



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

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 17, 2026

10:15 AM



Pastor

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Collin Schroeder
Michael Schroeder
Shane Schroeder

Acolyte

Taylor Hinze

Greeter

Karen Gaskamp

Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 17, 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

In Thee Is Gladness

LSB 818



1 In Thee is glad - ness A - mid all sad - ness, Je - sus,
2 Since He is ours, _____ We fear no pow - ers, Not of



sun - shine of my heart. By Thee are giv - en The gifts of
earth nor sin nor death. He sees and bless - es In worst dis -



heav - en, Thou the true Re - deem - er art. Our souls Thou
tress - es; He can change them with a breath. Where - fore the



wak - est, Our bonds Thou break - est; Who trusts Thee sure - ly Has built se - sto - ry Tell of His glo - ry With hearts and voic - es; All heav'n re -



cure - ly; He stands for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia! Our hearts are joic - es In Him for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia! We shout for



pin - ing To see Thy shin - ing, Dy - ing or liv - ing glad - ness, Tri - umph o'er sad - ness, Love Him and praise Him



To Thee are cleav - ing; Naught can us sev - er: Al - le - lu - ia! And still shall raise Him Glad hymns for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Johann Lindemann, 1549–1631; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.. Tune: Giovanni Giacomo Gastoldi, c. 1556–c. 1622. Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

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.

CONFESSON 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.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

INTROIT

Psalm 100; antiphon: Psalm 101:1

I will sing of steadfast love and justice;

to you, O LORD, I will make music.

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!

Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!

Know that the LORD, he is God!

It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!

Give thanks to him; bless his name!

For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever,

and his faithfulness to all generations.

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 sing of steadfast love and justice;

to you, O LORD, I will make music.

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

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 King of glory, Lord of hosts, uplifted in triumph far above all heavens, leave us not without consolation but send us the Spirit of truth whom You promised from the Father; for You live and reign with Him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

C **Amen.**

Sit

FIRST READING

Acts 1:12-26

¹²Then [the apostles] returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. ¹³And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. ¹⁴All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

¹⁵In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said, ¹⁶“Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. ¹⁷For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.” ¹⁸(Now this man bought a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. ¹⁹And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.)

²⁰“For it is written in the Book of Psalms,

“May his camp become desolate,
and let there be no one to dwell in it’;

and

“Let another take his office.’

²¹So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²²beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection.” ²³And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴And they prayed and said, “You, Lord, who know

the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen ²⁵to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” ²⁶And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

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 4: 12-19; 5:6-11

¹²Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³But rejoice insofar as you share Christ’s sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. ¹⁵But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. ¹⁶Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. ¹⁷For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? ¹⁸And

“If the righteous is scarcely saved,
what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?”

¹⁹Therefore let those who suffer according to God’s will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good. . . .

⁶Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, ⁷casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. ⁸Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. ¹⁰And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

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 17:1-11

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

C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, ²since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. ⁵And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

⁶“I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. ⁸For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. ¹¹And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

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

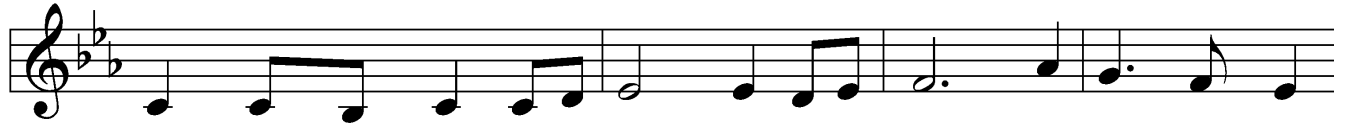
**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
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
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

HYMN OF THE DAY

Christ Is the World's Redeemer

LSB 539



1 Christ is the world's Re - deem - er, The lov - er of the pure,
2 Christ has our host sur - round - ed With clouds of mar - tyrs bright,
3 Down through the realm of dark - ness He strode in vic - to - ry,
△ 4 Glo - ry to God the Fa - ther, The un - be - got - ten One,



The font of heav'n-ly wis - dom, Our trust and hope se - cure,
Who wave their palms in tri - umph And fire us for the fight.
And at the hour ap - point - ed He rose tri - um - phant-ly.
All hon - or be to Je - sus, His sole - be - got - ten Son,



The ar - mor of His sol - diers, The Lord of earth and sky,
Then Christ the cross as - cend - ed To save a world un - done
And now, to heav'n as - cend - ed, He sits up - on the throne
And to the Ho - ly Spir - it— The per - fect Trin - i - ty.



