

P [♪] Let us pray.

Lord God, heavenly Father, send forth Your Son to lead home His bride, the Church, that with all the company of the redeemed we may finally enter into His eternal wedding feast; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C [♪] Amen.

God Speaks To Us:

[The Lord calls for justice.]



P Make haste, O God, to de- | liver me! *
O LORD, make haste to | help me!

C Let them be put to shame and confusion who | seek my life! *
Let them be turned back and brought to dishonor who de- | sire my hurt!

P Let them turn back because | of their shame *
who say, “A- | ha, Aha!”

C May all who seek you rejoice and be | glad in you! *
May those who love your salvation say evermore, | “God is great!”

P But I am poor and needy; hasten to me, | O God! *
You are my help and my deliverer; O LORD, do | not delay!

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.

[The Day of the Lord is coming.]

Poet Susan Cherwien wrote this hymn. She says this about the hymn:

“This hymn was shaped by the seasons of life ... and was written for the baptismal life ...”

[The parable of the wise and foolish virgins.]

Hymn of the Day“Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying” #516 (G)

Sermon“Faith Vs Fear” 1 Thessalonians 4:14

We Respond To God:

Apostles’ Creed Page 159

Prayer of the Church

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

Offering and Attendance Registration

Offertory ~ *What Shall I Render to the Lord*..... Pages 159-160

Lord’s Prayer and Closing Collect



Benediction Page 166



Hymn of Departure“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers” #515 (G)

Silent Prayer

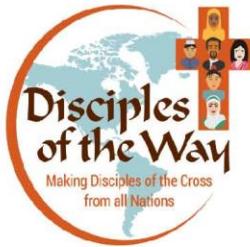
Announcements

Sending:

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

Note: The Letters in parentheses after the Hymn number indicate hymns selected because of direct connection to the Propers (i.e., Scripture Readings) for the day ... OT=Old Testament, FR=First Reading, SR= Second Reading , Ps=Psalm; V=Verse; E=Epistle, G=Gospel. Hymns with no such indication are hymns that, while having no direct connection to the Propers, still support the theme of the day.

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DISCIPLES OF THE WAY MINISTRIES

A Ministry of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

*Disciples of the Way Ministry exists to **Reach, Teach and Live** among Muslims and others, to raise up Spiritual leaders from them and establish Christ centered communities among them.*

HISTORY OF DISCIPLES OF THE WAY MINISTRIES (DOW)...

...the story of this ministry begins with the conversion of Karim Baidaoui from

Islam to Christianity. His conversion in 1991 convinced his heart to serve Christ in pastor in the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. In this new role, Pastor Baidaoui was called as a Missionary to the Texas District (LCMS). Over the course of 10 years, missionaries, staff members and volunteers have joined the ministry, while at the same time, hundreds of immigrants, primarily from Middle Eastern and Muslim backgrounds have been served by this ministry. In 2013, this ministry established its own 501c3 under the name Disciples of the Way Ministries (DOW). Disciples of the Way receives no public funding support. Financial support for this ministry comes from individuals, congregations and the Texas District of the LCMS. DOW's mission: "Reaching, Teaching and Living among our neighbors and making disciples of the Cross from All Nations." Matthew 28:19



CURRENT SITUATION... Disciples of the Way has recently moved all of its operations, including the administrative office, to location closer to the Vickery Meadow community, home to 35,000+ immigrants, who are the neighbors served by DOW. Current programs include DOW's Sewing Seeds of Faith (SSOF) sewing program, English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, Computer classes and Wednesday Morning Bible Study. In November of 2016 DOW opened a Refugee Service Center (RSC). The RSC focuses on job placement and job readiness training so that our neighbor refugees can become self-supporting. RSC also provides help with applications for medical assistance, and registration for other social services assistance. The RSC staff along with some of DOW's volunteers make home visits weekly to share fellowship, prayer and the Gospel with those who do not yet know Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The SSOF program includes leadership training for the women who can then go out into their community and/or return to our SSOF program as teachers and/or obtain jobs to help support their families. The sharing of Pot-Luck lunches and devotions are a part of each sewing class. All fabric, sewing machines and supplies used in the sewing program are donations from LWML sisters and Lutheran congregations all across Texas and the U.S.

