

✠ Confession and Absolution ✠

Greeting

P The Lord be with you. **C** And also with you.

Hymn of Invocation “Blessed Jesus At Your Word” #904 (G)

Invocation, Confession of Sins and AbsolutionPages 213-214

✠ Service of The Word ✠

Introit *Psalm 1:1-5; antiphon: v. 6*



P For the LORD knows the way of the | righteous,*
but the way of the wicked will | perish.

C Blessèd is the man who walks not in the counsel of the | wicked,*
nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of | scoffers;

P but his delight is in the law | of the LORD,*
and on his law he meditates | day and night.

C He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does
not | wither.*
In all that he does, he | prospers.

P The wicked | are not so,*
but are like chaff that the wind | drives away.

C Therefore the wicked will not stand in the | judgment,*
nor sinners in the congregation of the | righteous.

All Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

P For the LORD knows the way of the | righteous,*
but the way of the wicked will | perish.

Kyrie ~ *Lord, have mercy* “Your Heart, O God, is Grieved” #945

Hymn of Praise ~ *Glory to God in the Highest* “All Glory Be To God On High” #947

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All Amen.

Old Testament Reading.....Micah 6:1-8 Pew Bible, page 779

[God’s great deeds have not been reflected in His people’s lives.]

Gradual and Verse *Psalm 117:1–2a; 96:8; St. Matt. 5:3*

P Praise the Lord, all nations!

C Extol him, all peoples!

P For great is his steadfast love toward us,

C and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.

P Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;

C bring an offering, and come into his courts!

P Blessed are the poor in spirit,

C for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Epistle 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 Pew Bible, page 952

[Let him who boasts boast in the Lord.]

Gospel Acclamations Page 157

Holy ✠ Gospel St. Matthew 5:1-12 Pew Bible, page 809

[The Beatitudes]

Nicene Creed inside back cover of hymnal

Children’s Message

Hymn of the Day “Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service” #848 (OT)

Sermon..... “What a Difference a Savior Makes!” Text 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

1. _____ Change

2. _____ Change

Offering and Attendance Registration

Offertory.....“Create in Me” #956

Prayer of the Church

☞ Let us pray to the Lord. ☞ **Lord, have mercy.** or ☞ Lord, in Your mercy, ☞ **Hear our prayer.**

✠ Service of The Sacrament ✠

[Please note our Communion Information in the bulletin]

Preface Page 216

Lord’s Prayer, the Words of Our Lord Page 217

Sanctus ~ *Holy. Holy Holy* Page 161

☞ (♪) **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow’r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Pax Domini ~ *The Peace of the Lord* Page 217

☞ The peace of the Lord be with you always.
☞ **Amen.**

Agnus Dei ~ *Lamb of God* Page 163

☞ (♪) **Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

Distribution Hymns “Jesus Comes Today with Healing” #620
“In the Cross of Christ I Glory” #427 (E)

Post-Communion Hymn.....“Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace” #937

Post-Communion Collect, Benedicamus and Benediction Page 218

Hymn of Departure“Hope of the World” #690 (G)

Silent Prayer

Announcements

Sending:

☞ Go in peace. Serve the Lord. ☞ **Thanks be to God!**

**The Circuit 14 Retreat
Saturday, February 4, 2017**

**Location: Bethlehem Lutheran Church
1515 S. Loop 256
Palestine, Texas 75801**

Topic: Aging and Dying Well IN Christ Jesus: End of Earthly Life Issues and Ministry

How are Christians to honor God’s gift of life in a world of constantly-changing medical technology, physician-assisted suicide laws, and health insurance and financial constraints? The upcoming Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (LCMS) Texas District Circuit 14 Retreat will attempt to offer some answers under the theme “Aging and Dying Well IN Christ Jesus: End-of-Earthly-Life Issues and Ministry”. All are welcome to attend and participate in the discussion.

**Arrival & registration: 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.
Presentation: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

Registration is \$20 per person, including a delicious meal provided by the Bethlehem LWML.

To register, contact your pastor or church office.

Our Gathering Presenter...

The speaker will be The Rev. Dr. Robert W. Weise, Professor Emeritus of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri. The Rev. Dr. Weise has degrees in education, zoology, and theology and holds the only position of its kind among Lutheran seminaries in North America, focusing on the relationship between theology and the life sciences. He anticipates using case studies to introduce each theme and addressing practical questions that clergy and laity alike face as they deal with family-members’ and their own aging and deaths.

Presentation Outline

- 1. “Aging IN Christ: A Life of Fruitful Labor and Service”
- 2. “Dying Well IN Christ Jesus: The Tension”
- 3. “Physician-Assisted Suicide: Not A Picking and Choosing”
- 4. “Always to Care and Take Care: Bearing the Burden”

.....
✂
Name(s) _____

Give this form along with \$20 per person to your pastor or church office.

