

Bethlehem Star

THE NEWSLETTER OF
BETHLEHEM
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH
(THE LUTHERAN
CHURCH-MISSOURI
SYNOD)

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REV. DAVID L. ADLER, PASTOR

SEPTEMBER
2017

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

Grace and peace be yours in abundance, fellow sojourners!

On the heels of the successful Bible Jamboree outreach event and the recent fundraiser for Wyatt Steel, we are again reminded that we do not exist for ourselves; allow me to share the following...

While Satan magnifies our fears about witnessing to others and would have us dwell on our excuses and feelings of inadequacy, the following ten realizations have greatly encouraged others to be more intentional in their witness. Perhaps they will encourage you.

TEN ENCOURAGEMENTS TO WITNESS

1. God is already at work in the other person's life, preceding your witness by using life-changing experiences and other contacts with His Word to create a receptivity to your new witness today.
2. Most people do not have good news in their lives, and are searching for it. To whom is God sending you to bear that Good News today?
3. Surveys indicate that one-half of all unchurched Americans envision joining a church some-day ... if given a good reason to do so.
4. Witnessing is the greatest kingdom work God permits you to do, for it is the activity most comparable to the ministry of Jesus who came "TO SEEK AND TO SAVE THE LOST" (*St. Luke 19:10*).
5. As busy as Jesus was with His mission to so many people, the four Gospels record 19 times that He witnessed to just one person. Angels rejoice over one person who repents (*St. Luke 15:1*).
6. A witness to one can spread to many. Andrew witnessed to his brother, and Peter preached to thousands on Pentecost. After Jesus spoke to her, the Samaritan woman ended up speaking to many of her town.
7. While Satan often seems to be in full control in our world and in so many lives, he meets a superior force in God's Word. When you use it as Jesus did (*St. Luke 4:1-13*), you have the power of God working for you (*Romans 1:16*).
8. God has promised His Holy Spirit to be with you, to teach you, to help you remember, to witness to you, to guide you into all truth, and to give you the words to say (*St. John 14-15; Exodus 4:12*).
9. The Church grew most in history when it was a witnessing community. What would happen to our congregation, if just a few of us began witnessing more?
10. Your witnessing serves two unique purposes among two groups of people: a) It is a ministry of OUTREACH to unbelievers; and b) It is a ministry of STRENGTHENING to believers.

✝ ✝ ✝

I look forward to seeing you each Sunday morning ... worshiping and studying with you ... lifting up and exalting our great God with you! Come with a smile on your face, a bounce in your step, your Bible in hand, and that friend you personally and intentionally invited. Also, bring a joyful, eager attitude to be touched by the Risen Christ, together with a hungry heart for spiritual vitality and victorious living that comes each time we encounter God's renewing presence in Word & Sacrament!

שלום עליכם

(Peace [Shalom] be with you)



Church Happenings ...

THE BETHLEHEM YOUTH will be collecting shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse, an international relief organization. Their mission is to provide local partners around the world with shoeboxes filled with small toys, hygiene items, and school supplies as a means of reaching out to children in their own communities with the Good News of Jesus Christ. They ship these simple gifts outside the United States to children affected by war, poverty, natural disaster, famine, and disease; and to children living on Native American reservations in the U.S. See Yanneth Harris for more information and how you can help!



Shoeboxes being delivered by cart in the Philippines!

ADOPT A HIGHWAY PROGRAM SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 23RD

We plan on meeting at the church at 8:30 a.m. to begin the trash pickup. Our part of the highway starts on the loop at Bethlehem and ends by First Baptist Church. If you cannot actually walk the highways, you can help with dropping off or picking up people along the loop and shuttling drinks to the highway crew.



FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF CONGREGATIONAL PROPERTIES: Thank you to Gil Daughtrey, Paul Tugwell, Paul Stephenson, Jerry Hartenberger, Leo Markwardt and Don Fortner for painting the exterior of the Sanctuary. A job well done

IT'S FOOTBALL TIME AGAIN!!

The youth are parking cars for the Palestine Wildcat football games as a fundraiser this year. The cost is \$2. September game dates are the 1st, 8th, and the 29th. If you would like to help, please see Yanneth Harris.



