



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

## **NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**JULY 26, 2026**

**10:15 AM**



Pastor

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Ann Sommer

Ushers

Charles Meyer

Paul Richter

Colin Schomburg

Collin Schroeder

Acolyte

Kinsley Haferkamp

Greeter

Ann Koester

*Ninth Sunday after Pentecost*  
*July 26, 2026 – 10:15 AM*

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## Divine Service: Setting III with Holy Communion

Order of Service: *Lutheran Service Book, pp 184-202*

*Pre-Service Music*



### July Bible Verse

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear.

*1 John 4:18*

### Our Mission Statement

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



### COMMUNION STATEMENT

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.

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### *Ring of the Church Bell*

#### OPENING HYMN

*Your Kingdom, O God, Is My Glorious Treasure*

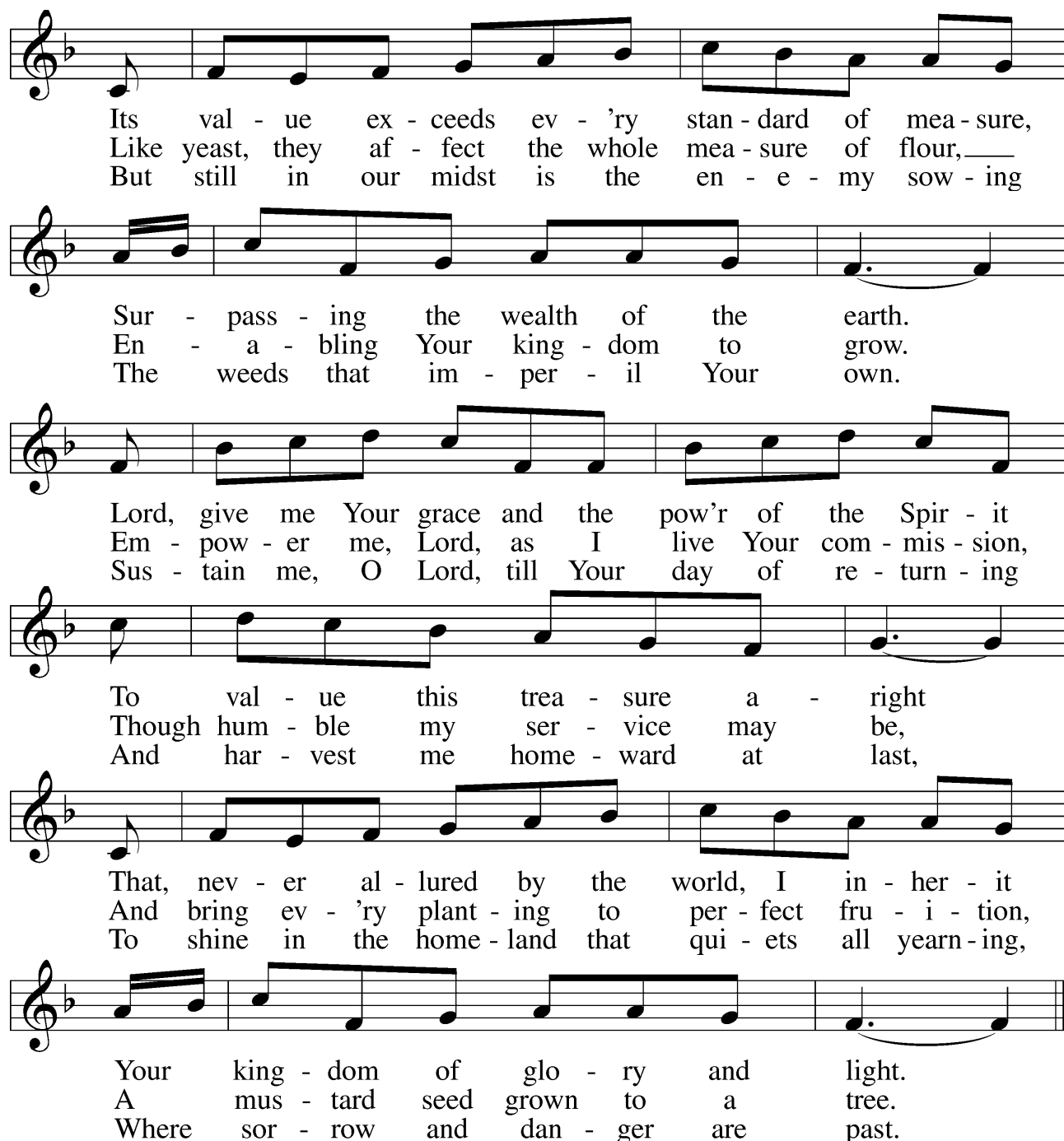
*LSB 654*



1 Your king - dom, O God, is my glo - ri - ous trea - sure,  
2 Your king - dom, O God, is a - live with the pow - er  
3 Your king - dom, O God, is a field for the grow - ing



My pearl of in - com - p'ra - ble worth.  
Your Word and Your Spir - it be - stow.  
Of seeds that Your mer - cy has sown;



Its val - ue ex - ceeds ev - 'ry stan - dard of mea - sure,  
 Like yeast, they af - fect the whole mea - sure of flour, —  
 But still in our midst is the en - e - my sow - ing

Sur - pass - ing the wealth of the earth.  
 En - a - bling Your king - dom to grow.  
 The weeds that im - per - il Your own.

Lord, give me Your grace and the pow'r of the Spir - it  
 Em - pow - er me, Lord, as I live Your com - mis - sion,  
 Sus - tain me, O Lord, till Your day of re - turn - ing

To val - ue this trea - sure a - right  
 Though hum - ble my ser - vice may be,  
 And har - vest me home - ward at last,

That, nev - er al - lured by the world, I in - her - it  
 And bring ev - 'ry plant - ing to per - fect fru - i - tion,  
