



*Bethlehem Lutheran Church—William Penn  
Founded 1860—Lutheran Church Missouri Synod*

## **FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**SEPTEMBER 10, 2023**



Pastor

Rev. Kelly Dean Krieg  
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AV Tech

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Ben Holtkamp  
Ian Schroeder  
Mike Schroeder  
Shane Schroeder

Acolyte

Marc Maya

Greeter

Vickie Ashorn



## Divine Service: Setting One

Order of Service: *Lutheran Service Book*, pp 151-166

Pre-Service Music

### September Bible Verse

Only fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart.

For consider what great things he has done for you.

*1 Samuel 12:24*

### Our Mission Statement

Representing God's Love to our Congregation, Community, and the World!

### *Ringing of the Church Bell*

#### OPENING HYMN

*Today Your Mercy Calls Us*

LSB 915



1 To - day Your mer - cy calls us To wash a - way our sin.  
2 To - day Your gate is o - pen, And all who en - ter in  
3 To - day our Fa - ther calls us; His Ho - ly Spir - it waits;  
4 O all - em - brac - ing Mer - cy, O ev - er - o - pen Door,



How - ev - er great our tres - pass, What - ev - er we have been,  
Shall find a Fa - ther's wel - come And par - don for their sin.  
His bless - ed an - gels gath - er A - round the heav'n - ly gates.  
What should we do with - out You When heart and eye run o'er?



How - ev - er long from mer - cy Our hearts have turned a - way,  
The past shall be for - got - ten, A pres - ent joy be giv'n,  
No ques - tion will be asked us How of - ten we have come;  
When all things seem a - gainst us, To drive us to de - spair,



Your pre - cious blood can wash us And make us clean to - day.  
A fu - ture grace be prom - ised, A glo - rious crown in heav'n.  
Al - though we oft have wan - dered, It is our Fa - ther's home.  
We know one gate is o - pen, One ear will hear our prayer.

Text and tune: Public domain

#### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

LSB 151

**P** In the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

### INTROIT

*Psalm 92:1-4; antiphon: v. 5*

How great are your works, O LORD!

**Your thoughts are very deep!**

It is good to give thanks to the LORD,

**to sing praises to your name, O Most High;**

to declare your steadfast love in the morning,

**and your faithfulness by night,**

to the music of the lute and the harp,

**to the melody of the lyre.**

For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work;

**at the works of your hands I sing for joy.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son**

**and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning,**

**is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

How great are your works, O LORD!

**Your thoughts are very deep!**

### KYRIE

*LSB 152*

**P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**P** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**P** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



**C** A - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE

*Gloria in Excelsis*

LSB 154

**P** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.



**C** Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:



We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.



For You a-lone are the Ho-ly One, You a-lone are the Lord,



You a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And al - so with you.

**P** Let us pray.

**C** O God, from whom all good proceeds, grant to us, Your humble servants, Your holy inspiration, that we may set our minds on the things that are right and, by Your merciful guiding, accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

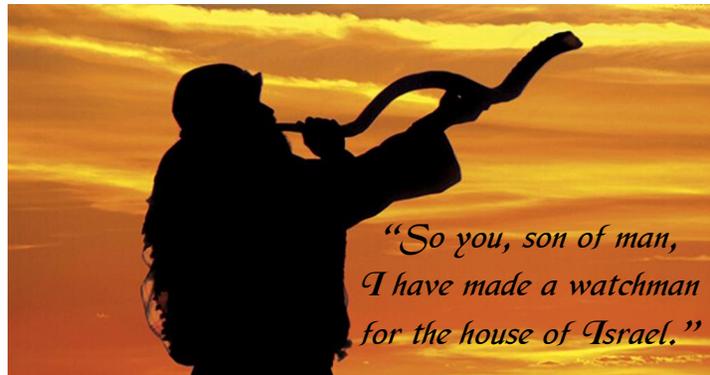
OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Ezekiel 33:7-9*

<sup>7</sup>“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. <sup>8</sup>If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. <sup>9</sup>But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.”

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.



*“So you, son of man,  
I have made a watchman  
for the house of Israel.”*

EPISTLE

*Romans 13:1-10*

<sup>1</sup>Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. <sup>2</sup>Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. <sup>3</sup>For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, <sup>4</sup>for he is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God’s wrath on the wrongdoer. <sup>5</sup>Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God’s wrath but also for the sake of conscience. <sup>6</sup>For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. <sup>7</sup>Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

<sup>8</sup>Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.

<sup>9</sup>The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>10</sup>Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**C** Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## HOLY GOSPEL

*Matthew 18:1–20*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.

