

Reformation Sunday

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

November 2, 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 4, page 147

Bell Ringing/Welcoming/Announcements

Prelude

GATHERING

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper. **C: Amen.**

P: Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination

P: Merciful and loving God,

C: ...we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found. Amen.

P: Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of ☩ Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn

Listen, God Is Calling

ELW 513

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



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



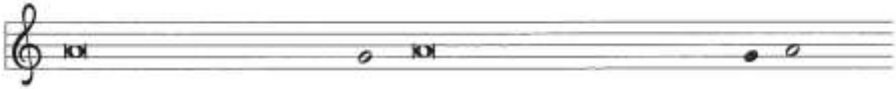
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, 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,



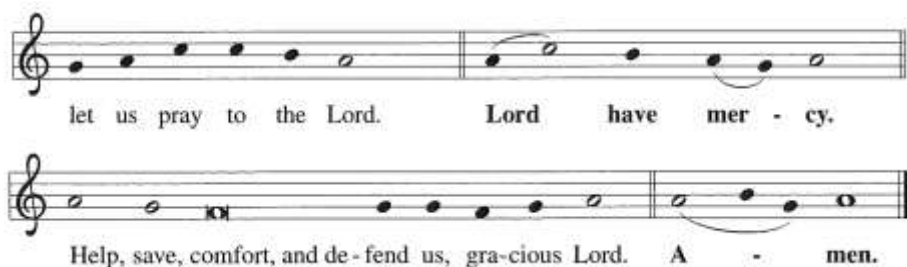
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



Hymn of Praise

Glory to God

S 148

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All
Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we

wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Lord Je-sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;

you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re - ceive our prayer.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



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.**

Bibles to Youth (see insert)

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.

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;

(continued on next page)

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 *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

ELW 504

Baptism of Parker and Tanner Schmidt (*see insert*)

Prayers of Intercession: response after each petition: **“Receive our prayer.”** (*Before prayer*) A: Renewed in God’s everlasting grace, let us pray for the church, the world, and all creation.... (*Conclusion*) P: We offer our prayers, O God, trusting in your everlasting grace and mercy, 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

Offertory

As the Grains of Wheat

ELW 465

Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray together.

C: Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff has a rehearsal mark 'S 152' at the end. The lyrics are: '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.'

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

Holy, Holy, Holy

S 153



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

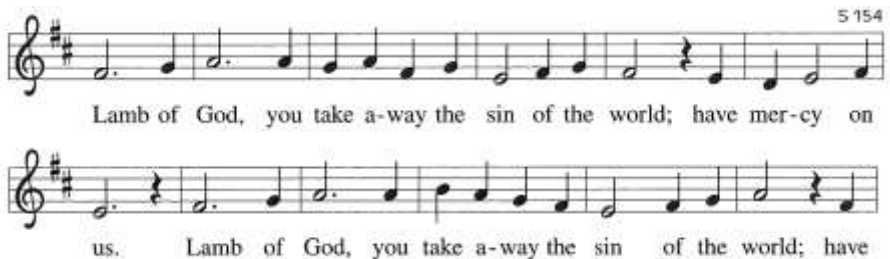
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the 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.