Summer is about over and the new school year is upon us. Thank you to everyone who taught Sunday School this summer. We are looking forward to a fantastic new year. The teachers for the 2017 -2018 school year are: Rev and Peggy Adler, Jody Bowden, Yanneth Harris, Donna Hughes, Devin and Melanie Jackson and Sandy Teets. Thank you to everyone who accepted to help with this vital ministry. We are still on the lookout for teachers. Please prayerfully consider this important ministry.

CONGRATULATIONS to Caleb Lawson on his graduation from Texas Tech University in Lubbock! He received a Bachelor of Science in Wind Energy and a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology Cum Laud.



TEXAS TECH
UNIVERSITY.



ANNUAL BAZAAR Saturday, November 4, 2017! Plan to come for lunch with choice of sandwiches, and all the trimmings AND shop for gifts during our Bazaar. Remember, we are planning to have delicious goodies for the dessert table and for baked goods to sell, with the proceeds to benefit various projects for Bethlehem and the community!

Everyone is invited to come, and bring your friends!

LWML Sunday will be celebrated at Bethlehem LCMS on October 1, 2017, during the Divine Service. Theme: "Be Ready – In Season and Out of Season." Members of Willing Workers will serve as ushers and readers. The Banner Ladies (Sandy Smith, Mary Unk and others) are planning to complete the banner to hang in our sanctuary.

When you wear your PURPLE, make sure everyone knows it's because you are a Lutheran Woman in Mission.

September 29-30, 2017 – LWML TX District Spiritual Rest and Renewal Retreat will be held at Lakeview Methodist Retreat and Conference Center, Palestine, Texas.

Keynote speaker/ Bible Study Leader: Jan Struck, humorist/convention speaker.

Mission speaker: Haleh Kersten, LINC Austin; Worship leader: Rev. Timothy Appel, Senior Pastoral Counselor of the Texas District LWML.

Come and learn of the gentle "**Streams of Living Water**" available in Christ through His Spirit. "Whoever believes in me as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." (St. John 7:38) Registration information available in the Narthex or speak with JoAnn Tugwell. Deadline for signing up is **September 1**.

Our society is responsible for bringing snacks for Friday night, to serve about 100 ladies.

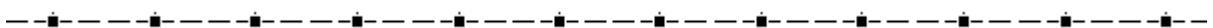
Grocery Shopping? Your KROGER CARD is part of Kroger's "Community Rewards" Program and is linked to Bethlehem's LWML. The proceeds are used by LWML to fund various projects. Contact Donna Hughes for information on how to sign up.

CARD FRONTS - for the children of St. Jude Ranch to use in their fundraising efforts. Look for the collection box in Garber Hall. Trim any kind of cards (no larger than 5" x 7"), remembering that no personal messages should appear on the front or back. *(Please note: Because of copyright laws, Hallmark, Disney or American Greetings cards can NOT be accepted.)* We almost have a full box so do your part, bring in more!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- ♦ Sun., September 10, 2017, LWML meeting immediately after church.
- ♦ September 29-30, 2017 – LWML TX District Retreat, Lakeview Methodist Retreat & Conference Center, Palestine, Texas. LWML East Texas Zone Fall business meeting will take place sometime during the TX District Retreat (see above).
- ♦ October 7, 2017 – Paint Palestine Pink (more details to come)



Ladies of Bethlehem, you are invited to become a member of our society. We usually meet after church on the second Sunday of the month. There are no dues, but we collect donations for MITEs and for our general fund. The Annual Bazaar is our major fundraiser.

