

**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!

A Home Economics teacher posed a problem to her class: "Suppose you open the refrigerator and find one-half leg of lamb, cooked carrots, bacon, two lamb chops, cheese, sliced tomatoes, milk, eggs, butter, lettuce, salad dressing, biscuit dough, orange juice, cooked asparagus, a pound of hamburger, ice cream and three molds of gelatin salad. Plan a left-over dinner and supper for three persons."

Leftovers? Not every refrigerator in our land is as heavily laden with leftovers. In some of our homes there may not even be a refrigerator. But no one can deny our bounty - the miracle of goodness that daily feeds us.

Where does it all come from? Does it come from our super-genius? Or from a chance development of sunshine, rain, and soil chemistry? Or from our special place of honor in God's favor?

*"The eyes of all look to You , and You give them their food in due season. You open Your hand, You satisfy the desire of every living thing." (Psalm 145:15,16 ESV)*

Life is not usually tuned to a theme of thanksgiving. We are more frequently tuned to a wave-length of griping. But we deserve nothing. Anything we have beyond nothing is more than we deserve - and more than enough for THANKSGIVING!

But God not only opens up His hand to pour out blessings, He has also opened up His heart to pour out love in the gift of Christ, our Savior. We are God's children now. His mercy endures forever. O give thanks to the Lord!

Once a year, on a very special day, we spend an entire day giving the Lord our thanks for all that we have received. This day is known as Thanksgiving Day.

Thanksgiving Day began when the people known as Pilgrims, who had left England in search of religious freedom, gave special thanks to God. They had first gone to Holland; from there they chartered a ship to bring them to America. Here they suffered greatly from cold weather, disease, and poor food. During the first winter, seven times as many graves were dug for the dead as there were homes built for the living. Only fifty-five of one hundred two persons lived through the first year.

Yet on December 13, 1621, after being in America a year, the Pilgrims held a special day of thanksgiving to thank God for all His blessings. This is how the custom of a special Thanksgiving Day started. We celebrate it every year in November. It gives us a special day on which to thank God for all his blessings to us, though we should also thank Him every day.

But in thanking God, don't forget the greatest gift of all. In speaking of Christ, the apostle Paul declares: *"Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift!" (2 Corinthians 9:15 ESV).*

As a part of our **Thanksgiving worship** this year, we will have a special **Thanksgiving Eve Service**. Join us Wednesday, November 21<sup>ST</sup> at 7:00 p.m. to thank and worship the Lord on this very special occasion.

✦ ✦ ✦

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!



Sunday School: Donna Hughes, Sara Kimbrough, Matthew Jackson, Megan Taylor, Devin Jackson, Jody Bowden and Pastor Adler

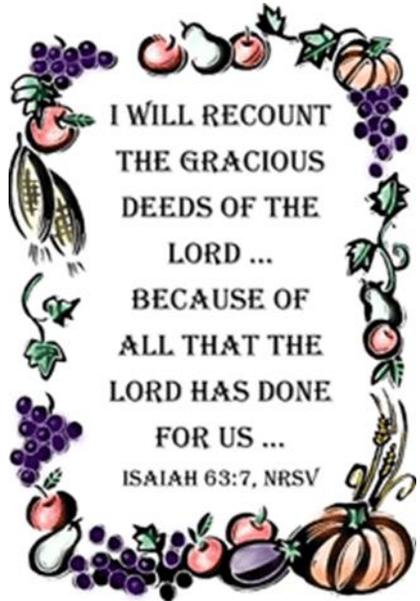
Wednesday nights: Nic Worsham, Sara Kimbrough, Matthew Jackson, Devin Jackson, and Pastor Adler



Shawn Daughtrey  
5903 Sheffield Dr.  
Tyler, Tx 75703  
903-509-4025

Dwight [Ike] and Valinda Saville  
514 America's Way #5356  
Box Elder, SD 57719  
Ike's Cell 360-632-0753  
Valinda's Cell 360-632-0751

Lela Sands  
C/O Vintage Park Assisted Living  
601 N. East Street  
Paola, KS 66064



RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS:  
**TURN IN YOUR ARTICLES EARLY!**  
REMINDER:  
**DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES IS November 18th**

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH**

Make sure you "fall back" by resetting your clocks. Use that "extra" hour to be present in Bible class!



