

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

August 10, 2025
Sunday 10:00 a.m.



Welcome to All! We are glad that you are able to worship with us today. **Please fill out a connection card in the pews if you like.** During the service, we will sit or stand in reverence to our Lord. Please do what is physically comfortable and reverent for you. For those who are unable to receive Communion near the altar and wish to have the Pastor administer it at your seat, please obtain a red and white card from one of the ushers and hold it up at Communion time to alert the Pastor. If you or a little one would like to receive a blessing instead of Holy Communion, we invite you to come forward and cross your arms at the time of Communion. Please feel free to introduce yourself to our Pastor and fill in your name, address, etc in the guest book near the entrance to the sanctuary.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship – Setting 3, page 138

Pre-Worship Music/Announcements/Prelude

Temple Talk: Holy Land Christian Solidarity Cooperative

GATHERING

Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Merciful God,

C: ... you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.

P: You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith. In the cross of ✠ Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

C: Amen.

Greeting

A: 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 (lead by Pastor Paul)

S 138

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

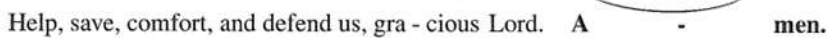
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

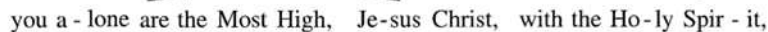
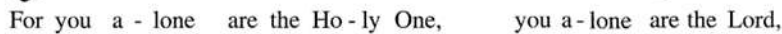
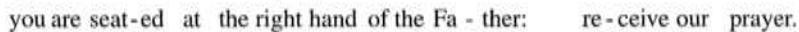
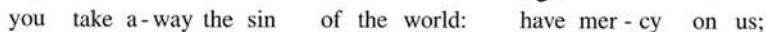
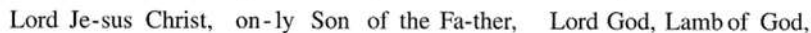
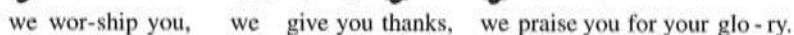
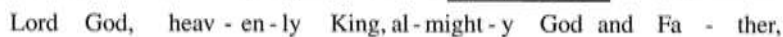
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Glory to God



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.





Prayer of the Day

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

A: Let us pray together... **C: 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.**

WORD

First Lesson

Genesis 15:1-6

God promises childless and aging Abram that a child of his own will be his heir and that his descendants will number as many as the stars. Abram trusts God's promise, and through this faith he is considered righteous.

1 After 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." 2 But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" 3 And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." 4 But 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." 5 He 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." 6 And he believed the Lord, and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalmody

Psalm 33:12-22

12 Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord! Happy the people chosen to be God's heritage!

13 The Lord looks down from heaven, and sees all humankind.

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

15 God fashions all their hearts and observes all their deeds.

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

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

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18 Truly, your eye is upon those who fear you, O Lord, upon those who wait for your steadfast love,
19 to deliver their lives from death, and to keep them alive in time of famine.

20 Our innermost being waits for you, O Lord, our helper and our shield.
21 Surely, our heart rejoices in you, for in your holy name we put our trust.

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

Second Lesson

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Abraham and Sarah exemplify the vision of faith that people of God enact in every age. Their hope and trust in God's promise allowed them to face an unknown future and to receive the promise of God.

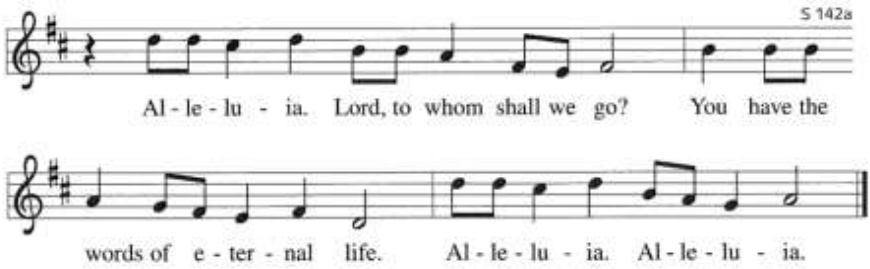
1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. 2 Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. 3 By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible. 8 By faith Abraham obeyed 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. 9 By 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. 10 For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. 11 By faith, with Sarah's involvement, he received power of procreation, even though he was too old, because he considered him faithful who had promised. 12 Therefore 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." 13 All 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, 14 for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. 15 If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 But as it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia



Gospel

Luke 12:32-40

Jesus encourages disciples to invest their hearts and live fully into God's reign. Instead of facing life with fear, those who know God's generosity are always ready to receive from God and to give to others.

C: ...Glory to you, O Lord...

Jesus said: 32 "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. 33 Sell 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. 34 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. 35 "Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; 36 be 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. 37 Blessed 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. 38 If 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. 40 You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Paul Busekist

Hymn of the Day *Have No Fear, Little Flock*

ELW 764

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.

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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: response after each petition: **“Hear our prayer”**
(Before prayer) A: In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.
(Conclusion) P: Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ. **C: Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace (Let us give one another a sign of peace according to your comfort level.)

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

MEAL

Offering

Offering Song: **Zeke Clemons**

Offertory (Please stand, as able.) **Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful**

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray together.

