

# THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Saturday, August 23 and Sunday, August 24, 2025



# Bethlehem

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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

### OPENING HYMN

LSB #809

### GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS



1 Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther;  
2 Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest,  
3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,



There is no shad - ow of turn - ing with Thee.  
Sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove  
Thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide;



Thou chang - est not: Thy com - pas - sions, they fail not;  
Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness  
Strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,



As Thou hast been, Thou for - ev - er wilt be.  
To Thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.  
Bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!



Great is Thy faith - ful - ness! Great is Thy faith - ful - ness!



Morn - ing by morn - ing new mer - cies I see;



All I have need - ed Thy hand hath pro - vid - ed;



Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me!

*(Stand)*

## INVOCATION AND OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor	In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
<b>Congregation</b>	<b>Amen.</b>
Pastor	Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name!
<b>Congregation</b>	<b>Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits.</b>
Pastor	As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear Him.
<b>Congregation</b>	<b>The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.</b>
Pastor	Bless the LORD, all His hosts, His ministers, who do His will!
<b>Congregation</b>	<b>Bless the LORD, all His works, in all places of His dominion. Bless the LORD, O my soul!</b>

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor	Let us now confess our sins to God, our Father.
<b>Congregation</b>	<b>Have mercy on us, Lord, and grant us Your forgiveness. We confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We repent of our sins, those known to us and those unknown as well. Create in us clean hearts, gracious Lord, and put new and right spirits within us that we may be reconciled to You and at peace with all people. We trust in Christ alone for the forgiveness that we seek today and at all times. Give us the Holy Spirit to guide and direct us into paths of righteousness and finally bring us to everlasting life. Amen.</b>
Pastor	The almighty and merciful Lord grant us pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
<b>Congregation</b>	<b>Amen.</b>

# + SERVICE OF THE WORD +

HYMN OF PRAISE

LSB pg. 154

## GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Pastor

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people 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.

Pastor                    The Lord be with you.  
**Congregation        And also with you.**

Pastor                    Let us pray. O Lord, You have called us to enter Your kingdom  
                              through the narrow door. Guide us by Your Word and Spirit, and lead  
                              us now and always into the feast of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives  
                              and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Congregation        Amen.**

*(Sit)*

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**

Isaiah 66:18–23

<sup>18</sup>“For I know their works and their thoughts, and the time is coming to gather all nations and tongues. And they shall come and shall see my glory, <sup>19</sup>and I will set a sign among them. And from them I will send survivors to the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, who draw the bow, to Tubal and Javan, to the coastlands afar off, that have not heard my fame or seen my glory. And they shall declare my glory among the nations. <sup>20</sup>And they shall bring all your brothers from all the nations as an offering to the LORD, on horses and in chariots and in litters and on mules and on dromedaries, to my holy mountain Jerusalem, says the LORD, just as the Israelites bring their grain offering in a clean vessel to the house of the LORD. <sup>21</sup>And some of them also I will take for priests and for Levites, says the LORD.

<sup>22</sup>“For as the new heavens and the new earth that I make shall remain before me, says the LORD, so shall your offspring and your name remain.

<sup>23</sup>From new moon to new moon, and from Sabbath to Sabbath, all flesh shall come to worship before me, declares the LORD.”

Leader                    This is the Word of the Lord.  
**Congregation        Thanks be to God.**

## EPISTLE

Hebrews 12:4–24

<sup>4</sup>In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. <sup>5</sup>And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons?

“My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. <sup>6</sup>For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.” <sup>7</sup>It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? <sup>8</sup>If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. <sup>9</sup>Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live?

<sup>10</sup>For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. <sup>11</sup>For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

<sup>12</sup>Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, <sup>13</sup>and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed. <sup>14</sup>Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. <sup>15</sup>See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; <sup>16</sup>that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. <sup>17</sup>For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears.

<sup>18</sup>For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest <sup>19</sup>and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. <sup>20</sup>For they could not endure the order that was given, “If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned.” <sup>21</sup>Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I tremble with fear.” <sup>22</sup>But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, <sup>23</sup>and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, <sup>24</sup>and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

Leader	This is the Word of the Lord.
<b>Congregation</b>	<b>Thanks be to God.</b>

(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.

## GOSPEL

Luke 13:22–30

<sup>22</sup>[Jesus] went on his way through towns and villages, teaching and journeying toward Jerusalem. <sup>23</sup>And someone said to him, “Lord, will those who are saved be few?” And he said to them, <sup>24</sup>“Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. <sup>25</sup>When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, ‘Lord, open to us,’ then he will answer you, ‘I do not know where you come from.’ <sup>26</sup>Then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.’ <sup>27</sup>But he will say, ‘I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil!’ <sup>28</sup>In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God but you yourselves cast out. <sup>29</sup>And people will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God. <sup>30</sup>And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.”