**LWML BAZAAR AND BAKE SALE SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD 9AM - 2PM**

Plan to come for lunch AND shop for gifts during our Bazaar. Remember, we are planning to have delicious goodies for the dessert table and baked goods to sell, with the proceeds to benefit various projects for

**CALLING ALL CRAFTERS:** We are offering booth space, for a fee of \$20, to community crafters to sell their items and *keep their profits*; we will provide table, chairs, electricity if needed, complimentary lunch - all indoors. Contact church secretary (903-729-6362) or JoAnn Tugwell.

**HOW YOU CAN HELP** – you may donate your nice collectibles (bowls, glassware, crystal, pieces of art, crochet, needlepoint - good quality items). If possible, please price items. If your talent is baking, please pull out your favorite recipes for our baked goods table and/or for desserts to be served with lunch.

**Spread the word** to friends and neighbors! We need YOUR support to make this a successful Bazaar. The proceeds will benefit various projects for Bethlehem and the community!

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**LWML East Texas Zone Fall Rally**, took place here at Bethlehem on October 6<sup>TH</sup> under the theme “Our Rest in a Changing World,” (Psalm 62:1-8). Pastor Adler led the opening devotion and Pastor Davidson and taught the Bible Study. Peggy Adler led the craft session to make “Roasted Roses.” After lunch and short business meeting, the ladies were invited to join in singing “Jesus Loves Me,” the older adult version. Ingathering items (baby various items) were dedicated and later delivered to our local Crisis Center. Good attendance from our society (20) and about 20 from the other societies of our Zone.

**LWML Sunday** was celebrated on October 7<sup>TH</sup> under the banner and theme: “Our Rest in a Changing World.” Thanks to Pastor Adler for tailoring the LWML service to fit our format, including the pledge set to music, along with LWML songs using familiar hymn tunes from our hymnal. THANK YOU to the congregation of Bethlehem for donating a total of \$105.00 to our LWML Mite Box.

**Paint Palestine Pink** – October 6<sup>TH</sup>, was the Annual Walk (funds to provide mammograms to women and men of Anderson County & surrounding areas) with Bethlehem designated as the first “rest stop” on the walk/run. Several LWML ladies & friends gave out water and snacks. Thank you for donations for this effort. Our LWML sponsored two people who participated in the walk this year.

**Kroger Community Rewards:** Please continue to use your Kroger card to support LWML’s efforts to benefit the community in various ways.

**CARD FRONTS** for St. Jude Ranch --**We collected enough to fill a box!** However, unless someone is willing to step up and continue this project, we will no longer collect card fronts. Many thanks to everyone who contributed cards in the past.

### **CALENDAR NOTES:**

- ✦ Saturday, November 3 – ANNUAL BAZAAR, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Lunch begins at 11:00 am.
- ✦ Sunday, November 11 - LWML Meeting after church
- ✦ **GIVING TUESDAY**, November 27, fueled by people sharing about non-profits online and social media on Tuesday after Thanksgiving.

*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.*

**Note:** LWML Texas District launched their newly designed website Fall 2018: new look and some new features.

November  
2018



**Life**  
**NEWS**

[www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)



### **Life Newsbytes**

It's been just two years since Canada legalized assisted suicide for adult patients, yet the Parliament is contemplating expanded access to euthanasia in the country. The Canadian Council of Academics is scheduled to report to the government by year's end detailing the community's thoughts on possible expansion of euthanasia to include children (known as "mature minors" under 18 years of age), psychiatric patients, and other patients for whom assisted suicide is currently illegal. Meanwhile, a recently-published article in the British Medical Journal's *Med Ethics* by a number of Canadian pediatricians, doctors, administrators, and ethicists proposes a policy in support of child euthanasia. (*Live Action News*, 10/6/18; *CLR Life News*, 10/11/18)

**Just 24 hours after Ireland's constitutional protection of the unborn ended with President Michael D. Higgins' signing into law of the referendum result, Health Minister Simon Harris announced that abortion will be provided free on the health service, at the expense of the taxpayer ... I want this [abortion services] to be provided as part of our healthcare system ... It is estimated that the NHS in England and Wales spends £146 million (\$189 million) a year on abortion.** (*SPUC*, 9/24/18)

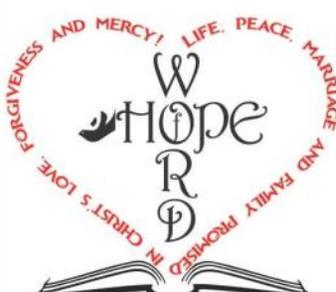
**Abortions in America  
Since 1973: 60,069,971**

