

As We Gather: God is the agent in the preservation and salvation of His people. In the Old Testament Reading, Amaziah forbids Amos to speak, but the prophet reveals how God chose him from nothing to be His spokesman. Paul also speaks to God’s activity in saving His people by choosing them for adoption as sons so that they might inherit the riches of His grace. You are one of God’s chosen heirs, redeemed by the blood of Christ.

Greeting

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

Hymn..... “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” #686 (E)

Opening VersiclesPage 260

L This is the day which the Lord has made;
C let us rejoice and be glad in it. *Psalm 118:24*

L From the rising of the sun to its setting,
C the name of the Lord is to be praised. *Psalm 113:3*

L Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere;
C I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.

L Make me to know Your ways, O Lord.
C Teach me Your paths.

L Sanctify us in Your truth.
C Your Word is truth. *Psalm 84:10; 25:4; St. John 17:17*

L From the rising of the sun to its setting,
C the name of the Lord is to be praised. *Psalm 113:3*

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

Hymn of Praise..... “Splendor And Honor” #950

Old Testament Reading..... **Amos 7:7–15**

[Amaziah tells Amos to prophesy elsewhere, but Amos does as the Lord commands.]

This is what [the Lord God] showed me: behold, the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand.

And the Lord said to me, “Amos, what do you see?” And I said, “A plumb line.” Then the Lord said,

“Behold, I am setting a plumb line
in the midst of my people Israel;
I will never again pass by them;
the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate,
and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste,
and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword.”

Then Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent to Jeroboam king of Israel, saying, “Amos has conspired against you in the midst of the house of Israel. The land is not able to bear all his words. For thus Amos has said,

“Jeroboam shall die by the sword,
and Israel must go into exile
away from his land.”

And Amaziah said to Amos, “O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, and eat bread there, and prophesy there, but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king’s sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom.”

Then Amos answered and said to Amaziah, “I was no prophet, nor a prophet’s son, but I was a herdsman and a dresser of sycamore figs. But the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to my people Israel.’

L This is the Word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

Psalm Psalm 85:8-13



L Let me hear what God the | LORD will speak,*
for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to | folly.

C Surely his salvation is near to those who | fear him,*
that glory may dwell | in our land.

L Steadfast love and faith- | fulness meet,*
righteousness and peace kiss each | other.

C Faithfulness springs up | from the ground,*
and righteousness looks down | from the sky.

L Yes, the LORD will give | what is good,*
and our land will yield its | increase.

C Righteousness will go be- | fore him*
and make his foot- | steps a way.

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.

Epistle Reading Ephesians 1:3–14

[Paul speaks of our redemption, adoption, forgiveness, and inheritance in Christ.]

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of

his glory. In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

L This is the Word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn..... “**I Lay My Sins on Jesus**” #606 (E)

Holy + Gospel.....**St. Mark 6:14–29**

[Herod puts John the Baptist to death.]

King Herod heard of it, for Jesus’ name had become known. Some said, “John the Baptist has been raised from the dead. That is why these miraculous powers are at work in him.” But others said, “He is Elijah.” And others said, “He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old.” But when Herod heard of it, he said, “John, whom I beheaded, has been raised.” For it was Herod who had sent and seized John and bound him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife, because he had married her. For John had been saying to Herod, “It is not lawful for you to have your brother’s wife.” And Herodias had a grudge against him and wanted to put him to death. But she could not, for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he kept him safe. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed, and yet he heard him gladly.

But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his nobles and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee. For when Herodias’s daughter came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests. And the king said to the girl, “Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it to you.” And he vowed to her, “Whatever you ask me, I will give you, up to half of my kingdom.” And she went out and said to her mother, “For what should I ask?” And she said, “The head of John the Baptist.” And she came in immediately with haste to the king and asked, saying, “I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter.” And the king was exceedingly sorry, but because of his oaths and his guests he did not want to break his word to her. And immediately the king sent an executioner with orders to bring John’s head. He went and beheaded him in the prison and brought his head on a platter and gave it to the girl, and the girl gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard of it, they came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.