C: Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

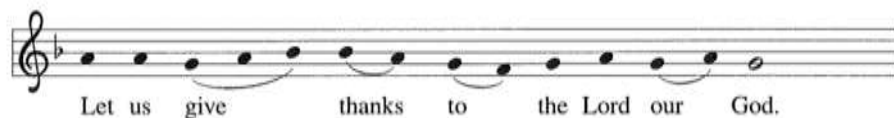
Great Thanksgiving



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give our thanks and praise.

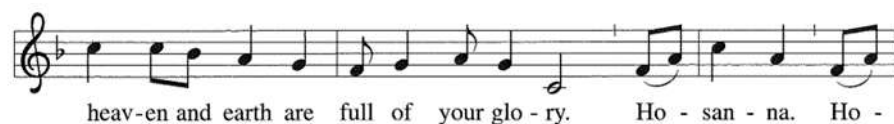
Great Thanksgiving (*continued*)

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn...

Holy, Holy, Holy



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 -

(continued on next page)



Words of Institution

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.

P: The gifts of God for the people of God. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

***Please note: Gluten-free wafers and white grape juice are available.*

Communion

Lamb of God



Communion Hymns

***The King of Love My Shepherd Is
Bread of Life, Our Host and Meal***

***ELW 502
ELW 464***

Post-Communion Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **C: Amen.**

Post-Communion Cantic

Thankful Hearts

Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done.

Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.

Send us with your prom-is - es and lead your peo-ple forth in joy with

shouts of thanks-giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al-le-lu - ia.

Prayer after Communion

A: Let us pray. Mothering God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.

C: Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

P: The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit ☩ bless you and give you peace.

C: Amen

Sending Song

On Our Way Rejoicing

ELW 537

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

C: Thanks be to God.



Bethlehem August 10, 2025
LUTHERAN CHURCH

1050 Peninsula Drive
Traverse City, MI 49686
(231) 947-9880
www.bethlehemtc.org

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

8/10—Tina Dohm

8/13—Pat Friedli

8/12—Debbie Hissong Fink

8/17—Brita Williams

Worship Servants for August 10

Presiding & Preaching—Pr. Paul Busekist

Assisting Minister—Barbara Wright

Lector—Mary Ann Tanis

Musicians: David Husser, Zeke Clemons, Phil & Denice Bossardet, Pr. Paul

Today's altar flowers are donated: *By Carolyn Mann In Loving Memory of David Mann*

Hospitality—Leonard and Barb Graf

A/V—Jim Monroe / Paul Ton

Cookies/Coffee—Diane Cunningham / Mary Ann Tanis

Welcome Table—VOLUNTEER

Bell Ringer—Gail Goldsmith

Front Door Monitor—Gail Goldsmith

Altar Guild—Mary Ann Tanis / Gail Goldsmith

Counters—Bonnie Gamble / Jane Passmore

Chair Yoga: It was decided last week to not meet for Chair Yoga on Wednesdays in August. We will continue to meet on Mondays at Bethlehem at 3:00. It will continue to be \$5 per class.

Beach Day! Let's have an intergenerational beach trip to round out summer! All ages welcome! Join us at Bryant Park (across from BLC) on Friday, August 15th from 11am - 1pm for a few hours of swimming and fun. Chips and drinks will be provided - bring a sack lunch if desired! Additional parking at BLC if needed. For questions, contact Alanna Steffunick-Boomer!

BLC partners with Old Town Playhouse for the musical telling the story of Moses in THE PRINCE OF EGYPT: Four members of Bethlehem are part of the Community Choir which is augmenting the cast for this show: Barb Overdier, Cindy Monroe, Kathi Ivany-Mort and Jim Hutchison. You can sign-up to reserve tickets to see the show in the gathering space for Aug 21,22 or 23. If tickets are purchased in groups of 6 each will cost \$42 for an adult and \$18 for youth under the age of 18. IF WE DON'T HAVE THAT MANY PEOPLE FOR THE PREFERRED DAY, TICKETS WILL COST MORE.

The Grief Group will now meet at 3:30pm on the first and third Monday of the month.

The church calendar is below. Please be sure to notify the office (admin@bethlehemtc.org or 231.947.9880) to be sure that your group is of the calendar.

Sunday, August 10

Holy Land Ministries

10:00am—Traditional Worship Service (S)

Monday, August 11

1:00pm—Finance Committee (CR)

3:00pm—Chair Yoga (FH)

Tuesday, August 12

Bulletin articles due today

9:00am—Property Work Group

1:00pm—Friendship Bible Study (Offsite)

6:00pm—Y2A/Christian Ed Committee (YR)

6:30pm—Executive Committee (Zoom)

7:15pm—OTP Choir Rehearsal (S)

Wednesday, August 13

11:30am—Music Rehearsal (S)

3:00pm—Chair Yoga (FH)

Thursday, August 14

9:00am Baby Pantry Set-up (FH)

10:00am—Baby Pantry (FH)

5:30pm—ACA (FH)

7:15pm—OTP Choir Rehearsal (S)

Friday, August 15

10:00am—Sew Pieceful (FH)

Saturday, August 16

6:00pm—LifeRing Recovery Group (Library)

8:00pm--AA (FH)

Sunday, August 17

10:00am—Worship Service (S)