Source: [www.lifenews.com](http://www.lifenews.com)

### **Speaking Up For Life**

"God calls us all to support widows and orphans, but that certainly does not mean every person is equipped to adopt a child. You can support a child in need without becoming his or her parent. Consider sponsoring a child overseas, going on a short-term mission trip to an orphanage, or financially supporting couples who adopt children through adoption grant-giving organizations. There are many ways to become involved." *Kim Laube, B.A., Lutheran Family Service, Urbandale, Iowa*

"A child who has been adopted by loving parents knows from the outset that he is loved because he knows they chose him. He was not simply accepted because he was conceived and born into their midst but was sought out to become their child. God is like that with us! 'Although it may appear outwardly that we make our way toward God, the joyful and wonderful truth is that it is God who comes to us' (Matthew the Poor)." *Abbot Tryphon, Vashon Island, Washington*



For those who have had an abortion—  
a **Word of Hope**.  
888.217.8679  
[www.word-of-hope.org](http://www.word-of-hope.org)

Think fun/walk for breast cancer awareness month. The ladies of the LWML sponsored Megan Taylor and Sara Kimbrough!



### BIBLE JAMBOREE OCTOBER 13, 2018

5 children and 3 adults joined us at Greens Park for our Fall Bible Jamboree. They enjoyed 2 puppet shows, crafts and lunch as they learned about the love of Jesus. Thanks to all who participated!



“What is ‘effective outreach’?” Someone asked me that question recently. It’s a good question. It’s also a fair question, since I frequently use the phrase “effective outreach.” Some people might answer that question by pointing to results. If more people are attending worship, participating in Bible studies, or joining the congregation, what you’re doing for outreach must be effective, right? Maybe. But numbers don’t tell the story. In fact, in some cases the numbers look really good even when outreach is not very effective at all.

A congregation located in a high growth area might be really bad at outreach but still experiencing increases in worship attendance and membership. Sometimes the pastor and a handful of lay people are having a positive impact even though the congregation as a whole is doing a poor job of outreach. On the other hand, a congregation may be doing outreach very well with little to show for it in terms of numbers because the population of its community is decreasing. (Imagine doing outreach in a town that has shuttered the plant of its major employer.)

Numbers are not the measure of effective outreach. If not the numbers, then what is? Effective outreach begins with a good understanding of what outreach is. I find that people often confuse outreach and witness. That’s understandable because they are closely related and share the same goal. But confusing them can undermine effective outreach. So, what’s the difference between witness and outreach?

Witness is what we do as individual believers to share the Good News of Jesus with people in our everyday lives. Think of it as the work of the “Church scattered.” Outreach, on the other hand, is what we do as a congregation to engage the non-churched people in our community. It is the collective effort of the congregation as an organization to make disciples. Outreach is the work of the “Church gathered.”

I Corinthians 3:5-9 provides insights into effective outreach.

“What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. <sup>6</sup>I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. <sup>7</sup>So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. <sup>8</sup>He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. <sup>9</sup>For we are God’s fellow workers. You are God’s field, God’s building.”

Practically speaking, outreach is focused on planting and watering through various activities, ministries, events, human care, etc. Outreach understands that when it comes to the growth (i.e., the numbers) “neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything.”

The growth is the Holy Spirit’s concern. Through outreach, we plant, we water, and we prayerfully anticipate the growth. This means that “effective outreach” is outreach through which we are actively and intentionally planting and watering.

That raises some additional questions. So, here’s a fuller definition:

Effective outreach is the “planting and watering” (cf. I Corinthians 3:5-9) through which a congregation intentionally engages nonchurched people in ways that provide the congregation with means of continuing contact with the non-churched people, foster relationship-building between non-churched people and the congregation’s members, and offer appropriate and appealing entry points (other than worship services and traditional Bible studies) that encourage non-churched people to participate in the Word and Sacrament ministry of the congregation.

Questions to consider:

- ◆ Before reading this article, how would I have defined “effective outreach”? How does that compare to the definition in the article?
- ◆ How does the difference between witness and outreach help me better understand outreach?

Washing, in history, or overseas than it is to think about our daily life in Christ is supposed to look like – how we are supposed to love our neighbor.

The fact that we don't like hearing about stewardship certainly means we ought to face it. Here are a few simple and practical realities.