Web site: <http://lwmltxdist.org>

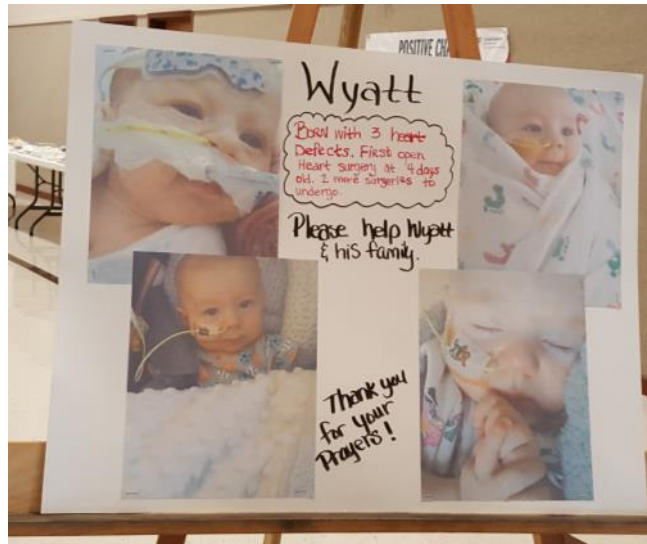


Serve the Lord with gladness! Psalm 100:2

WYATT STEEL FUNDRAISER AUGUST 5TH

Bethlehem's fundraiser for Wyatt Steel was a huge success and we couldn't have done it without help from the whole congregation. Thanks to Ray for the great idea and cooking 125 pounds of delicious BBQ. Thanks to all who cut and chopped meat, made sandwiches, baked cookies for lunch and for all the baked goods for the bake sale, delivered lunches, made calls and knocked on doors to get orders, gave donations, ate lunch and invited friends and family. Natalie Byrd, your cookies were gorgeous as always and everyone loved them. Everything we needed was donated so we were able to give 100% to the family. Ray presented Karin Collins, little Wyatt's grandmother, a check for \$5,000 on August 17th. "Through this whole experience we have had the pleasure of meeting so many kind people," said Amber Steel. "People willing to give their time, their prayers and funds to help. We can never thank them enough. We are forever grateful."

If you would like to send an encouraging word to the family, they can be reached at Ronald McDonald House, #208/Steel, 4707 Bengal St., Dallas, TX 75235, or by email: helpbabywyatt@gmail.com. Donations can be made through a Go Fund Me account at [www.gofundme.com/help Wyatt-family](http://www.gofundme.com/help-Wyatt-family) or by contacting Karin Collins at 903-549-2436 (home) or 903-516-0125 (cell)



EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

We held our Summer Bible Jamboree on August 5, 2017. The weather was great. We had 15 attendees from the apartment complex (Northside Heights) and approximately 20 volunteers from Bethlehem (thank you). We had two puppet shows, one craft period and lunch. Hot dogs, chips, drinks and cookies were served. All in all, we considered it a rousing success. So much so, that we are planning another in the vicinity of the apartments on October 14, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. We are considering doing the puppet show at church for the congregation (not in the sanctuary!)

Our fund raiser for Wyatt Steele was also a booming success! Thanks to all who helped and supported the cause. At last count, we have received \$5,324.00. We issued the family a check for \$5,000.00 on Thursday August 17, with the rest to follow as soon as we get a final number. Thanks to Thrivent, every dollar raised went to the family. They underwrote the whole project and as a result it didn't cost Bethlehem any funds.

Just a reminder; please don't forget to continue handing out the small Gospels of John and also our hospitality bags for those you see asking for help along the roads.

We have received instructions for how to obtain Red Cross training relative to using our facility as a storage/respite center. It is computer based and Randy and Sandy Teets have already completed it. We will need your help. Please see Sandy Teets for pertinent instructions.

On November 11 and 12, 2017 we will be hosting Pastor Karim Baidaoui, a former Muslim. Pastor Baidaoui is an LC-MS pastor. His organization is entitled "Disciples of the Way". He will be speaking on Saturday, November 11 at the church on "Islam and the Cross". The program will run from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. A lunch will be provided by Bethlehem (hopefully LWML!). After lunch there will be an opportunity to ask questions. Then on Sunday, Pastor Baidaoui will teach Adult Bible Class (with kids also invited) and handle preaching chores.

We are considering re-activating our participation in various parades/festivals in the Palestine area. Your thoughts are solicited.

Adopt-A-Highway Clean-up is scheduled for September 23, 2017. We will meet at the church at 8:30 a.m. Please help. The more volunteers we have, the faster we finish!

God has truly blessed our committee with an enthusiastic group. Please continue to pray for his guidance and that He would get the glory!

BIBLE JAMBOREE AUGUST 5TH



"In the steps of Martin Luther" Berlin, part I

I felt feelings of awe at the beauty of Germany. Also, I have no way to express the deep feelings I have after seeing what the war resulted in there, which was the unimaginable suffering, destruction, and loss of life.

In Berlin, we saw a new city as well as remnants of the old. We visited places associated with World War II and the divided city during the Cold War.

Berlin was 80 to 90 percent destroyed during World War II so most of it had to be rebuilt. Reunification, however, only happened 27 years ago so there is still a lot of rebuilding in what was East Berlin.

