Reformation Sunday

Bethlehem Luthe ran Church
October 25, 2026
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 4, page 147

Bell Ringing/Welcome/Announcements

Prelude ***David Husser***

GATHERING

Confession and Forgiveness
P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.
C: Amen.

P: Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection

P: Compassionate God,
C: ...we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

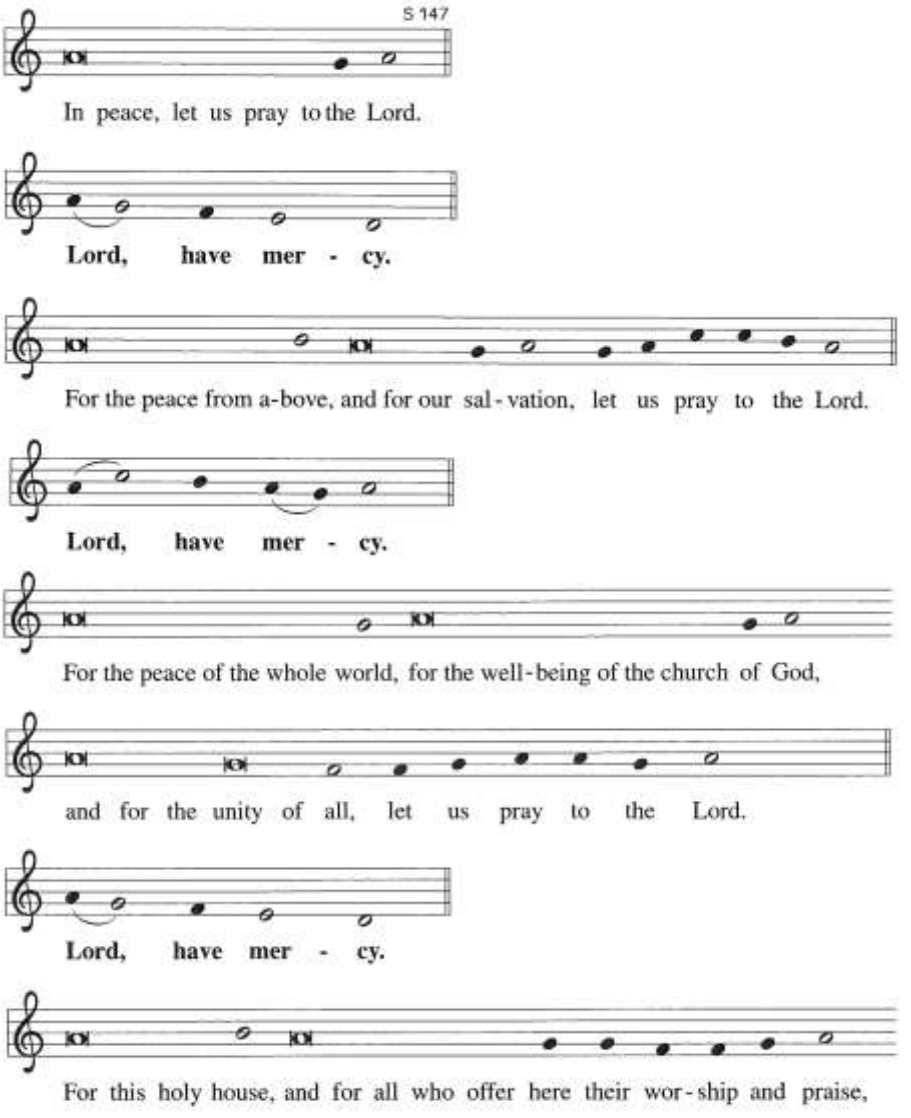
P: Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ☩ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

Gathering Hymn ***A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*** ***ELW 504***