God calls us to first-fruits, sacrificial giving. This means we should give off the top. We should set a percentage of our income as a deliberate gift for the work of the Church and give that first. We write the check to the Lord's work in the Church before we pay the mortgage or pay for our medicine or pay for anything else.

We don't pay for all the stuff we need, and think we need, and then give from what is left over. That is the first-fruits idea. It is hard because we think we need all sorts of other things first. But that is the point of "sacrificial."

Next, how could the starting point for Christian generosity and sacrifice really be anything less than a tithe – 10 percent? The ceremonial law of the Old Testament was never arbitrary. In the Old Testament, the Levites received this tithe so they could be full-time ministers.

Does the New Testament have a ministry that is larger or smaller? It is far larger: "Make disciples of all nations" (Matt. 28:19).

And we are still to have a full-time ministry: "The Lord has commanded that those who preach the Gospel should make their living from the Gospel" (1 Cor. 9:14).

So, if 10 percent was needed in the Old Testament, and we have a bigger mission need in the New Testament, how can we expect the Lord's work to be done on less than a tithe?

First-fruits, sacrificial, generous giving – that's the way. We shouldn't fool ourselves into thinking that we've out-given God's goodness or that we've given plenty.

We might be tempted to think so but consider – no one in the Church has given plenty because no one has given all. No one has died for his sins. Only

our giving to support the Lord's work in the Church:

"I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich" (2 Cor. 8:8-9).

As you can see, what the Bible commands about our stewardship can sting. It's law, and the law shows our sins. It calls us to repentance.

The law is meant to expose and accuse for the sake of showing us Christ and His fulfillment of the law. If first-fruits, sacrificial giving has you squirming, that's the point.

In Mark's account of the feeding of the 5,000, Jesus took the disciples' five loaves and two fish and blessed them. It was nothing among so many, but, of course, it was plenty. Jesus makes something from nothing.

Mark doesn't say that all the disciples gave Jesus all the bread they had. It is quite possible some of them held something back. But even if they did, that didn't stop Jesus from blessing them. Jesus makes something out of nothing.

He, who fed His people in the desert with Manna every morning, doesn't need their bread. But they need to give it. And what they give, however little it might be, however grudgingly they do so, He blesses it.

He not only blesses those whom He feeds with it, but He blesses them, the givers – not just in that they wind up with (a basket full for each loaf) but that they learned to trust and rejoice in Him.

The Lord gives, and the Lord takes away. The Lord gives abundantly or asks us to fast. We do not know what will happen. Blessed be the Name of the Lord.

He does all things well and works all things together for good. The disciples don't give their bread to Jesus because it is a good investment. They give it because He is good, they love Him, and they trust Him. Let us go and do likewise.



## God's Share First

Some people obey the laws because they have been trained to obey. The Old Testament followers of God were educated in the tithe. The New Testament transcends to a higher plane as it calls us to obey the laws of the Lord as a response to His love for us. Most of us need specific starting places toward a fuller response. One of these is the call to PERCENTAGE GIVING

Scriptural backing in many places. One such is *1 Corinthians 16:2*. Ponder this verse and let Christ, the Living Word, speak to you through it!

We recommend 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

## **REPORTS:**

**VP** - Burl no report.

**Financial Secretary** - Lea reported September income \$16,288, expenses \$13,345. Loan balance \$35,152 & CEF report.

**Treasurer** - Albert gave account balances and income report. Budget report for September and year-to-date. Excess \$12,448. \*\*Motion by James, 2nd by Burl to accept financial reports. Motion carried.

**Elders** - James reported average attendance for September was 64, average communed 61; no membership changes.

**Christian Education** - Melanie reported all going well. Working on Children's Christmas Service.

**Evangelism** - Jerry reported Bible Jamboree will be Saturday October 13th, 11am-1 at Green's Park. May enter Hot Pepper Festival Parade.

**Stewardship** - vacant. Will post "Job Description."

**Properties** - Devin asked about having alarm system checked. Temperature settings not right on sign.

**Social Concerns** - Megan helping with Bible Jamboree and Parade, try to get donations of candy from congregation. Fundraisers for Youth. Welcome New Members on October 28th. Chili Friday recipient. \*\*Motion by Lea, 2nd by Devin to give proceeds to Meals on Wheels. Motion carried.

**Youth** - Devin looking at locations and prices for activities. Possible bonfire at Bowden's; movie night "Oh, God." Will help with Shoe Boxes. Fundraisers for National Youth Gathering in Minnesota next summer: Pastor said that he will not support and is opposed to the congregation allowing fundraisers.