Pastor This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Congregation Praise to You, O Christ.**



(Sit)

## HYMN OF THE DAY

LSB #729

### I AM TRUSTING THEE, LORD JESUS



1 I am trust-ing Thee, Lord Je - sus, Trust - ing on - ly Thee;  
2 I am trust-ing Thee for par - don; At Thy feet I bow,  
3 I am trust-ing Thee for cleans - ing In the crim - son flood;  
4 I am trust-ing Thee to guide me; Thou a - lone shalt lead,



Trust - ing Thee for full sal - va - tion, Great and free.  
For Thy grace and ten - der mer - cy Trust - ing now.  
Trust - ing Thee to make me ho - ly By Thy blood.  
Ev - 'ry day and hour sup - ply - ing All my need.

5

I am trusting Thee for power; Thine can never fail.  
Words which Thou Thyself shalt give me Must prevail.

6

I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus; Never let me fall.  
I am trusting Thee forever And for all.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–79

Tune: Henry W. Baker, 1821–77

Text and tune: Public domain

## SERMON

*“The Narrow Way”*

*(Stand)*

## **NICENE CREED**

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;**

**who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried.**

**And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.**

**And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life † of the world to come. Amen.**

*(Sit)*

## **OFFERING**

*(Stand)*

## OFFERTORY

LSB pg. 159



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

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

**G** 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. 165

## 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

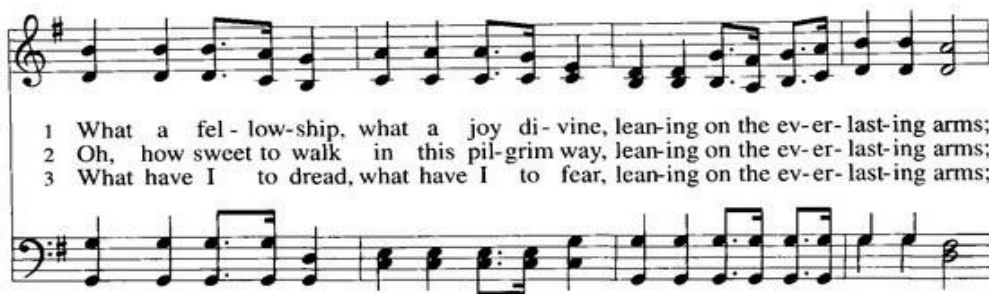
### BENEDICTION

LSB pg. 166

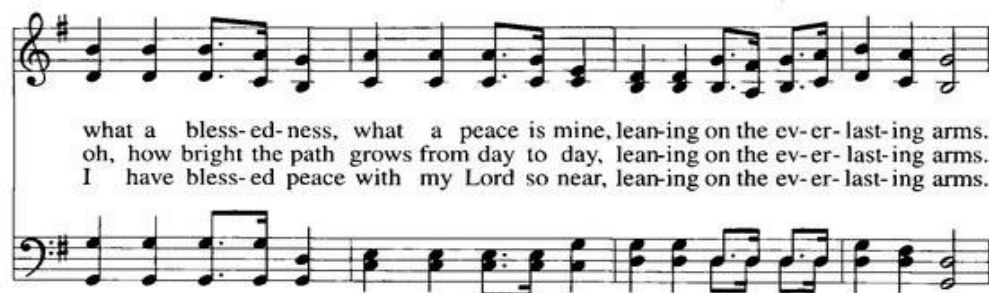
Pastor	The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.
Congregation	Amen.

## CLOSING HYMN

## LEANING ON THE EVERLASTING ARMS



1 What a fel - low-ship, what a joy di - vine, lean-ing on the ev-er- last-ing arms;  
 2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil-grim way, lean-ing on the ev-er- last-ing arms;  
 3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean-ing on the ev-er- last-ing arms;



what a bless-ed-ness, what a peace is mine, lean-ing on the ev-er- last-ing arms.  
 oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, lean-ing on the ev-er- last-ing arms.  
 I have bless-ed peace with my Lord so near, lean-ing on the ev-er- last-ing arms.

*Refrain*



Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se-cure from all a - larms;  
 Lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,



lean - ing, lean - ing, lean-ing on the ev - er - last-ing arms.  
 lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,

## **MINISTRY TEAM**

### **The Reverend Ben Ahlersmeyer**

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## **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](http://lsusfw.org).....744-0459**

**Concordia Lutheran High School....[clhscadets.com](http://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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[www.bethlehemlcms.org](http://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**

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