

# THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Saturday, August 30 and Sunday, August 31, 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 #790

### PRAISE TO THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -  
2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won - drous - ly  
3 Praise to the Lord, who has fear - ful - ly, won - drous - ly,  
4 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de -  
5 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a -



a - tion! O my soul, praise Him, for He is your  
reign - ing And, as on wings of an ea - gle, up -  
made you, Health has be - stowed and, when heed - less - ly  
fend you; Sure - ly His good - ness and mer - cy shall  
dore Him! All that has life and breath, come now with



health and sal - va - tion! Let all who hear Now to His  
lift - ing, sus - tain - ing. Have you not seen All that is  
fall - ing, has stayed you. What need or grief Ev - er has  
dai - ly at - tend you. Pon - der a - new What the Al -  
prais - es be - fore Him! Let the A - men Sound from His



tem - ple draw near, Join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!  
need - ful has been Sent by His gra - cious or - dain - ing?  
failed of re - lief? Wings of His mer - cy did shade you.  
might - y can do As with His love He be - friends you.  
peo - ple a - gain; Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore Him!

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–80; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Tune: Ander Theil Des Erneueren Gesang-Buchs, 1665, Stralsund

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.
<b>Congregation</b>	<b>Amen.</b>
Pastor	Praise the LORD! Sing to the Lord a new song,
<b>Congregation</b>	<b>His praise in the assembly of the godly!</b>
Pastor	Let Israel be glad in his Maker;
<b>Congregation</b>	<b>let the children of Zion rejoice in their King!</b>
Pastor	Let them praise His name with dancing, making melody to Him with tambourine and lyre!
<b>Congregation</b>	<b>For the LORD takes pleasure in His people; He adorns the humble with salvation.</b>

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor	It is good and right that we should make confession of our sins. The section on confession in Luther's catechism instructs us with these words: "Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven." Humble yourselves, then, before God, confess your sins to Him, and implore His forgiveness.
<b>Congregation</b>	<b>O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a troubled and penitent sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your present and eternal punishment. By nature, I am a sinful creature. By thought, word, and deed I have continually transgressed Your law. For the sake of the sufferings and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a penitent and contrite being. Forgive me all of my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life.</b>
Pastor	God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith.
<b>Congregation</b>	<b>Amen.</b>
Pastor	As you believe, so let it be. As a called and ordained servant Christ and by His authority, I therefore 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.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor                    The Lord be with you.

**Congregation        And also with you.**

Pastor                    Let us pray. O Lord of grace and mercy, teach us by Your Holy Spirit to follow the example of Your Son in true humility, that we may withstand the temptations of the devil and with pure hearts and minds avoid ungodly pride; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Congregation        Amen.**

*(Sit)*

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

Proverbs 25:2–10

<sup>2</sup>It is the glory of God to conceal things,  
but the glory of kings is to search things out.

<sup>3</sup>As the heavens for height, and the earth for depth,  
so the heart of kings is unsearchable.

<sup>4</sup>Take away the dross from the silver,  
and the smith has material for a vessel;

<sup>5</sup>take away the wicked from the presence of the king,  
and his throne will be established in righteousness.

<sup>6</sup>Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence  
or stand in the place of the great,

<sup>7</sup>for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"  
than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

What your eyes have seen

<sup>8</sup>do not hastily bring into court,  
for what will you do in the end,  
when your neighbor puts you to shame?

<sup>9</sup>Argue your case with your neighbor himself,  
and do not reveal another's secret,

<sup>10</sup>lest he who hears you bring shame upon you,  
and your ill repute have no end.

Leader                    This is the Word of the Lord.

**Congregation        Thanks be to God.**

## EPISTLE

Hebrews 13:1-17

<sup>1</sup>Let brotherly love continue. <sup>2</sup>Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. <sup>3</sup>Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body. <sup>4</sup>Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. <sup>5</sup>Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." <sup>6</sup>So we can confidently say,

"The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?"

<sup>7</sup>Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. <sup>8</sup>Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. <sup>9</sup>Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited those devoted to them. <sup>10</sup>We have an altar from which those who serve the tent have no right to eat. <sup>11</sup>For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy places by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. <sup>12</sup>So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood.