**Pastor** - Pastor mentioned Reformation & New Member fellowship on October 28th, may add Don & Teresa Gibson as new members if paperwork comes in. Circuit Pastor meeting October 11th in Corsicana. Thanksgiving Eve service November 21st. Attended Westwood ISD board meeting, Kiwanis recognized as "Club with Distinction" and for Operation Read.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Donna reported getting estimates on countertop; Paul Tugwell built the new island.

Bill Harris is back from vacation and will talk to Gil about donating Roger's property to church.

Jim Broad is getting estimates on new narthex doors.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

Devin asked about Bible Bunch & Youth accounts.

Proposed 2019 Budget, missions increased to 7½% (5% to District 2.5% to DOW). \*\*Motion by Lea, 2nd by Jerry to present to voters. Motion carried. Will post.

\*\*Motion by Melanie, 2nd by Jerry to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned and Pastor closed with the benediction.

### **HEALTH NEEDS—MEMBERS:**

- Albert Harris - back problems
- George Nelson - recovering from a stroke
- Julie Schoppe - recovering from surgery due to a car accident

### **HEALTH NEEDS—FRIENDS:**

- Anna [Sandy Smith's co-worker's granddaughter age 3] - chemo & surgery
- Carol [Tugwell's sister in law] - recovery from heart surgery
- Dave Fortner [Don Fortner's brother] - in hospice care
- Calvin Gould [Paul Tugwell's friend] - bone cancer
- Nicole Jones (age 3) [Sandy Smith's co-worker's granddaughter] - tumor, scoliosis
- Rayoma Leuschen [Ken Koehler's sister in law/Julie Schoppe's aunt] - lung disease
- Katie Lund [former member] - ongoing health concerns
- Ruth Marston [Ike Saville's mother] - heart valve replacement
- Phoenix [grandson of West's friend] - mowing accident
- Kenneth Taylor [James Taylor's brother] - advanced pancreatic cancer
- Teresa White [Alicia Hutton's grandmother] - ongoing health concerns
- Gene & Patsy Worsham [Tim's parents] - ongoing health concerns

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

### **HOMEBOUND:**

- Dorothy Jackson, Martha Kaudelka, Johnnie Weaver

**IN PRISON:** William Schatte (LC-MS member @ Faith/Plano, incarcerated at Powledge Unit)

### **THOSE PREPARING FOR CHURCH WORK:**

- Aaron Jackson – attending Concordia University, Seward, NE

### **THOSE SERVING IN OUR NATION'S ARMED FORCES:**

- 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]

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.





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

Online at [www.lutheranhour.org](http://www.lutheranhour.org)

DATE: November 4, 2018  
TITLE: "The Problem of Heaven"  
TEXT: Rev. 7:9-18  
SPEAKER: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
What if we get to heaven--and we don't like it?

DATE: November 11, 2018  
TITLE: "What is Heaven?"  
TEXT: St. John 17:1-5  
SPEAKER: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
A message by Michael Zeigler for The Lutheran Hour based on St. John 17:1-5

DATE: November 18, 2018  
TITLE: "Once And For All"  
TEXT: Hebrews 10:11-19  
GUEST SPEAKER: Rev. Dr. Anthony (Tony) Cook  
Rev. Dr. Tony Cook shares God's message of forgiveness--"In Jesus, our Great High Priest, we have found the perfect and permanent solution to our separation and sin."

DATE: November 25, 2018  
TITLE: "Birth Pains"  
TEXT: St. Mark 13:1-37  
SPEAKER: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
A message by Michael Ziegler for The Lutheran Hour Based on St. Mark 13:1-37



Order in Germany and friend of Martin Luther, was born in Saxony. He studied at the universities in Leipzig and Cologne and served on the faculty at Cologne. In 1503 he was called by Frederick the Wise to serve as dean of the theological faculty at the newly founded University of Wittenberg. There he encouraged Luther to attain a doctorate in theology and appointed Luther as his successor to professor of Bible. During Luther's early struggles to understand God's grace, it was Staupitz who counseled Luther to focus on Christ and not on himself.

