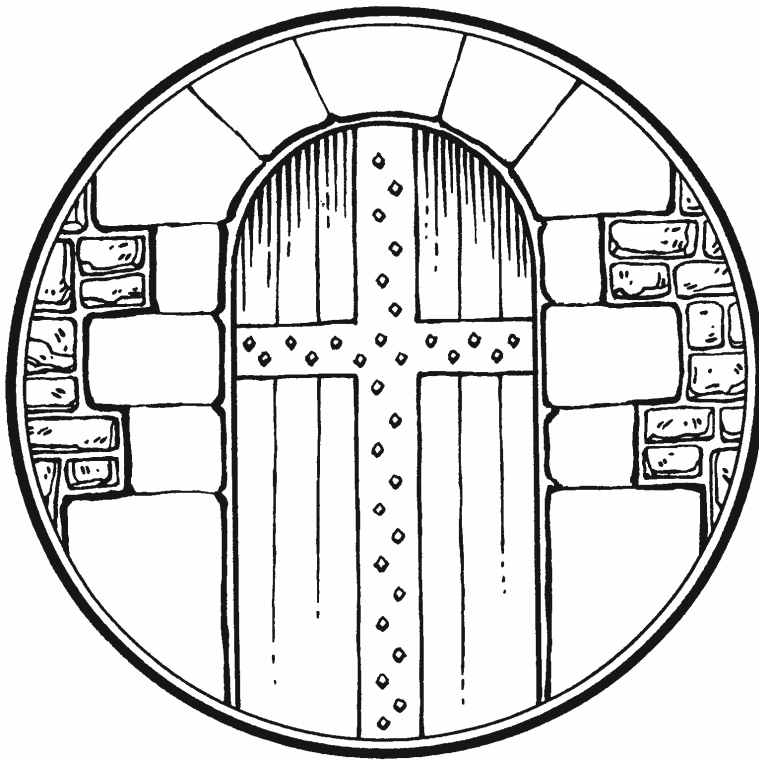




*Bethlehem Lutheran Church—William Penn
Founded 1860—Lutheran Church Missouri Synod*

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MAY 3, 2026
10:15 AM**



Pastor

Rev. Kelly Dean Krieg
(214) 208-1364

PastorKrieg@BethlehemWmPenn.org

Secretary

Janice Pazderny
(979) 836-7303

Office@BethlehemWmPenn.org

Organist

Ann Sommer

Ushers

Caleb Kettler
Matt Kettler
J R Kettler
Don Koester

Acolyte

Amelia Kettler

Greeter

Laura Fisher

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2026 – 10:15 AM

Divine Service: Setting I with Holy Communion

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

Pre-Service Music



May Bible Verse

Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.

Romans 12:12

Our Mission Statement

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



In Light of 1 Cor. 11:23-26, Bethlehem Lutheran Church maintains the historical practice of “closed” communion in the belief that the Sacrament requires faith in Christ’s words that His body and blood are truly present. Furthermore, participation in the Sacrament is a sign of our unity in the faith with all those who join us at the altar. *For that reason, we ask that those visitors desiring to commune be members in good standing of a congregation of the LCMS and speak to the pastor or an elder before the beginning of the service.* Our denial of admission to those who are members of another confession is not a judgment upon their faith but a recognition that we hold to different confessions concerning God, salvation, and the Sacrament itself. Such individuals are invited to speak with the pastor following the service.

Ringing of the Church Bell

OPENING HYMN

Christ Is Our Cornerstone

LSB 912



1 Christ is our cor - ner - stone, On Him a - lone we build;
2 Here may we gain from heav'n The grace which we im - plore,
△ 3 Oh, then, with hymns of praise These hal - lowed courts shall ring;



With His true saints a - lone The courts of heav'n are filled. On His
And may that grace, once giv'n, Be with us ev - er - more Un - til
Our voic - es we will raise The Three in One to sing And thus



great love Our hopes we place Of pres-ent grace And joys a - bove.
that day When all the blest To end-less rest Are called a - way.
pro - claim In joy - ful song, Both loud and long, That glo - rious name.

Text and tune: Public domain

The sign of the ✠ Cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

INVOCATION

LSB 151

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

C Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

LSB 151

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.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

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.

Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song,
his praise in the assembly of the godly!
 I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up
and have not let my foes rejoice over me.
 O LORD my God, I cried to you for help,
and you have healed me.
 O LORD, you have brought up my soul from Sheol;
you restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.
 Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints,
and give thanks to his holy name.
 For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime.
Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.
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.
 Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song,
his praise in the assembly of the godly!

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

This Is the Feast

LSB 155



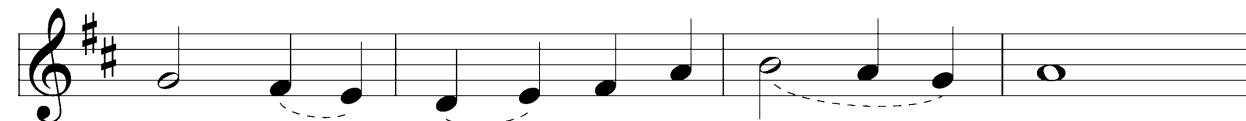
C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 — Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
5 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*

join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*

gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

C O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

FIRST READING

Acts 6:1-9; 7:2a, 51-60

¹Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. ²And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. ³Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. ⁴But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." ⁵And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. ⁶These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

⁷And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

⁸And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen. . . .

²And Stephen said:

"Brothers and fathers, hear me. . . .

⁵¹You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. ⁵²Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of

the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, ⁵³you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.”

⁵⁴Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. ⁵⁵But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶And he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” ⁵⁷But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. ⁵⁸Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

adapt. From Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6

Christ has risen from the dead.

[God the Father] has crowned him with glory and honor.

He has given him dominion over the works of his hands;

he has put all things under his feet.

EPISTLE

1 Peter 2:2-10

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation— ³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in Scripture:

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

⁷So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone,”

⁸and

“A stone of stumbling,
and a rock of offense.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his

own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

COMMON ALLELUIA

LSB 156

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

John 14:1-14

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter.

C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹[Jesus said:] “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” ⁹Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

¹²“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.

¹³Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

NICENE CREED

LSB 159

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the
dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,

**I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead.**

Sit

HYMN OF THE DAY

At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

LSB 633



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing Praise to
2 Praise we Him, whose love di - vine Gives His
3 Where the pas - chal blood is poured, Death's dread
4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Pas - chal



our vic - to - rious King, Who has washed us in the tide
sa - cred blood for wine, Gives His bod - y for the feast—
an - gel sheathes the sword; Is - rael's hosts tri - um-phant go
vic - tim, pas - chal bread; With sin - cer - i - ty and love



Flow - ing from His pierc - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!
Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!
Through the wave that drowns the foe. Al - le - lu - ia!
Eat we man - na from a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!

5 Mighty Victim from the sky,
Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath You lie;
You have conquered in the fight,
You have brought us life and light.
Alleluia!

7 Easter triumph, Easter joy!
This alone can sin destroy;
From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,
Newborn souls in You to be.
Alleluia!

6 Now no more can death appall,
Now no more the grave enthrall;
You have opened paradise,
And Your saints in You shall rise.
Alleluia!

△ 8 Father, who the crown shall give,
Savior, by whose death we live,
Spirit, guide through all our days:
Three in One, Your name we praise.
Alleluia!

Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Robert Campbell, 1814–68, alt. Tune: Kirchengeseng, 1566, Ivance. Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

Through Difficulties to the Heights
John 14:1-4

Stand

OFFERTORY

LSB 159

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

Sit

OFFERING

Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

LSB 160

P The Lord be with you.

C And al - so with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS

LSB 161



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

LSB 161

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

LSB 162

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI

LSB 163

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.



C A - men.

AGNUS DEI

LSB 163



C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace.

