

As We Gather: “At one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord” (Ephesians 5:8). This nugget from today’s Epistle gets to the heart of the Gospel: Jesus Christ has rescued you from the darkness of sin and made you a child of the light! And when does that take place? “Now,” says Paul! Now that Christ has died, now that Christ is risen, now that His Word has claimed you, you are God’s own. Now be who you are! The light of Christ will shine on you today in this time of hearing His Word and receiving His Sacrament. As darkness scatters, let us come into the light, worshipping our Savior with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.

✠ CONFESSON AND FORGIVENESS ✠

Greeting

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

Hymn of Invocation.....“Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng” #813 (E)

Invocation, Confession of Sins and Absolution^① Page 151

✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

Psalm and Gloria Patri^② *Psalm 34:12–22 (antiphon: v. 11)*



- P** Come, O children, lis- | ten to me;*
I will teach you the fear | of the LORD.
- C** **What man is there who de- | sires life***
and loves many days, that he may | see good?
- P** Keep your tongue from | evil*
and your lips from speak- | ing deceit.
- C** **Turn away from evil | and do good;***
seek peace and pur- | sue it.
- P** The eyes of the Lord are toward the | righteous*
and his ears | toward their cry.
- C** **The face of the Lord is against those who do | evil,***
to cut off the memory of them | from the earth.
- P** When the righteous cry for help, the | Lord hears*
and delivers them out of all their | troubles.
- C** **The Lord is near to the broken- | hearted***
and saves the crushed in | spirit.
- P** Many are the afflictions of the | righteous,*
but the LORD delivers him out | of them all. ➔

^①The Scripture Teaches (*St. John 20:23*): We should receive the Pastor’s absolution as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven. “It is not the voice or word of the man who speaks it, but it is the Word of God, who forgives sin, for it is spoken in God’s stead and by God’s command” (Augsburg Confession XXXV 3).

^②**“Introit”** is pronounced “in-troh-it” & Latin for “he enters.” Here the Pastor enters the Chancel with the reading/chanting of these Psalm/Scripture verses. **“Gloria Patri”** is Latin for “*Glory be to the Father*” which is acclamation of praise before the final antiphon (a refrain that begins and concludes the Introit).

C He keeps | all his bones;*
not one of them is | broken.

P Affliction will slay the | wicked,*
and those who hate the righteous will | be condemned.

C The Lord redeems the life of his | servants;*
none of those who take refuge in him will | be condemned.

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 Come, O children, lis- | ten to me;*
I will teach you the fear | of the LORD.

Kyrie^① *omitted on Sundays after Pentecost until Christ the King*

Hymn of Praise - Gloria in Excelsis^② Page 154

Salutation and Collect of the Day^③ Page 156

P [♪] Almighty God, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us to know Your Son, Jesus, to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow His steps in the way that leads to life eternal; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C [♪] Amen.

Old Testament Reading **Proverbs 9:1–10**

[Wisdom is seen and heard.]

Wisdom has built her house; she has hewn her seven pillars.

She has slaughtered her beasts; she has mixed her wine; she has also set her table.

She has sent out her young women to call from the highest places in the town,

“Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!” To him who lacks sense she says,

“Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed.

Leave your simple ways, and live, and walk in the way of insight.”

Whoever corrects a scoffer gets himself abuse, and he who reproves a wicked man incurs injury.

Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you; reprove a wise man, and he will love you.

Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a righteous man, and he will increase in learning.

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

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

Gradual^④ *Psalm. 34:9, 19, alt.*

P Fear the LORD, you his saints,

C for those who fear him lack nothing!

P Many are the afflictions of the righteous,

C but the Lord delivers him out of them all.

① “Kyrie” is pronounced ‘keer-ee-ay’ – shortened from the Greek phrase *Kyrie Eleison* (“Lord, have mercy”) and reminds us of pleas for mercy like the one recorded in *Matthew 15:22*

② “Gloria in Excelsis” is Latin for “Glory To God In The Highest” is based on the song of the angels announcing the birth of Jesus.

③ The “Salutation” (greeting) is reminiscent of an Old Testament greeting recorded in *Ruth 2:4*. The “Collect” is a short prayer which ‘collects’ or summarizes the thoughts of the day. The Collects for every Sunday come to us from the rich treasury of the church’s heritage.

