



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

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 24, 2023



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Stephanie Dahman



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

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

Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord

LSB 497



1 Come, Ho - ly Ghost, God and Lord, With all Your grac - es
2 Come, ho - ly Light, guide di - vine, Now cause the Word of
3 Come, ho - ly Fire, com - fort true, Grant us the will Your



now out-poured On each be - liev - er's mind and heart;
life to shine. Teach us to know our God a - right
work to do And in Your ser - vice to a - bide;



Your fer - vent love to them im - part. Lord, by the
And call Him Fa - ther with de - light. From ev - 'ry
Let tri - als turn us not a - side. Lord, by Your



bright-ness of Your light In ho - ly faith Your Church u - nite;
er - ror keep us free; Let none but Christ our mas - ter be
pow'r pre - pare each heart, And to our weak-ness strength im - part



From ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry tongue This to Your
That we in liv - ing faith a - bide, In Him, our
That brave - ly here we may con - tend, Through life and



praise, O Lord, our God, be sung: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Lord, with all our might con - fide. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
death to You, our Lord, as - cend. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ 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 ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

INTROIT

Psalm 116:12–13, 15–16; antiphon: v. 17

I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving

and call on the name of the LORD.

What shall I render to the LORD

for all his benefits to me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation

and call on the name of the LORD.

Precious in the sight of the LORD

is the death of his saints.

O LORD, I am your servant;

I am your servant, the son of your maidservant. You have loosed my bonds.

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.

I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving

and call on the name of the LORD.

KYRIE

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 Lord God, heavenly Father, since we cannot stand before You relying on anything we have done, help us trust in Your abiding grace and live according to Your Word; 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

Isaiah 55:6–9

⁶“Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near;
⁷let the wicked forsake his way,
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.
⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Philippians 1:12–14, 19–30

¹²I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, ¹³so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. ¹⁴And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. . . .

¹⁹for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, ²⁰as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. ²⁵Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

²⁷Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. ²⁹For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, ³⁰engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

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 20:1–16***P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twentieth chapter.

C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹[Jesus said:] “For the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’ ⁵So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. ⁶And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’ ⁸And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.’ ⁹And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, ¹²saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius?’ ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first last.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

APOSTLES' CREED

LSB 159

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

Let Children Hear the Mighty Deeds

LSB 867



1 Let chil - dren hear the might - y deeds Which God per -
2 So make to them His glo - ries known, His works of
3 Our sons and daugh - ters we shall tell And they a -
4 O teach them with all dil - i - gence The truths of
5 To learn that in our God a - lone Their hope se -



formed of old, Which in our youn - ger
pow'r and grace; And we'll con - vey His
gain to theirs That gen - er - a - tions
God's own Word, To place in Him their
cure - ly stands, That they may nev - er



days we saw, And which our par - ents told.
won - ders down Through ev - 'ry ris - ing race.
yet un - born May teach them to their heirs.
con - fi - dence, To fear and trust their Lord,
doubt His love But walk in His com - mands.

Text (sts. 1-3, 5): Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.; (st. 4): Bernhard Schumacher, 1886-1978. Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598-1662. Text (sts. 1-3, 5) and tune: Public domain. Text (st. 4) and tune: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005013

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE





1 Sal - va - tion un - to us has come By God's free grace and
 2 What God did in His Law de - mand And none to Him could
 3 It was a false, mis - lead - ing dream That God His Law had
 4 From sin our flesh could not ab - stain, Sin held its sway un -



fa - vor; Good works can - not a - vert our doom, They
 ren - der Caused wrath and woe on ev - 'ry hand For
 giv - en That sin - ners could them - selves re - deem And
 ceas - ing; The task was use - less and in vain, Our



help and save us nev - er. Faith looks to Je - sus
 man, the vile of - fend - er. Our flesh has not those
 by their works gain heav - en. The Law is but a
 guilt was e'er in - creas - ing. None can re - move sin's



Christ a - lone, Who did for all the
 pure de - sires The spir - it of the
 mir - ror bright To bring the in - bred
 poi - soned dart Or pu - ri - fy our



world a - tone; He is our one Re - deem - er.
 Law re - quires, And lost is our con - di - tion.
 sin to light That lurks with - in our na - ture.
 guile - ful heart— So deep is our cor - rup - tion.