**C** Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” <sup>2</sup>And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them <sup>3</sup>and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup>Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>5</sup>“Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, <sup>6</sup>but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

<sup>7</sup>“Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! <sup>8</sup>And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. <sup>9</sup>And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.

<sup>10</sup>“See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. <sup>11</sup>For the Son of Man came to save the lost. <sup>12</sup>What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? <sup>13</sup>And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. <sup>14</sup>So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

<sup>15</sup>“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. <sup>16</sup>But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup>If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. <sup>18</sup>Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup>Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup>For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life † everlasting. Amen.

CHILDREN'S HYMN

*Children come forward during Children's Hymn  
LSB 725*

*Children of the Heavenly Father*



1 Chil - dren of the heav'n - ly Fa - ther Safe - ly  
2 God His own doth tend and nour - ish; In His  
3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er From the  
4 Though He giv - eth or He tak - eth, God His



in His bos - om gath - er; Nest - ling bird nor star in  
ho - ly courts they flour - ish. From all e - vil things He  
Lord His chil - dren sev - er; Un - to them His grace He  
chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth; His the lov - ing pur - pose



heav - en Such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.  
spares them; In His might - y arms He bears them.  
show - eth, And their sor - rows all He know - eth.  
sole - ly To pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

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Tune: Public domain

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



1 My soul, now praise your Mak - er! Let all with - in me  
 2 He of - fers all His trea - sure Of jus - tice, truth, and  
 3 For as a ten - der fa - ther Has pit - y on his  
 4 His grace re - mains for - ev - er, And chil - dren's chil - dren



bless His name Who makes you full par - tak - er Of  
 righ - teous - ness, His love be - yond all mea - sure, His  
 chil - dren here, God in His arms will gath - er All  
 yet shall prove That God for - sakes them nev - er Who



mer - cies more than you dare claim. For - get Him not whose  
 yearn - ing pit - y o'er dis - tress; Nor treats us as we  
 who are His in child - like fear. He knows how frail our  
 in true fear shall seek His love. In heav'n is fixed His



mee - ness Still bears with all your sin, Who heals your ev - 'ry  
 mer - it But sets His an - ger by. The poor and con - trite  
 pow - ers, Who but from dust are made. We flour - ish like the  
 dwell - ing, His rule is o - ver all; O hosts with might ex -



weak - ness, Re - news your life with - in; Whose grace and  
 spir - it Finds His com - pas - sion nigh; And high as  
 flow - ers, And e - ven so we fade; The wind but  
 cel - ling, With praise be - fore Him fall. Praise Him for -



care are end - less And saved you through the past; Who  
 heav'n a - bove us, As dawn from close of day, So  
 through them pass - es, And all their bloom is o'er. We  
 ev - er reign - ing, All you who hear His Word— Our



leaves no suf - f'rer friend - less But rights the wronged at last.  
 far, since He has loved us, He puts our sins a - way.  
 with - er like the grass - es; Our place knows us no more.  
 life and all sus - tain - ing. My soul, O praise the Lord!

Text: Johann Gramann, 1487–1541; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Tune: *Concentus novi*, 1540, Augsburg

Text and tune: Public domain

## SERMON

*A Paradox – Ezekiel 33:7–9*



**C** What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to  
 me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will  
 call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-  
 va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my  
 vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo-ple, in the  
 courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

OFFERING PRAYER

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH



THE LORD'S PRAYER

LSB 162

**P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C** Our Father who art in heaven,  
 hallowed be Thy name,  
 Thy kingdom come,  
 Thy will be done on earth  
 as it is in heaven;  
 give us this day our daily bread;  
 and forgive us our trespasses  
 as we forgive those  
 who trespass against us;  
 and lead us not into temptation,  
 but deliver us from evil.  
 For Thine is the kingdom  
 and the power and the glory  
 forever and ever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

LSB 166

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
 The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
 The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



**C** A - men.

CLOSING HYMN

*Forth in the Peace of Christ We Go*

LSB 920



1 Forth in the peace of Christ we go;  
 2 King of our hearts, Christ makes us kings;  
 3 Priests of the world, Christ sends us forth  
 4 Christ's are our lips, His Word we speak;  
 5 We are the Church; Christ bids us show



Christ to the world with joy we bring;  
 King - ship with Him His ser - vants gain;  
 This world of time to con - se - crate,  
 Proph - ets are we whose deeds pro - claim  
 That in His Church all na - tions find



Christ in our minds, Christ on our lips,  
 With Christ the Ser - vant - Lord of all,  
 This world of sin by grace to heal,  
 Christ's truth in love that we may be  
 Their hearth and home where Christ re - stores



Christ in our hearts, the world's true king.  
 Christ's world we serve to share Christ's reign.  
 Christ's world in Christ to re - cre - ate.  
 Christ in the world, to spread Christ's name.  
 True peace, true love to all man - kind.

