

THE HOLY TRINITY

Saturday, June 14 and Sunday, June 15, 2025



Bethlehem

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Proclaiming Christ. Nurturing Faith. Restoring Hope.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

We're so glad you're here. At Bethlehem, worship is where faith is nourished. Rooted in the historic liturgy and the teachings of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, we gather around God's gifts—His Word and His Sacraments. Here, Jesus Himself is present, speaking forgiveness, sustaining life, and giving hope. Worship is not just something we do—it's where God serves us, and we respond with praise, prayer, and thanksgiving.

Our mission is simple but deep: Proclaiming Christ. Nurturing Faith. Restoring Hope. As a catalyst for Gospel transformation in southeast Fort Wayne, we long to see lives renewed by Christ's love. Whether this is your first time or your spiritual home, you belong here. May this time of worship be a moment of renewal for you—and may it send us all back into the world as people shaped by hope, growing in faith, and living out the love of Jesus together.

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

MUSICAL OFFERING (9:00am)

"Come Holy Spirit"

Come thou, Lord, creator spirit, Tune the humble heart to thee,
From the flame of Love Now kindle Flame in spirits born for thee.

So the father of thy children; Thou the orb of liberty.

Thou the treasure we do cherish; Thou our hope and destiny.

Come thou, Lord, in all thy splendor, Let the wall of temple ring.
Seraphs' cry allowed to render Clear the anthem we would sing.

Thou so mighty, now recover For thyself thy majesty.

Though, so gentle, now deliver For thyself thy people free.

OPENING HYMN

LSB #803

JOYFUL, JOYFUL WE ADORE THEE



- 1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
2 All Thy works with joy sur-round Thee, Earth and heav'n re - flect Thy rays,
△ 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore Thee, Prais-ing Thee, their sun a - bove.
Stars and an-gels sing a-round Thee, Cen - ter of un - bro-ken praise.
Well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean-depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, Drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, Flow - 'ry mead-ow, flash-ing sea,
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it, Foun - tain - head of love di-vine:



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad-ness, Fill us with the light of day.
Chant-ing bird, and flow - ing foun-tain Call us to re - joice in Thee.
Joy - ful, we Thy heav'n in - her - it! Joy-ful, we by grace are Thine!

INVOCATION AND OPENING SENTENCES

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

Congregation Amen.

Pastor God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit possess all wisdom before the very work of creation.

Congregation Praise be to the Holy Trinity.

Pastor Wisdom, begotten of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, reveals the incarnate Christ—the appointed Messiah, working out our salvation’s story.

Congregation Praise be to the Holy Trinity.

Pastor Eternal wisdom delights, rejoices, and is the workman of all things created and redeemed.

Congregation Praise be to the Holy Trinity. Amen.

(Stand)

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to Himself. By God’s work of mercy, we are granted forgiveness. By Christ’s work of suffering, crucifixion, and death, we are granted eternal life. By the work of the Spirit, we are continually sanctified in the glory of God’s holy triune name—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We are forgiven by the work of the Holy Trinity. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation Amen. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

HYMN OF PRAISE GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

LSB pg. 154



A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His peo - ple on earth.



C 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.



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.



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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor The Lord be with you.

Congregation And also with you.

Pastor Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting triune God, grant us abiding faith that we may steadfastly believe and confess Your divine work as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Throughout our temporal and eternal living, be our constant companion—creating and renewing, redeeming and forgiving, calling and sanctifying us. In all suffering and service, grant that we be mindful that You are the one true God, undivided, uncreated, infinite, and almighty, in whose triune name we pray.

Congregation Amen.

(Sit)

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Proverbs 8:1–4, 22–31

¹Does not wisdom call? Does not understanding raise her voice? ²On the heights beside the way, at the crossroads she takes her stand; ³beside the gates in front of the town, at the entrance of the portals she cries aloud: ⁴“To you, O men, I call, and my cry is to the children of man. . . .

²²“The LORD possessed me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of old. ²³Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth. ²⁴When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. ²⁵Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth, ²⁶before he had made the earth with its fields, or the first of the dust of the world. ²⁷When he established the heavens, I was there; when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, ²⁸when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep, ²⁹when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth, ³⁰then I was beside him, like a master workman, and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, ³¹rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the children of man.”

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Acts 2:14a, 22-36

¹⁴Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them, . . .

²²“Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know—²³this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. ²⁴God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. ²⁵For David says concerning him, “‘I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken; ²⁶therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; my flesh also will dwell in hope. ²⁷For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption. ²⁸You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’ ²⁹“Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, ³¹he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. ³²This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. ³³Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. ³⁴For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, “‘The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand, ³⁵until I make your enemies your footstool.’ ³⁶Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation Thanks be to God.