Our health while we are liv - ing, Our life when we shall die.
And, suf - f'ring for the sin - ful, Our full re - demp - tion won.
Whence He had ne'er de - part - ed, His Fa - ther's and His own.
Let all the worlds give an - swer: A - men! So let it be.

Text: attr. Columba, 521–597; tr. Duncan MacGregor, 1854–1923, alt. Tune: Irish. Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

A Little While Beneath the Cross

1 Peter 4:12-19; 5:6-11

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, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who after His resurrection appeared openly to all His disciples and in their sight was taken up into heaven that He might make us partakers of His divine life. Therefore 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

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, We Humbly Pray

LSB 623

1 Lord Je - sus Christ, we hum - bly pray That we may
 2 Give us, who share this won-drous food, Your bod - y
 3 By faith Your Word has made us bold To seize the
 4 One bread, one cup, one bod - y, we, Re - joic - ing
 5 Lord Je - sus Christ, we hum - bly pray: O keep us
 feast on You to - day; Be - neath these forms of
 bro - ken and Your blood, The grate - ful peace of
 gift of love re - told; All that You are we
 in our u - ni - ty, Pro - claim Your love un -
 stead - fast till that day When each will be Your
 bread and wine En - rich us with Your grace di - vine.
 sins for - giv'n, The cer - tain joys of heirs of heav'n.
 here re - ceive, And all we are to You we give.
 til You come To bring Your scat - tered loved ones home.
 wel - comed guest In heav - en's high and ho - ly feast.

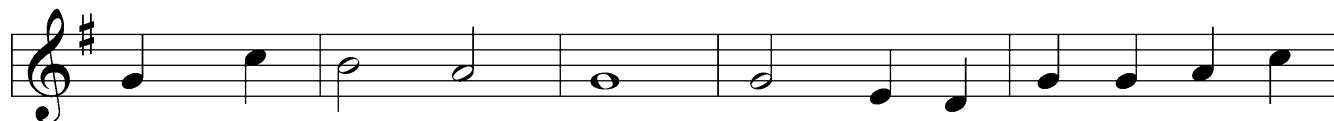
Text and tune: Public domain

Father, We Thank Thee

LSB 652



1 Fa - ther, we thank Thee who hast plant - ed Thy ho - ly
2 Watch o'er Thy Church, O Lord, in mer - cy, Save it from



name with - in our hearts. Knowl - edge and faith and life im -
e - vil, guard it still, Per - fect it in Thy love, u -



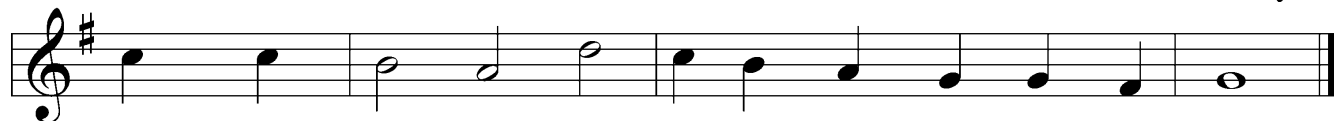
mor - tal Je - sus, Thy Son, to us im - parts.
nite it, Cleansed and con - formed un - to Thy will.



Thou, Lord, didst make all for Thy plea - sure, Didst
As grain, once scat - tered on the hill - sides, Was



give us food for all our days, Giv - ing in Christ the
in this bro - ken bread made one, So from all lands Thy



Bread e - ter - nal; Thine is the pow'r, be Thine the praise.
Church be gath - ered In - to Thy king - dom by Thy Son.

