

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!

Concerning “Amen.” This transliterates the Hebrew word “amen,” (אָמֵן) and is pronounced ah-men. “Amen” is an affirmation derived from the verb “to be trustworthy, faithful, true.” “Amen” is a solemn formula by which the hearer accepts the validity of a curse or blessing:

Deuteronomy 27:15-26 -- And all the people shall say, ‘Amen.’ [this repeats twelve times]

Jeremiah 11:5 -- ⁵ that I may confirm the oath that I swore to your fathers, to give them a land flowing with milk and honey, as at this day.” Then I answered, “Amen, Yahweh.”

... or an order or announcement:

1 Kings 1:36 -- ³⁶ And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada answered the king, “Amen! May Yahweh, the God of my lord the king, say so.

Jeremiah 28:6 -- ⁶ and the prophet Jeremiah said, “Amen! May Yahweh do so; may Yahweh make the words that you have prophesied come true, and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of Yahweh, and all the exiles.

It is usually translated in the Septuagint (LXX, the Greek Old Testament) as “let it be so” (γένοιτο). It is also common at the end of liturgical doxologies, where the LXX tends to transliterate it as ἀμήν.

Note the double “amen and amen” (אָמֵן אָמֵן), in the following:

Psalms 41:13 -- ¹³ Blessed be Yahweh, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! Amen and Amen.

Psalms 72:19 -- ¹⁹ Blessed be his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory! Amen and Amen!

Psalms 89:52 -- ⁵² Blessed be Yahweh forever! Amen and Amen.

This signifies that each of those verses concludes a liturgical book of the Psalter. The LXX sometimes gives the transliteration ἀμήν at the end of a liturgical doxology. Transliteration is writing or printing (a letter or word) using the closest corresponding letters of a different alphabet or script. Other examples of transliteration are: Alleluia, Kyrie, Hosanna, Sabaoth. When a word is transliterated this is a sign that it has become an integral part of the liturgy.

“Amen” is the response and affirmation of **ALL** the people when the liturgical leader concludes a prayer. The explicit statements that the people responded with the “amen” suggest that even in doxologies **it should be understood as a response** and not simply as a conclusion. The “now and forever” eternity formula gives fair warning that the doxology has drawn to a close and that the amen may now be voiced **by all**. Thus, in Ephesians 3:21 Paul inserts himself into the liturgy of the congregations of Ephesus, voicing to his own doxology the “amen” that he expects the people will cry out when it is read.

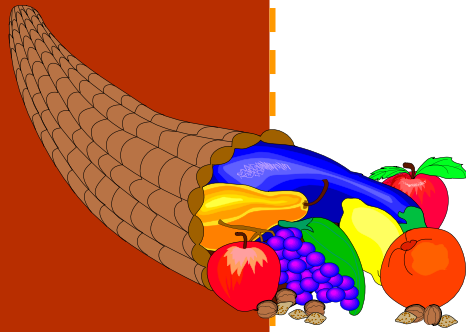
In 1 Corinthians 14 Paul discusses the abuse of speaking in tongues. Here he indicates that responding to prayers with “amen” was part of the worship practice of the early church. Saying amen after prayers and upon receiving both the Body and Blood of Christ in the Holy Supper is an indication of your agreement, and silence is an absence of such.

1 Corinthians 14:16 -- ¹⁶ If you are praising God with your spirit, how can one who finds himself among those who do not understand say “Amen” to your thanksgiving, since he does not know what you are saying?

Saying “amen” aloud is your response to prayer and an indication of your agreement. So many prayers I have prayed in this parish that had no one in agreement because no one said “amen.” Some pastors conclude their prayers with the phrase “and all God’s people said” to get the people to say “amen.” I will not to do this. I find it contrived, unnatural, and unspontaneous. God’s people should know to say “amen” as their response without being told.