 To shine in the home - land that qui - ets all yearn - ing,

Your king - dom of glo - ry and light.  
 A mus - tard seed grown to a tree.  
 Where sor - row and dan - ger are past.

Text: David W. Rogner, 1960. Tune: Joseph Herl, 1959. Text: © David W. Rogner. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005013. Tune: © 2003 Joseph Herl. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005013

*Stand*

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

INVOCATION

*LSB 184*

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

**C** Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

*LSB 184*

**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** who made heaven and earth.

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C** and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

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

**P** O almighty God, merciful Father,

**C** I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

**P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I 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

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INTROIT

*Psalm 105:2-6; antiphon: v.1*

Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name;

**make known his deeds among the peoples!**

Sing to him, sing praises to him;

**tell of all his wondrous works!**

Glory in his holy name;

**let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!**

Seek the LORD and his strength;

**seek his presence continually!**

Remember the wondrous works that he has done,

**his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,**

O offspring of Abraham, his servant,

**children of Jacob, his chosen ones!**

**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.**

Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name;

**make known his deeds among the peoples!**

GLORIA PATRI

LSB 186



**G** Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost;



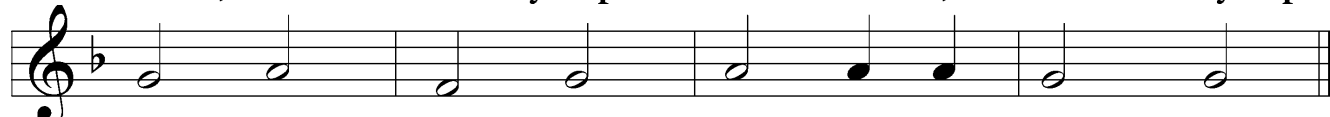
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