(Stand)

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

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

words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 8:48–59

⁴⁸The Jews answered [Jesus], “Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?” ⁴⁹Jesus answered, “I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. ⁵⁰Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge. ⁵¹Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.” ⁵²The Jews said to him, “Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, ‘If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.’ ⁵³Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be?” ⁵⁴Jesus answered, “If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, ‘He is our God.’ ⁵⁵But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. ⁵⁶Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad.” ⁵⁷So the Jews said to him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?” ⁵⁸Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.” ⁵⁹So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

Pastor This is the Gospel of the Lord.

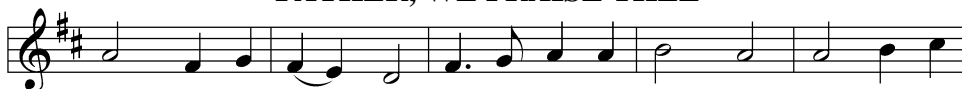
Congregation Praise to You, O Christ.

(Sit)

HYMN OF THE DAY

LSB #875

FATHER, WE PRAISE THEE



1 Fa - ther, we praise Thee, now the night is o - ver, Ac - tive and
2 Mon - arch of all things, fit us for Thy man - sions; Ban - ish our
△ 3 All - ho - ly Fa - ther, Son, and e - qual Spir - it, Trin - i - ty



watch - ful, stand we all be - fore Thee; Sing - ing, we of - fer
weak - ness, health and whole-ness send - ing; Bring us to heav - en,
bless - ed, send us Thy sal - va - tion; Thine is the glo - ry,



prayer and med - i - ta - tion: Thus we a - dore Thee.
where Thy saints u - nit - ed Joy with - out end - ing.
gleam - ing and re - sound - ing Through all cre - a - tion.

SERMON

“Against the World”

(Stand)

ATHANASIAN CREED

Pastor	Whoever desires to be saved must, above all, hold the catholic faith.
Congregation	Whoever does not keep it whole and undefiled will without doubt perish eternally.
Pastor	And the catholic faith is this,
Congregation	that we worship one God in Trinity and Trinity in Unity, neither confusing the persons nor dividing the substance.
Pastor	For the Father is one person, the Son is another, and the Holy Spirit is another.
Congregation	But the Godhead of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit is one: the glory equal, the majesty coeternal.
Pastor	Such as the Father is, such is the Son, and such is the Holy Spirit:
Congregation	the Father uncreated, the Son uncreated, the Holy Spirit uncreated;
Pastor	the Father infinite, the Son infinite, the Holy Spirit infinite;
Congregation	the Father eternal, the Son eternal, the Holy Spirit eternal.
Pastor	And yet there are not three Eternals, but one Eternal,
Congregation	just as there are not three Uncreated or three Infinities, but one Uncreated and one Infinite.
Pastor	In the same way, the Father is almighty, the Son almighty, the Holy Spirit almighty;
Congregation	and yet there are not three Almightyies, but one Almighty.
Pastor	So the Father is God, the Son is God, the Holy Spirit is God;
Congregation	and yet there are not three Gods, but one God.
Pastor	So the Father is Lord, the Son is Lord, the Holy Spirit is Lord;
Congregation	and yet there are not three Lords, but one Lord.
Pastor	Just as we are compelled by the Christian truth to acknowledge each distinct person as God and Lord, so also are we prohibited by the catholic religion to say that there are three Gods or Lords.
Congregation	The Father is not made nor created nor begotten by anyone.

Pastor	The Son is neither made nor created, but begotten of the Father alone.
Congregation	The Holy Spirit is of the Father and of the Son, neither made nor created nor begotten, but proceeding.
Pastor	Thus, there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons; one Holy Spirit, not three Holy Spirits.
Congregation	And in this Trinity none is before or after another; none is greater or less than another;
Pastor	but the whole three persons are coeternal with each other and coequal, so that in all things, as has been stated above, the Trinity in Unity and Unity in Trinity is to be worshiped.
Congregation	Therefore, whoever desires to be saved must think thus about the Trinity.
Pastor	But it is also necessary for everlasting salvation that one faithfully believe the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Congregation	Therefore, it is the right faith that we believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is at the same time both God and man.
Pastor	He is God, begotten from the substance of the Father before all ages; and He is man, born from the substance of His mother in this age:
Congregation	perfect God and perfect man, composed of a rational soul and human flesh;
Pastor	equal to the Father with respect to His divinity, less than the Father with respect to His humanity.
Congregation	Although He is God and man, He is not two, but one Christ:
Pastor	one, however, not by the conversion of the divinity into flesh, but by the assumption of the humanity into God;
Congregation	one altogether, not by confusion of substance, but by unity of person.
Pastor	For as the rational soul and flesh is one man, so God and man is one Christ,
Congregation	who suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose again the third day from the dead,

Pastor ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father, God Almighty, from whence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

Congregation At His coming all people will rise again with their bodies and give an account concerning their own deeds.