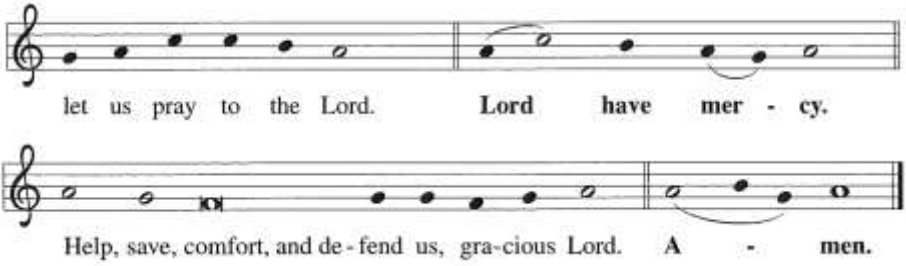
Greeting

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.**
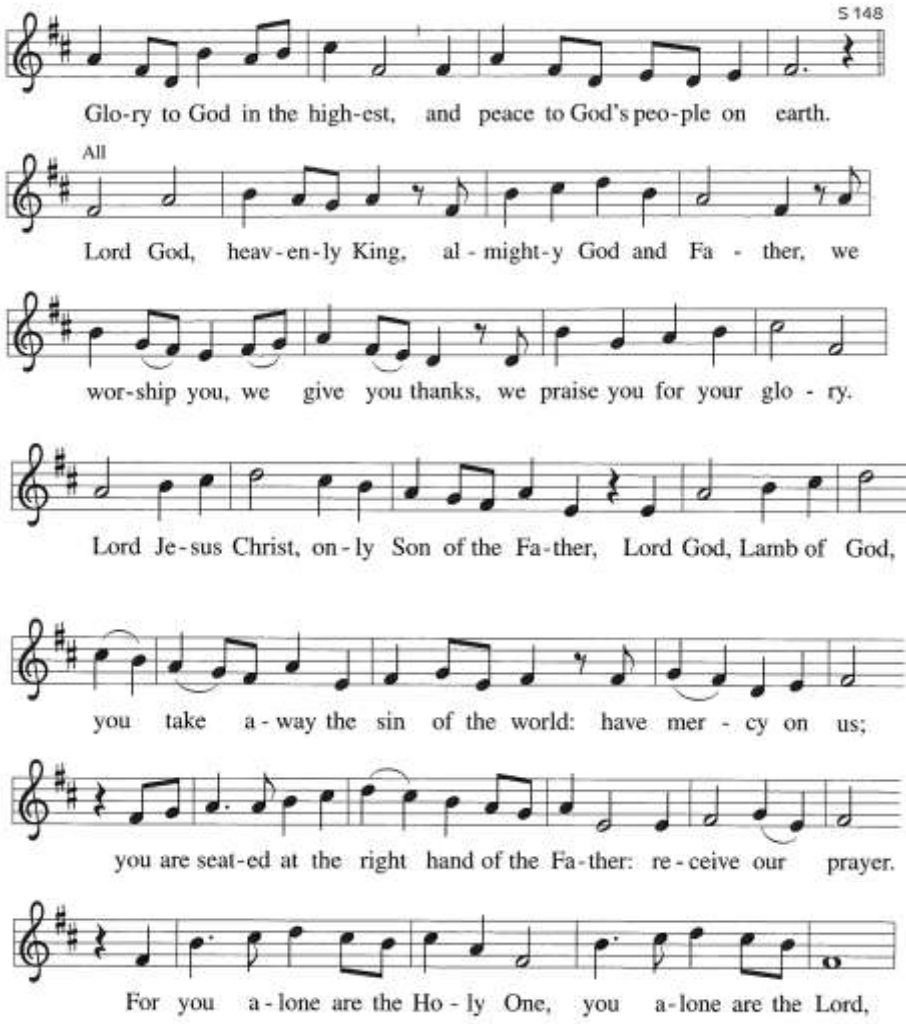
Kyrie

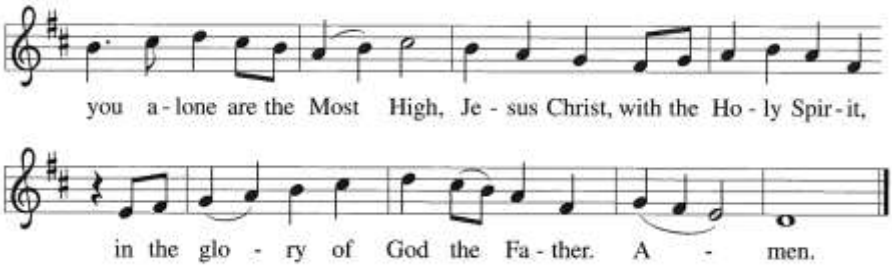


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Hymn of Praise ***Glory to God***





Prayer of the Day

A: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**
A: Let us pray together... **C: Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Children's Message **Pr. Paul**

WORD

First Lesson **Jeremiah 31:31-34**

The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the Lord means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the Lord will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.