I look forward to seeing you each Sunday morning ... worshipping 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



Thanksgiving Eve
Worship
Wednesday,
November 27,
7:00 PM



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 Thee, and Thou givest them their food in due season. Thou openest Thy hand, Thou satisfiest the desire of every living thing." (Psalm 145:15,16)

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

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. What this gift is, the apostle Paul tells us *"Thanks be to God for His unspeakable gift (Jesus Christ)!"*

As a part of our **Thanksgiving worship** this year, we will have a special **Thanksgiving Eve Service**. Join us Wednesday, November 27th at 7:00 p.m. to thank and worship the Lord on



ENDS
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD

Make sure you “fall back” by re-setting your clocks. Use that “extra” hour to be present in Bible class!



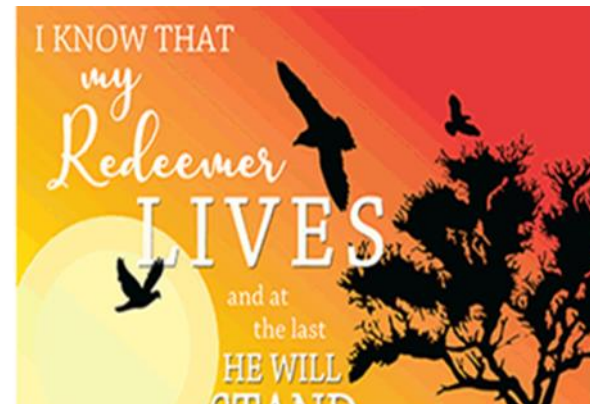
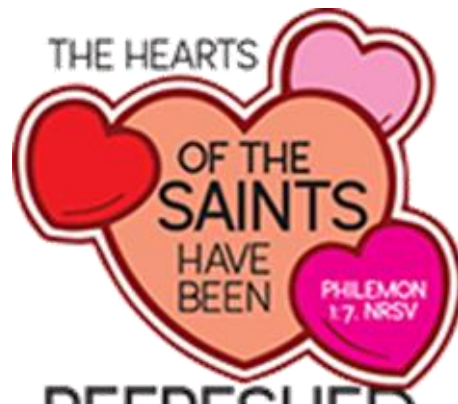
LWML BAZAAR AND BAKE SALE
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND 9AM - 2PM

Plan to come for lunch with choice of soups and all the trimmings 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 Bethlehem and the community!



ELKHART ISD: Elkhart Intermediate and Elementary thank you for your generous gift of school supplies for our students. The supplies are shared with our students who are unable to purchase all of the items needed. On a special note, the towels and t-shirts were shared with the Head Start classroom. The teacher stated, “Oh thank you! We have students that don’t have a towel or blanket to sleep on.” We appreciate your congregation thinking of Elkhart ISD.

ANDERSON COUNTY PTSD GROUP: The PTSD-VA group would like to thank you for your monthly donations for our Wednesday meetings. The Pigs in Blanket and donuts are so appreciated by each of the veterans. May God bless!



CALLING ALL CRAFTERS: We are again offering booth space, for a fee of \$20, to community crafters to sell their items and keep their profits, we will provide a table, chairs, electricity, if needed, and complimentary lunch, all indoors.

Do you know anyone who makes jewelry; scarves; purses; quilted items, such as pot holders or wall hangings; items made from wood; or someone who sells cosmetics, gifts etc.? Contact Donna Hughes, JoAnn Tugwell, or the Church.

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!

East Texas Zone Fall Event took place at Our Savior Lutheran, Centerville, September 21, 2019. The program "JOY in the LWML" was presented by Texas District President Debbie Curry. The day included Bible study from Isaiah 61:10-11 and Galatians 5:22-23 presented by Rev. Keith Bowman. There were two ladies from Bethlehem in attendance for the day's activities which included a business meeting in which new zone officers, Vice President Sherry Walters and Treasurer Eileen Wood were elected, and installed by Rev. Bowman. Ladies of Our Savior served a delicious lunch, and Lisa Faske led the Craft session.