Sit

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared

LSB 622



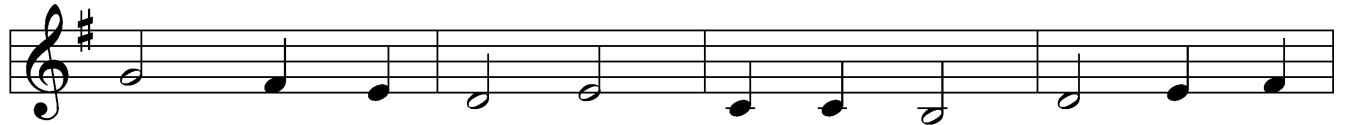
1 Lord Je - sus Christ, You have pre - pared This feast for
 2 Al - though You did to heav'n as - cend, Where an - gel
 3 Yet, Sav - ior, You are not con - fined To an - y
 4 We eat this bread and drink this cup, Your pre - cious



our sal - va - tion; It is Your bod - y
 hosts are dwell - ing, And in Your pres - ence
 hab - i - ta - tion; But You are pres - ent
 Word be - liev - ing That Your true bod - y



and Your blood, And at Your in - vi - ta - tion
 they be - hold Your glo - ry, all ex - cel - ling,
 e - ven now Here with Your con - gre - ga - tion.
 and Your blood Our lips are here re - ceiv - ing.



As wea - ry souls, with sin op - pressed, We come to
 And though Your peo - ple shall not see Your glo - ry
 Firm as a rock this truth shall stand, Un - moved by
 This Word re - mains for - ev - er true, All things are



You for need - ed rest, For com - fort, and for par - don.
 and Your maj - es - ty Till dawns the judg - ment morn - ing,
 an - y dar - ing hand Or sub - tle craft and cun - ning.
 pos - si - ble with You, For You are Lord Al - might - y.

5 Though reason cannot understand,
 Yet faith this truth embraces:
 Your body, Lord, is even now
 At once in many places.
 I leave to You how this can be;
 Your Word alone suffices me;
 I trust its truth unfailing.

7 Grant that we worthily receive
 Your supper, Lord, our Savior,
 And, truly grieving for our sins,
 May prove by our behavior
 That we are thankful for Your race
 And day by day may run our race,
 In holiness increasing.

6 Lord, I believe what You have said;
 Help me when doubts assail me.
 Remember that I am but dust,
 And let my faith not fail me.
 Your supper in this vale of tears
 Refreshes me and stills my fears
 And is my priceless treasure.

8 For Your consoling supper, Lord,
 Be praised throughout all ages!
 Preserve it, for in ev'ry place
 The world against it rages.
 Grant that this sacrament may be
 A blessed comfort unto me
 When living and when dying.

Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me

LSB 722



1 Lord, take my hand and lead me Up - on life's way;
2 Lord, when the tem - pest ra - ges, I need not fear,
3 Lord, when the shad - ows length - en And night has come,



Di - rect, pro - tect, and feed me From day to day.
For You, the Rock of A - ges, Are al - ways near.
I know that You will strength - en My steps toward home.



With - out Your grace and fa - vor I go a - stray;
Close by Your side a - bid - ing, I fear no foe,
Then noth - ing can im - pede me, O bless - ed Friend;



So take my hand, O Sav - ior, And lead the way.
For when Your hand is guid - ing, In peace I go.
So take my hand and lead me Un - to the end.

Text: Julie von Hausmann, 1825–1901; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt. Tune: P. Friedrich Silcher, 1789–1860. Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005013. Tune: Public domain





1 Glo - rious things of you are spo - ken, Zi - on, cit - y
 2 See, the streams of liv - ing wa - ters, Spring - ing from e -
 3 Round each hab - i - ta - tion hov - 'ring, See the cloud and
 4 Sav - ior, since of Zi - on's cit - y I through grace a



of our God; He whose word can - not be bro - ken Formed you
 ter - nal love, Well sup - ply your sons and daugh - ters And all
 fire ap - pear For a glo - ry and a cov - 'ring, Show - ing
 mem - ber am, Let the world de - ride or pit - y, I will



for His own a - bode. On the Rock of A - ges found - ed,
 fear of want re - move. Who can faint while such a riv - er
 that the Lord is near. Thus de - riv - ing from their ban - ner
 glo - ry in Your name. Fad - ing are the world's vain plea - sures,