KYRIE

LSB 186



**G** Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

HYMN OF PRAISE

*Gloria in Excelsis*

LSB 187

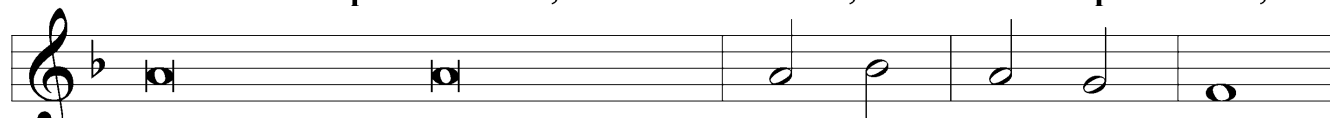
**P** Glory be to God on High,



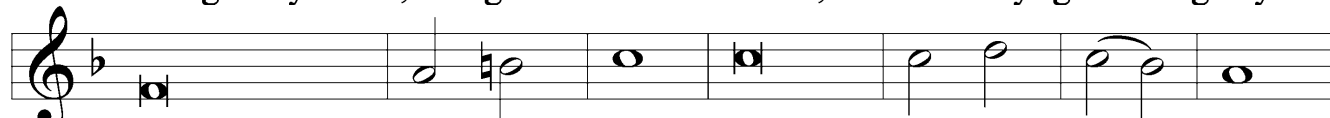
**G** and on earth peace, good - will toward



men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,



we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.



O Lord God, heav'n - ly King, God the Fa - ther Al - mighty.



O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.  
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.  
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-  
on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on-ly art the Lord.  
Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho-ly Ghost,  
art most high in the glory of God the Father. A-men.

#### SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And with thy spir - it.

**P** Let us pray.

**C** Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and love, that, receiving what You have promised, we may love what You have commanded; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

<sup>6</sup>“You are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. <sup>7</sup>It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, <sup>8</sup>but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. <sup>9</sup>Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations.”

**[P]** This is the Word of the Lord. **[C]** Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

*Romans 11:33, 36*

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!  
How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!  
For from him and through him and to him are all things.  
To him be glory forever. Amen.

EPISTLE

*Romans 8:28-39*

<sup>28</sup>We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup>For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. <sup>30</sup>And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

<sup>31</sup>What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup>He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? <sup>33</sup>Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup>Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. <sup>35</sup>Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

<sup>36</sup>As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;  
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

<sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup>nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

COMMON ALLELUIA

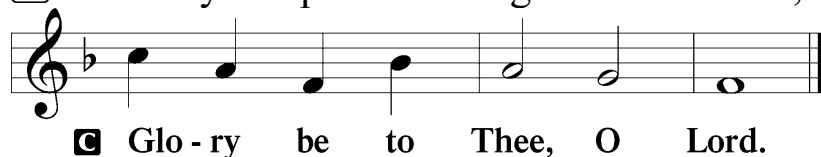
*LSB 190*



HOLY GOSPEL

*Matthew 13:44-52*

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



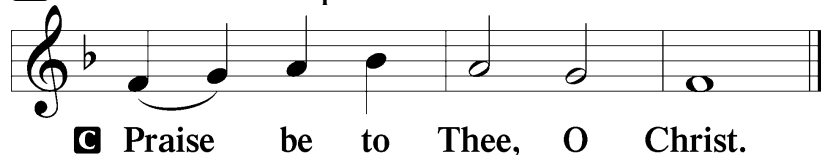
<sup>44</sup>[Jesus said:] “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

<sup>45</sup>“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, <sup>46</sup>who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

<sup>47</sup>“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. <sup>48</sup>When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. <sup>49</sup>So it will be at the close of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous <sup>50</sup>and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

<sup>51</sup>“Have you understood all these things?” They said to him, “Yes.” <sup>52</sup>And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