Mission and Ministry Church Planting to share the Gospel is a very important part of DOW. During the last 10 years, Pastor Baidaoui has mentored Eritrean, Arabic, and Pakistani ethnic Lutheran pastors to plant churches of All Nations, 2 Tim 2:2. Current, Dow mission plants in progress: A Korean Mission in Watauga, Tx is steadily growing with Prayer Services every morning, Bible Studies twice a week, Two Worship Services on Sunday and ESL classes twice a week involving a total of 40+ people; also a Pakistani/Indian congregation worships at Concordia Lutheran Church, Garland. "After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no-one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb..." Revelation 7:9-10

Please keep Disciples of the Way Ministries, its Staff, Missions and Ministries in your prayers. Visit DOW's web site for more information www.disciplesoftheway.org. We also invite you to come visit and see our programs at work.

TWENTY-THIRD DAY OF PENTECOST

November 12, 2017

OUR 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!

AS WE GATHER: The final three weeks of the Church Year are traditionally concerned with “the last things.” The lessons of the Church bring a special opportunity to reflect on the end of time and on the end of our earthly lives. In the Apostles’ Creed, we affirm our belief in the resurrection of the body, which is God’s good but temporary gift to us while we are living on earth. With all who have died in the faith before us, we await the coming of the Lord. Paul writes, “We shall all be changed.” Our faithful worship helps us prepare for that glorious event!

WE WELCOME our Guest Preacher and Bible Class teacher today! **Rev. Karim Baidaoui** is Mission Director of Disciples of the Way Ministry in Dallas. Disciples of the Way Ministry is a ministry of the Texas District of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. DOW exists to Reach, Teach and Live among those from all nations, to raise up Spiritual leaders from among them, and establish Christ-centered communities. DOW is all about reaching out with the Gospel, especially to people who do not know Jesus as their Lord and Savior. The ministries sponsored by DOW will likely never be self-supporting, so gifts from donors, churches and organizations are critically important. Consider making a gift today through our door offering after the service.

AS WE COME INTO THE SANCTUARY - let us be sensitive to the needs of those who use the quiet and reverence of the Prelude as a time to prepare their hearts and minds for the Divine Service. **ALSO:** 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, His Word, our fellow-worshippers, and our Pastor by limiting movement during Scripture Readings, Sermon & prayers. Thank you.

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS this Sunday are given to the Glory of God by Paul and JoAnn Tugwell in celebration of Paul’s birthday on the 18th!

IN TODAY’S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON students study the account “Daniel in the Lions’ Den”. Jesus, who saved Daniel, would Himself be given over to the satanic lion to save the world. Parents could ask, “Who did God use to keep Daniel safe? How does God keep us safely with Himself?”

NEW SUNDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE “Leviticus: Life in the Blood” -- Holiness. What is it? For some, holiness is our attempt to live up to God’s expectations recorded in His Word. Failure is attributed to human error, while success is ascribed to human accomplishment. Holiness becomes a measure of how well we’re doing in the sight of our holy God. In contrast, Leviticus shows how God goes to great lengths not only in defining true holiness, but also in sharing His holiness with his redeemed and ransomed people.

PLEASE HAVE DECEMBER NEWSLETTER ITEMS in the church office TODAY due to the Thanksgiving holiday. The **NOVEMBER** edition of *The Bethlehem Star* newsletter is in your mailbox in the narthex. Make sure you have picked up your copy!

THANK YOU from the ladies of the LWML for your support of their bazaar and bake sale!

THE AMERICAN FLAGS in front of the Church for Veteran’s Day are flying by the donations of the following: Rev & Peggy Adler, Jim & Neva Broad, Gil & Mary Lou Daughtrey, Mike & Sheila Flynn, Juanita Garcia, Albert & Yanneth Harris, Ray & Donna Hughes, Devin & Melanie Jackson, Lea Rosier, Paul & Jo Ann Tugwell and Steve & Mary Unk (Cost for renewal is \$45 per flag.) We still need one more donor.