Our trip into Berlin was a drive by of the Reichstag (the German Capitol building). Then the next day we went into what was East Berlin before reunification.

This included a stop at the Brandenburg Gate, the Berlin Cathedral and Altes Museum, Berlin Wall, and Check Point Charlie.

Our first stop was at the Brandenburg Gate where President Ronald Regan made his famous speech to Gorbachev to: "Tear down this wall!"

Next at the Altes Museum and Berlin Cathedral, divots from gunfire can still be seen. The Berlin Cathedral was heavily damaged and rebuilt.

Then our next stop was an area saved of the Berlin Wall. This was very sobering seeing how the city was divided and any attempt to cross the wall would result in prison or death.

This division did not end until 10:30 PM on December 23, 1989, which was 28 years after the wall was put up in the summer of 1961.

Next we stopped at "Check Point Charlie" which was a crossing from the American West Berlin into Communist East Berlin. Again this is sobering seeing how the city was divided and isolated.

Our last stop was at a museum located on the site which was the Gestapo headquarters. It has pictures of what that area was in 1939 and the associated history.

In summary, our trip to Berlin was a live history lesson of what Germany was in the 20th Century and what it has progressed to today.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephen and Mary Unk



Brandenburg Gate



Altes Museum



Berlin Cathedral



Berlin Wall



Check Point Charlie



Reichstag Museum

STEWARDSHIP

Winston Churchill reportedly said that “we make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” According to Churchill then, our lives are defined less by what we have gotten, and more by what we give away.

Our Lord’s life is defined in this way. He gave completely of Himself for us. He became man for us. He taught the truth of God’s Word. He healed those with many and various diseases. He died the death that we deserve because of sin. He gave of Himself in order to save us from sin, death, and hell. And so, it is that by giving completely of Himself, He got for Himself us, making us citizens of His eternal kingdom by grace.

As it was for Jesus, so it is also for us. We get more from giving than we do from simply getting. For giving softens our hearts and frees us from the grip which the worries of this world and making a living

has on us. For when we are singularly focused on making a living, we are singularly focused on what we get. That mindset begins to bleed into all areas of our lives—our relationships with friends and family, with neighbors and coworkers, and with the Lord. It shifts our focus from asking the question—How can I be a friend, family member, neighbor, and servant to others—to asking the question—what have they done for me lately. We become more selfish instead of selfless.

But when we give, we do not have less, we have more because when we give we join in the bond of friendship and family, the bond of service to those around us out of love for them. And love is the fulfillment of the Law. It is the nature of God Himself, for God is Love. Thus we are reflecting the divine nature. As Jesus said “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35).



God’s Share First

Some people say that preachers talk too much about money. But the three subjects about which Christ spoke most were wealth, hypocrisy, and the Kingdom of God. Three of the Ten Commandments deal with money. Sixteen of the thirty-eight parables in the New Testament deal with money and stewardship. One verse of every six in the Gospels deals with stewardship.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church recommends percentage giving as one more means of properly

focusing all of life on the Lord Who gives all things. Have you made a covenant with God to give Him a specific percentage of all that comes into your hands?



“Store up for yourselves treasures
in heaven, where moth & rust do
not destroy, & where thieves do not
break in and steal.”

Matthew 6:20

REMEMBERING IN PRAYER

**“In everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving
let your requests be made known to God.”** (Philippians 4:6)

HEALTH NEEDS—MEMBERS:

- George Nelson - recovering from a stroke

HEALTH NEEDS—FRIENDS:

- Cheryl Bailes - [Mary Unk's daughter] - upcoming foot surgery
- Lois Creighton - [Mary Unk's sister] - brain tumor
- Tommy Fogle - [Jo Ann Tugwell's nephew] - bone cancer
- Steve Goen - [friends of Jackson's]
- Bill & Ava Hogan - [Milton Hogan's parents]
- Steve & Katie Lund - [former members] - ongoing health concerns
- Clarence Mindrup - [Patti Lestig's father] - cancer treatment
- Lorie Owens - [Julie Schoppe sister & Ken Koehler's daughter] - recovery from surgery
- Bonita Randall - [Neva Shugart Broad's niece] - ongoing health concerns
- Floyd Rogers - [friend of Mary Bleicher] - health concerns
- Floyd Ruhnke - [Marjorie Smith's cousin] - health concerns
- Phyllis Shafferkoetter - [Mary Unk's sister] - blood clots in lungs and leg
- Bethany Stansbury - [Marcy Hogan's friend] - problems with pregnancy
- Mary Walther - [Melanie Jackson's mother] - hospitalized in Houston
- Theresa White - [Alicia Hutton's grandmother]
- Orville Wilbanks - [friends of the Hughes'] - cancer treatments
- Gene & Patsy Worsham - [Tim's parents] - ongoing health concerns