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



**☩ 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

## *From God Can Nothing Move Me*

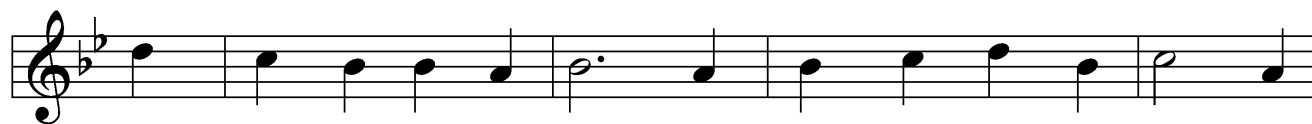
LSB 713



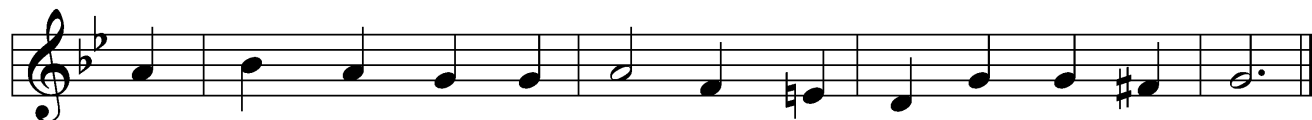
1 From God can noth - ing move me; He will not step a - side  
2 When those whom I re - gard - ed As trust - wor - thy and sure  
3 The Lord my life ar - rang - es; Who can His work de - stroy?  
4 Each day at His good plea - sure God's gra - cious will is done.



But gent - ly will re - prove me And be my con - stant guide.  
Have long from me de - part - ed, God's grace shall still en - dure.  
In His good time He chang - es All sor - row in - to joy.  
He sent His great - est trea - sure In Je - sus Christ, His Son.



He stretch - es out His hand In eve - ning and in morn - ing,  
He res - cues me from sin And breaks the chains that bind me.  
So let me then be still: My bod - y, soul, and spir - it  
He ev - 'ry gift im - parts. The bread of earth and heav - en



My life with grace a - dorn - ing Wher - ev - er I may stand.  
I leave death's fear be - hind me; His peace I have with - in.  
His ten - der care in - her - it Ac - cord - ing to His will.  
Are by His kind - ness giv - en. Praise Him with thank - ful hearts!

5 Praise God with acclamation  
And in His gifts rejoice.  
Each day finds its vocation  
Responding to His voice.  
Soon years on earth are past;  
But time we spend expressing  
The love of God brings blessing  
That will forever last!

6 Yet even though I suffer  
The world's unpleasantness,  
And though the days grow  
rougher  
And bring me great distress,  
That day of bliss divine,  
Which knows no end or measure,  
And Christ, who is my pleasure,  
Forever shall be mine.

△ For thus the Father willed it,  
 Who fashioned us from clay;  
 And His own Son fulfilled it  
 And brought eternal day.  
 The Spirit now has come,  
 To us true faith has given;  
 He leads us home to heaven.  
 O praise the Three in One!

Text: Ludwig Helmbold, 1532-98; (sts. 1-2, 6): tr. Gerald Thorson, 1921-2001, alt.; (st. 3): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006; (sts. 4-5): tr. Gregory J. Wismar, 1946; (st. 7): tr. Joseph Herl, 1959. Tune: Recueil de plusieurs chansons, 1557, Lyons, alt. Text (sts. 1-2, 6): © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship; (sts. 3-5, 7): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005013. Tune: Public domain

SERMON  
*Merchant and Treasure*  
*Matthew 13:44-52*

*Stand*

OFFERTORY

*LSB 192*



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
 new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
 way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
 from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -  
 tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

OFFERING PRAYER

*Sit*

OFFERING

*Stand*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

*LSB 194*

**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And with thy spir - it.

**P** Lift up your hearts.



**C** We lift them up un - to the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.



**C** It is meet and right so to do.

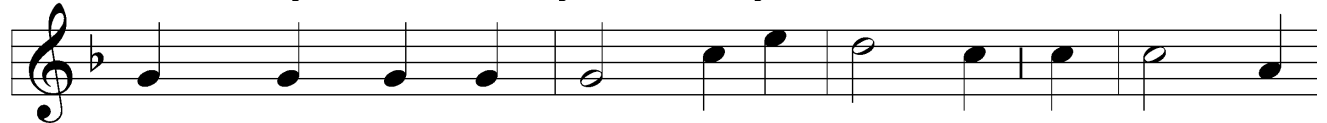
**P** It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, having created all things, took on human flesh and was born of the virgin Mary. For our sake He died on the cross and rose from the dead to put an end to death, thus fulfilling Your will and gaining for You a holy people. 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 195*



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,



bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est.