31 The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant
with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 32 It will not be like the
covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to
bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was
their husband, says the Lord. 33 But this is the covenant that I will make with
the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within
them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall
be my people. 34 No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other,
"Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the
greatest, says the Lord, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin
no more.

L: The Word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

Psalmody **Psalm 46**
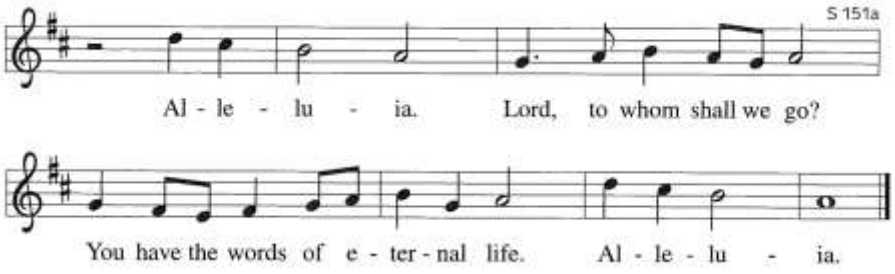
1 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;
3 though its waters rage and foam, and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.
5 God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken; God shall help it at the break of day.
6 The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake; God speaks, and the earth melts away.
7 The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
8 Come now, regard the works of the Lord, what desolations God has brought upon the earth;
9 behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world; who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.
10 "Be still, then, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth."
11 The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Second Lesson **Romans 3:19-28**

Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ's death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.

19 Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. 20 For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin. 21 But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, 22 the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, 23 since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; 24 they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; 26 it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus. 27 Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. 28 For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.
L: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation ***Alleluia***



Gospel **John 8:31-36**

Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.

C: …Glory to you, O Lord…

31 Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word,
you are truly my disciples, 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will
make you free." 33 They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and
have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be
made free'?" 34 Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who
commits sin is a slave to sin. 35 The slave does not have a permanent place in
the household; the son has a place there forever. 36 So if the Son makes you
free, you will be free indeed."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon **Pastor Paul Busekist**

Hymn of the Day ***Listen, God Is Calling*** ***ELW 513***

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.

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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.
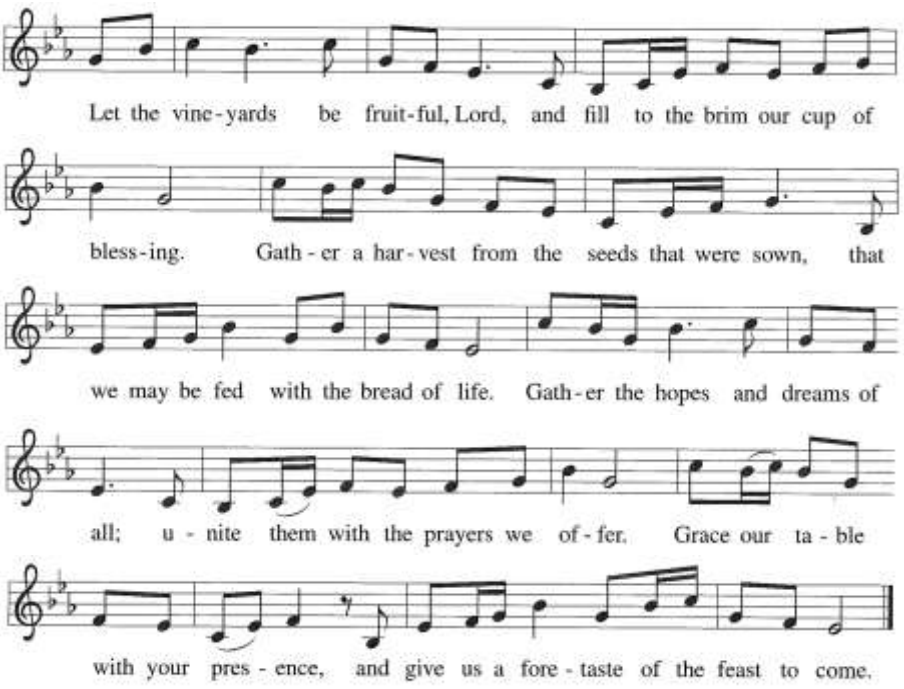
Prayers of Intercession: response after each petition: **"your mercy is great."** *(Before prayer)* A: Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.... *(Conclusion)* P: Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.**