**Please
help
us
keep
this
list
updated.
Thanks**

HOMEBOUND:

- Benjamin Garcia [Robert Garcia's brother], Dorothy Jackson, Martha Kaudelka, Neva Kosted, Ardelle Samford, Johnnie Weaver, Connie Wunderlich

COMFORT:

- Families of Pastor Roy Southard, Vivian Simmons

THOSE SERVING IN OUR NATION'S ARMED FORCES:

- 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]

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.



Church Council Meeting - August 8, 2017

Gil called the meeting to order. Reading of Psalm 102, Pastor led devotion & prayer. Minutes were read. **Motion by Lea, 2nd by Mary Lou to accept, carried.

REPORTS

VP- Albert working on plans to be prepared to assist during hurricane season

Financial Secretary- Lea reported June income \$15,501, expenses \$12,725, July income \$17,371, expenses \$14,710. Loan balance \$53,634, additional \$1,891 to principle & CEF report.

Treasurer- Mary Lou gave account balances & income report. Budget report for July and year-to-date. **Motion by James, 2nd by Melanie to accept financial reports. Motion carried.

Elders- James reported average attendance for July was 65; loss Opal Garber & Pastor Roy Southard, death. Discussed scholarship fund. **Motion by James, 2nd by Megan to give Aaron Jackson \$1,000 for first semester at college & \$1,000 second semester from scholarship fund. Motion carried. Discussed members on roll who do not attend or have moved away. Plan to mail letters to encourage them. Keep Karen Southard in prayers.

Christian Education- Melanie reported youth had great time at Higher Things. Rally Day will be August 27th, will divide into 3 classes for Sunday School.

Evangelism- Jerry reported successful Bible Jamboree; Benefit for Wyatt Steel was great, over \$5,000, all profit.

Stewardship- Steve reported still looking at sanctuary ideas. Budget time soon, be thinking about needs.

Property- Jim reported 2 A/C units needed attention; changed filters.

Social Concerns- Megan reported on pot luck.

Youth- Yanneth reported youth volunteered at Hope Station, enjoyed helping and fellowship. Father's Day gifts. Working to involve older youth with younger. New project for next few months-Operation Christmas Child, will fill shoe boxes and send to Peru & Africa. Football Parking money will go toward project. Seven Points outing on August 12th. Discussed selling firewood.

Pastor reported Reformation October 29th, Advent begins December 3rd, Children's Christmas Service December 17th. New Bible Study on Sundays & Midweek. District Convention June 14-17th, 2018.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: - Moving communion rail project- getting carpet estimates.

NEW BUSINESS - None

**Motion by Lea, 2nd by Jerry to adjourn. Carried. Pastor closed meeting with benediction.

Present: Gil Daughtrey, Jim Broad, Jerry Hartenberger, Yanneth Harris, Megan Taylor, Steve Unk, Lea Rosier Mary Lou Daughtrey, Donna Hughes, Melanie Jackson, James Taylor, Albert Harris, Pastor Adler.



"THE LUTHERAN HOUR RADIO MINISTRY"

The Lutheran Hour can be heard on the radio Saturday at:
6:30 AM on 91.9 FM KAVX Lufkin, TX
Sunday at: 10:30 AM on 97.5 FM KTTB Tyler, TX
Sunday at 12:30 PM on 91.5 FM KHCB Madisonville, TX

DATE: September 3, 2017
TITLE: "Finding Life in Jesus' Steps"
TEXT: St. Matthew 16:24-25
SPEAKER: Rev. Gregory Seltz

Take joy in the gift of being a follower of Christ who is willing to take His lead and be ordered by His steps.