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

*LSB 196*

**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 197*

**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 197*

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.



**C** A - men.

# AGNUS DEI

LSB 198

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

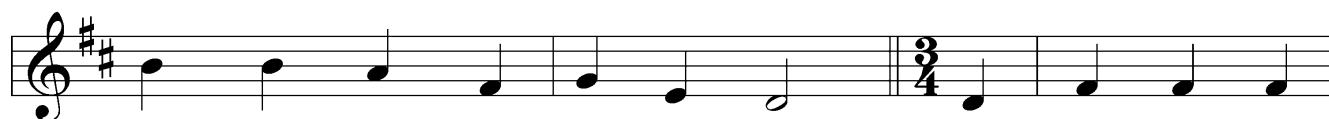
*Sit*

## DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

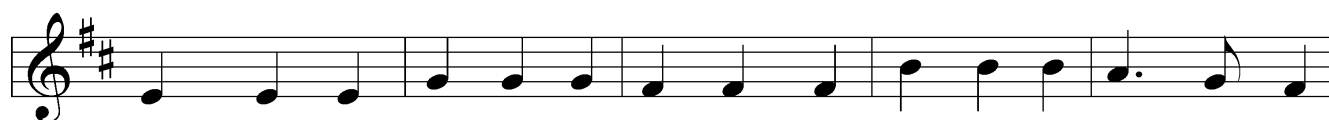
### *One Thing's Needful*

LSB 536

1 One thing's need - ful; Lord, this trea - sure Teach me high - ly  
 2 How were Mar - y's thoughts de - vot - ed Her e - ter - nal  
 3 Wis - dom's high - est, no - blest trea - sure, Je - sus, is re -  
 4 Noth - ing have I, Christ, to of - fer, You a - lone, my  
 5 There - fore You a - lone, my Sav - ior, Shall be all in  
 to re - gard. All else, though it first give plea - sure,  
 joy to find As in - tent each word she not - ed,  
 vealed in You. Let me find in You my plea - sure,  
 high - est good. Noth - ing have I, Lord, to prof - fer,  
 all to me; Search my heart and my be - hav - ior,



Is a yoke that press - es hard! Be - neath it the  
 At her Sav - ior's feet re - clined! How kin - dled her  
 And my way - ward will sub - due, Hu - mil - i - ty  
 But Your crim - son - col - ored blood. Your death on the  
 Root out all hy - poc - ri - sy. Through all my life's



heart is still fret - ting and striv - ing, No true, last - ing hap - pi - ness  
 heart, how de - vout was its feel - ing, While hear - ing the les - sons that  
 there and sim - plic - i - ty reign - ing, In paths of true wis - dom my  
 cross has death whol - ly de - feat - ed And there - by my righ - teous - ness  
 pil - grim - age, guard and up - hold me, In lov - ing for - give - ness, O



ev - er de - riv - ing. This one thing is need - ful; all oth - ers are  
 Christ was re - veal - ing! All earth - ly con - cerns she for - got for her  
 steps ev - er train - ing. If I learn from Je - sus this knowl - edge di -  
 ful - ly com - plet - ed; Sal - va - tion's white rai - ments I there did ob -  
 Je - sus, en - fold me. This one thing is need - ful; all oth - ers are



vain— I count all but loss that I Christ may ob - tain!  
 Lord And found her con - tent - ment in hear - ing His Word.  
 vine, The bless - ing of heav - en - ly wis - dom is mine.  
 tain, And in them in glo - ry with You I shall reign.  
 vain— I count all but loss that I Christ may ob - tain!

Text: Johann Heinrich Schröder, 1667–99; tr. Frances E. Cox, 1812–97, alt. Tune: Adam Krieger, 1634–66 Text and tune: Public domain

## *Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord*

LSB 637

1 Draw near and take the bod - y of the Lord,  
2 He who His saints in this world rules and shields,  
3 Come for - ward then with faith - ful hearts sin - cere,

And drink the ho - ly blood for you out - poured;  
To all be - liev - ers life e - ter - nal yields;  
And take the pledg - es of sal - va - tion here.

