

Sunday, September 13, 2020 Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Pastor Gary Mikkelson

Lay Reader: Peggy Goettsch

Music: Glenda McGaffee

Power-Point: Rod Scholten

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

AMEN

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Faithful God,

Have mercy on us.

We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.

We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways.

We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves.

We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.

We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.

Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

AMEN

OPENING HYMN #641 "We Are Welcome" vs. 1,4,5

1. Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live, a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive. Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

4. Let us build a house where hands will reach, beyond the wood and stone to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known. Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face; let us bring an end to fear and danger:

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

5. Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word. Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible foundation of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. AMEN

BLCW PRESENTATION

INSTALLATION OF TEACHERS & HELPERS

THE READINGS

FIRST READING: GENESIS 50:15-21

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, 'What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?' So they approached Joseph, saying, 'Your father gave this instruction before he died, "Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you." Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father.' Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, 'We are here as your slaves.' But Joseph said to them, 'Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.' In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

R: Word of God, Word of life. C: Thanks be to God

PSALM 103:8-13

R: Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;

C: you will not always accuse us, nor will you keep your anger forever.

R: You have not dealt with us according to our sins, nor repaid us according to our iniquities.

C: For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

R: As far as the east is from the west, so far have you removed our transgressions from us.

C: As a father has compassion for his children, so you have compassion for those who fear you, O Lord.

SECOND READING: ROMANS 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgement on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgement on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgement on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God. For it is written, 'As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.' So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

R: Word of God, Word of life

C: Thanks be to God

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE – BLESSING OF BACKPACKS

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION "Alleluia!"

Alleluia! Lord and Savior; open now your saving word.

Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.

Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL READING: MATTHEW 18:21-35

Then Peter came and said to him, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' Jesus said to him, 'Not

'For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything." And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-

slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, "Pay what you owe." Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you." But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?" And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he should pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.'

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY #605 "Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive"

- 1.) Forgive our sins as we forgive, you taught us, Lord, to pray; but you alone can grant us grace to live the words we say.
- 2.) How can your pardon reach and bless the unforgiving heart that broods on wrongs and will not let old bitterness depart?
- 3.) In blazing light your cross reveals the truth we dimly knew; how trifling others debts to us; how great our debt to you!
- 4.) Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls and bid resentment cease; then, by your mercy reconciled, our lives will spread your peace.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION: P: Lord, in your mercy C: Hear our prayer

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

OFFERING

Your continued financial support to the mission and ministry of the church is important during this time. Offering baskets are placed at the entrance of the sanctuary.

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN #537 "On Our Way Rejoicing"

- 1.) On our way rejoicing gladly let us go. Christ our Lord has conquered; vanquished is the foe. Christ without our safety; Christ within our joy; who, if we be faithful, can our hope destroy?
On our way rejoicing; as we forward move, hearken to our praises, O blest God of love!
- 2.) Unto God the Father joyful songs we sing; unto God the Savior thankful hearts we bring; unto God the Spirit bow we and adore, on our way rejoicing now and evermore.
On our way rejoicing; as we forward move, hearken to our praises, O blest God of love!

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Special Congregational Meeting following church services this morning. The purpose of voting on the recommendation from the Trustees and Church Council to construct a new digital church sign. This will be the only item of business to be transacted. Refreshments served following voting.



LED illuminated sign cabinet with WATCHFIRE Amber message center
double faced plastic faces with translucent vinyl
stone/brick by other

cabinet/ paint/translucent vinyl colors



Bethlehem Lutheran
Double Faced Monument Option B



TONIGHT - DRIVE THRU COMMUNION – 4:00-6:00 pm.

Sign up sheet in narthex, if you haven't done so and would like to have communion.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFIRMATION MEETING for 10th Graders.

Wednesday, September 16 – 6:00 – 7:30 pm. (Youth, Parents & Mentors)

8-9th Grade Confirmation will meet on Sunday nights – 6:00-7:30 pm. (Sept. 20-27)

POSITION AT BETHLEHEM:

Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Hills, MN is seeking a part-time **Youth Pastor/Director** to accompany, encourage, and engage youth on their faith journey through a wide range of education and youth programs. This position will provide primary leadership in developing appropriate and effective programs for children, youth and their families. This position will be responsible for planning, coordinating, and implementing all youth-related classes, activities, events, and groups throughout the calendar year. Those interested who have a passion for youth and a strong Christian faith are invited to submit a resume to:

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church Attn: Church Council 112 N. Main Ave.
Hills, MN 56138**

CHRISTMAS WREATHS FOR SALE

Bethlehem-Flowerfield Cemetery Board is selling Christmas Wreaths for both cemeteries and your front door.

Orders can be made by calling Wanda Hoyme
@507-962-3464.

Last day to place an order is October 31.

Cost is \$40.00

This is a fundraiser to help pay for cemetery maintenance.

Wanda Hoyme

**Bethlehem-Flowerfield Cemetery Board
Secretary/Treasurer/Sexton**