Text: James Quinn, 1919–2010. Tune: Georg Joseph, 17th cent., adapt. Text: © 1969, 1987 OCP Publications. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005013. Tune: Public domain



POSTLUDE

*Welcome to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, where we worship in the name of the crucified and risen Lamb of God, Jesus Christ our Lord. Blessings to you as you worship with us today.*



In order to be good stewards of the gifts God has given us, the newsletter will now be emailed to you directly to save on the cost of printing and postage. To ensure you continue receiving the newsletter, scan the QR code to the right to verify your email address.



**Congregation:** Blake Powers, for health issues; Roger Schroeder, for a quick and successful recovery from his heart attack; for Edith Erwin, Deloris Griffin; for our Shut-in members: Renee Brinkmann, Mildred Holle, James Schoenemann, Lorine Schroeder, Floris Whittaker, Lathel Norris, and for others who are not able to come to church

**Community:** for Peggy Sunvison (Ann Koester’s sister) who has health issues; Sarah Farell (Millie Harmann’s daughter); for all those who need rain, that the Lord would bless our lands so that they may produce in abundance; for Brenham Pregnancy Center and those whose lives they touched; Faith Mission; St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church (vacancy); families and individuals cared for by Child Protective Services

**World:** for the people of Florida and others recovering from Hurricane Idalia; for those who have been led astray into false belief; for those facing crisis pregnancies, that they would find the strength to choose life for their unborn child; for the leaders of the nations, that they would make godly decisions for their people and countries; for peace in Ukraine

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**This Week’s Schedule**

**September 10 – September 17**

<b>Today:</b>	<i>Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost</i>	
	<b>9:00 AM</b>	Sunday School, Confirmation, & Adult Bible Class
	<b>10:15 AM</b>	Divine Worship: Setting I
	Acolyte:	Marc Maya
	Greeter:	Vickie Ashorn
	Ushers:	Ben Holtkamp      Ian Schroeder
		Mike Schroeder      Shane Schroeder
<b>Monday:</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>	Worship Online
<b>Tuesday:</b>	<b>6:30 PM</b>	Women’s Bible Study
<b>Wednesday:</b>	<b>8:30 AM</b>	Sonshine
	<b>4:30 PM</b>	Midweek Confirmation Class
<b>Next Sunday:</b>	<i>Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost</i>	
	<b>9:00 AM</b>	Sunday School, Confirmation, & Adult Bible Class
	<b>10:15 AM</b>	Divine Worship: Setting III with Communion
	Acolyte:	Maddison Molitor
	Greeter:	Judy Baichtal
	Ushers:	Lane Janner      Trenton Schwartz
		Lance Searle      Chris Smitherman

**Serving in September: Elder** – Charles Meyer / **Trustee** – Robert Kettler

*If you have a question or thought concerning spiritual care or the church property, please contact the appropriate elder or trustee.*



*The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God by Vickie Ashorn.*

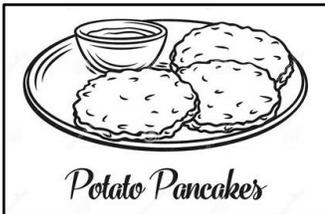
The Men's Club will begin hosting a morning breakfast each month, starting this month on **Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall.** All men of the congregation are invited to attend. Breakfast will be served, with fellowship and Bible study to follow.



**Men of the congregation, this is your opportunity to be involved in your congregation, bond as brothers in Christ, and be fed, both in body and Spirit.** So, mark your calendars and bring your appetites! *Please RSVP with the QR code or go to the Men's Club page on the church website to sign up. We need to know how much food to prepare.*

#### The Lutheran Witness Subscription

It's that time of the year again! Please let us know by emailing us at [office@bethlehemwmpenn.org](mailto:office@bethlehemwmpenn.org) by **Sunday, October 15** if you'd like to make a change to your *Lutheran Witness* subscription. No action is necessary if you do not wish to make a change to your subscription. While the church budget covers the cost of each member household's annual subscription, we kindly ask that you give \$22.50/subscription to help offset this expense. Thank you!