Pastor And those who have done good will enter into eternal life, and those who have done evil into eternal fire.

Congregation This is the catholic faith; whoever does not believe it faithfully and firmly cannot be saved.

(Sit)

OFFERING

(Stand)

OFFERTORY

LSB pg. 159



C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

(Sit)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

PREFACE

LSB pg. 160

Pastor The Lord be with you.

Congregation And also with you.

Pastor Lift up your hearts.

Congregation We lift them to the Lord.

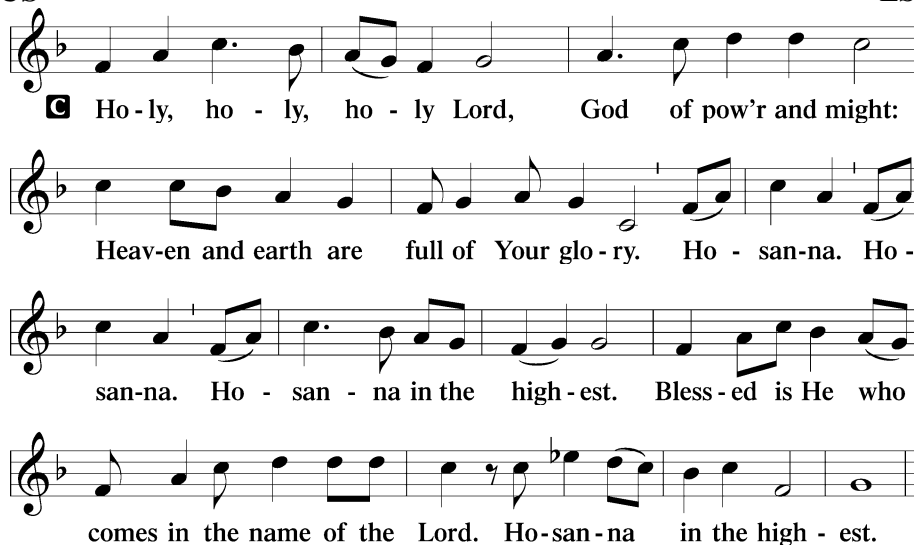
Pastor Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Congregation It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

SANCTUS

LSB pg. 161



G Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
san-na. 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.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

LORD'S PRAYER

LSB pg. 162

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

PAX DOMINI

LSB pg. 163

Pastor The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Congregation Amen.

AGNUS DEI

LSB pg. 163

C 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.

(Sit)

DISTRIBUTION

(Prayerful Meditation)

(Stand)

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE

LSB pg. 164

NUNC DIMITTIS



Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va-tion which You have prepared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to reveal You to the na-tions and the glo-ry of Your peo-ple Is - ra - el. 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.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

Pastor

Let us pray. Holy Trinity, by faith we acknowledge Your unending, seamless, and inseparable work in our lives through Word and Sacrament. Father, we thank You for Your relentless commitment to re-create our weary souls; Jesus, we thank You for suffering, dying, and rising, so that we too may rise; Holy Spirit, we thank You for calling us by name at our Baptism, making us the holy, forgiven people of God.

Congregation

All praise be to the Holy Trinity-Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

BENEDICTION

LSB pg. 166

Pastor

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

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

Congregation

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

LSB #506

GLORY BE TO GOD THE FATHER

1 Glo - ry be to God the Fa - ther, Glo - ry be to
2 Glo - ry be to Him who loved us, Washed us from each
3 Glo - ry to the King of an - gels, Glo - ry to the
4 Glo - ry, bless - ing, praise e - ter - nal! Thus the choir of

God the Son, Glo - ry be to God the Spir - it:
spot and stain; Glo - ry be to Him who bought us,
Church's King, Glo - ry to the King of na - tions;
an - gels sings; Hon - or, rich - es, pow'r, do - min - ion!

Great Je - ho - vah, Three in One! Glo - ry,
Made us kings with Him to reign! Glo - ry,
Heav'n and earth, your prais - es bring! Glo - ry,
Thus its praise cre - a - tion brings. Glo - ry,

glo - ry While e - ter - nal a - ges run!
glo - ry To the Lamb that once was slain!
glo - ry To the King of glo - ry sing!
glo - ry, Glo - ry to the King of kings!

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–89

Tune: Walter G. Whinfield, 1865–1919

Text and tune: Public domain

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.

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

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2025 Concordia Publishing House.