LWML Sunday was celebrated on October 6 with the banner, "Faith Like a Mustard Seed," based on St. Luke 17:6, crafted by Peggy Adler, LWML helpers and lettering by Lana Bowden's daughter-in-law Corri Bowden. Members of 'Willing Workers' assisted as ushers, readers and greeters, along with providing an arrangement of yellow and purple flowers on the altar. Thank you to Pastor Adler for tailoring the LWML service to fit our format ... AND thanks to the congregation of Bethlehem for donating money gifts to the LWML Mite Box. It was a very PURPLE day!!

Paint Palestine Pink – The Annual Walk on October 5, was 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 members and friends gave out water and snacks. Thank you for donations for this effort.

LWML Texas District Spiritual Rest & Renewal Retreat, on October 11 and 12, 2019, at Lakeview Methodist Conference Center. **Be Still** was the theme for this Retreat, along with Bible Studies presented by Rev. John Heckmann; an opportunity to take part in a Servant Project; and the Saturday Morning Prayer Walk. Kaye Wolff spoke on "What Time Is It" and "Take it to the Lord in Prayer." A special presentation by Staci Geiger whose son Daniel is the boy behind "Daniel's Lion Heart Foundation" (see www.danielslionheart.com). Her very moving story focused on supporting families of children with congenital heart defects, specifically babies born with Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome. **Be Still** ...For I am the Lord your God...your Savior (Isaiah 43:1-3a).

CALENDAR NOTES:

- ✦ Saturday, November 2 – ANNUAL BAZAAR 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Lunch will begin at 11:00.
- ✦ Next LWML Meeting: Sunday after church on November 10, 2019.

Our society is open to all women of Bethlehem. We usually meet after church on the second Sunday of the month. There are no dues, but we collect donations for MITES and for our general fund. The Annual Bazaar is our major fundraiser.

Web site: <http://lwmltxdist.org>



Serve the Lord with gladness! Psalm 100:2



inth: "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor 9:7). God loves a cheerful giver. But who is a cheerful giver?

Abel was. By faith, Abel gave the firstborn of his flock, and it was acceptable in God's sight. Abraham was. By faith, Abraham prepared cakes and a tender choice calf for God and entertained angels unaware. So also were David and Solomon. By faith, David would not make a sacrifice to God that cost him nothing, so he paid Araunah his due. By faith, Solomon built a house for God, where his name would dwell and thereby where He would dwell to be Israel's God and they His people.

What more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of all those who gave not simply for the joy

whom they gave.

So also our Lord, who for the joy set before Him, gave everything, yes, even His life, enduring the cross and scorning its shame. He gave to the shedding of His blood, willingly and resolutely setting His face toward Jerusalem to die for the life of the world. Though He was rich in every way, He became poor, so that by His poverty we might be rich beyond measure.

So then, let us – like Abel and Abraham, like David and Solomon, and even like our Lord Jesus Christ – give cheerfully to God for the work of His kingdom in our midst. Like them, let us decide in our heart – for the joy set before us – the joy of knowing the One to whom we give is the One who gives us all good things.

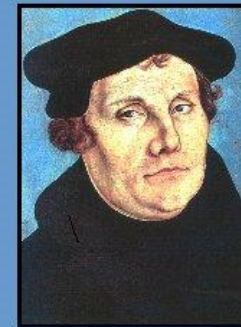


God's Share First

"I was glad when they said unto me, 'Let us go into the house of the Lord.'" (Psalm 122:1)

Money was the theme or some way entered into the majority of the sermons and addresses of Jesus. One verse out of every six in St. Matthew, St. Mark, and St. Luke is on this subject. At least twelve of Jesus' thirty-eight parables deal with a right or wrong use of money. It is a prime matter to the

We urge all members to become percentage givers. The Scripture teaches this as a proper discipline. We believe in starting at a specific point in our giving habits and letting Christ lead us on as we grow in grace. Read St. Matthew 22:37, St. Mark 12:30, and St. Luke 10:27. Then ask yourself, "Will my present giving habits lead to full commitment which Christ describes here?"



Those who would be Christians are under obligation in the sight Of God to esteem them worthy of double honor who minister to their souls, that they deal well with them and provide for them.