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

MEAL

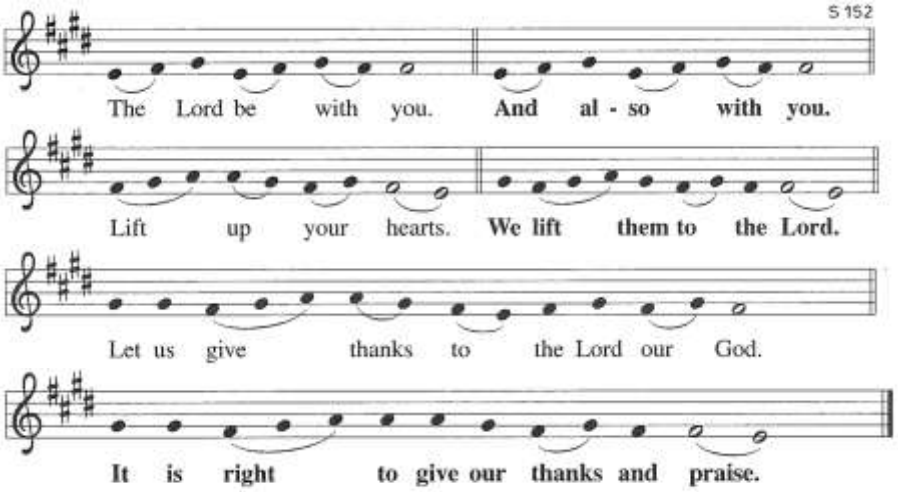
Offering **Zeke Clemons**

Offertory ***Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful***
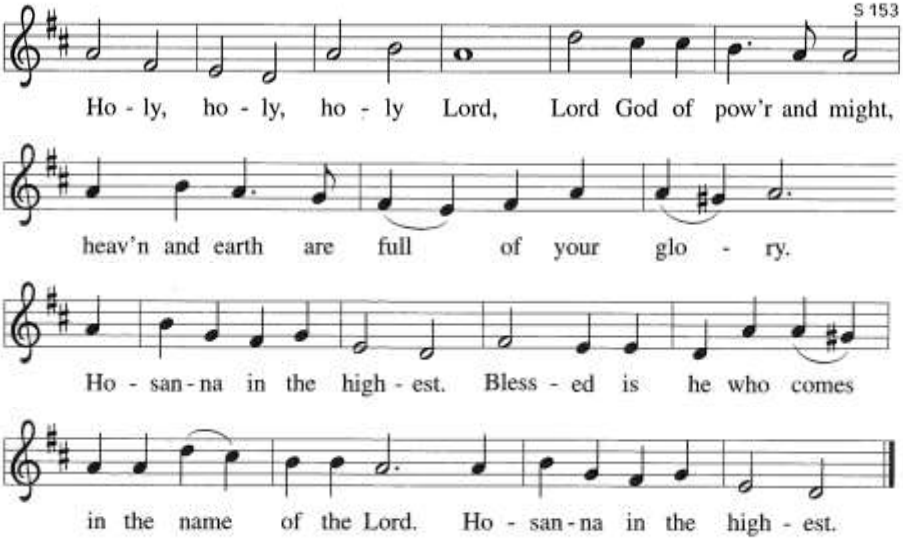