5 Yet as the Law must be fulfilled
 Or we must die despairing,
 Christ came and has God's anger stilled,
 Our human nature sharing.
 He has for us the Law obeyed
 And thus the Father's vengeance stayed
 Which over us impended.

6 Since Christ has full atonement made
 And brought to us salvation,
 Each Christian therefore may be glad
 And build on this foundation.
 Your grace alone, dear Lord, I plead,
 Your death is now my life indeed,
 For You have paid my ransom.

7 Let me not doubt, but truly see
 Your Word cannot be broken;
 Your call rings out, "Come unto Me!"
 No falsehood have You spoken.
 Baptized into Your precious name,
 My faith cannot be put to shame,
 And I shall never perish.

8 The Law reveals the guilt of sin
 And makes us conscience-stricken;
 But then the Gospel enters in
 The sinful soul to quicken.
 Come to the cross, trust Christ, and live;
 The Law no peace can ever give,
 No comfort and no blessing.

9 Faith clings to Jesus' cross alone
 And rests in Him unceasing;
 And by its fruits true faith is known,
 With love and hope increasing.
 For faith alone can justify;
 Works serve our neighbor and supply
 The proof that faith is living.

△10 All blessing, honor, thanks, and praise
 To Father, Son, and Spirit,
 The God who saved us by His grace;
 All glory to His merit.
 O triune God in heav'n above,
 You have revealed Your saving love;
 Your blessed name we hallow.

Text: Paul Speratus, 1484–1551; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.
 Tune: Etlich Cristlich lider, 1524, Wittenberg
 Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON
What Is His – Matthew 20:1–16

OFFERTORY

LSB 159



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.



G A - men.

CLOSING HYMN

LSB 826

Hark, the Voice of Jesus Crying



1 Hark, the voice of Je - sus cry - ing, "Who will go and work to - day?
 2 If you can - not speak like an - gels, If you can - not preach like Paul,
 3 If you can - not be a watch - man, Stand - ing high on Zi - on's wall,
 4 Let none hear you i - dly say - ing, "There is noth - ing I can do,"



Fields are white and har - vests wait - ing— Who will bear the sheaves a - way?
 You can tell the love of Je - sus, You can say He died for all.
 Point - ing out the path to heav - en, Of - f'ring life and peace to all,
 While the mul - ti - tudes are dy - ing And the Mas - ter calls for you.



Loud and long the Mas - ter call - eth; Rich re - ward He of - fers thee.
 If you can - not rouse the wick - ed With the judg - ment's dread a - larms,
 With your prayers and with your boun - ties You can do what God com - mands;
 Take the task He gives you glad - ly, Let His work your plea - sure be;



Who will an - swer, glad - ly say - ing, "Here am I, send me, send me"?
 You can lead the lit - tle chil - dren To the Sav - ior's wait - ing arms.
 You can be like faith - ful Aar - on, Hold - ing up the proph - et's hands.
 An - swer quick - ly when He call - eth, "Here am I, send me, send me!"



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: Greg Gaskamp, who is recovering in the hospital from a procedure; Blake Powers, who has health issues; Edith Erwin, Deloris Griffin, and Roger Schroeder; our Shut-in members: Renee Brinkmann, Mildred Holle, James Schoenemann, Lorine Schroeder, Floris Whittaker, Lathel Norris, and others who are unable to come to church

Community: for all those who still 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; for the 40 Days of Life campaign beginning on Sept. 27th, that it may be successful and people will turn away from a culture of death towards a culture of life in Christ Jesus; Faith Mission; St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church (vacancy); families and individuals cared for by Child Protective Services

World: 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 24 – October 1

Today:	<i>Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost</i>	
	8:00 AM	Outdoor Amphitheater Worship
	9:00 AM	Sunday School, Confirmation, & Adult Bible Class
	10:15 AM	Divine Worship: Setting I
	Acolyte:	Hannah Nowicki
	Greeter:	Stephanie Dahman
	Ushers:	Reid Janner Samuel Smitherman
		Rallin Wellmann Billy Ashorn
	11:30 AM	Youth League Paintball
Monday:	10:00 AM	Worship Online
	10:00 AM	Sisters in Christ Bible Study
Tuesday:	6:30 PM	Women’s Bible Study
Wednesday:	4:30 PM	Midweek Confirmation Class
Thursday:	2:00 PM	LWML Quilt Tacking
Saturday:	7:30 AM	Men’s Club Breakfast and Bible Study