One of the great traditions here at Bethlehem was our **potato pancake supper**. It was a time for the congregation to fellowship while also reaching out to our community. Like so many things, COVID brought a stop to it. I have heard from many people in the congregation who are interested in reviving this tradition again. To that end, I would like an exploratory committee to come together to look into *what it would take to bring back this event successfully*. If you are **interested in joining this committee**, please contact **Matthew Kettler** at [kettlerma@gmail.com](mailto:kettlerma@gmail.com) or 979-251-4172. I would like to have a meeting of those interested next month so please let us know as soon as possible. Thank you.

In Christ's Service and Yours,  
*Pastor Krieg*

*Life Thoughts from Lutherans for Life*



Abortion doesn't just end unborn lives. It also breaks hearts with grief and guilt.

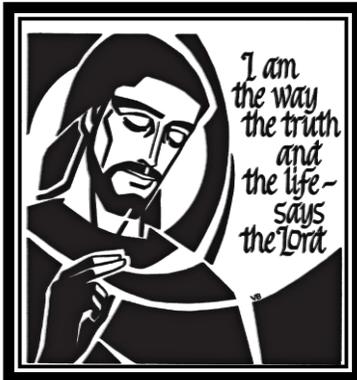
So the Lord doesn't exempt it from condemnation. He commands us to warn our brothers and sisters about its sinfulness (Ezekiel 33:7-8). Nor does He exclude abortion from His forgiveness. He would have us apply His absolution as explicitly to this iniquity as to our own (Psalm 32:5).

For more information, visit <https://lutheransforlife.org/>.

### *Sunday School Corner*

Parents, next week in Sunday School, the kids will study the lesson, "A New Beginning - Noah." Widespread sin and corruption filled the earth, but "Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD" (Genesis 6:8). In this lesson, the students will learn how, following God's command, Noah and his family begin constructing a massive ark, with provisions for an extended journey. At the Lord's direction, each animal kind boards the ark, along with Noah and his family. The fountains of the deep open, and rain falls for forty days, swallowing up every living thing. Through the flood, God keeps Noah's family safe and lands them on a mountain. To prepare for this lesson, discuss with your kids the sign of the promise God gives us: the rainbow. So don't miss out on this exciting lesson, and parents, you can stay and join Pastor Krieg in the adult Sunday School class. See you next week!

### *New Adult Sunday School Lesson*



Who is Jesus? What are His two natures? What were the Messianic prophecies that pointed to Christ coming? These are just some of the questions we answered as we began our study through Unit 5, Jesus Christ: Savior of the World, this morning. Next week, we will continue with Unit 5. If you could not attend today, please join us next Sunday during the Adult Bible Study hour before church, starting at 9 a.m., to learn the answers to these questions and so much more. Now is the time to commit yourself to a deeper and more meaningful understanding of God's Word and your relationship with Him. I hope to see you all next Sunday as we continue our studies. And if you would like a free digital copy of the Life with God book, you can get it here:

<https://storage.snappages.site/HBG39K/assets/files/LifeWithGod-part1.pdf> (part 1)

<https://storage.snappages.site/HBG39K/assets/files/LifeWithGod-part2.pdf> (part 2)

## **WANTED: Conscience - Dead or Alive** **4th Annual Conference, St. Paul, Austin**

*Saturday, October 14, 2023 - 9 AM - 5 PM*  
*St. Paul Lutheran (LCMS) 3501 Red River St, Austin, TX 78705*

Pastor Bryan Wolfmueller is the main teacher for college students and young adults ages 18 - 35ish.

Teaching, preaching, singing, worship, games, food.

Pre- and post-conference social events for Friday and Saturday nights.

Housing needs are being evaluated and must be made known by September 17, 2023.

The 2023 conference schedule will be emailed to you after the registration deadline. To give you a general idea, look at a conference sample at the end of the registration form.

Please register now, the conference registration deadline is Sunday, October 8, 2023, and Housing interest by Sunday, September 17, 2023.

Thank you.

Registration link: <https://forms.gle/aQXZb7taBnjLkxVH9>

Please contact Vera Sweet for questions: [txlutheranya@gmail.com](mailto:txlutheranya@gmail.com)

Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100067647291062>

### **Last Week at Bethlehem**

SERVICE	ATTENDANCE	GIFTS IN RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL
09-03 Sunday School	26	\$81.00
09-03 Youth Bible Class	1	
09-03 Adult Bible Class	32	
09-03 Worship Service	133	General Fund: \$6,469.30 Women's Bible Study Books: \$17.00 Cheri Dahmann Memorial: \$50.00 Nora Thane Moore Memorial: \$200.00



#### Online Giving

You can now give tithes and offerings online by clicking the "Give" tab on our website (<https://www.bethlehemwmpenn.org/>), or just scan the QR code to the left.