<sup>13</sup>Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured. <sup>14</sup>For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come. <sup>15</sup>Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. <sup>16</sup>Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

<sup>17</sup>Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

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.

## **GOSPEL**

Luke 14:1-14

<sup>1</sup>One Sabbath, when [Jesus] went to dine at the house of a ruler of the Pharisees, they were watching him carefully. <sup>2</sup>And behold, there was a man before him who had dropsy. <sup>3</sup>And Jesus responded to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath, or not?” <sup>4</sup>But they remained silent. Then he took him and healed him and sent him away. <sup>5</sup>And he said to them, “Which of you, having a son or an ox that has fallen into a well on a Sabbath day, will not immediately pull him out?” <sup>6</sup>And they could not reply to these things.

<sup>7</sup>Now he told a parable to those who were invited, when he noticed how they chose the places of honor, saying to them, <sup>8</sup>“When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in a place of honor, lest someone more distinguished than you be invited by him, <sup>9</sup>and he who invited you both will come and say to you, ‘Give your place to this person,’ and then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place. <sup>10</sup>But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher.’ Then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at table with you. <sup>11</sup>For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

<sup>12</sup>He said also to the man who had invited him, “When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. <sup>13</sup>But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, <sup>14</sup>and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. You will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.”

Pastor                      This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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



(Sit)

HYMN OF THE DAY (4:00pm)

LSB #784

TAKE MY LIFE AND LET IT BE



1 Take my life and let it be Con - se - crat - ed,  
2 Take my hands and let them move At the im - pulse  
3 Take my voice and let me sing Al - ways, on - ly  
4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, Not a mite would



Lord, to Thee; Take my mo - ments and my days, Let them  
of Thy love; Take my feet and let them be Swift and  
for my King; Take my lips and let them be Filled with  
I with - hold; Take my in - tel - lect and use Ev - 'ry



flow in cease-less praise, Let them flow in cease-less praise.  
beau - ti - ful for Thee, Swift and beau - ti - ful for Thee.  
mes - sag - es from Thee, Filled with mes - sag - es from Thee.  
pow'r as Thou shalt choose, Ev - 'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it Thine,  
It shall be no longer mine;  
Take my heart, it is Thine own,  
It shall be Thy royal throne,  
It shall be Thy royal throne.

6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour  
At Thy feet its treasure store;  
Take myself, and I will be  
Ever, only, all for Thee,  
Ever, only, all for Thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–79  
Tune: Henri A. C. Malan, 1787–1864  
Text and tune: Public domain

SONG (9:00am)

Soloist: Andrew Bower

“Give Me Jesus” (by Mark Hayes)

*(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

**MUSICAL OFFERING** Soloists: (4:00pm) Kasey Hapner (9:00am) Andrew Bower  
*“Songs of the Wayfarer” (by Joseph Martin)*

(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

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. 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.

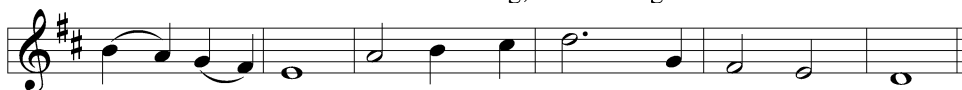
## JESUS SHALL REIGN



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun Does its suc -  
 2 To Him shall end - less prayer be made, And end - less  
 3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue Dwell on His  
 4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er He reigns: The pris - 'ners  
 5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring Hon - ors pe -



ces - sive jour - neys run; His king - dom stretch from  
 prais - es crown His head; His name like sweet per -  
 love with sweet - est song; And in - fant voic - es  
 leap, un - loose their chains, The wea - ry find e -  
 cu - liar to our King; An - gels de - scend with



shore to shore Till moons shall wax and wane no more.  
 fume shall rise With ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.  
 shall pro - claim Their ear - ly bless - ings on His name.  
 ter - nal rest, And all who suf - fer want are blest.  
 songs a - gain, And earth re - peat the loud a - men.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.

Tune: attr. John C. Hatton, d. 1793

Text and tune: Public domain

## **MINISTRY TEAM**

### **The Reverend Ben Ahlersmeyer**

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### **Kasey Needham Hapner, Music Director**

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### **Janelle Deal, Organist**

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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.....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**

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