Next Sunday:

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 AM Sunday School, Confirmation, & Adult Bible Class

10:15 AM Divine Worship: Setting I with Communion

Acolyte: Giuliana Krieg

Greeter: Susan Dieterich

Ushers: Wyatt Janner Blane Ashorn

Brian Ashorn Jason Ashorn

11:30 AM Youth League Meeting

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 Stephanie Dahman.

LWML will be tacking quilts this Thursday, September 28 at 2pm in the Parish Hall. We hope to see you then!



The Bethlehem Lutheran Youth League will **meet next Sunday, October 1st** for its monthly meeting after worship. Lunch will be served.

The Men's Club will begin hosting a morning breakfast each month,

starting **this Saturday, September 30th, 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

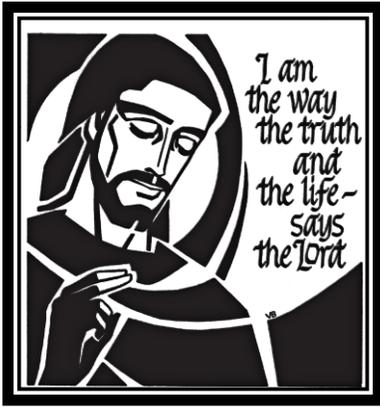
It's that time of the year again! Please let us know by emailing us at office@bethlehemwmpenn.org by **Sunday, October 15** if you'd like to make a change to your *Lutheran Witness* subscription. **No action is necessary if you do not wish to make a change to your subscription.** While the church budget 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!



Sunday School Corner

Parents, next week in Sunday School, the kids will study the lesson, "A Promising Dream." Jacob undeservedly receives his father's blessing—he and his offspring will dwell in the land of Canaan. As the days of Isaac's life approach their end, Jacob rightly fears for his life. Following the urging of Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob sets out for the house of his uncle Laban. Along the way, Jacob dreams of a ladder reaching to heaven, with the Lord Himself standing at the top. The preincarnate Christ repeats God's promise to give this land to Jacob and his descendants. To prepare your kids for this lesson, as a family, discuss how God can use even sinful people to fulfill His plans. 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



What is grace? How do we speak about salvation? What is redemption, the New Covenant, and propitiation? What is reconciliation and atonement? What is justification? These are just some of the questions we began to answer as we started our study of Unit 6, God's Plan of Salvation, this morning. Next week, we will continue with Unit 6. 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)

Life Thoughts from Lutherans for Life



Abortion and euthanasia begrudge God's generosity (Matthew 20:15) by regarding one life as less than another. Thank the Lord that His ways are not our ways (Isaiah 55:8), for none of us deserves to survive!

Yet He preserves and protects us still, just as much as our every neighbor. O Lord, make us bold to speak Your Word of Life without fear (Philippians 1:14)!

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



Bluebonnet Zone - LWML Fall Rally

Next Sunday, October 1, 2023

When: Registration at 1:30 pm, Program at 2:00 pm

Light dinner following around 5:00 pm

Where: Trinity Lutheran Church in Navasota—1530 E. Washington

Speaker: Rev. Jason Moreno, Director of Discipleship, Christ Memorial Lutheran Church, Houston, Texas

RSVP to Karen Byers by **Monday, September 25** at

bgklbyers@gmail.com.

Theme Verse: Galatians 6:9-10 (NIV) *Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.*



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.

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.](#)

Thank you.

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

Please contact Vera Sweet for questions: txlutheranya@gmail.com

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



Online Giving

You may 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.

Last Week at Bethlehem

SERVICE	ATTENDANCE	GIFTS IN RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL
09-17 Sunday School	20	\$51.00
09-17 Youth Bible Class	2	
09-17 Adult Bible Class	32	
09-17 Worship Service	119	General Fund: \$1,871.00 Lutheran Witness Fund: \$67.50 Sunday School: \$140.00 Local Missions: \$25.00 Fund to be determined: \$2,200.00 Ladies Bible Study Books: \$40.00