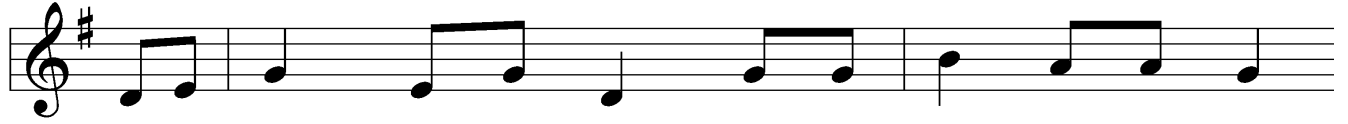
What can shake your sure re - pose? With sal - va - tion's
 Ev - er will their thirst as - suage? Grace, which like the
 Light by night and shade by day, Safe they feed up -
 All their boast - ed pomp and show; Sol - id joys and



walls sur - round - ed, You may smile at all your foes.
 Lord, the giv - er, Nev - er fails from age to age.
 on the man - na Which God gives them on their way.
 last - ing trea - sures None but Zi - on's chil - dren know.



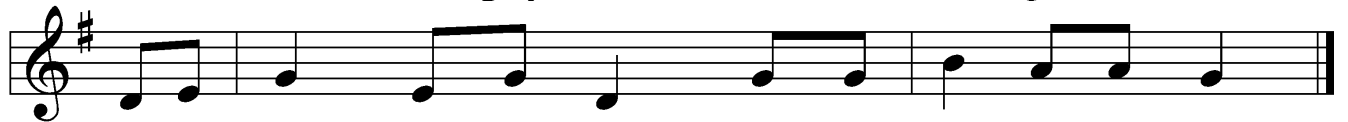
1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
 2 "Fear not! I am with you, O be not dis - mayed,
 3 "The soul that on Je - sus has leaned for re - pose
 4 "When through fi - ery tri - als your path - way will lie,
 5 "Through - out all their life - time My peo - ple will prove



Is laid for your faith in His ex - cel - lent Word!
 For I am your God and will still give you aid;
 I will not, I will not, de - sert to his foes;
 My grace, all - suf - fi - cient, will be your sup - ply.
 My sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;



What more can He say than to you He has said
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
 That soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,
 The flames will not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign
 And then, when gray hairs will their tem - ples a - dorn,



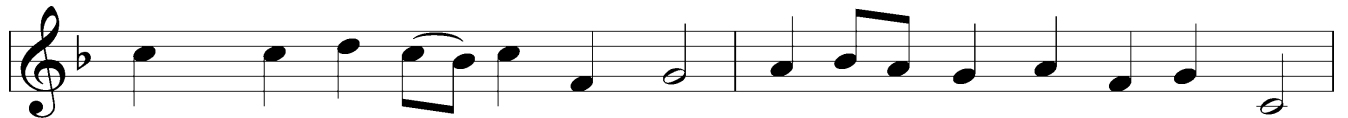
Who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
 Up - held by My righ - teous, om - ni - po - tent hand.
 I'll nev - er, no nev - er, no nev - er, for - sake!
 Your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine.
 Like lambs they will still in My bos - om be borne."

Text: A Selection of Hymns, 1787, London, alt. Tune: Genuine Church Music, 1832, Winchester. Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

Thank the Lord



☐ Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud - ly bear His name.

He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy
with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

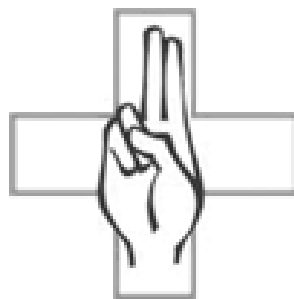
LSB 166

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.

Sit



CLOSING HYMN

Splendor and Honor

LSB 950



1 Splen - dor and hon - or, maj - es - ty and pow - er
2 Praised be the true Lamb, slain for our re - demp - tion,
3 To the Al - might - y, throned in heav'n - ly splen - dor,



Are Yours, O Lord God, fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing,
By whose self - of - f'ring we are made God's peo - ple:
And to the Sav - ior, Christ our Lamb and Shep - herd,



For by Your bid - ding was the whole cre -
A priest - ly king - dom, from all tongues and
Be ad - o - ra - tion, praise, and glo - ry



a - tion Called in - to be - ing.
na - tions, Called to God's ser - vice.
giv - en, Now and for - ev - er.

Text: Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1944 Tune: K. Lee Scott, 1950 Text: © 1990 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005013 Tune: © 1987 K. Lee Scott, admin. MorningStar Music Publishers. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005013

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.