④ “Gradual” comes from the Latin “gradus” meaning ‘step.’ In the ancient church these Psalm & Scripture verses were chanted from the steps of the Altar. It is a response to the First Lesson and a bridge to the Second Lesson.

[We walk as children of light.]

Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not associate with them; for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Awake, O sleeper,
and arise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

P This is the Word of the Lord. **G** Thanks be to God.

[Jesus speaks words of spirit and life.]

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the sixth chapter. **G** (♪) Glory to You, O Lord.

I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not as the fathers ate and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.” Jesus said these things in the synagogue, as he taught at Capernaum.

When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?” But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, “Do you take offense at this? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is of no avail. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But there are some of you who do not believe.” (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.) And he said, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.”

After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. So Jesus said to the Twelve, “Do you want to go away as well?” Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord. **G** (♪) Praise to You, O Christ.

Children’s Message

- 1. The _____ in the World
- 2. The _____ in the Church

^①In the “Gospel” we hear a reading from the New Testament accounts of Jesus’ life and message. In Lutheran Worship we believe that in the Reading of the Gospel Christ is in our midst, and so we stand to honor His presence. We also sing short verses before (to greet Christ) and after (to offer our joyful praise) the reading.

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.

A Matter of Importance:

Please Note: If you are visiting and have not already done so, please read **Communion Information** in the bulletin.

Offering and Attendance Registration

Your Preparation for the Sacrament

Prayers may be found on the inside front cover of the Hymnal, "Lutheran Service Book."

Offertory^① ~ What Shall I Render to the Lord Pages 159-160

✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

Preface Page 160

Sanctus^② and Prayer of Thanksgiving Page 161

Lord's Prayer and The Words of our Lord^③ Page 162

Pax Domini^④ and Agnus Dei^⑤ Page 163

The Distribution

Communicants are ushered forward by rows. **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. **Please tip the base of the chalice yourself** to avoid spillage. The individual cups in the center ring contain de-alcoholized wine for those who have so requested.

Distribution Hymns "You Are the Way; Through You Alone" #526 (G)
"Praise and Thanksgiving" #789 (E)
"O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee" #632

Post-Communion Canticle^⑥ ~ Thank the Lord Pages 164-165

Post Communion Collect and Benediction Page 166

Hymn of Departure "In Thee is Gladness" #818 (OT)

Silent Prayer

Announcements

Sending:

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

① The "Offertory" is a Scripture based hymn which is sung as we prepare to bring our tithes and offerings to God. In doing so we are reminded that the offering of monetary offerings is a public testimony that we have first "given [ourselves] to the Lord" (2 Corinthians 8:5)

② "Sanctus" is Latin for "Holy." This Hymn is based on Isaiah 6:3 & St. Matthew 21:9

③ These are the very Words of Christ which make the elements of bread and wine a sacrament. Our Confessions state "When the Word is joined to the external element, it becomes a sacrament" (Large Catechism, v.10).

④ "The Peace of the Lord" – The purpose of the Pax is a confessional declaration that the peace that passes all understanding is here present in the body and blood of Christ. For this reason the Celebrant now lifts the Chalice and Host.

⑤ "Agnus Dei" (pronounced 'ahn-yoos day-ee') is Latin for "Lamb of God"

⑥ This hymn of Thanksgiving is based on 1 Chronicles 16:8-10 and expresses our thanks to God who sends us forth into the world with rejoicing.

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!



COMMUNION INFORMATION: Bethlehem is an orthodox, confessional Lutheran congregation. Following the teaching of God's Word, we believe that the Lord's Supper is more than a mere symbol, but that in the Lord's Supper we receive the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ with the bread and wine, instituted by Christ himself for us Christians to eat and to drink. Through this eating and drinking, we receive the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. The Apostle Paul notes the importance of those who come to the Lord's Supper coming in a worthy manner (1 Corinthians 11:25-19), that is, coming in an attitude of repentance, recognizing the bread and wine as the true body and blood of the Lord Jesus, and firmly believing Christ and his words that this is given for the forgiveness of sins. We also recognize that the Lord's Supper is also an outward sign of doctrinal unity. The Apostle Paul notes the importance of unity within the body of believers who receive this sacrament (1 Corinthians 10:16-17). For these reasons and since Christian Churches vary widely in their teachings about the Lord's Supper, we ask that **all guests please speak to the Pastor prior to approaching the Altar.** All communicants are asked to sign the Registration sheet in the Narthex.