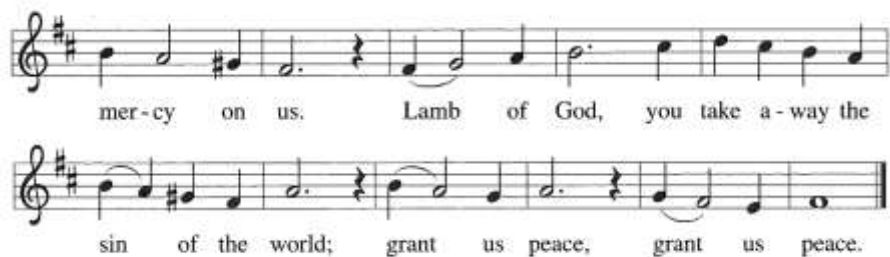
Communion

Lamb of God

S 154



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



Communion Hymns

*Christ, Be Our Light
Lord, I Need You*

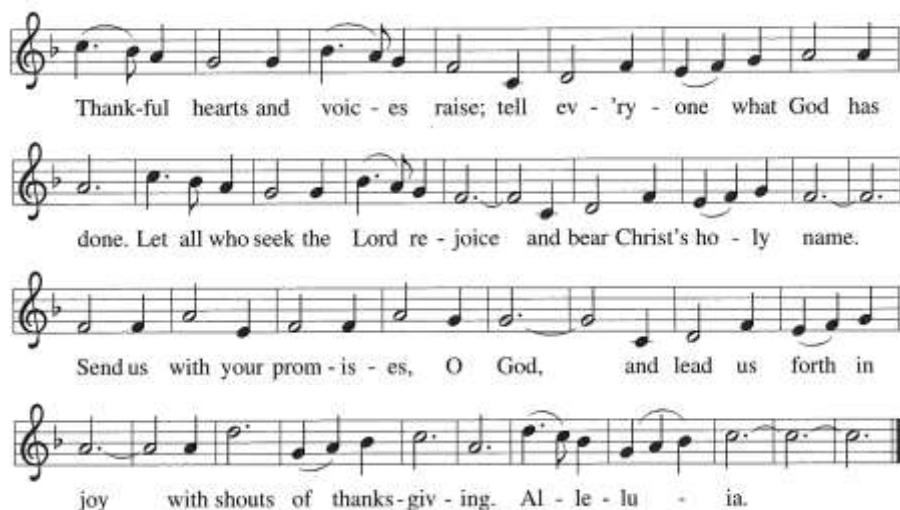
*ELW 715
(See insert)*

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



Prayer after Communion

A: Let us pray. O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

C: **Amen.**

SENDING

Blessing

P: The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, + bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sending Song

Heaven Is Singing for Joy

ELW 664

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

C: Thanks be to God.



Bethlehem October 26, 2025
LUTHERAN CHURCH

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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

11/3—Rudy Kelly

11/4—Beth Nunnelle

11/5—Jane Zlojutro

11/6—Phil Anderson

11/6—Madison Goodwin

11/9—Suzanne Lehto

11/9—Diane Cunningham

Worship Servants for November 2

Preaching & Presiding—Pastor Paul Busekist

Assisting Minister—Peggy Burns

Lector—Tim Goebel

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

Today's altar flowers are donated: *By Nancy Ammann in Celebration of our precious youth who have new Bibles.*

Hospitality—Dan & Laura Hahn

A/V—Barbara Oster / Paul Ton

Sound Board—Julia Acker & Family

Cookies/Coffee—Diane Cunningham / Mary Ann Tanis

Welcome Table—VOLUNTEER

Bell Ringer—Tim Goebel

Front Door Monitor—John Halstead

Altar Guild—Mary Ann Tanis / Gail Goldsmith

Counters—Laura Hahn / John Halstead

Join us next week for All Saints Sunday. This will be a Traditional service.

Today we welcome by Baptism: Parker Louise Schmidt and Tanner Michael Schmidt, daughter and son of Michael Schmidt and Jessilyn Wallington.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION IS TODAY: Are you interested in becoming an “official” member of Bethlehem? This is your chance to learn more about Bethlehem with some others who are making new discoveries at the same time. Join us in the after today’s service.

The Grief Group will meet tomorrow, November 3rd, from 3:30-4:30pm

NEEDED! WELCA is collecting 48 of the quart size jars with lids (like mayo, spaghetti, etc). They may be plastic or glass. Please be sure they are clean and label free. You may put them in the box in the gathering space. Thank You!

Love Thy Neighbor is again reaching out in our community with our Adopt a Family Christmas Program. Please consider adopting a family for Christmas. Be the hands and feet of Jesus that brings a smile to a child’s face and joy to a parent’s heart. Please email Tony Nelson at tonyn@lovethyneighborgt.org or call Love Thy Neighbor at 231-941-5683 by **November 5** to participate in this wonderful program. Thank you & God Bless!

Project - Fill the Pantry Please bring a food item, personal product or cash donation to church on **November 9th** to help fill the needs of our community over the coming months. Please make checks out to Bethlehem Lutheran Church with “Food Pantry” in the memo line. We will receive a matching grant up to \$250 from Thrivent Financial. Thank you for your support!

