

## **BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**(507-962-3270)**

**Pastor Nita Parker (507-360-7582)**

**[nitaalmjeld.parker@gmail.com](mailto:nitaalmjeld.parker@gmail.com)**

**Music:** Angie Johnson

**Lay Reader:** Eric Abels

**Acolyte:** Abby Olson

**Head Ushers-** Charlie & Lucas Sandager



## **BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**ANNUAL MEETING** (Following worship service this morning)

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who creates us, redeems us, and calls us by name. **Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we have sinned against you and your beloved children.**

**We have turned our faces away from your glory when it did not appear as we expected. We have rejected your word when it made us confront ourselves.**

**We have failed to show hospitality to those you called us to welcome.**

**Accept our repentance for the things we have done and the things we have left undone. For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us and lead us that we may bathe in the glory of your Son born among us, and reflect your love for all creation. Amen.**

Rejoice in this good news: In ✝ Christ Jesus, your sins are forgiven.

You are descendants of the Most High, adopted into the household of Christ, and inheritors of eternal life. Live as freed and forgiven children of God. **Amen.**

#### **Hymn “How Great Is Our God”**

**The splendor of the King, clothed in majesty, let all the earth rejoice.**

**He wraps himself in Light, and darkness tries to hide and trembles at His voice**

**Trembles at His voice**

**How great is our God, sing with me, How great is our God, and all will see,  
How great, how great is our God.**

**Age to age he stands and time is in His hands, and time is in His hands,  
Beginning and the end, beginning and the end.**

**The Godhead Three in One, Father Spirit Son,  
The Lion and the Lamb, the Lion and the Lamb.  
How great is our God, sing with me, How great is our God, and all will see,  
How great, how great is our God.**

**Name above all names, worthy of our praise,  
My heart will sing, How great is our God.  
How great is our God, sing with me, How great is our God, and all will see,  
How great, how great is our God.**

### **Opening Litany**

**P:** Today our congregation gathers in prayer and hope to begin another year of ministry. We bring with us the memory of a year like no other, even as we move into a future that we cannot yet imagine. Yet even now, as in every age, God is our refuge and strength. In times of plenty and want, in times of conflict and peace, in times of growing and pruning, we remember:

**C: God has called us for such a time as this.**

**P:** We remember the past year with lament and gratitude. We have lost so much, and so much still feels uncertain. We have also witnessed God's hand at work in new and unexpected ways. We delight at hidden seeds bearing surprising and wonderful fruit. When our own resources fail, when we cannot predict the future, when we must rely on God alone, we remember:

**C: God has called us for such a time as this.**

**P:** We celebrate this moment and the many ways God has held us together as a community. We give thanks for the gift of our church building and the welcome it provides, even as we bless God for the marvel of technology and the new bonds of connection it makes possible. When our bodies need sanctuary, when our minds need expanding, when your grace must transcend our limitations, we remember:

**C: God has called us for such a time as this.**

**P:** We look ahead to the road we will travel together this year. We anticipate and receive with joy the new gifts God's love has planned. We pray for the grace to let go of what has served its holy purpose. When we are trailblazers or followers, when we are seekers or visionaries, when we must walk by faith and not by sight, we remember:

**C: God has called us for such a time as this.**

**P:** And so we pray: Grace our meeting, O God, with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the Spirit who has guided the church from the beginning, the Spirit of our risen Lord Jesus, the Spirit who sends us as healers and restorers of your beloved world. You are the source of our life together. You are the rock and cornerstone.

**C: You have called us for such a time as this.**

### **KYRIE (pg. 203)**

Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer. We come to hear your living word; it saves us from despair.

Have mercy on us, Christ, and wash away our sin. Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin. Have mercy on us, Lord, make sin and shame depart. Renew us with your saving pow'r; create in us new hearts!

### **CANTICLE OF PRAISE (pg. 204)**

Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth.

Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:

we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.

Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.

Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love.

Son of God and gracious Savior, you have come from heav'n above;  
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.

Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us; in your promise firm we stand.

Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call;

Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all: Jesus Christ, with  
God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright.

For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!

### **Prayer of the Day:**

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

#### **First Reading: Isaiah 62:1-5**

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch.

The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate; but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the LORD delights in you, and your land shall be married. For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your builder marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

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

### **Psalm 36:5-10 (responsive reading)**

**R:** Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens, and your faithfulness to the clouds.

**C; Your righteousness is like the strong mountains, your justice like the great deep; you save humankind and animals, O LORD.**

**R:** How priceless is your love, O God! All people take refuge under the shadow of your wings.

**C: They feast upon the abundance of your house; you give them drink from the river of your delights.**

**R:** For with you is the well of life, and in your light we see light.

**C: Continue your lovingkindness to those who know you, and your favor to those who are true of heart.**

### **Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11**

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

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

### **GOSPEL READING: John 2:1-11**

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

## **Children's Sermon** **Sermon**

### **Hymn of the Day "This Is My Father's World" #824**

1. This is my Father's world, and to my lis-t'ning ears all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.  
This is my Father's world; I rest me in the thought of rock and tree, of skies and seas; his hand the wonders wrought.
2. This is my Father's world; the birds their carols raise; the morning light, the lily white, declare their maker's praise.  
This is my Father's world; he shines in all that's fair. In the rustling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me ev'ry-where.
3. This is my Father's world; oh, let me not forget that though the wrong seems oft to strong, God is the ruler yet.  
This is my Father's world; why should my heart be sad? The Lord is king, let heaven ring; God reigns, let earth be glad!