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*).

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.

IN TODAY'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON, students hear about two miraculous events in "Jesus' Touch Heals." Participants will learn that God gives faith to receive His promises in the Lord's Supper. As you discuss the lesson, you could ask, "How did the woman demonstrate her faith? How does God provide healing for people today?"

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.

KITCHEN RENOVATION WORK DAY will be Saturday August 25th at 9 am. We need lots of help as we refurbish our old kitchen. We will remove cabinet doors, sand and refinish them [bring hand tools and sanders], backsplash, new countertops and island and painting. We hope to have the kitchen looking brand new by October 6th when we host the LWML Fall Event. Your help is greatly appreciated.

THE NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL term will begin next 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.

INSTALLATION OF ELECTED OFFICERS – will occur during the Divine Service next Sunday, August 26.

FROM PLEASANT HILLS CHILDREN'S HOME: Thank you so much for the gift cards, generous donation and food/supplies you collected for PHCH! What a tremendous blessing! Thank you for helping take care of the kids at PHCH. We appreciate you all very much.

NEWSLETTER –The **AUGUST** edition of *The Bethlehem Star* newsletter is in your mailbox in the narthex. Make sure you have picked up your copy. Items for the **SEPTEMBER** newsletter are due in the church office Today. 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.

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: Ephesians 5:6-7 – "Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not associate with them." The wrath of God is a real thing and we do well to reflect on this. As the Small Catechism states: God threatens to punish all who break these commandments. Therefore, we should fear His wrath and not do anything against them. But He promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments. Therefore, we should also love and trust in Him and gladly do what He commands.

LIFE QUOTES: "Whom can you encourage today? Think of lonely hearts that need the encouragement of the presence of their Savior. Tell those who are worried about the future that you are praying for them and that God has good plans for them. And don't forget the simple fact that just listening to others and letting them know you care may be all they need. Listen to your Savior encouraging you in His Word and you will be well prepared to encourage others." *Rev. Jonathan M. Kruschel, St. John Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota • www.lutheransforlife.org*

ABOUT THE COVER: Jesus knows exactly what we need in order to live in Him. It was by no accident that Moses and the prophets, along with the apostles, wrote what God spoke to them in order for us to have "the words of eternal life." Everything we need to know about Jesus and His saving work on our behalf is recorded in Holy Scripture. Thanks be to God or His salvation!

OUR STEWARDSHIP LAST WEEK			
OFFERINGS		ATTENDANCE	
General Offering	\$4212.00	Sunday School	34
[Needed per week:	\$2,668.00]	Divine Service	71
Building Fund	\$230.00		
[Needed per week:	\$350.00]		
Scholarship Fund	\$100.00		

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK: Isaiah 29:11-19; Ephesians 5:22-33; St. Mark 7:1-13.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY THIS WEEK

Sunday (08/19)		Pentecost 13 [Proper 15] Sunday School & Bible Classes Divine Service (Setting 1) / Holy Communion Acolyte/Crucifer: Kristen Harris Organist: Mary Bowden Altar Guild: Kelly Lawson & Bobbie Hartenberger Duty Elder: James Taylor After Church: Evangelism Board / Newsletter Items Due
Thursday (8/23)	9:00 AM	Circuit 14 Winkel-Our Redeemer/Longview
Saturday (8/25)	9:00 AM	Kitchen Renovation Work Day
Sunday (08/26)		Pentecost 14 [Proper 16] Sunday School Rally Day Sunday School & Bible Classes Divine Service (Service of Prayer and Preaching) Acolyte: Sara Kimbrough Pianist: Sylvia Frenzel Altar Guild: Kelly Lawson & Bobbie Hartenberger Duty Elder: James Taylor

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Rev. David L. Adler,
 Pastor

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], James Reed [Devin Jackson's co-worker] and Jeremy Stafford [Marcy Hogan's nephew]

Health needs - Members: Mary Lou Daughtrey (7/29), Albert Harris, Dorothy Jackson (7/29), George Nelson; Julie Schoppe

Homebound - Members: Martha Kaudelka, Johnnie Weaver

Celebrating this week: Birthdays: David Ludwig, Erica Roller, Kathy Rodgers ... **Baptismal Birthdays:** Devin Jackson ...

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 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”