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FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

January 29, 2017

MISSION STATEMENT: *Steadfast in the Word, Bethlehem Lutheran Church shares Christ and serves people with friendship in His love in all of God's world.*

WELCOME TO BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH! We extend a most joyous welcome to all who are worshipping today. We are confident the Lord will reveal Himself to you through this Divine Service so that you may know the joy of His presence in your life. To our guests: If you have any questions about the Christian faith or about Lutheran worship and practice, please ask the Pastor, one of our Elders, or any of our members. God bless you in Christ Jesus!

COMMUNION INFORMATION: Bethlehem congregation confesses and affirms what the Bible teaches, namely that in this sacred meal Jesus Christ is truly present with His body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine, given for the forgiveness of sins. Since participation in this Sacrament is based on complete agreement and unity in all doctrine, and since Christian Churches vary widely in their teachings even about the Lord's Supper, **first time visitors desiring to commune are asked to speak to the Pastor before approaching the Altar.** Normally only confirmed members, active and in good-standing, of congregations in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and synods with whom we are in Altar Fellowship (in North America: Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti, Lutheran Church-Canada and American Association of Lutheran Churches) will be invited to commune with us. Lutherans who are inactive (i.e., not currently members in good standing), who have not communed in the last six months or more, and/or guests who are formerly "Missouri Synod" but now worship in a different denomination **should also speak to the Pastor before approaching the Altar.** Scripture teaches that pastors are shepherds and overseers, who have divine authority and "a terrible responsibility" being held "**accountable** for [the] flock" (Ezekiel 34:10), especially when it comes to distributing the Lord's body and blood. Our thanks to you for honoring the Scriptural teaching and practice. **All communicants are asked to Register by signing the Registration sheet in the Narthex.** Please note that in registering you affirm that you have examined yourself (1 Cor. 11:27-28; 2 Cor. 13:5) that you acknowledge, confess, and repent of your sins (which includes the sin of irregular worship), and by God's grace, as the Catechism also teaches, intend to change such sinful behavior in thought, word, and deed and live a godly life in accord with God's Word. If this is not your intent and you commune, you do so untruthfully and will not receive the Lord's Supper to your spiritual benefit, but to your great harm (1 Cor. 11:29). Communicants are ushered forward by row. Please receive the host upon an open palm. The Chalice (or common cup) is available at every table. The Duty Elder will offer the individual cups and is followed by the Pastor who will offer the Chalice. You may direct questions to the Pastor or Duty Elder.

WORSHIP NOTES: The Chasuble is a Eucharistic Vestment which the Pastor puts on before preparing the Sacramental vessels. It is a visual mark indicating that in the transition from the Service of the Word to the Service of the Sacrament something extraordinary is about to take place. The use of such a vestment is in keeping with both Lutheran tradition and practice; as our Lutheran Confessions state (*Ap XXIV*).

OUR STEWARDSHIP LAST WEEK

OFFERINGS		ATTENDANCE	
General Offering	\$2793.00	Sunday School	41
[Needed per week:	\$2,668.00]	Divine Service	69
Building Fund	\$00.00	Mid-Week Classes	29
[Needed per week:	\$350.00]		

AS WE GATHER: Epiphany is the season of a growing knowledge of who Jesus is and what he has done. He is baptized, teaches, heals, and reveals His glory. The *Old Testament Reading* from Micah portrays a God who does not revel in bare ritual or vain gestures, but who desires the warmth and fruitfulness of a living relationship of faith. The *Epistle* leads us to reflect on our past in contrast to the changed person we are today in Christ. The *Holy Gospel* from St. Matthew, the Beatitudes, is beloved in its own right for its oratorical beauty and

spiritual insight, even among unbelievers. This day, however, it imparts a vision of the kingdom of God at work in the lives of those who have forsaken all and followed their Lord. The *Introit* provides a buttressing of this as it draws the distinction of the deeply rooted and watered tree as opposed to the wind-directed, lifeless chaff. The *Collect* further shows the difference between us without Christ and us in Christ.

A REQUEST: Out of respect for God's House and courtesy for other worshippers, please turn off all cell phones. **Please** also encourage one another to show respect to God, our fellow-worshippers, and our Pastor by limiting movement during Scripture Readings, Sermon & prayers. Thank you.

IN TODAY'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON students learn the story "Jesus Calls Matthew." We sinners rejoice, for we, too, have been called from our own pigsty of sin to dine with Jesus around His table and to be a friend of the friend of sinners. Consider discussing, "How did Jesus call Matthew to be one of His followers? How and why does Jesus call us to follow Him?"

NEW STUDY FOR ADULTS AND YOUTH -- "Our Church and Others" - This class presents the beliefs and practices of the Lutheran Church in comparison with other denominations: Eastern Orthodox; Roman Catholic; Reformed Calvinistic Churches (Baptist, Presbyterian, Episcopalian, etc.); Armenian Reformed Churches (Methodist, Salvation Army, Pentecostalism, etc.); Non-creedal Churches; and Non-Christian Cults (Unitarianism, Mormonism, Christian Science, Spiritism, Lodges, Jehovah's Witnesses).

MIDWEEK ACTIVITIES: Catechism at 4:30 PM, choir practice at 5:15 PM, a pot luck supper at 6:00 PM, and Bible classes at 7:00 PM. The Adult class continues their study of the Gospel of St. John. Come and join the fellowship!