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; tr. F. Bland Tucker, 1895–1984. Tune: attr. Louis Bourgeois, c. 1510–61. Text: © The Church Pension Fund. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005013. Tune: Public domain



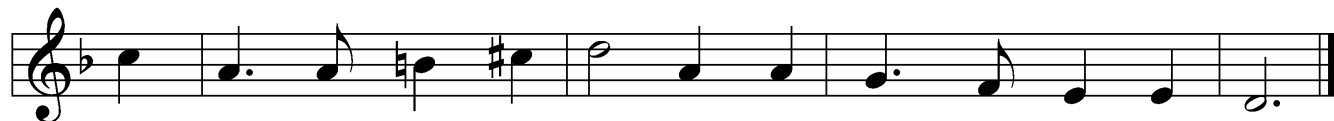
1 If God Him - self be for me, I may a host de - fy;
 2 I build on this foun - da - tion, That Je - sus and His blood
 3 Christ Je - sus is my splen - dor, My sun, my light, a - lone;
 4 He can - celed my of - fens - es, De - liv - ered me from death;



For when I pray, be - fore me My foes, con - found - ed, fly.
 A - lone are my sal - va - tion, My true, e - ter - nal good.
 Were He not my de - fend - er Be - fore God's judg - ment throne,
 He is the Lord who cleans - es My soul from sin through faith.



If Christ, my head and mas - ter, Be - friend me from a - bove,
 With - out Him all that pleas - es Is val - ue - less on earth;
 I nev - er should find fa - vor And mer - cy in His sight,
 In Him I can be cheer - ful, Cou - ra - geous on my way;



What foe or what dis - as - ter Can drive me from His love?
 The gifts I have from Je - sus A - lone have price - less worth.
 But be de - stroyed for - ev - er As dark - ness by the light.
 In Him I am not fear - ful Of God's great Judg - ment Day.

5 For no one can condemn me
 Or set my hope aside;
 Now hell no more can claim me:
 Its fury I deride.
 No sentence now reproves me,
 No guilt destroys my peace;
 For Christ, my Savior, loves me
 And shields me with His
 grace.

6 Who clings with resolution
 To Him whom Satan hates
 Must look for persecution;
 For him the burden waits
 Of mock'ry, shame, and losses
 Heaped on his blameless
 head;
 A thousand plagues and crosses
 Will be his daily bread.

7 From me this is not hidden,
Yet I am not afraid;
I leave my cares, as bidden,
To whom my vows were paid.
Though life from me be taken
And ev'rything I own,
I trust in You unshaken
And cleave to You alone.

8 No danger, thirst, or hunger,
No pain or poverty,
No earthly tyrant's anger
Shall ever vanquish me.
Though earth should break
asunder,
My fortress You shall be;
No fire or sword or thunder
Shall sever You from me.

9 No angel and no gladness,
No throne, no pomp, no show,
No love, no hate, no sadness,
No pain, no depth of woe,
No scheming, no contrivance,
No subtle thing or great
Shall draw me from Your
guidance
Nor from You separate.

10 My heart with joy is springing;
I am no longer sad.
My soul is filled with singing;
Your sunshine makes me
glad.
The sun that cheers my spirit
Is Jesus Christ, my King;
The heav'n I shall inherit
Makes me rejoice and sing.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; (sts. 1, 3–5, 10); tr. Evangelical Lutheran Hymn-Book, 1907, Pittsburgh, alt.; (sts. 2, 6–9); tr. Richard Massie, 1800–87, alt. Tune: Vierundzwanzig geistliche Lieder, 1609, Augsburg Text and tune: Public domain

*Praise
to the Lord*

Christ Is Arisen

LSB 459



1 Christ is a - ris - en From the grave's dark



pris - on. So let our joy rise full and free;



Christ our com - fort true will be. Al - le - lu - ia!



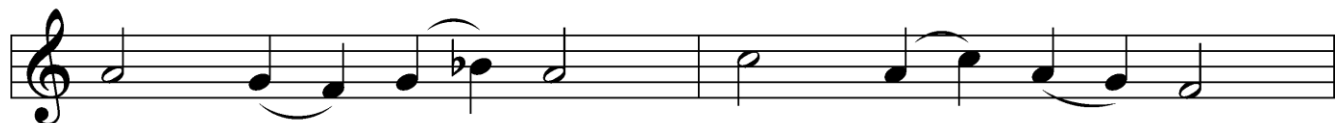
2 Were Christ not a - ris - en, Then death were still



our pris - on. Now, with Him to life re - stored,



We praise the Fa - ther of our Lord. Al - le - lu - ia!