Burl called the meeting to order. Pastor opened with Psalm 133 devotion and prayer. Minutes were read. **Motion by Devin, 2nd by Melanie to accept. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

VP - Burl, no report

Financial Secretary - Albert reported September income \$18,778, expenses \$13,385. Excess \$11,975.

Treasurer - Albert gave account balances & income report. Budget report for September and year to date. **Motion by Devin, 2nd by Jim to accept financial reports. Motion carried.

Elders - James reported average attendance for September was 67, average communed 56; average attendance for 3rd quarter was 64, average communed 56. Added Deborah Shockley, transfer; loss Gil Daughtrey, Ron & Gloria Bloecher, transfer; released Sandy Smith.

Christian Education - Melanie reported would like another Sunday School teacher. Teens are helping younger students with Midweek classes. Looking at new CPH Christmas service.

Evangelism - Bobbie reported Bible Jamboree October 12th, Megan will lead puppet show. Discussing basketball games between Police and Firemen or 42 tournament as fundraiser. Have ordered new 4x8 Bethlehem sign. AAH will be November 9th.

Stewardship - vacant

Properties - Jim replaced A/C filters and water filters. Lightening strike damaged phone system, security/fire alarm, parking lot light/wiring, soundboard. Will submit to insurance, we have \$2,500 deductible; probably more than \$10,000 in damages. Planning change electric provider to Green Mountain for 5 year contract.

Social Concerns -Megan working with Evangelism Committee on Bible Jamboree, Youth activities. Suggestions for Chili Friday recipient Backpack program, Ronnie Paul, local man who needs liver transplant.

Youth - Devin trying to plan youth activities—go carts at Dogwood Junction, possible horseback riding.

Pastor's Report - Reformation Sunday is October 27th, All Saints Day November 3rd; Armed Forces Day November 10th. Suggestions for Christmas Eve Service time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Devin reported parking lot use by Palestine Choir supposed to have church member present, Burl will discuss.

Organ work not done due to health issues, will get it done.

Operation Read was success, will be using Luther Hall to sort and bag books.

NEW BUSINESS:

2020 proposed Budget, boards to submit requests.

Present to voters suggestions for proceeds from Harris property sale.

**Motion by Devin, 2nd by Jim that church cover Pastor's deductible on damage to his pickup due to lightning strike. Motion carried.

Devin has talked to the McDonald's about Dave Ramsey financial planning program, will get more information and present to voters.

HEALTH NEEDS—MEMBERS:

- Lana Bowden - recovering from surgery
- Albert Harris - back problems & recovering from surgery
- Laura Lewis - cancer treatment
- Lea Rosier

HEALTH NEEDS—FRIENDS:

- Elizabeth Attaway [Jackson's friend] - cancer treatment
- Caitlyn Broad [Broad's granddaughter] - recovery from back surgery
- Chris Burnbaum [Melanie Jackson's brother in law] - Kidney issues
- Vicky Constable [Eppeland's cousin] - cancer treatment
- Alan Fox [Alicia Hutton's brother in law] - cancer treatment
- Esther Groneman [DeAnne Atkinson's grandmother] - fractured pelvis, decisions to be made
- Robert Heckman [Ristvedt's brother in law] - cancer treatment
- Stevie Richardson [James Taylor's friend] - heart catheterization

HOMEBOUND AND SHUT- IN MEMBERS:

- Dorothy Jackson, Martha Kaudelka, Johnnie Weaver

COMFORT: Nathan Vernon and family for the loss of his sister, Lucia

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 ...
- Non-members: Robert Garcia [Juanita's son], 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.

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



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

DATE: November 3, 2019

TITLE: "Stranger Danger"

TEXT: Genesis 18

SPEAKER: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

The different ways we relate to strangers reveal the contradiction of being human.