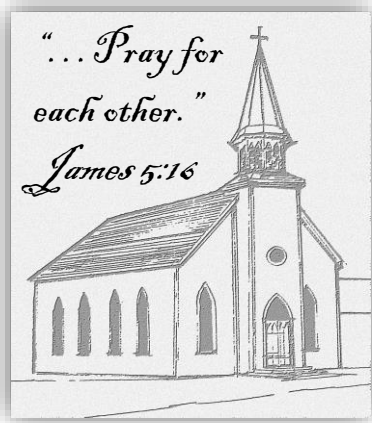
*In Our Thoughts
& Prayers*

Congregation: for the family of Tim Garner (Dorcas' brother-in-law) as they mourn his loss; health and healing for David Boenker, health and healing for Jerry Kohring; healing for Terry and Becky Lueckemeyer; healing for Lillian Hayden from knee surgery; for Tom Hayden's recovery after surgery and continued healing; for Adeline Platt's health; and Deloris Griffin; for our shut-in members: Renee Brinkmann, Mildred Holle, Elvera Schroeder, and others who are unable to come to church.

Community: blessings on William and Skylar Killinger as he prepares for his Holy Ministry; for Grace Lutheran School, that they may continue to be a place for the children of our community and congregation to learn and grow in their faith and knowledge of God's world; may our Lord continue to deliver to us favorable weather; for Brenham Pregnancy Center and those whose lives they touched; Faith Mission; families and individuals cared for by Child Protective Services.

World: for all those suffering through war, may God watch over and protect His children, and by His Holy Spirit, may they all come to know Christ as their Savior and thus enjoy eternity with Him, 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.

Bethlehem at Prayer



Prayer is a vital part of our life together in Christ. To that end, *Bethlehem at Prayer* is a means to encourage more intentional prayer for one another. This is an opportunity for us to support one another in faith, lifting up each household by name before our gracious God. While members can always request prayers at any time, this effort ensures that every family at Bethlehem is prayed for regularly. We invite you to join us in encouragement and intercession, praying for our brothers and sisters in Christ each week.

Please remember these families in your prayers this week:

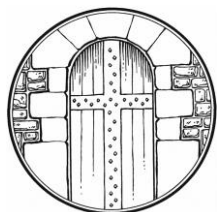
- Fridye – Christian, Megan, Madison, Hadley, Walker
- Gaddy – Randy, Sharon
- Klussmann – Marilyn
- Klussmann – Karlton, Artie
- Schroeder – Elvera
- Schwartz – Jeff, Sharon

May the Lord bless and strengthen them in faith and life.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Week's Schedule

May 3 – May 10



Today: *Fifth Sunday of Easter*

9:00 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Class

9:00 AM Youth League Meeting

10:15 AM Divine Worship: Setting I with Holy Communion

Acolyte: Amelia Kettler

Greeter: Laura Fisher

Ushers: Caleb Kettler

Matt Kettler

J R Kettler

Don Koester



Tuesday:

7:00 PM LWML Social

7:30 PM LWML Meeting

Thursday:

6:00 PM Elders Meeting



6:30 PM Ladies Bible Study

Next Sunday: *Sixth Sunday of Easter*

9:00 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Class

10:15 AM Divine Worship: Setting I with Holy Communion

11:30 AM Shekel Store

New Member Reception

Acolyte: Dillion Nowicki

Greeter: Brenda Flisowski

Ushers: Michael Kettler Robert Kettler

Caleb Klussmann Corey Klussmann



Serving in May: Elder – Brad Molitor / **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 are placed on the altar in honor of Delwin and Doris Gaskamp for their fifty-seven years of marriage. Thankful for all the blessings the Lord has given them.

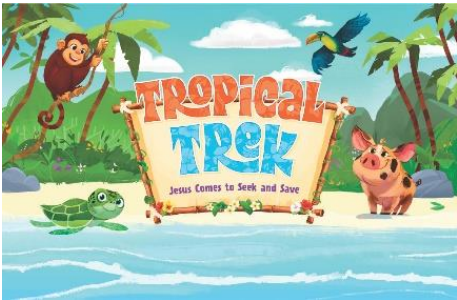
Lutheran Education Scholarship Announcement



The Board of Missions is pleased to announce the establishment of a Lutheran Education Scholarship for the members of Bethlehem Lutheran Church. This scholarship is available to all members who attend an LCMS daycare, parochial school, university, or seminary. Funds will be distributed at the beginning of the 2026–2027 school year.

