

Sunday, August 7, 2022 Bethlehem Lutheran Church

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH (507-962-3270)

Pastor Nita Parker (507-360-7582) nitaalmjeld.parker@gmail.com

Worship Leaders:

Music – **Glenda McGaffee**

Lay Reader – **Eric Abels**

Deacon – **Jan Solberg**

Ushers in August

Dean & Peggy Goettsch, Doug & Deanna Chapman, Al & Judy Top



**** TODAY FOLLOWING SERVICE – Education Board will meet.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

OPENING HYMN: "Blessed Assurance" #638

- 1.) Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior, all the day long:
this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

- 2.) Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Refrain

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior, all the day long:
this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

- 3.) Perfect submission, all is at rest; I in my Savior am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

Refrain

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior, all the day long:
this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

GREETING

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.**

KYRIE (sung) pg. 203

- 1.) Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer.
We come to hear your living word; it saves us from despair.
- 2.) Have mercy on us, Christ, and wash away our sin.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.
- 3.) 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 (Sung) pg. 204

- 1.) 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.
- 2.) 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.

**3.) 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

**Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church.
Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you
wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Reading from Genesis 15:1-6

¹After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ²But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

R: Word of God, Word of Life C: Thanks be to God

Psalms 33:12-22 (Responsive Reading)

R: Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD! Happy the people chosen to be God's heritage!

C: The Lord looks down from heaven and sees all humankind.

R: God sits firmly enthroned and watches all who dwell on the earth.

C: God fashions all their hearts and observes all their deeds.

R: A king is not saved by the size of the army, nor are warriors rescued by their great strength.

C: The horse gives vain hope for victory; despite its great strength it cannot save.

R: Truly, your eye is upon those who fear you, O Lord, upon those who wait for your steadfast love,

C: to deliver their lives from death, and to keep them alive in time of famine.

R: Our innermost being waits for you, O LORD, our helper and our shield.

C: Surely, our heart rejoices in you, for in your holy name we put our trust.

R: Let your lovingkindness, O Lord, be upon us, even as we place our hope in you.

Reading from Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

¹Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ²Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. ³By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from

things that are not visible.

⁸By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. ¹²Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.”

¹³All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, ¹⁴for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

R: Word of God, Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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: Luke 12:32-40

[Jesus said:] ³²“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

³⁵“Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; ³⁶be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. ³⁷Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

³⁹“But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

P: Gospel of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY “Have No Fear, Little Flock” #764

1.) Have no fear, little flock; have no fear, little flock, for the Father has chosen to give you the kingdom; have no fear, little flock!

2.) Have good cheer, little flock; have good cheer, little flock, for the Father will keep you in his love forever; have good cheer, little flock!

3.) Praise the Lord high above; praise the Lord high above, for he stoops down to heal you, up-lift and restore you; praise the Lord high above!

4.) Thankful hearts raise to God; thankful hearts raise to God, for he stays close beside you, in all things works with you; thankful hearts raise to God!

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: Merciful God, **C:** receive our prayer. Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERING HYMN

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation and uphold me with your free Spirit.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of abundance:

you have set before us a plentiful harvest. As we feast on your goodness, strengthen us to labor in your field, and equip us to bear fruit for the good of all, in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

WORD OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. **Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

In Christ's presence there is fullness of joy. Come to the banquet.

PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION

P: Life-giving God,

C: through this meal you have bandaged our wounds and fed us with your mercy. Now send us forth to live for others, both friend and stranger, that all may come to know your love. This we pray in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

QUIZ BOWL

Question: Sunday, August 7.....How tall is the church?

Question: Sunday, August 14

What Pastor had the most kids & what were their names?



BLESSING

The God of peace, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you, comfort you, and show you the path of life this day and always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN: "How Great Thou Art" #856

1.) O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder consider all the works thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder, thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;

Refrain

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee, how great thou art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!

2.) When through the woods and forest glades I wander, I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees; when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze;

Refrain

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee, how great thou art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!

3.) But when I think that God, his Son not sparing, sent him to die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross my burden gladly bearing he bled and died to take away my sin;

Refrain

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee, how great thou art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!

4.) When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation, and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in humble adoration and there proclaim, "My God, how great thou art!"

Refrain

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee, how great thou art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Love your neighbor.

C: Thanks be to God.

SAVE THE DATE
150th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
September 10 & 11
Check your Newsletter for details!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHOIR PRACTICE DATE – Today following church services, August 7th & August 14,21,28 following Sunday Services

Everyone is welcome, please come and join us! Choir singing for Celebration!

SATURDAY, August 13, Cemetery Clean Up Day at **9:00 am**. Contact Dawn Sandager (962-3744) or Wanda Hoyme (962-3464) with more details.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Sam McGaffee & Roberta Scholten (Rod Scholten's mom)

BLCW Mission Backpack Project Kits

Please help us collect school supplies. Why school supplies? To the children who receive School Kits, these supplies mean the difference between getting an education or not. They are distributed by Lutheran World Relief all over the world.

(Drop off box provided in narthex).

SUPPLIES COLLECTING

4 – 70 sheet notebooks of wide or college rule paper

1 – 12" ruler with centimeters

1 – pencil sharpener

1 - blunt scissors

5 – unsharpened #2 pencils

5 – ballpoint pens (no gel ink)

1 – box of 24 crayons

1 – eraser approximately 2 ½" long

