

Sunday, September 18, 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 -Al Top

Ushers in September

Aaron & Heather Erickson, Diana Buffington, Warren & Mary Olson



CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who is eager to forgive and who loves us beyond our days. **Amen.**

Dear friends, together let us acknowledge our failure to love this world as Jesus does. *(Silence is kept for reflection).*

God of mercy and forgiveness,

we confess that sin still has a hold on us. We have harmed your good creation.

We have failed to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you.

Turn us in a new direction. Show us the path that leads to life. Be our refuge and strength on the journey, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.

Amen.

Beloved of God:

your sins are forgiven † and you are made whole. God points the way to new life in Christ, who meets us on the road. Journey now in God's abiding love through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN #685 "Take My Life, That I May Be"

**1.) Take my life, that I may be consecrated, Lord, to thee,
Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

**2.) Take my hands and let them move all the impulse of my love,
Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.**

**3.) Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King;
Take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee.**

**4.) Take my silver and my gold, not a mile would I withhold;
Take my intellect, and use 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.

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.

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.**

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 God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

READING FROM AMOS 8:4-7

⁴Hear this, you that trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land,
⁵saying, "When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain; and the sabbath,
so that we may offer wheat for sale? We will make the ephah small and the shekel
great, and practice deceit with false balances, ⁶buying the poor for silver and the needy

for a pair of sandals and selling the sweepings of the wheat.” ⁷The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob: surely, I will never forget any of their deeds.

R: Word of God, Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God

PSALM 113 (Responsive reading)

R: Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants of the Lord; praise the name of the Lord.

C: Let the name of the Lord be blessed, from this time forth forevermore.

R: From the rising of the sun to its going down let the name of the Lord be praised.

C: The Lord is high above all nations; God’s glory above the heavens.

R: Who is like the Lord our God, who sits enthroned on high,

C: but stoops to behold the heavens and the earth?

R: The Lord takes up the weak out of the dust and lifts up the poor from the ashes,

C: enthroning them with the rulers, with the rulers of the people.

R: The Lord makes the woman of a childless house to be a joyful mother of children. Hallelujah!

READING FROM 1 TIMOTHY 2:1-7

¹First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ²for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind Christ Jesus, himself human, ⁶who gave himself a ransom for all —this was attested at the right time. ⁷For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

R: Word of God, Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION pg. 205

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 16:1-13

¹Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. ²So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ ³Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ ⁵So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ ⁶He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ ⁷Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ ⁸And his master commended

the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. ⁹And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

¹⁰“Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹²And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

P: Gospel of the Lord C: Thanks be to God

CHILDREN' S MESSAGE

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY #793 “Be Thou My Vision”

- 1.) Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
thou my best thought both by day and by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

- 2.) Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tow'r.
raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

- 3.) Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
thou mine in heritage, now and always;
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

- 4.) Light of my soul, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever be fall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

INSTALLATION OF TEACHERS/HELPERS

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. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always. C: **And also with you.**



Offering

If you are watching online, or on TV, please know that your offerings are greatly appreciated. You can mail a check to the church, 112 N Main Ave. Hills MN 56138 or you may use Venmo.

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

Gracious God,
in your great love you richly provide for our needs. Make of these gifts a banquet of blessing, and make us ready to share with all in need; through Jesus Christ, who sets a table for all. 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION



Life-giving God, 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.**

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 #669 “Rise Up, O Saints of God!”

- 1.) Rise up, O saints of God! From vain ambitions turn;
Christ rose triumphant that your hearts with nobler zeal might burn.
- 2.) Speak out, O saints of God! Despair engulfs earth’s frame;
as heirs of God’s baptismal grace the word of hope proclaim.
- 3.) Rise up, O saints of God! The kingdom’s task embrace;
redress sin’s cruel consequence; give justice larger place.
- 4.) Give heed, O saints of God! Creation cries in pain;
stretch forth your hand of healing now, with love the weak sustain.
- 5.) Commit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;
and, quickened by the Spirit’s pow’r rise up, O saints of God!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Love your neighbor. **Thanks be to God.**

BLC WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday, September 18 (Today)

Corn Maze! 3:00 pm. meet at church to carpool.