If you would like to support this mission and help encourage faithful Lutheran education, you may contribute by placing your gift in the offering plate and designating it for the *Lutheran Education Scholarship Fund*. For more information, please see Pastor Krieg.

Mark your Calendars for...



Tropical Trek VBS - June 16-19

We need adult volunteers to help lead music, crafts, games, and the kitchen. If you are interested, please reach out to Ann Smitherman or sign up in the parish hall. Also, if you are interested in your child or grandchild taking part in VBS this summer, please sign them up in the parish hall.



The LWML social and meeting for **May** will be held **this Tuesday the 5th starting at 7:00 PM**. We will be honoring our special members of LWML who have been a member for 50 years or more. All the ladies of the congregation are invited to attend.



The LWML is collecting items for Disaster Relief Healthcare Kits. Please bring any of the items listed below to the Parish Hall and place in the marked basket by **May 24th**.

Health Care Kit

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 bath towel | 1 pack of floss |
| 1 washcloth | 1 toothpaste (2 if travel size) |
| 1 shampoo (2 if travel size) | 1 comb |
| 1 bar of soap (2 if travel size) | 1 deodorant |
| 1 toothbrush (individually sealed) | 1 nail clippers |

FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR



The 2026 Flower Chart is posted in the Parish Hall foyer. There are **two** openings available in the month of **May**. Please sign up for that special occasion. The church secretary will remind you of your upcoming commitment via email or phone call. The Bethlehem LWML appreciates your support.



Women of Bethlehem:

Please join Sisters in Christ as we start a new monthly Bible study: *Preoccupied with Promise*.

The study begins **Saturday, May 23rd, at 8:30 AM**, in the Parish Hall. **Contact Amy Schroeder if you have any questions: (979) 255-4206.** Come to grow in your love for and knowledge of Our Lord with us!

THE POTATO PANCAKE SUPPER IS BACK!

Continuing in the great success of last year, the 67th annual Potato Pancake Supper will return **Friday, June 5, from 5:00 to 7:00 pm.**



Bring the whole family for an evening of great food and fun, featuring traditional German music, along with a water slide bounce house for the kids. Please see Charles Meyer about tickets, or RSVP using the QR code to pay for your ticket at the door. We look forward to seeing you once again at the 67th Annual Bethlehem Lutheran Potato Pancake Supper!

All Members of the Congregation are invited and encouraged to serve at the Potato Pancake Supper. Please contact Diane Jaehne (979-251-0248) to learn more.

Thank you!



May 3 – Fifth Sunday of Easter – The truth of God’s Word is not always welcomed by “stiff-necked people” who “resist the Holy Spirit,” and even become enraged at hearing the truth. Stephen faithfully proclaimed that Word even though it led to his martyrdom (Acts 7:51, 59-

60). Many angry voices today demand unfettered access to abortion or physician-assisted suicide. But we must continue to sound the trumpet of truth, for only the power of God’s Word can open the eyes of the blind and execute justice for the oppressed (Psalm 146:7-8). It is the narrow road of faith in Jesus Christ, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, that gives us access to our Father in heaven (John 14:6). Baptized into Christ, we are living stones, being built up into a spiritual house, that we may proclaim the Good News of the One who calls us out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Peter 2:5, 9).

Sunday School Corner



In our Spring unit, we conclude our study of the New Testament, beginning with the appearance of the resurrected Christ and continuing through the growth of the Early Church. This morning, the kids studied the lesson “On Your Feet – Paul, Barnabas, and a Man Born Lame.” The Holy Spirit leads the Church at Antioch to send Paul and Barnabas on a momentous missionary journey. In Lystra, they heal a man who had never

been able to walk. The people who see this think Paul and Barnabas are gods come down to earth, and they attempt to offer sacrifices to them. In grief, Paul and Barnabas tear their clothes and rush into the crowd, barely preventing them from making the offerings. To reinforce this lesson with your kids, as a family, discuss: Who does the Church send out today to go and preach the Good News of Jesus? Paul and Barnabas pointed people to the one true God. How can you point people to the one true God? What can you say about Jesus, your Savior? The devil confused the people of Lystra, leading them to think that false gods had the power to heal. The devil confuses and tricks people today, encouraging them to reject the one true God and put their trust in other gods. What are some of these other, false gods? Also, parents, you can join Pastor Krieg in the adult Sunday School class. See you next week!