SUPER BOWL SUBS: The Youth will be taking orders for sub sandwiches again today. The cost is \$7.00 per sandwich and includes chips and dessert. They can be picked up after church February 5th, Super Bowl Sunday.

THANK YOU to all who helped with our 10th annual Chili Friday!!

CIRCUIT 14 RETREAT will be THIS Saturday, February 4th from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM here at Bethlehem. The topic will be "*Aging and Dying Well IN Christ Jesus: End-of-Earthly-Life Issues and Ministry*" presented by Rev. Dr. Robert W. Weise. Registration is \$20 per person, including lunch.

ADOPT A HIGHWAY trash pick-up will be Saturday, February 11th. Please meet at the church at 9:00 AM. If you have any questions, please see Jerry Hartenberger.

THE FEBRUARY edition of *The Bethlehem Star* newsletter is in your mailbox in the narthex. Make sure you have picked up your copy!

PORTALS OF PRAYER devotion booklets for January through March are on the shelf in the narthex. Make sure you have one and pick up an extra copy for a friend!

FLOWER CHART FOR 2017: The cost of the Chancel flowers are \$25 PER VASE. Members have the option to purchase one or two arrangements.

OFFERING ENVELOPES for 2017 are in your boxes. Make sure you pick yours up. If you would like a box, see Lea Rosier.

YOUTH NEWS: The youth are collecting used cell phones to benefit senior citizens and victims of abuse nationwide. They are also collecting used ink cartridges. Also, don't forget "Rent-A-Youth". This project provides an opportunity for middle and high school students, (grades 6 through 12), to assist older adults in completing routine light-duty household chores AND to foster fellowship between older adults and the youth in our church. If you have any questions, please see Yanneth Harris.

GREETING CARDS: There are a variety of greeting cards in Garber Hall that you may purchase for a donation to Mites.

ABOUT THE COVER: Jesus' disciples had just finished listening to His Sermon on the Mount. Afterward, they came to Him, asking for an explanation. What Jesus then says make His disciples and all who believe in Him overjoyed. "Rejoice and be glad." Why? "For your reward is great in heaven" (St. Matthew 5:12). No matter what happens here on earth, our real and eternal reward is in heaven with Jesus! Come, Lord Jesus, come!

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK: Isaiah 58:3-9a; 1 Corinthians 2:1-16; St. Matthew 5:13-20.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY THIS WEEK

Sunday (01/29)	9:00 AM	Epiphany 4
	10:15 AM	Sunday School & Bible Class
	Acolyte/Crucifer:	Divine Service (Setting 5) / Holy Communion
	Organist:	Bethany Worsham
Wednesday		Mary Bowden
		Lea Rosier & Mary Unk
	4:30 PM	Steve Unk
	5:15 PM	Catechism
	6:00 PM	Choir Practice
	7:00 PM	Potluck
		Bible Classes
Saturday (02/04)	9:00 AM – 3:00 PM	Circuit 14 Retreat at Bethlehem
Sunday (02/05)	9:00 AM	Epiphany 5
	10:15 AM	Sunday School & Bible Class
	Acolyte/Crucifer:	Divine Service (Setting 3) / Holy Communion
	Organist:	Jessica Bowden
	Altar Guild:	Mary Bowden
	Duty Elder:	Lori Fortner & Dot James
	After Church:	Devin Jackson
		Evangelism Meeting / Youth Sub Sandwiches

IN THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:

National Leadership and Military: including members Kyle Lawson and Kyle Shepherd, as well as Robert Garcia [Juanita's son], Jason Payne [Kay Wickliffe's son], and Jeremy Stafford [Marcy Hogan's nephew]

Health needs - Members: George Nelson, **Lorie Owens** (1/29) [Julie Schoppe's sister & Ken Koehler's daughter], Pastor Roy Southard

Homebound - Members: Opal Garber, Dorothy Jackson, Martha Kaudelka, Ardelle Samford, Johnnie Weaver, Connie Wunderlich; **Friends:** Benjamin Garcia, Neva Kosted

Celebrating this week: Birthdays: Yanneth Harris, Anthony Huffman, Liz Vernon

Comfort: Family of Nikki Hightower

All who commune

NOTE: New prayers requests are in **BOLD**. Prayers submitted will stay on the prayer list for two weeks unless updated. Please inform the Pastor and the Church Office regarding the status of submitted prayers so we may be timely and up-to-date in petitions to our gracious God.

TO START OUR PRAYER CHAIN CALL LEA ROSIER AT (903) 729-1879 or (903) 391-5678

www.belctx.org
info@belctx.org

Rev. David L. Adler,
Pastor

BETHLEHEM EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH
1515 South Loop 256 † Palestine, TX 75801
Office: (903) 729-6362 † Fax: (903) 723-7725

Sunday School: 9:00 AM
Adult Bible Class: 9:00 AM
Divine Service: 10:15 AM

"To Give Light to Those who Sit in Darkness"