### **Apostle's Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father; and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. **AMEN**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

**P: God of Grace C: hear our prayer**

### **Offering Prayer**

Blessed are you, O God, Sovereign of the universe. You offer us new beginnings and guide us on our journey.

Lead us to your table, nourish us with this heavenly food, and prepare us to carry your love to a hungry world, in the name of Christ our light. **Amen.**

### **Great Thanksgiving pg. 206**

**P: The Lord be with you. C: And also with you.**

**P: Lift up your hearts C: We lift them to the Lord**

**P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.**

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**P: It is indeed right, our duty and our prayer. . . And so, with all the hosts of heaven we praise your name and join your unending hymn.**

## **Words of Institution**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

## **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**

## **Communion**

### **Communion Hymn "I Love You, Lord"**

**I love you Lord. And I worship you.**

**And I lift my voice to worship You, Oh, my soul rejoice!**

**Take joy my King, in what you hear, let it be a sweet, sweet sound, in Your ear.  
And I lift my voice, to worship You, Oh, my soul rejoice!**

**Take joy my King in what You hear. Let it be a sweet, sweet sound, in Your ear.  
And I lift my voice, to worship You. Oh, my soul, rejoice!  
And I lift my voice to worship You. Oh, my soul, rejoice!  
Take joy my King in what You hear. Let it be a sweet, sweet sound, in Your ear.**

## **Quiz Bowl**

**First Question: Answer: God (January 2)**

**Second Question: (January 9)**

**Answer: July 10, 1872 at the home of Otis Steen.**

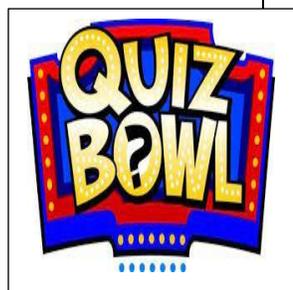
### **Question #3 (January 16)**

**What was the 1<sup>st</sup> building in Hills and when & where was it?**

### **Question #4 (January 23)**

**What happened to the building before it was completed?**

**\*\* Cards are available in the back of the church for you to use to answer your question. Be sure to put on the date of question, your name & answer.**



## **Prayer after Communion**

We give you thanks, gracious God, for we have feasted on the abundance of your house. Send us to bring good news and to proclaim your favor to all, strengthened with the richness of your grace in your Son, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## **Blessing**

God, who leads you in pathways of righteousness, who rejoices over you, and who calls you by name, ✝ bless your going out and your coming in, today and forever. **Amen.**

## **Closing Song "You Are My All in All"**

**You are my strength when I am weak**

**You are the treasure that I seek**

**You are my all in all.**

**Seeking You as a precious jewel, Lord, to give up I'd be a fool.**

**You are my all in all.**

**Taking my sin, my cross, my shame. Raising again I bless Your name.**

**You are my all in all.**

**When I fall down, You pick me up. When I am dry You fill my cup.**

**You are my all in all.**

**Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is Your name.**

**Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is Your name.**

**You are my strength when I am weak**

**You are the treasure that I seek**

**You are my all in all.**

**Seeking You as a precious jewel, Lord, to give up I'd be a fool.**

**You are my all in all.**

**Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is Your name.**

**Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is Your name.**

## **Dismissal**

**P:** Go with Christ into a weary world. Share the good news.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

## **PRAYERS NEEDED\*\*\* Please keep these people in your prayers:**

Carol Hadler, Shirley Johnson, Sam McGaffee, Nancy Swanson, Larry Parker, Maggie Hecht, Pastor Nita Parker.

## **OUR SYMPATHY**

***Norma Wassenaar*** passed away on Friday, January 14th @ Hospice Cottage in Luverne. Remember the family in your prayers.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Tuesday, January 18 – CIRCLE OF HOPE**

7:00 pm. @ Marilyn Nelson's home

### **TRINITY MISSION**

Trinity Missions team is planning to leave for Greenville MS March 4-14, 2022. The work this year will include community work unless Covid gets worse again. Plan to come for as much time as you can!

Please let Paul Hulls 507-822-2407, or Pr. Nita Parker 507-360-7582 know if you have any questions, or if you want to join the trip.

The cost for the trip is \$300, which includes your stay and food. Contributions to the work of the Mission are always welcome!



### **2022 Summer Camps**

#### **Boundless/ God Beyond Measure**

Check out brochures in the narthex for summer camps that are available at Shetek Lutheran Ministries, Slayton, MN. Funding available, contact the church office or Madison Spath if you are interested in attending summer camp.