3 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia! Now let our joy rise full and free;



Christ our com - fort true will be. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: German, 12th–15th cent.; tr. Martin L. Seltz, 1909–67, alt. Tune: Latin, c. 1100; Geistliche Lieder aufs new gebessert, 1533, Wittenberg, ed. Joseph Klug Text: © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005013 Tune: Public domain

Stand

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

Thank the Lord

LSB 164



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



Let all who seek the Lord re - jice 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

LSB 166

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

Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven

LSB 477



1 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Hearts to heav'n and voic - es raise:
2 Al - le - lu - ia, Christ is ris - en! Death at last has met de - feat:
△ 3 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ry be to God on high:



Sing to God a hymn of glad-ness, Sing to God a hymn of praise;
See the an-cient pow'rs of e - vil In con - fu - sion and re - treat;
Al - le - lu - ia to the Sav - ior Who has gained the vic - to - ry;



He who on the cross a vic-tim For the world's sal - va-tion bled—
Once He died, and once was bur-ied: Now He lives for - ev - er - more,
Al - le - lu - ia to the Spir-it, Fount of love and sanc-ti - ty!



Je - sus Christ, the King of Glo - ry, Now is ris - en from the dead.
Je - sus Christ, the world's Re - deem - er, Whom we wor-ship and a - dore.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia To the tri - une Maj - es - ty!

Text (sts. 1, 3): Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–85; (st. 2): rev. The Jubilate Group. Tune: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827; adapt. Edward Hodges, 1796–1867. Text (st. 2): © 1982 The Jubilate Group, admin. Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005013. Text (sts. 1, 3) and 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.*



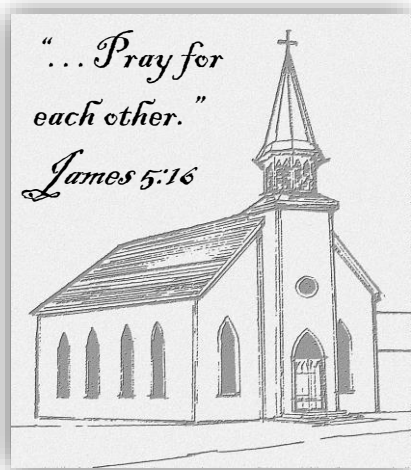
Congregation: health and healing for David Boenker, health and healing for Jerry Kohring; healing for Terry and Becky Lueckemeyer; healing for Lillian Hayden from knee surgery; for Tom Hayden's recovery after surgery and

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:

- Gaskamp – Karen
- Gaskamp – Delwin, Doris
- Kohring – Valgene, Diana
- Kohring – Jerry, Doris
- Schwartz – Jo Ann
- Schwartz – Trenton

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS
This Week's Schedule

May 17 – May 24



Today: *Seventh Sunday of Easter*
9:00 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Class
10:15 AM Divine Worship: Setting I with Holy Communion
Acolyte: Taylor Hinze
Greeter: Karen Gaskamp
Ushers: Colin Schomburg Collin Schroeder
 Michael Schroeder Shane Schroeder



Thursday:
6:30 PM Ladies Bible Study



Saturday:
8:30 AM Sisters in Christ Bible Study



Next Sunday: *The Day of Pentecost*
9:00 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Class
10:15 AM Divine Worship: Setting I with Holy Communion
Acolyte: Kinsley Haferkamp
Crucifer: Winston Krieg
Ushers: Trenton Schwartz Lance Searle
 Rallin Wellmann Eric Berglund

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 on the altar are given to the Glory of God by Kevin and Kellie Goessler in celebration of their 36th anniversary.

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.

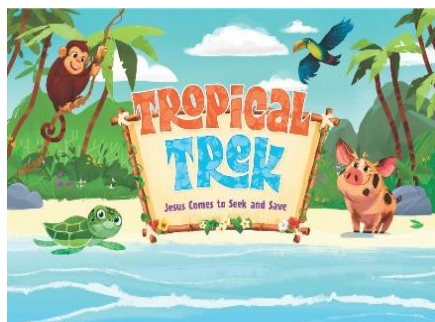
If you would like to support this mission and help encourage faithful Lutheran education, you may contribute by placing your gift in the offering plate and designating it for the *Lutheran Education Scholarship Fund*. For more information, please see Pastor Krieg.