**November 9 - Martin Chemnitz, Pastor and Confessor:** Martin Chemnitz (1522–1586) is regarded after Martin Luther as the most important theologian in the history of the Lutheran Church. Chemnitz combined a penetrating intellect and an almost encyclopedic knowledge of Scripture and the church fathers with a genuine love for the church. When various doctrinal disagreements broke out after Luther's death in 1546, Chemnitz determined to give himself fully to the restoration of unity in the Lutheran Church. He became the leading spirit and principal author of the 1577 Formula of Concord, which settled the doctrinal disputes on the basis of the Scriptures and largely succeeded in restoring unity among Lutherans. Chemnitz also authored the four volume Examination of the Council of Trent (1565–1573), in which he rigorously subjected the teachings of this Roman Catholic Council to the judgment of Scripture and the ancient church fathers. The Examination became the definitive Lutheran answer to the Council of Trent, as well as a thorough exposition of the faith of the Augsburg Confession. A theologian and a churchman, Chemnitz was truly a gift of God to the Church.

**November 11 - Martin of Tours:** Pastor born into a pagan family in what is now Hungary around the year A.D. 316, Martin grew up in Lombardy (Italy). Coming to the Christian faith as a young person, he began a career in the Roman army. But sensing a call to a church vocation, Martin left the military and became a monk, affirming that he was “Christ's soldier.” Eventually, Martin was named bishop of Tours in western Gaul (France). He is remembered for his simple lifestyle and his determination to share the Gospel throughout rural Gaul. Incidentally, on St. Martin's Day in 1483, the one-day-old son of Hans and Margarete Luther was baptized and given the name “Martin” Luther.

**November 14 - Justinian, Christian Ruler and Confessor of Christ:** Justinian was emperor of the East from A.D. 527 to 565 when the Roman Empire was in decline. With his beautiful and capable wife, Theodora, he restored splendor and majesty to the Byzantine court. During his reign the Empire experienced a renaissance, due in large part to his ambition, intelligence, and strong religious convictions. Justinian also attempted to bring unity to a divided church. He was a champion of orthodox Christianity and sought agreement among the parties in the Christological controversies of the day who were disputing the relation between the divine and human natures in the Person of Christ. The Fifth Ecumenical Council in Constantinople in A.D. 553 was held during his reign and addressed this dispute. Justinian died in his eighties, not accomplishing his desire for an empire that was firmly Christian and orthodox.

**November 19 - Elizabeth of Hungary:** Born in Pressburg, Hungary, in 1207, Elizabeth was the daughter of King Andrew II and his wife Gertrude. Given as a bride in an arranged political marriage, Elizabeth became the wife of Louis of Thuringia in Germany at the age of 14. She had a spirit of Christian generosity and charity, and the home she established for her husband and three children in the Wartburg Castle at Eisenach was known for its hospitality and family love. Elizabeth often supervised the care of the sick and needy and even gave up her bed to a leper at one time. Widowed at the age of 20, she made provisions for her children and entered into an austere life as a nun in the Order of Saint Francis. Her self-denial led to failing health and an early death in 1231 at the age of 24. Remembered for her self-sacrificing ways, Elizabeth is commemorated through the many hospitals named for her around the world.

**November 23 - Clement of Rome:** Pastor Clement (ca. A.D. 35–100) is remembered for having established the pattern of apostolic authority that governed the Christian Church during the first and second centuries. He also insisted on keeping Christ at the center of the Church's worship and outreach. In a letter to the Christians at Corinth, he emphasized the centrality of Jesus' death and resurrection: “Let us fix our eyes on the blood of Christ, realizing how precious it is to His Father, since it was poured out for our salvation and brought the grace of repentance to the whole world” (1 Clement 6:31). Prior to suffering a martyr's death by drowning, he displayed a steadfast, Christ-like love for God's redeemed people, serving as an inspiration to future generations to continue to build the Church on the foundation of the prophets and apostles, with Christ as the one and only cornerstone.

**November 29 - Noah:** Noah, the son of Lamech (Gen 5:30), was instructed by God to build an ark, in which his family would find security from the destructive waters of a devastating flood that God warned would come. Noah built the ark, and the rains descended. The entire earth was flooded destroying “every living thing that was on the face of the ground, both man and beast” (7:23). After the flood waters subsided, the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. When Noah determined it was safe, and God confirmed it, he and his family and all the animals disembarked. Then Noah built an altar and offered a sacrifice of thanksgiving to God for having saved his family from destruction. A rainbow in the sky was declared by God to be a sign of His promise that never again would a similar flood destroy the entire earth (8:20). Noah is remembered and honored for his obedience, believing that God would do what He said He would.

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**

**1515 South Loop 256**

**Palestine, Texas 75801-5857**

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