High School Lesson

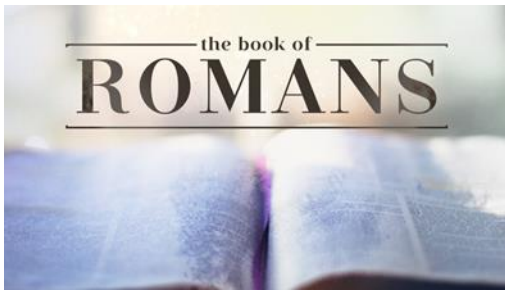
Our High School Sunday School class is beginning a new study series using Not-So-Nice Bible Stories: Master Criminals. In this engaging and thought-provoking study, students will explore the stories of some of Scripture’s most notorious wrongdoers, and discover how God’s mercy and grace still shine through even the darkest human deeds. Each lesson points us to Christ, who took the punishment for all sin upon Himself and gives us forgiveness, life, and salvation. Join us as we dig into God’s Word, wrestle with tough questions, and see how even “master criminals” reveal our need for the one true Savior, Jesus Christ.

Lesson 17 – Your Money or Your Life (Acts 5:1–11)

In this week’s lesson, our High School Sunday School class studied the account of Ananias and Sapphira in the early Church. Students explored how greed, pride, and the desire for human praise led them to lie not only to the apostles, but to God Himself. Their story reminds us that sin is never merely outward behavior; it begins in the heart and seeks to place trust in ourselves rather than in the Lord. We discussed how God’s holiness is not something to be taken lightly, yet His purpose is always to call sinners to repentance and faith. This sobering account points us to Christ, who

gave not part, but all of Himself for us, securing forgiveness and life by His perfect sacrifice.

Adult Sunday School Lesson



St. Paul’s letter to the Romans is often called the “chief part of the New Testament.” Romans clearly lays out the heart of the Christian faith: we are justified by grace alone through faith alone on account of Christ alone. In this rich epistle, Paul teaches on sin and righteousness, law and Gospel, baptism, the struggle against the old Adam, and life lived in the

freedom of the Gospel. Whether you’ve been attending or have yet to join us, this is a wonderful time to dig into God’s Word together and grow in our understanding of His mercy in Christ. Come and be strengthened in the faith that saves and learn how the Gospel shapes our daily lives. We look forward to studying this treasure of Scripture with you! If you could not attend today, please join us next Sunday during the Adult Bible Study hour before church, starting at 9 a.m. 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.



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

DATE	SERVICE	ATTENDANCE	GIFTS IN RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL
April 26	Amphitheater Service	35	General Fund \$2,575.00 Seminarian \$575.00 Stain Glass Window Repair \$1,000.00
April 26	Sunday School Youth Bible Class Adult Bible Class	8 3 26	\$49.77
April 26	Worship Service	74	General Fund \$2,908.03 Youth League \$150.00 Seminarian \$50.00

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Voters Summary

April 22, 2026

At the second quarterly meeting of the Voters Assembly, the reception of Justin, Rylee and Jaxson Elliott from Grace Lutheran and new class members Kerry Krivdo and Tracy O'Neil were accepted.

A peaceful release was given to Michael and Susan Dieterich to Trinity Lutheran, Riesel, Texas and to Naomi Brocksmith and Castiel Marshall to Holy Cross Lutheran, College Station.

Erik and Kristen Berglund and David and Cathy Hodge were welcome into the Voters Assembly.

The Voters approved the repair of the stained-glass window by Freebirds of Cypress, Texas with an estimated cost of \$8,000.00. Congregational members may contribute to the cost by giving a donation with a designation to the repair.

Approval was given for a new laptop for live streaming the church worship service.