Offering Prayer
A: Let us pray together.
C: God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving



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

Holy, Holy, Holy



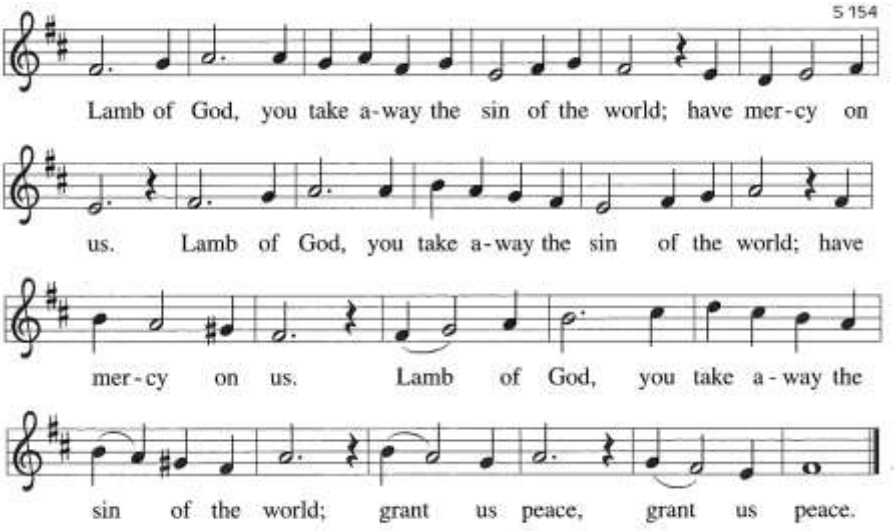
Words of Institution

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.

Communion ***Lamb of God***



Communion Hymns

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less	***ELW 597***
We Walk by Faith	***ELW 635***
Just As I Am, without One Plea	***ELW 592***

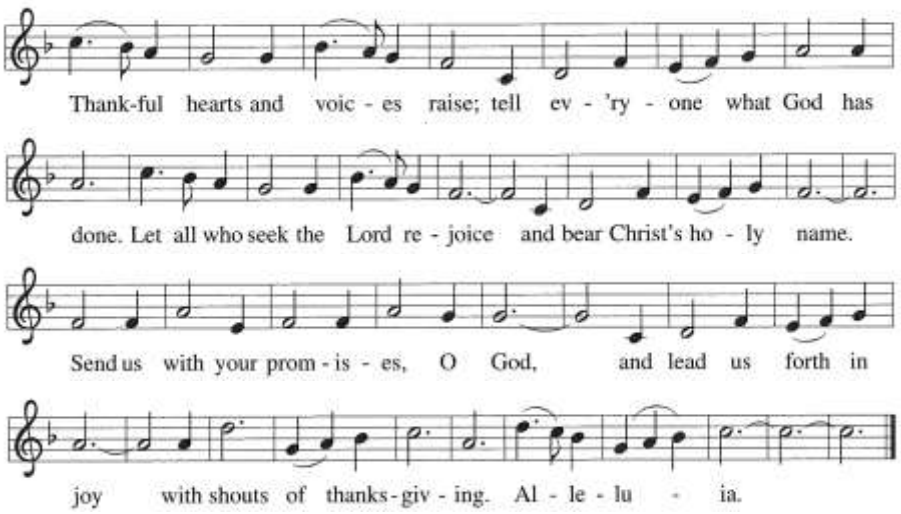
Post-Communion Blessing

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

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Post-Communion Canticle

Thankful Hearts



Prayer after Communion

A: Let us pray. Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.
C: Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

P: The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.
C: Amen.
P: The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.
C: Amen.
P: The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever.
C: Amen.

