

As We Gather: “You show me your faith, I’ll show you my works...” The debate over faith and works has gone on since the earliest days of Christianity. It is a needless debate. It was never a choice. We relate to God only by grace through faith in the saving work of Jesus Christ on our behalf. It is not even a matter of order or priority. By grace through faith. But what of this faith? This faith implies and assumes the works of faith that proceed from and have their source in grace alone---just as faith does. Faith is never alone. Faith is always accompanied by the good works that spring from this faith. The good we do is not us but Christ in us, working in us, and through us. Faith and works neither compete nor require a choice. Where Christ lives in us by Baptism and faith, the one and the same Spirit attests to the genuineness of this faith by producing good works. These too are from God. There is no faith without good works and there are no good works that do not spring from faith--God is all and in all.

Greeting

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

Hymn..... “How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds” #524 (G)

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Old Testament Canticle.....Page 261

✠ READINGS FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE ✠

Isaiah 35:4–7a

[The ears of the deaf will be unstopped.]

Say to those who have an anxious heart,
“Be strong; fear not!
Behold, your God
will come with vengeance,
with the recompense of God.
He will come and save you.”
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then shall the lame man leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.
For waters break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

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

Psalm 146



- P** Praise | the LORD! *
Praise the LORD, | O my soul!
- C** I will praise the LORD as long | as I live; *
I will sing praises to my God while I have my | being.
- P** Put not your trust in | princes, *
in a son of man, in whom there is no sal- | vation.
- C** When his breath departs he returns | to the earth; *
on that very day his plans | perish.
- P** Blessèd is he whose help is the God of | Jacob, *
whose hope is in the | LORD his God,
- C** who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is | in them, *
who keeps faith for- | ever;
- P** who executes justice for | the oppressed, *
who gives food to the | hungry.
- C** The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes | of the blind. *
The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the | righteous.
- P** The LORD watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and the | fatherless, *
but the way of the wicked he brings to | ruin.
- C** The LORD will reign for- | ever, *
your God, O Zion, to all generations. | Praise the LORD!
- 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.

James 2:1–10, 14–18

[I will show you my faith by what I do.]

My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, “You sit here in a good place,” while you say to the poor man, “You stand over there,” or, “Sit down at my feet,” have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called?

If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well. But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors.

For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it....

What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

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

St. Mark 7:31–37

[The healing of the deaf and mute man.]

Then he returned from the region of Tyre and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. And they brought to him a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment, and they begged him to lay his hand on him. And taking him aside from the crowd privately, he put his fingers into his ears, and after spitting touched his tongue. And looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. And Jesus charged them to tell no one. But the more he charged them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, “He has done all things well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.”

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

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✠ CATECHISM ✠

Ten Commandments, Creed, Lord's PrayerPage 264

Children’s Message

Hymn.....“**Praise the Almighty, My Soul, Adore Him**” #797 (Ps)

Sermon.....“**In Us and Through Us**” **James 2:1-10, 14-18**

1. _____
2. _____

Offering and Attendance Registration

Prayer.....Page 265

Collect of The Day

P O Lord, let Your merciful ears be open to the prayers of Your humble servants and grant that what they ask may be in accord with Your gracious will; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

Collect for The Word	Page 265
Morning Prayer	Page 266
New Testament Canticle	Page 266
Blessing	Page 267
Hymn of Departure	“Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace” #844 (E)
Silent Prayer	

Announcements and Sending:

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

WORSHIP THOUGHTS

Though it is fitting that we use the Narthex to greet one another and especially welcome visitors before the worship begins, it is also important that we take quiet time to prepare ourselves for worship once entering the Sanctuary. Plan, if possible, to arrive early enough to scan through the bulletin so you are acquainted with any changes for this Sunday.

As you come to worship, take some time to pray for the pastor and for others participating in the worship service today. Listen to the Prelude, which is not mere background music, but an invitation for all to give attention to God’s Word and prayer.

Are you familiar with the hymns we are singing today? Please take a few moments to read through the words of each hymn, especially those that appear new to you.

If you make the sign of the cross (✝) during worship, it is done in remembrance of Baptism. When we were baptized, the sign of the cross was made on our heart and head to signify that we belonged to Christ. This is our present identity. The making the sign of the cross (✝) during worship is an act of devotion that dates back to the third century A.D. It is very much a Christian practice, not limited to any one particular denomination.

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.

OUR WORSHIP STYLE: We are a “liturgical” church. That means that the basic pattern of our worship is drawn from the services that have been used by Christians for many centuries all across the world. The components of the Liturgy come from the Bible and serve to focus our worship on God’s Word and our response to His Word in faith. As Martin Luther once said, “We worship to hear God speak and to speak to the God who hears us.” If you are new to our worship format let it serve as a witness of our response to God who reaches out to us. In time, we pray that you, too, will celebrate the rich spiritual rewards of our heritage in Worship.

THE AMERICAN FLAGS in front of the Church commemorating 9-11 are flying by the donations of the following: Rev. & Peggy Adler, Juanita Garcia, Albert & Yanneth Harris, Ray & Donna Hughes, Devin & Melanie Jackson, Lea Rosier, Paul & Jo Ann Tugwell and Steve & Mary Unk (There are 4 flags still available and the cost is \$45 per flag.)

