us may ev - er - more Such grace with



those who sit in night; Let those a - far now
lost in er - ror's maze; En - light - en those whose
find the sav - ing way! Let ev - 'ry con - science
wan - d'wers to Your fold. U - nite all those who
won - d'ring thanks a - dore And end - less praise to



hear Your voice And in Your fold with us re - joice.
in - most minds Some dark de - lu - sion haunts and blinds.
sore op - pressed In You find peace and heav'n - ly rest.
walk a - part; Con - firm the weak and doubt - ing heart,
You be giv'n By all Your Church in earth and heav'n.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Tune: Andächtige Haus-Kirche, 1676, Nürnberg

Text and tune: Public domain

(Stand)

INVOCATION AND OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor In the name of the Father and of the \dagger Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Congregation **Amen.**

Pastor I will go to the altar of God,
Congregation **to God my exceeding joy.**

Pastor The people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light . . .
Congregation **on them a light has dawned.**

CONFESSiON AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor Today Jesus Christ comes to you with an invitation, saying, “Repent” and “Follow Me.” Let us prepare to receive His Word, leave our sin behind, and follow Him in the power of His forgiveness.

Congregation **Lord God, open our ears to hear Your call of salvation and life.**
Enable us to hear the voice of Your Son, Christ our Lord, that
His Word may move us to turn from our ways and our walk
without You, and follow Him in faith, that we may learn and live
in the light of Your love.

Pastor Lord Jesus, “I will tell of Your name to My brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will praise You.”

Upon this your confession, I, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to 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 \dagger Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation **Amen.**

Pastor Now, let us follow Him!

Congregation **Amen.**

HYMN

LSB #816

FROM ALL THAT DWELL BELOW THE SKIES

Text (sts. 1–2): Isaac Watts, 1674–1748; (st. 3): William W. How, 1823–97

Tune: Geistliche Kirchengesäng, 1623, Köln

Text and tune: Public domain

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor The Lord be with you.

Congregation **And with thy spirit.**

Pastor Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; 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 9:1-4

¹ There will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. ³You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. ⁴For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

¹⁰I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. ¹¹For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. ¹²What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ." ¹³Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) ¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. ¹⁸For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation **Thanks be to God.**

(Stand)

ALLELUIA

A musical score for a single line of a hymn. It consists of a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat. The melody is composed of eighth and sixteenth notes. The lyrics "Al-le - lu - ia." are written below the staff, aligned with the notes. The first two measures are identical, followed by a third measure where the last note of the first measure and the first note of the second measure are connected by a slur. The fourth measure is identical to the first two.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 4:12–25

¹²When [Jesus] heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. ¹³And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

¹⁵“The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles ¹⁶the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned.”

¹⁷From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” ¹⁸While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” ²⁰Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. ²²Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him. ²³And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. ²⁴So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, epileptics, and paralytics, and he healed them. ²⁵And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

Pastor This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Congregation Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

(Sit)

RESPONSIVE PSALM

(Leader chants and congregation responds with refrain)

THE STONE REJECTED BY THE BUILDERS

(Music by Francesca LaRosa)

Leader The stone rejected by the builders, has become the cornerstone.

Congregation The stone rejected by the builders, has become the cornerstone.

Leader Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for his mercy endures

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for his mercy endures forever. It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man. It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes.

Congregation **The stone rejected by the builders, has become the cornerstone.**

Leader I will give thanks to you, for you have answered me and have been

my Savior. The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. By the Lord has this been done; it is wonderful in our eyes.

Congregation **The stone rejected by the builders, has become the cornerstone.**

Leader **Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord; we bless you**

from the house of the Lord. I will give thanks to you, for you have answered me and have been my Savior. Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for his kindness endures forever.

Congregation The stone rejected by the builders, has become the cornerstone, has become the cornerstone.

The musical score consists of two staves. The top staff is for voice and piano, showing a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are: "The stone re-jec- ted by the buil-ders has be- Al - le lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al -". The bottom staff is for piano, showing a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are: "come the cor - ner - stone. le - lu - ia."

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SERMON

“The Light Defined”

(Stand)

APOSTLES' CREED

LSB pg. 192

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 \ddagger everlasting.

Amen.

(Sit)

OFFERING

(Stand)

OFFERTORY

LSB pg. 192



The musical notation consists of five staves of music in common time, key signature of B-flat major (two flats). The lyrics are integrated into the music, with the first line starting with a square bracketed 'C' and the subsequent lines starting with a square bracketed 'C' on the first note of each line. The lyrics are as follows:

C Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

(Sit)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

(Stand)

PREFACE

Pastor The Lord be with you.

LSB pg. 194

Congregation And with thy spirit.

Pastor Lift up your hearts.

Congregation We lift them up unto the Lord.

Pastor Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

Congregation It is meet and right so to do.

PROPER PREFACE

SANCTUS

LSB pg. 195

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,
ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,
bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.
Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

LORD'S PRAYER

LSB pg. 196

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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

LSB pg. 197

PAX DOMINI

LSB pg. 197

Pastor The peace of the Lord be with you always.
Congregation Amen.

AGNUS DEI

LSB pg. 198

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

*(Sit)***DISTRIBUTION**

Prayerful Meditation

(Stand)

NUNC DIMITTIS

LSB pg. 199



C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-
cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy
peo - ple Is - rael. Glo - ry be to the Father and
to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A-men.

THANKSGIVING

Pastor O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

Congregation and His mercy endureth forever.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

BENEDICTION

Pastor The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

Congregation Amen.

(Sit)
HYMN

LSB #849

PRAISE THE ONE WHO BREAKS THE DARKNESS

1 Praise the One who breaks the dark - ness With a lib - er -
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren With a strong, yet
3 Let us praise the Word In - car - nate, Christ, who suf - fered

at - ing light; Praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners,
gen - tle, word; Praise the One who drove out de - mons
in our place. Je - sus died and rose vic - to - rious

Turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight. Praise the One who preached the
With the pierc - ing, two-edged sword. Praise the One who brings cool
That we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and

Gos - pel, Heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, Calm - ing
wa - ter To the des - ert's burn - ing sand; From this
glad - ness, See - ing what our God has done; Let us

storms, and feed - ing thou - sands With the ver - y Bread of peace.
Well comes liv - ing wa - ter, Quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
praise the true Re - deem - er, Praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, 1955

Tune: The Sacred Harp, 1844, Philadelphia

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Tune: Public domain

MINISTRY TEAM

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President – Greg Shediack

Vice President – John Stafford

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Rachelle Dance

David Schult

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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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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