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

FROM THE EVANGELISM COMMITTEE: In order to spread the good news of Jesus Christ, please pick up the Gospel of John books in the narthex to distribute to those in our community.

A SCHOLARSHIP FUND has been established for Aaron Jackson’s college expenses. Aaron is attending Concordia University/Seward, NE to prepare for full-time Church Work as a Minister of Music. If you would like to contribute, please indicate on your check and place it in the offering plate. You can also send Aaron an encouraging note at: Concordia University, Aaron Jackson, 800 North Columbia Ave., Seward, NE 68434-1500.

THE ALTAR GUILD is seeking new members. Your commitment could be just one month a year and you can designate which month you would like to serve. If you would like to volunteer, please see Lori Fortner.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD: We are packing boxes for boys and girls for age categories: 2-4, 5-9 or 10-14. A detailed list of needed items will be displayed in the narthex. See Yanneth Harris for more details.

GREETING CARDS: Are you looking for a beautiful card for special occasions? The ladies of the LWML are selling greeting cards in Garber Hall for a 50 cent donation towards MITES.

STEWARDSHIP VIEWPOINT: (St. Matthew 25:4) “... but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps.” Why did they take flasks of oil with them? Because they listened to the Bridegroom’s words and believed them. Our actions always start with and flow from our beliefs. What do your actions in the realm of stewardship say about what you believe?

LIFE QUOTES “We live in H.O.P.E. – Having Optimism Pending Eternity. Because no matter what happens, we know that He loves us and our future is secure.” *Diane Schroeder, former president of Lutherans For Life* • www.lutheransforlife.org

ABOUT THE COVER: There are many life events that make us want the Lord to return to take us to be with Him. There are times of illness, death, and suffering to name a few. However, we are reminded to watch for the Lord’s return, for “you know neither the day nor the hour.” We pray for the Holy Spirit to keep us faithful, so that we may always be ready for our Lord’s return.

OUR STEWARDSHIP LAST WEEK			
OFFERINGS		ATTENDANCE	
General Offering	\$4686.00	Sunday School	38
[Needed per week:	\$2,668.00]	Divine Service	72
Building Fund	\$300.00	Communion	67
[Needed per week:	\$350.00]	Midweek (11/08)	29

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK: Zephaniah 1:7-16; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; St. Matthew 25:14-30.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY THIS WEEK		
Sunday (11/12)	9:00 AM	Pentecost 23 [Proper 27]
	10:15 AM	Sunday School & Bible Classes
	Acolyte:	Christopher Harris
	Pianist:	Sylvia Frenzel
	Altar Guild:	Sandy Smith & Natalie Byrd
	Duty Elder:	Devin Jackson
	After Church:	LWML Meeting / Newsletter Items Due
Tuesday (11/14)	6:00 PM	Board of Elders
	7:00 PM	Church Council
Wednesday (11/15)	5:15 PM	Choir Practice
	6:00 PM	Potluck Meal
	7:00 PM	Bible Classes
Thursday (11/16)	9:00 AM	Circuit 14 Winkel – Redeemer, Nacogdoches
Sunday (11/19)	9:00 AM	Pentecost 24 [Proper 28]
	10:15 AM	Sunday School & Bible Classes
	Acolyte/Crucifer:	Kristen Harris
	Organist:	Mary Bowden
	Altar Guild:	Sandy Smith & Natalie Byrd
	Duty Elder:	Devin Jackson
	After Church:	Evangelism Meeting

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], and Jeremy Stafford [Marcy Hogan’s nephew]

Health needs - Members: George Nelson, Marjorie Smith (now at TruCare); **Friends:** Sharon Bigott (11/05), [JoAnn Tugwell’s nephew’s wife]

Homebound - Members: Dorothy Jackson, Martha Kaudelka, Ardelle Samford, Johnnie Weaver ... **Friends:** Benjamin Garcia

Celebrating this week: Birthdays: Ginger Arrant, Jody Bowden, Jasmine Good, Paul Tugwell ... **Baptismal Birthdays:** Meredith Johnson, Sara Kimbrough, Elaine Lightell, Rileigh Schoppe, Karen Southard ... **Wedding Anniversaries:** Tim & Ann Worsham

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

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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”