Sending Song ***Heaven Is Singing for Joy*** ***ELW 664***

Dismissal
A: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.
C: Thanks be to God.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY

10/27—Amanda Wegener 10/29—Nancy Lautner 10/29—John Block
10/27—Gerald Hill 10/29—Paul Wiemerslage

Worship Servants for October 25
Preaching& Presiding – Pastor Paul Busekist
Assisting Minister—Peggy Burns
Lector—Tina Dohm
Musicians: David Husser, Zeke Clemons, Phil & Denice Bossardet, Pr. Paul
Today's altar flowers are donated:
By Butch Waisanen in Memory of Jan Waisanen during her favorite time of the year and *By John and Judi Block in Celebration of their 57th wedding anniversary*
Hospitality—Jim & Dorene Boyd
A/V—Jim Hinds / Paul Ton
Welcome Table— VOLUNTEER
Bell Ringer—Tim Goebel
Front Door Monitor: Tina Dohm
Altar Guild—Patty Leibenguth / Erin Word
Tech Support—Brian Acker
Counters—Kate Holtfreter / Cindy Cuba

FALL BACK: Daylight Saving Time ends next week. Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour next Saturday night so that you get to church on Sunday at the right time.

Today's Rose on the Baptismal Font is in celebration of James Michael Boyd who was born on September 19, 2026. He is the son of Matt Boyd and Maya Zayat and the grandson of Jim and Dorene Boyd and Namel and Pierre Zayat.

Bethlehem is hosting a Trunk or Treat for community families This Afternoon from 3:00-4:30pm! There is space available to hand out treats from the trunk of your car. Decorating is optional but very welcomed - as simple or elaborate as you like, just nothing scary! The type of treats you hand out is up to you as well. Sign up with Alanna after the service.

ART & CRAFT SHOW MEMBERSHIP DONATION Please consider donating a gently used item you may have at home and would be an added addition to our Craft Show Fundraiser. The show is Saturday, November 7th from 9:00 to 3:00. Items requested before Wednesday, November 4th and can be dropped off in the coat room.

Where 2 or more are gathered in my name. (Matt 18:20) In our world today there are a lot of things that we need prayer for. Every 4th Tues. starting at 11:00, we will be offering a time and place in church to pray. Please join us. The next date is October 27th. If any questions, please contact Peggy Burns at 231-392-6913 or cobaltblues2003@yahoo.com

Book Club: We have moved to Tuesday! We will meet at 5:30pm at the home of Betsy Morley on October 27 to discuss *The Great Alone* by Kristin Hannah. When we meet offsite many of us car- pool from BLC, so just be in the parking lot by 5:00. If interested and you have not signed up for the meal, contact Betsy for food ideas for our potluck at betsymorley@charter.net

Habitat for Humanity opportunity. Looking for 4-6 members of BLC to join with St. Luke's Lutheran in Grand Rapids on a trip to Sebring Florida to build houses. Dates are Nov 8-14. (Help with BLC craft fair on 11/7). No carpentry skills needed; only a love for our less fortunate neighbors. Trip cost is approximately $1200 which includes airfare, hotel, meals, transportation and fun! Contact Fred Reyelts. text 616-560-2861 or reyeltsf@gmail.com

The next XYZ (EXtra Years of Zest) potluck & presentation will be on Friday, November 13th. Join us for a delicious potluck lunch at noon, followed by a wonderful presentation by our own Tom Rockne. Tom traveled to Ukraine in November 2025 to support the Ukrainian war effort, and will have stories to share with us about his time there. Remember, XYZ is predominantly geared toward seniors but is enjoyed to adults of any age - all are welcome!

Handbell rehearsals will return in November: Practice for ringing handbells will resume on Monday, November 16 at 3:30 and continue through Dec. If you have thought this is something you want to try please contact Cindy Monroe at cmonroe@chartermi.net

NEW MEMBERS: If you are interested in membership, please contact the office or membership co-chairs Cindy Monroe at cmonroe@chartermi.net or John Halstead at marilynjohntc@hotmail.com

Please Note:
Barbara Oster/Administrative Assistant works 9:00am-2:30pm on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday
Phil Anderson/Bookkeeper works 8:30am-12:30pm on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Phil will work these days until next summer.
Alanna Steffunick-Boomer/Ministry Coordinator working in the office on First Tuesday of Each Month 10:30am - 1:30pm* *note time change!
Wednesdays 11:30am - 2:30pm on All Other Weeks. Work From Home: Tuesday through Thursday When Not In Office