Of - fered was He for great - est and for least,  
With heav'n - ly bread He makes the hun - gry whole,  
O Lord, our hearts with grate - ful thanks en - dow

Him - self the vic - tim and Him - self the priest.  
Gives liv - ing wa - ters to the thirst - ing soul.  
As in this feast of love You bless us now.

Text: Latin, 7th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt. Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois Text and tune: Public domain

## *When I Behold Jesus Christ*

LSB 542

1 When I be - hold Je - sus Christ, True God who died for me,  
2 For me You gave all Your love, For me You suf-fered pain;  
3 You had no sin, ho - ly Lord, But You were tor-tured, tried;  
4 What love is this? Great - er love No one has ev - er known.

I won - der much at His love As He hung on the tree.  
I find no words, noth - ing can Your self - less - ness ex - plain.  
On Gol - go - tha there for all My sins You bled and died.  
My life with God— this I owe To You, and You a - lone.

*Refrain*

What kind of love is this? What kind of love is this?

You showed Your love, Je - sus, there To me on Cal - va - ry.

What kind of love is this? What kind of love is this?

You showed Your love, Je - sus, there To me on Cal - va - ry.

Text (sts. 1, ref, 2-3): tr. Hartmut Schoenherr, with Jim and Aurelia Keefer; (st. 4): Joseph Herl, 1959 Text (sts. 1, ref, 2-3) and tune: Almaz Belhu Text (st. 4): © 1998 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005013 Text (sts. 1, ref, 2-3) and tune: © 1970 Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005013

## Wide Open Stand the Gates

LSB 639

1 Wide o - pen stand the gates a - dorned with pearl, While  
 2 He speaks the Word the bread and wine to bless: "This  
 3 The cher - u - bim, their fac - es veiled from light, While

round God's gold - en throne The choirs of saints in  
 is My flesh and blood!" He bids us eat and  
 saints in won - der kneel, Sing praise to Him whose

end - less cir - cles curl, And joy - ous praise the Son!  
 drink with thank - ful - ness This gift of ho - ly food.  
 face with glo - ry bright No earth - ly masks con - ceal.

They watch Him now de - scend - ing To vis - it wait-ing earth.  
 All hu - man thought must fal - ter—Our God stoops low to heal,  
 This sac - ra - ment God gives us Binds us in u - ni - ty,

The Lord of Life un - end - ing Brings dy - ing hope new birth!  
 Now pres - ent on the al - tar, For us both host and meal!  
 Joins earth with heav'n be - yond us, Time with e - ter - ni - ty!

Text: J. K. Wilhelm Loehe, 1808–72; tr. Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923–2007. Tune: Christlich Neu-vermehrt . . . Gesangbuch, 1663, Erfurt. Text: © 2002 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005013. Tune: Public domain

*Stand*

NUNC DIMITTIS

*LSB 199*

**C** Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -  
cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,  
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,  
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy  
peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and  
to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

THANKSGIVING

*LSB 200*

**P** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

**C** and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

**P** Let us pray.

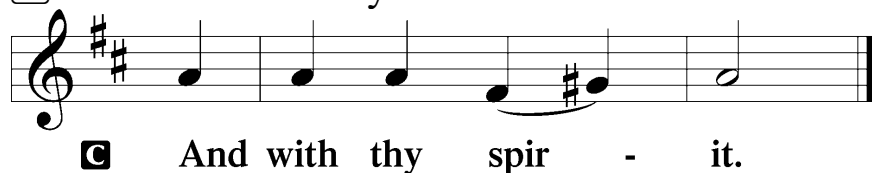
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and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