DATE: November 10, 2019

TITLE: "For Such a Downer"

TEXT: Genesis 21

SPEAKER: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Genesis Series

DATE: November 17, 2019

TITLE: "The Dawn Wall"

TEXT: Genesis 22

SPEAKER: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

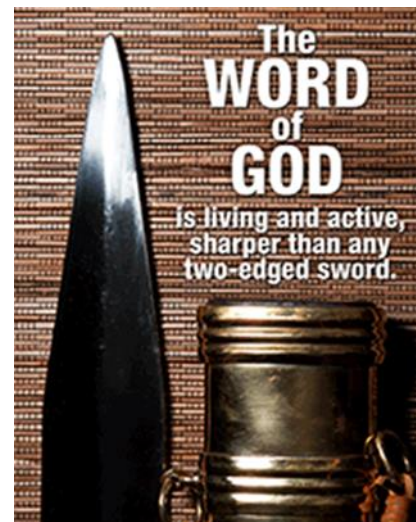
Genesis Series

DATE: November 24, 2019

TITLE: "God Is Love"

TEXT: 1 John 4:7-12

GUEST SPEAKER : Pastor Jeff Cloeter



neer Harris, Annette Bussey, Audrey Felder, Ray & Donna Hughes cheered the runners on and handed out water. LWML sponsored Dani Mingus & Jade Wilson in the 1 mile walk/run. Thanks to all!



BIBLE JAMBOREE OCTOBER 12, 2019

Children and adults alike joined us at Greens Park for our Fall Bible Jamboree. They enjoyed a puppet show, crafts and lunch as they learned about the love of Jesus. Thanks to all who participated!



“Don’t forget the men!” This is a phrase heard frequently from post-abortive men. Currently, state and national abortion laws are changing rapidly. We hear and read, “My body, my choice.” It appears to be all about the women. Women are told, “You will have the right to choose if you will carry or abort your child.”

In frequent instances, the birth father has not been made aware that his wife or girlfriend is pregnant or that a family member of the birth mother, or the birth mother, has chosen to abort the birth father’s child.

In many situations, when the birth father is made aware of the abortion, he is devastated. He wonders why he was not made aware of the pregnancy and why the birth mom decided to abort the pregnancy.

After participating on a panel at a Lutherans For Life conference a few years ago, a man came up to me and said, “Don’t forget the men.” He shared that his girlfriend had an abortion and didn’t tell him about it until quite a while afterward. He was crushed. He inquired if there were post-abortion recovery groups for men. At an LFL Board of Directors’ meeting shortly before this conference, a guest speaker had told us how his life had been affected by abortion. He indicated that he and some other post-abortive men in the St. Louis area had written a curriculum for men whose lives had been impacted by abortion, and they were offering classes for men with similar experiences. We were able to share this information with the man. I have thought about him often over the years and continue to keep him in my prayers.

Another time a man cried in my arms—it was quite emotional. He said several years ago he had a girlfriend who was pregnant with his child, and she decided to have an abortion. She had not told him she was pregnant and planned to terminate the pregnancy. She went to the abortion facility by herself as she thought abortion was a simple, safe procedure. Well, something went wrong, and she needed to be sent immediately to a hospital. She had given this man’s name as the emergency contact, never dreaming he would need to be called. He was shocked when he received the phone call. He did go immediately and took her to the hospital. She survived and shortly afterward the man terminated the relationship. (As a side note, he is now a Lutheran pastor.)

A post-abortive grandfather shared that when his daughter was a teenager, she became pregnant. His wife and daughter chose to abort the baby over his objection. He is still grieving for the loss of the grandchild he never knew. He and his wife came close to divorcing, but their faith has kept them together.

How did Joseph handle Mary’s pregnancy when he first learned she was expecting a baby that was not his child? Matthew 1:19-21 (NIV) states: **“Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law ... he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.’”**

Don’t forget the men! God doesn’t and neither should we!

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 Margarette 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

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, would you be so kind to simply write “Refused” and then place it unopened in your mailbox. That way, we’ll be certain to remove your name from our mailing list, and you will be helping us to use very precious resources most wisely.

Thank You!



NOVEMBER 2010