IN TODAY’S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON, the account of “Joseph’s Troubles” continues the study of Joseph’s life. God was with Joseph; and in Christ, God is with us in all the situations of life, providing, protecting, and forgiving us. As a family, you might discuss, “How do we usually react when we are falsely accused of wrongdoing? How can we learn to trust Jesus to work out all things for our good?”

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.

MIDWEEK ACTIVITIES continue this Wednesday with a pot luck supper at 6:00 PM, and Bible classes at 7:00 PM. The Adults continue their study entitled: “**The Good the Bad, & The Ugly**” ... a study of the Joseph in the Old Testament Book of Genesis. Join us for this informative study. All members and friends of Bethlehem are invited to attend.

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

FROM REFUGE OF LIGHT: Thank you so much for your generous donation to Refuge of Light. Your support of this ministry helps to provide a safe home for minor girls that have been rescued from sex trafficking.

FROM JAQUELYN SKY FOUNDATION: On behalf of the 2018 Jaquelyn Sky Foundation committee and all the childhood cancer families that will benefit due to your generous donation-Thank You! Your faithful support means more than words can express. Thanks for your heart of Gold!

FROM HOPE STATION: On November 10, Hope Station will be hosting our first benefit and auction to expand services and resources for the homeless in our community. Our project is the introduction of tiny homes to increase available housing. In 2017 there were over 200 homeless people in Palestine! If you would like to donate to the auction, please contact Jacob Randle at 903-723-2930 or jacob@hopestationpalestine.org.

FOOTBALL PARKING this Friday, September 14th, as Palestine High School plays Rusk. Bible Bunch and other members of the congregation park cars for \$2 to raise funds that help support youth ministry activities of Bethlehem.

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: James 2:2 – “For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in.” God shows no partiality: rich and poor alike are called into the Kingdom. And both rich and poor alike have something to contribute to the Kingdom in accordance with the callings God has given them in their lives. This is why both the Old and New Testaments talk about proportional giving – that is, giving a proportion of our income to the Lord’s work. This makes it possible for rich and poor alike to have the honor of supporting God’s work.

LIFE QUOTES: “The culture of life respects human life at all its stages, recognizing that those who have lived long and well have much to offer those who are just beginning their journeys on this earth. Not only should the young respect the aging, but the elderly should also respect themselves with the honor God says is due them. If Grandpa is too weak to work, he is not too weak to pray. Let us cherish our parents and grandparents as they intercede on our behalf and pass down to their children’s children the wisdom of the Lord.” Ryan C. MacPherson, Professor at Bethany Lutheran College, Mankato, Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • www.lutheransforlife.org

ABOUT THE COVER: We are spiritually deaf and have a speech impediment when we refuse to hear Jesus’ Word or when we do not tell others of His love. We have been given the most pleasant task of telling others of Christ’s forgiving love, which we hear from His Word. When we hear His Word, we are enabled to fulfill Jesus’ purpose for us in life. Jesus, through His Word, is able to heal us also.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK: Isaiah 50:4-10; James 3:1-12; St. Mark 9:14-29.

OUR STEWARDSHIP LAST WEEK			
OFFERINGS		ATTENDANCE	
General Offering	\$3503.45	Sunday School	36
[<u>Needed per week:</u>	\$2,668.00]	Divine Service	69
Building Fund	\$250.00	Communion	62
[<u>Needed per week:</u>	\$350.00]	Mid-Week (9/05)	31

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY THIS WEEK

Sunday (09/09)	9:00 AM	Pentecost 16 [Proper 18]
	10:15 AM	Sunday School & Bible Classes
	Acolyte:	Jessica Bowden
	Pianist:	Sylvia Frenzel
	Altar Guild:	Lana Bowden & Lea Rosier
	Duty Elder:	Jim Broad
Tuesday (9/11)	6:00 PM	Board of Elders
	7:00 PM	Church Council
Wednesday (9/12)	6:00 PM	Potluck Supper
	7:00 PM	Bible Classes
Friday (9/14)	6:15 PM	Football Parking
Sunday (09/16)	9:00 AM	Pentecost 17 [Proper 19]
	10:15 AM	Sunday School & Bible Classes
		Divine Service (Setting 1) / Holy Communion
	Acolyte/Crucifer:	Christopher Harris
	Organist:	Mary Bowden
	Altar Guild:	Lana Bowden & Lea Rosier
	Duty Elder:	Jim Broad
After Church:	Evangelism Board / Newsletter Items Due	

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: Albert Harris, George Nelson; Julie Schoppe, **Friends: Anna** (9/9) [Sandy Smith's co-worker's granddaughter], Carol (8/26) [Tugwell's sister in law], **Calvin Gould** (9/9) [Paul Tugwell's friend], [Rayoma Leuschen (8/26) [Ken Koehler's sister in law/Julie Schoppe's aunt]

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

Celebrating this week: Birthdays: Bobby Fulmer

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”

