

# THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Saturday, September 6 and Sunday, September 7, 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 #507

### HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!  
2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore Thee,  
3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though the dark - ness hide Thee,  
4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!



Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to Thee;  
Cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;  
Though the eye of sin - ful man Thy glo - ry may not see,  
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!  
Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore Thee,  
On - ly Thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side Thee,  
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!



God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!  
Which wert and art and ev - er - more shalt be.  
Per - fect in pow'r, in love, and pu - ri - ty.  
God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826

Tune: John B. Dykes, 1823–76

Text and tune: Public domain

*(Stand)*

## INVOCATION

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

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor Most holy and merciful Father,  
Congregation **we confess to You, and to one another, and to the whole company of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault, in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

Pastor We have not loved You with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

Congregation **Have mercy and forgive us, Lord.**

Pastor We have taken for granted Your grace and mercy and lived as though You did not matter and we mattered most of all.

Congregation **Have mercy and forgive us, Lord.**

Pastor We confess to You, O Lord, that we have done the evil Your Word prohibits and have not done the good You command.

Congregation **Have mercy and forgive us, Lord.**

Pastor We confess that we have hidden our sin from You and from one another and have not confessed honestly before You or to those whom we have hurt.

Congregation **We are truly sorry for the sins we have committed in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done that is wrong and by our failure to do what is right. Have mercy and forgive us, Lord.**

Pastor Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of 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.

Congregation **Amen.**

Pastor He who began this good work within you will bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of the Lord be with you.

Congregation **And also with you.**

# + SERVICE OF THE WORD +

## HYMN OF PRAISE

LSB #947

### ALL GLORY BE TO GOD ON HIGH



The musical score is written in a single system with six staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the staves, with line numbers 1 through 4 indicating the beginning of each line of text. The text is in a traditional hymn style, with hyphens used to indicate syllables that span across measures. The final staff ends with a double bar line.

1 All glo - ry be to God on high And thanks for all His  
2 We praise and laud and wor - ship You; We give You thanks for -  
3 O Je - sus Christ, the on - ly Son Be - got - ten of the  
4 O Ho - ly Spir - it, our de - light And source of con - so -  
fa - vor; No harm can touch or ter - ri - fy A  
ev - er, O Fa - ther, for Your rule is true And  
Fa - ther, Your sav - ing death has made us one With  
la - tion, Pro - tect us from the dev - il's might Through  
child of God for - ev - er. God shows His good and  
just and chang - es nev - er. With bound - less pow'r, Your  
God and with each oth - er. O Lamb of God, to  
Je - sus, our sal - va - tion, Who by His death up -  
gra - cious will And grants His peace, the world to fill—  
might - y reign Ful - fills what - ev - er You or - dain.  
You on high In our dis - tress we sin - ners cry,  
on a tree Has res - cued us from mis - er - y:  
All strife at last has end - ed.  
Lord, grant us ev - 'ry bless - ing!  
Have mer - cy on us, a - men!  
To this we hold for - ev - er.

Text: Nicolaus Decius, c. 1485–after 1546; tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006

Tune: attr. Nicolaus Decius, c. 1485–after 1546

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Tune: Public domain

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor                      The Lord be with you.

**Congregation        And also with you.**

Pastor                      Let us pray. O merciful Lord, You did not spare Your only Son but delivered Him up for us all. Grant us courage and strength to take up the cross and follow Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Congregation        Amen.**

*(Sit)*

## **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

Deuteronomy 30:15–20

<sup>15</sup>“See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. <sup>16</sup>If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you today, by loving the LORD your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. <sup>17</sup>But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, <sup>18</sup>I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. <sup>19</sup>I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, <sup>20</sup>loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”

Leader                      This is the Word of the Lord.