5:30 pm. – Confirmation class

Tuesday, September 20

2:30 pm. – Bible Study @Tuff Home

3:30 pm. – Bible Study @Tuff Village

7:00 pm. – Kitchen Committee meet

7:00 pm. – Circle of Hope @Marilyn Nelson’s home

Wednesday, September 21

9:00 am. – Quilting

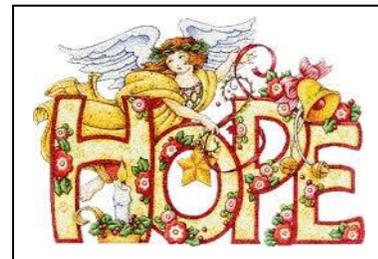
Sunday, September 25

9:00 am. – Worship @Tuff Chapel

9:15 am. – Sunday school

10:00 am. – Worship/Communion @Bethlehem

5:30 pm. – Confirmation class meet



REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Sam McGaffee, Roberta Scholten (Rod Scholten's mom), Justine Heintzman, Randy Beyer, Payton Kelderman & Larry Parker

YOUTH NEWS

Junior/Senior High Youth Group Outing 2022

10/?/2022 Pipestone Haunted Tour
10/30/2022 Trick or Treat for the Food Shelf
11/9/2022 Synod Youth Gathering - overnight in Willmar, MN.
11/25/2022 Parade of Lights in Sioux Falls, SD.



Grades 2-6 Youth Activities

10/?/2022 Zoo Boo
10/6/2022 Luverne Movie
11/3/2022 Luverne Movie
11/25/2022 Parade of Lights in Sioux Falls, SD.

Christian Education 2022 Schedule - September

9/18 First night of Confirmation Class @ 5:30 pm.
10/19 NO Confirmation MEA Week

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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).

OPENING POSITIONS AT BETHLEHEM

TV/TECH. We have some open positions, and we are hoping that you will be able to step up and help us out! We are looking for someone to help with the TV/Technology production for our Sunday morning worship service. We are so lucky to have had both Rod Scholten and Dawn Leenderts, as well as Madison Spath to lead our worship team. Rod has given us notice that he will not be able to help any longer, so we want to say thank you to him, and wish him well. That being said, we really need to see if anyone else is willing to learn and help out our team. Please feel free to contact Dawn, Pr. Nita or Dan Ellingson!

MUSIC We also have been fortunate enough to have Angie Johnson help lead worship, she and Glenda have done a fabulous job, but Angie would like to be done, we want to thank her for her help and her service! If you know anyone that is willing and able to help out even once a month it would be greatly appreciated! again, please speak with Glenda McGaffee, Pr. Nita or Dan Ellingson!

YOUTH DIRECTOR We are searching for a person who is willing to help lead the youth of our congregation as they grow in their faith and in their love of Jesus! This is a paid position, with the intent of working to develop a relationship with our young people, help them to grow spiritually, and to help them reach their goals. This person will help to organize and execute activities, game nights and time to enjoy our youth. There is a printed job description, but we are willing to be in discussion and look at new ideas of how to support the young people of this congregation. If you are interested, please speak with Becca Spykerboer, Education president, Dan Ellingson, Congregation President, or Pr. Nita.

ALL AREA MUSICANS INVITED!

Benefit Concert for the Rock County Food Shelf

“Let There Be Christmas” (A Musical Christmas Cantata)

Stop by Luverne Street Music on Wednesday, September 21st from 5:00-7:00 pm.

(Corner of Freeman & Lincoln, Luverne, MN.)

To register and pick up your rehearsal schedule.

Rehearsals start Wed., Sept 28th – 8:00-9:00 pm. Come join us!!!!

CALLING ALL YOUTH- TODAY - Sunday September 18th we will be going to the Heartland Country **Corn Maze!** Bring your friends and join us!

Meet at the church at 3 to carpool together.

We will drive to the corn maze together, then split up, younger kids with parents in one group, and the older youth group will be with Pr. Nita. We will find our way through the maze, enjoy the time, and then when we are done, we will go out for Pizza together.

The cost of the maze is \$5.00 each with a group of 20 or more. Then we will go someplace for pizza. The youth group will cover the cost of the corn maze, and we ask that you help pay for your meal. If there are financial issues please speak with Pr. Nita, we want you to come regardless of the cost!

Synod Jr. High Youth Gathering is scheduled for November 18th, 2022. The event will be held in Willmar. More information will be coming, but please block off that time to spend at an overnight retreat, at the hotel. There are games, live music, conversions, and fun!