L This is the Word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

Responsory *Psalm 119:89; 26:8; St. Luke 11:28*.....Page 263

- P** Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.
- C** **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**
- P** Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.
- C** **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**
- P** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**

Catechism ~ Ten Commandments, Creed, Lord's Prayer.....Page 264

Hymn..... “**Jesus, Priceless Treasure**” #743

Sermon..... “**The Mystery Of His Will**” Ephesians 1:3-14

1. A Mystery REVEALED
2. A Mystery REVISITED
3. A Mystery RETOLD

Offering and Attendance Registration

Prayer.....Page 265

Collect of The Day

L O Lord, You granted Your prophets strength to resist the temptations of the devil and courage to proclaim repentance. Give us pure hearts and minds to follow Your Son faithfully even into suffering and death; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Collect for The Word.....Page 265

Morning Prayer.....Page 266

New Testament Canticle..... Page 266-7

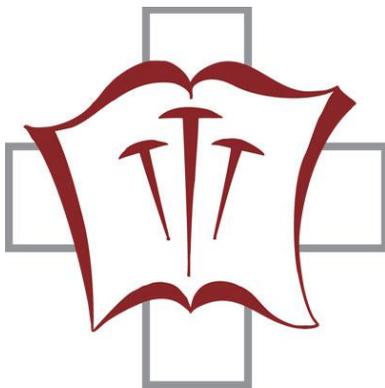
BlessingPage 267

Hymn of Departure..... “Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name” #917

Silent Prayer

Announcements and Sending:

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



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 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.

LAY-LED SERVICES: Due to the unavailability of a usual pulpit and altar supply pastor, the Board of Elders chose, instead of a Divine Service, to have a lay-led Service of Prayer and Preaching today, with the reading of a sermon that Pastor Adler completed. Such lay-leading of the Service of Prayer and Preaching and reading of an approved sermon do not go against Augsburg Confession Article V: The Office of the Holy Ministry, and Article XIV: Order in the Church, regarding only ordained pastors preaching and administering the Sacraments.

OUR THANKS to Mr. James Taylor our Presiding Elder & Commissioned Pastoral Assistant for leading the Bible Class and reading the sermon, and to Mr. Devin Jackson, Elder & Dir. Of Music, for the serving as liturgist in this morning's service.

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS this Sunday are given to the Glory of God by Jody and Mary Bowden and in celebration of Garrett's birthday today!

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL: Our theme this summer is **Delivered: God's Gift of Grace.** These consist of all New Testament lessons. Please prayerfully consider leading a Sunday School class this summer. The sign-up sheet is located in the narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Melanie Jackson.

TODAY'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON is "Jesus Forgives a Woman." Parents are encouraged to carefully review this week's lesson. Students will learn that like Jesus forgave the sinful woman, He forgives their sins for His sake. As a family, you could discuss, "How did Jesus show compassion to the sinful woman? How does Jesus demonstrate His mercy and compassion toward us?"

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE STUDY: "**Job: Confident in Calamity**" -- Why do the just suffer? Where is God in the midst of loss, illness, ridicule and defeat? In this informative study we will also consider the purpose of adversity in the lives of the faithful and the role of Satan regarding our relationship with God.

THE QUARTERLY VOTER'S MEETING This year we elect officers at the summer Quarterly Voter's Meeting next Sunday, July 22nd following the Divine Service. When you are asked to serve please prayerfully consider how you can use your God-given gifts for the Lord. Your presence and participation is an important part of our working together in the ministry of the Gospel here at Bethlehem congregation.

THE HIGHER THINGS YOUTH CONFERENCE will be held in Lawrence, Kansas July 24-27th. Please be in prayer for safe travel and a rich learning experience for both youth and adults who are attending.

FROM THE EVANGELISM BOARD: We are planning a BBQ fundraiser for the Pleasant Hills Children's Home on Saturday, July 28 from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. We will be serving a sandwich, chips and bottled water for \$8. Proceeds will provide

school supplies and personal items for the residents. Also, we will be collecting other supplies for the home (see list in the narthex) and gift cards (\$25 and \$50) to Wal-Mart and Payless Shoes. See Jerry Hartenberger for more information.