**Congregation        Thanks be to God.**

## EPISTLE

Philemon 1–21

<sup>1</sup>Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,  
To Philemon our beloved fellow worker <sup>2</sup>and Apphia our sister and Archippus our  
fellow soldier, and the church in your house:

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup>I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers, <sup>5</sup>because I hear of your  
love and of the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and all the saints, <sup>6</sup>and I pray  
that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good  
thing that is in us for the sake of Christ. <sup>7</sup>For I have derived much joy and comfort from  
your love, my brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you.

<sup>8</sup>Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do what is  
required, <sup>9</sup>yet for love's sake I prefer to appeal to you—I, Paul, an old man and now a  
prisoner also for Christ Jesus— <sup>10</sup>I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I  
became in my imprisonment. <sup>11</sup>(Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed  
useful to you and to me.) <sup>12</sup>I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart. <sup>13</sup>I  
would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your  
behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel, <sup>14</sup>but I preferred to do nothing without  
your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own  
free will. <sup>15</sup>For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might  
have him back forever, <sup>16</sup>no longer as a slave but more than a slave, as a beloved  
brother—especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

<sup>17</sup>So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me. <sup>18</sup>If he has  
wronged you at all, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. <sup>19</sup>I, Paul, write this  
with my own hand: I will repay it—to say nothing of your owing me even your own self.  
<sup>20</sup>Yes, brother, I want some benefit from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in Christ.

<sup>21</sup>Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more  
than I say.

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 14:25–35

<sup>25</sup>Now great crowds accompanied [Jesus], and he turned and said to them, <sup>26</sup>“If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. <sup>27</sup>Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. <sup>28</sup>For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? <sup>29</sup>Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, <sup>30</sup>saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ <sup>31</sup>Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup>And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. <sup>33</sup>So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

<sup>34</sup>“Salt is good, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? <sup>35</sup>It is of no use either for the soil or for the manure pile. It is thrown away. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

Pastor This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

(Sit)

## HYMN OF THE DAY

## I'M GOIN' -A SING (TFBF 109)

1 I'm goin' - a sing when the Spir - it says sing.  
2 I'm goin' - a pray when the Spir - it says pray.  
3 I'm goin' - a moan when the Spir - it says moan.  
4 I'm goin' - a shout when the Spir - it says shout.

I'm goin' - a sing when the Spir - it says sing.  
I'm goin' - a pray when the Spir - it says pray.  
I'm goin' - a moan when the Spir - it says moan.  
I'm goin' - a shout when the Spir - it says shout.

I'm goin' - a sing when the Spir - it says sing,  
I'm goin' - a pray when the Spir - it says pray,  
I'm goin' - a moan when the Spir - it says moan,  
I'm goin' - a shout when the Spir - it says shout,

and o - bey the Spir - it of the Lord.  
and o - bey the Spir - it of the Lord.  
and o - bey the Spir - it of the Lord.  
and o - bey the Spir - it of the Lord.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: I'M GOIN'-A SING, African American spiritual; arr. William Farley Smith, b. 1941

Arr. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House, admin. The Copyright Company

*(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

**C** 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.**

## THE KING OF LOVE MY SHEPHERD IS



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, Whose good - ness  
 2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, My ran - somed  
 3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, But yet in  
 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill With Thee, dear



fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if  
 soul He lead - eth And, where the ver - dant  
 love He sought me And on His shoul - der  
 Lord, be - side me, Thy rod and staff my



I am His And He is mine for - ev - er.  
 pas - tures grow, With food ce - les - tial feed - eth.  
 gent - ly laid And home re - joic - ing brought me.  
 com - fort still, Thy cross be - fore to guide me.

5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;  
 Thine unction grace bestoweth;  
 And, oh, what transport of delight  
 From Thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so through all the length of days  
 Thy goodness faileth never;  
 Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise  
 Within Thy house forever!

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821–77

Tune: Irish, c. 18th cent.

Text and tune: Public domain

## **MINISTRY TEAM**

### **The Reverend Ben Ahlersmeyer**

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## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**President – Greg Shediack**

**Vice President – Evans Branigan**

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## **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**

3705 South Anthony Boulevard, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46806-4329

[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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