Through our congregation's participation in the Adopt-a-Seminarian program, we have been blessed to be paired with seminarian William Killinger and his wife, Skylar. They recently sent a heartfelt letter of thanks along with photos, which have been posted on the bulletin board in the parish hall for you to enjoy.

As the school year draws to a close in May, we would like to send them a gift as an expression of our encouragement and support for William's studies and their life together. If you would like to contribute, you may simply place your gift in the offering plate and designate it for "Seminarian William Killinger." We will continue to collect gifts all year long, sending them each quarter. Thank you for keeping Williams and Skylar in your prayers as they prepare for a life of service in Christ's Church.

Mark your Calendars for...

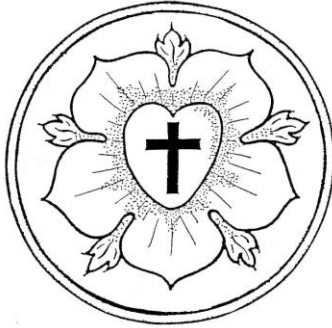


Tropical Trek VBS - June 16-19

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.



Annual Young Adult Retreat May 29-31, 2026 at St. John Lutheran Church in Galveston, TX. Age: 18+ Cost: Free. Scan the QR or go to <https://osl.breezechms.com/form/8e19212746>, to register. For more information, contact Pastor Steven Cholak at scholak@osl.cc.



There will be a **Board of Education** meeting on **Thursday, May 28th at 6:00 PM.**



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 **next Sunday, May 24th.**

Health Care Kit

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



Women of Bethlehem:

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

The study begins **this 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 17 – Seventh Sunday of Easter – “Sing to God, sing praises to His name; lift up a song to Him who rides through the deserts!” (Psalm 68:4). What a wonderful picture of Christ, God-in-the-flesh, who entered the desert wilderness of this world to bring light into the darkness and life to the dead! In a world that fosters a culture of death, Jesus came to give us eternal life. In Him, grace and peace rain down in abundance (Psalm 68:9). What hope this brings to those who are suffering, facing an unexpected pregnancy, or have lost their mooring in life! Christ brings forgiveness and restoration. Although we endure fiery trials (1 Peter 4:12), and the devil prowls like a roaring lion, seeking to devour (1 Peter 5:8-9), yet by the power of God’s Word, we resist him, firm in the faith. We are blessed as we follow Jesus, who suffered once for all on the cross, accomplishing the work that the Father gave Him to do (John 17:4). Risen, ascended, and glorified, Jesus restores, confirms, strengthens, and establishes us in the true faith (1 Peter 5:10).

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 “The Unique Greek – Lydia is Baptized.” Paul and Silas journey to Philippi. On the Sabbath Day, they meet a businesswoman named Lydia and others gathered at the riverside for prayer. After hearing Paul’s teaching, Lydia and her household are baptized. Lydia invites

Paul and the others to stay at her home. To reinforce this lesson with your kids, as a family, discuss: What does the Bible mean when it says that the Lord opened Lydia’s heart? Do you remember when you were baptized? If you were a baby, you might not remember it, but that doesn’t make it any less true or powerful. God takes ordinary water and His all-powerful Word and works a miracle of faith in the person being baptized. It doesn’t matter how old you are. How does our Baptism help us every day? Also, parents, you can join Pastor Krieg in the adult Sunday School class. See you next week!

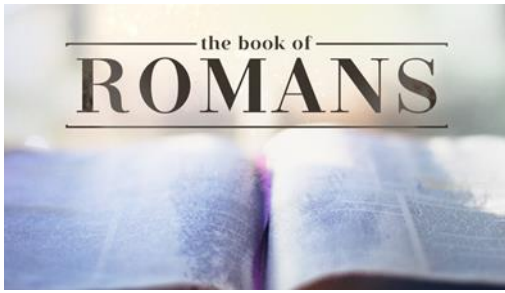
High School Lesson

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
May 10	Sunday School	10	\$60.01
	Youth Bible Class	0	
	Adult Bible Class	20	
May 10	Worship Service	103	General Fund \$1,898.80 Education \$700.00 Seminarian William Killinger \$820.00