DATE: September 10, 2017
TITLE: "Who's the Greatest?"
TEXT: St. Matthew 18:1-20
SPEAKER: Rev. Gregory Seltz

Jesus redefined greatness. He came, not to be served, but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many.

DATE: September 17, 2017
TITLE: "Unleash the Power of Forgiveness in Your Life "
TEXT: St. Matthew 18:21-35
SPEAKER: Rev. Gregory Seltz

Life with God is not about keeping score; it's about living for others in the grace Jesus earned for us.

DATE: September 24, 2017
TITLE: "The Latest Polls"
TEXT: St. Matthew 21:8-11 and St. Luke 23:23-25
SPEAKER: Speaker Emeritus of The Lutheran Hour: Rev. Dr. Ken Klaus

Believing the latest public opinion poll is not the same thing as believing the truth.

WEDNESDAYS AT BETHLEHEM

Beginning Wednesday, September 6th, our Midweek schedule resumes with choir practice at 5:15 p.m., and a potluck supper at 6 p.m. The 7 p.m. adult Bible class will continue studying the Gospel of John. What a great time to join together again as a church family for fellowship and the study of God's Word!

Online at www.lutheranhour.org



Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses

September 1 Joshua - Joshua, the son of Nun, of the tribe of Ephraim, is first mentioned in Exodus 17 when he was chosen by Moses to fight the Amalakites, whom he defeated in a brilliant military victory. He was placed in charge of the Tent of Meeting (Ex. 33:11) and was a member of the tribal representatives sent to survey the land of Canaan (Num 13:8). Later, he was appointed by God to succeed Moses as Israel's commander-in-chief. He eventually led the Israelites across the Jordan River into the Promised Land and directed the Israelites' capture of Jericho. He is remembered especially for his final address to the Israelites, in which he challenged them to serve God faithfully (Josh 24:1–27), concluding with the memorable words, "As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord" (24:15).

September 2 Hannah - Hannah was the favored wife of Elkanah, the Ephraimite, and the devout mother of the prophet Samuel. He was born to her after years of bitter barrenness (1 Sam 1:6–8) and fervent prayers for a son (1:9–18). After she weaned her son, Hannah expressed her gratitude by returning him for service in the House of the Lord at Shiloh (1:24–28). Her prayer (psalm) of thanksgiving (2:1–10) begins with the words, "My heart exults in Lord; my strength is exalted in the Lord." This song foreshadows the Magnificat, the Song of Mary centuries later (Lk 1:46–55). The name Hannah derives from the Hebrew word for "grace." She is remembered and honored for joyfully having kept the vow she made before her son's birth and offering him for lifelong service to God.

September 3 Gregory the Great, Pastor - One of the great leaders in Europe at the close of the sixth century, Gregory served in both the secular and sacred arenas of his era. As mayor of Rome, he restored economic vitality to his native city, which had been weakened by enemy invasions, pillage, and plague. After he sold his extensive properties and donated the proceeds to help the poor, he entered into full-time service in the Church. On September 3, 590 A.D., Gregory was elected to lead the church in Rome. As Bishop of Rome he oversaw changes and growth in the areas of church music and liturgical development, missionary outreach to northern Europe, and the establishment of a church-year calendar still used by many churches in the western World today. His book on pastoral care became a standard until the 20th century.

September 4 Moses - Moses was born in Egypt several generations after Joseph brought his father Jacob and his brothers there to escape a famine in the land of Canaan. The descendants of Jacob had been enslaved by the Egyptians and were ordered to kill all their male children. When Moses was born his mother put him in a basket and set it afloat in the Nile River. He was found by Pharaoh's daughter and raised by her as her own son (Exod 2:1–10). At age 40 Moses killed an Egyptian taskmaster and fled to the land of Midian, where he worked as a shepherd for forty years. Then the Lord called him to go back to Egypt and tell Pharaoh, "Let My people go, that they may hold a feast to Me in the wilderness" (5:1). Eventually Pharaoh gave in and, after the Israelites celebrated the first Passover, Moses led them out. At the Red Sea the Egyptian army was destroyed and the Israelites passed to safety on dry land (Exodus 12–15). At Mount Sinai they were given the Law and erected the Tabernacle (Exodus 19–40). But because of disobedience they had to wander in the wilderness for forty years. Moses himself was not allowed to enter the Promised Land, although God allowed him to view it (Deuteronomy 34). In the New Testament Moses is referred to as lawgiver and prophet. The first five books of the Bible are attributed to him.