November’s XYZ potluck & presentation will be on Friday, November 14th. After a delicious potluck lunch at noon, we will hear a presentation by Kristina Schnepf, the director of Green Door Folk School. Green Door is a recently opened nonprofit that is rooted in the folk school tradition, offering hands-on workshops that connect people to passions, new or old, the land, and each other. Remember, XYZ is predominantly geared toward seniors but the time spent together and the wonderful presentations are enjoyable for adults of any age - we hope you can join us!

HANDBELLS FOR CHRISTMAS? Are you interested? Rehearsals are tentatively scheduled for Monday at 3:30 beginning in Nov. The song(s) will be taped in advance so you do not have to be present on Christmas Eve. Please contact Cindy Monroe at cmonroe@chartermi.net if you have not already done so. We need to know the number of participants so we can select music for the right amount of ringers.

BOOK CLUB NEWS: We are meeting for a pizza dinner at BLC on Wednesday, **November 19 at 5:30.** We will be reading Wild by Kristin Hannah. This is a reissue of one of her earlier books, The Magic Hour. If you are not currently on the email list and would like to receive information please contact Cindy Monroe at cmonroe@chartermi.net.

Native Plant Seed Sowing Workshop Sunday, November 23, after the service.

Starting a native plant garden can be simple and cost-effective when you know how to sow your own seeds! Join us for a hands-on workshop hosted by the Creation Care Committee and learn how to grow native plants from seed. We'll sow seeds in containers to set outside for the winter season. Once spring arrives, the seeds will germinate naturally with very little maintenance— perfect for transplanting to your new or existing gardens. Containers will be provided. Sign up in the hallway to RSVP and help us prepare. We'd love to see you there! **Creation Care Team update:** our next Creation Care core team meeting will be Monday, January 12th at 6pm in the Youth Room. Subcommittee members may be meeting before as needed. Contact Paul Wiemerslage, Tina Dohm or Pastor Paul for any updates."

Thank You! Bethlehem was well represented as we hosted the Autumn Theological Event for Rostered Ministers. A big thank you goes to the planning committee of Pastor Paul, Peggy Burns, Kathie Bair, Tina Dohm and Gail Goldsmith. They all helped set up, serve and clean up including doing some custodial duties. Thank you also to Lindsay Susalski for serving, and Jim Hinds for working the soundboard for the full event. Kathie and Meredith made a beautiful brochure to hand out. It included our favorite places in the area. So many people brought in their fall decorations and pumpkins from home. The church looked very festive. Also thank you Bethany Uhl for all of the napkins, they were lovely. We had pastries galore. You all really came through. Thank you to Diane Cunningham, Barbara Oster, Tina Dohm, Kathie Bair, Jana Rockne, Nancy Ammann, Peg Peppler, Betsy Morley, Cindy Monroe, Tom Christensen, Peggy Burns, Pamela Snyder and Linda Hansen for all of the delicious treats. Thank you also to the Confirmation Class for making the big wonderful "Welcome" sign. Thank you Alanna for the beautiful signs for welcoming our guests. There were so many positive comments from the Pastors and Bishops. We served 100 people for 3 days. Thank you all! God has blessed our church with so many giving people.

Social Ministry/Outreach update: We had our follow-up meeting on Sunday Oct 19. We have a very motivated group of volunteers filled with a passion for service and there is always room for more. Please step forward to volunteer when a call is put out for assistance. We have one new activity that we feel we can manage... helping with the Northwest Michigan Action Agency Super Saturday event at the Career Tech Center on Parsons Rd on Feb 7, 2026. More details to come on that. Also, some members of the group are visiting Jubilee House as the first step to determine if they would be good volunteers in that location. The first step is to schedule a visit with Father Derek Quinn. There was hope that we could field a group of 6 volunteers to prepare a community meal one time per month in the Grace Episcopal location but there does not seem to be enough volunteers for that at this time. We are hoping that some of us can shadow/help with their meal preparation and this can be a goal for the future. Anyone interested in any of these activities can contact Cindy Monroe or Jim Hutchison. The next meeting for the full group will be scheduled in late Feb or early March.