THE NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL term will begin Sunday, August 26th with Rally Day. We are looking for volunteers to teach Sunday School and Wednesday midweek classes. Please prayerfully consider how you can participate in this eternally important ministry of Christian education. Contact Melanie Jackson to indicate how you will help.

PRAYER CHAIN: There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex if you would like to participate in the prayer chain.

NEWSLETTER –The **JUNE/JULY** edition of *The Bethlehem Star* newsletter is in your mailbox in the narthex. Make sure you have picked up your copy. Items for the **AUGUST** newsletter are due in the church office next Sunday. Thank you!

DID YOU FORGET? If you have not yet paid for your Lutheran Witness subscription, New Small Lutheran Catechism book or Easter lilies, please contact the church office. Thank you!

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

FROM THE YOUTH: We are collecting new or gently used towels for BARC, Anderson County's Humane Society. Questions? Please see Yanneth Harris.

TRAVELING THIS SUMMER? If you are traveling and you would rather not attend an LC-MS church where there is no historic liturgy and hymnody ... visit lutheranliturgy.org to find an orthodox and liturgical congregation to visit.

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.

STEWARDSHIP VIEWPOINT: Amos 7:8 – "And the LORD said to me, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A plumb line." Then the Lord said, "Behold, I am setting a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel; I will never again pass by them." One of the sins for which the Lord condemned the people through Amos was a disregard for the call of kindness, charity, and generosity toward the weak and lowly. We can see here how seriously the Lord sees this! And that's no surprise when we consider how God's activity toward us is built on kindness, charity, and generosity. To act otherwise is to act against the Lord's own nature.

LIFE QUOTES: "We need to embrace the God Who is found in suffering. He is the man of sorrows, acquainted with grief. He's the Lord who was impaled on a cross. We'd rather Jesus be mild-mannered and mild-tempered, and we'd rather listen to Him preach about lilies in a field of flowers. We don't want to go down that hard path of Calvary. But once we do, I think then we can gain compassion. Because compassion means 'with suffering.' Christian compassion means suffering with the sufferings of Christ." *Joni Eareckson Tada* • www.lutheransforlife.org

OUR STEWARDSHIP LAST WEEK			
OFFERINGS		ATTENDANCE	
General Offering	\$2676.00	Sunday School	31
[<u>Needed per week:</u>	\$2,668.00]	Divine Service	56
Building Fund	\$200.00	Communion	51
[<u>Needed per week:</u>	\$350.00]		
Scholarship Fund	\$100.00		

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK: Jeremiah 23:1-6; Ephesians 2:11-22; St Mark 6:30-44

ABOUT THE COVER: People seek to be brave and to show no fear. We often seek to hide our fears. We are fearful of others who may have more authority or a more prominent reputation than we have. Like Herod, we, too, have fears, and because of sin, we allow those fears to lead our life. Yet, in spite of all our fears, God promises His faithful love and forgiveness. Thanks be to God!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY THIS WEEK		
Sunday (07/15)	9:00 AM 10:15 AM Acolyte: Organist: Altar Guild: Duty Elder: After Church:	Pentecost 8 [Proper 10] Sunday School & Bible Classes Divine Service (Service of Prayer and Preaching) Matthew Jackson Aaron Jackson Sandy Smith & Natalie Byrd Burl Gruetzner Evangelism Board
Thursday (7/19)	9:00 AM	Circuit 14 Winkel-First Lutheran, Lufkin
Sunday (07/22)	9:00 AM 10:15 AM Acolyte: Organist: Altar Guild: Duty Elder: After Church:	Pentecost 9 [Proper 11] St., Mary Magdalene Sunday School & Bible Classes Divine Service (Matins) Sara Kimbrough Mary Bowden Sandy Smith & Natalie Byrd Burl Gruetzner Quarterly Voter's Meeting

N 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: Shelia Flynn (6/24), Sylvia Frenzel (7/1), Albert Harris, George Nelson; Julie Schoppe

Homebound - Members: Dorothy Jackson, Martha Kaudelka, Johnnie Weaver

Celebrating this week: Birthdays: Garrett Bowden, Sandra Gruetzner, Timothy Lawson ... **Baptismal Birthdays:** Jody Bowden... **Wedding Anniversaries:** Devin & Melanie Jackson

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

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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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”