September 5 Zechariah and Elizabeth - Zachariah and Elizabeth were "righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord" (Lk 1:6). Zechariah, a priest in the Jerusalem temple, was greeted by the angel Gabriel who announced that Zechariah and Elizabeth would become parents of a son. Initially Zechariah did not believe Gabriel's announcement because of their old age. For his disbelief, Zechariah became unable to speak. After their son was born, Elizabeth named her son John. Zechariah confirmed his wife's choice and his ability to speak was restored. In response, he sang the Benedictus, a magnificent summary of God's promises in the Old Testament and a prediction of John's work as forerunner to Jesus (Lk. 1:68–79). Zechariah and Elizabeth are remembered as examples of faithfulness and piety.

September 16 Cyprian of Carthage, Pastor and Martyr - Cyprian (A.D. ca. 200–258), was acclaimed bishop of the north African city in Carthage around 248. During the persecution of the Roman Emperor Decius, Cyprian fled Carthage but returned two years later. He was then forced to deal with the problem of Christians who had lapsed from their faith under persecution and now wanted to return to the Church. It was decided that these lapsed Christians could be restored but that their restoration could take place only after a period of penance that demonstrated their faithfulness. During the persecution under Emperor Valerian, Cyprian at first went into hiding but later gave himself up to the authorities. He was beheaded for the faith in Carthage in the year 258.

September 22 Jonah - A singular prophet among the many in the Old Testament, Jonah the son of Amittai was born about an hour's walk from the town of Nazareth. The focus of his prophetic ministry was the call to preach at Nineveh, the capital of pagan Assyria (Jonah 1:1). His reluctance to respond and God's insistence that his call be heeded is the story of the book that bears Jonah's name. Although the swallowing and disgorging of Jonah by the great fish is the most remembered detail of his life, it is addressed in only three verses of the book (1:17; 2:1, 10). Throughout the book, the important theme is how God deals compassionately with sinners. Jonah's three-day sojourn in the belly of the fish is mentioned by Jesus as a sign of his own death, burial, and resurrection (Mt. 12:39–41).

September 30 Jerome, Translator of Holy Scripture - Jerome was born in a little village on the Adriatic Sea around the year A.D. 345. At a young age he went to study in Rome, where he was baptized. After extensive travels, he chose the life of a monk and spent five years in the Syrian desert. There he learned Hebrew, the language of the Old Testament. After ordination at Antioch and visits to Rome and Constantinople, Jerome settled in Bethlehem. From the original Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek, he used his ability with languages to translate the Bible into Latin, the common language of his time. This translation, called the Vulgate, was the authoritative version of the Bible in the Western Church world for over 1,000 years. Considered one of the great scholars of the early church, Jerome died on September 30, 420. He was originally interred at Bethlehem but his remains were eventually taken to Rome.

BETHLEHEM STAR ☆

WHAT LUTHERANS BELIEVE...

Lutherans place their faith in the Triune God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - who has made us, redeemed us, and empowers us for Christian living.

We believe Jesus Christ is the divine Son of God, who came to earth as a man, suffered and died in our place to win for us forgiveness of sin, and who rose again to life, assuring us that we, too, can live with Him eternally.

We teach that we come to stand in right relationship with God not through our own goodness or righteousness, but through our faith in Jesus as Savior. Faith alone receives the full promises of God.

We believe that the two Sacraments, Baptism and the Lord's Supper, were instituted by Christ and offers forgiveness of sin to all who receive them in faith.

Concerning Baptism, we teach that infants should also be baptized, since they, too, are sinful and need God's grace. God can work faith in them, even though they are too young to intellectually grasp the Gospel.

We believe that the body and blood of Jesus are truly present in the Lord's Supper through miraculous means, and that only Christians who are in full agreement with our all our beliefs should commune with us.

We believe that God speaks to the world through His Word in the Bible.

We believe that God loves every person and intends for all a life of dignity and meaning.

We believe that Marriage is a life-long union of one man and one woman. We reject any other "union" called "marriage" as immoral and contrary to God's will.

We assert the vital importance of the Christian congregation as the community of believers in which the Gospel is correctly preached and the Sacraments are rightly administered.



Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod

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SEPTEMBER 2017