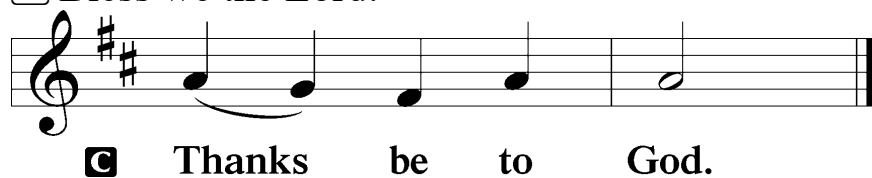
## SALUTATION AND BENEDICAMUS

*LSB 201*

**P** The Lord be with you.



**P** Bless we the Lord.



## BENEDICTION

*LSB 202*

**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.

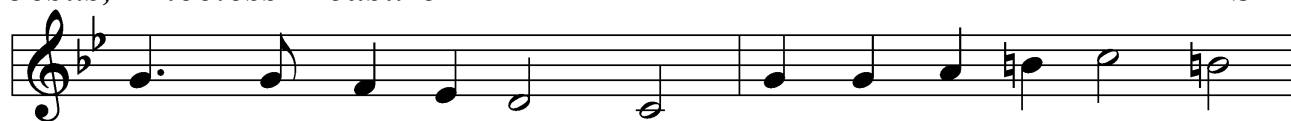


*Sit*

# CLOSING HYMN

## Jesus, Priceless Treasure

LSB 743



1 Je - sus, price-less trea - sure, Fount of pur - est plea - sure,  
2 In Thine arms I rest me; Foes who would mo - lest me  
3 Sa - tan, I de - fy thee; Death, I now de - cry thee;  
4 Hence, all earth - ly trea - sure! Je - sus is my plea - sure,



Tru - est friend to me, Ah, how long in an - guish  
Can - not reach me here. Though the earth be shak - ing,  
Fear, I bid thee cease. World, thou shalt not harm me  
Je - sus is my choice. Hence, all emp - ty glo - ry!



Shall my spir - it lan - guish, Yearn - ing, Lord, for Thee?  
Ev - 'ry heart be quak - ing, Je - sus calms my fear.  
Nor thy threats a - larm me While I sing of peace.  
Naught to me thy sto - ry Told with tempt - ing voice.



Thou art mine, O Lamb di - vine! I will suf - fer  
Light - nings flash And thun - ders crash; Yet, though sin and  
God's great pow'r Guards ev - 'ry hour; Earth and all its  
Pain or loss, Or shame or cross, Shall not from my



naught to hide Thee; Naught I ask be - side Thee.  
hell as - sail me, Je - sus will not fail me.  
depths a - dore Him, Si - lent bow be - fore Him.  
Sav - ior move me Since He deigns to love me.

5 Evil world, I leave thee;  
Thou canst not deceive me,  
Thine appeal is vain.  
Sin that once did blind me,  
Get thee far behind me,  
Come not forth again.  
Past thy hour,  
O pride and pow'r;  
Sinful life, thy bonds I sever,  
Leave thee now forever.

6 Hence, all fear and sadness!  
For the Lord of gladness,  
Jesus, enters in.  
Those who love the Father,  
Though the storms may gather,  
Still have peace within.  
Yea, whate'er  
I here must bear,  
Thou art still my purest pleasure,  
Jesus, priceless treasure!



## 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.*



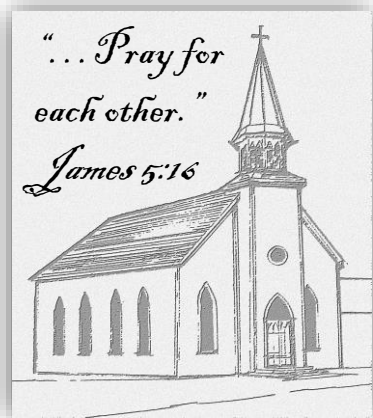
**Congregation:** comfort for the family of Angie (Holle) Atkinson as they mourn her loss; comfort for the family of Clarence Gaskamp as they mourn his loss; strength for David Husfeld; strength and

healing for Donna Hinze as she goes through cancer treatment; health and healing for David Boenker, healing for Terry and Becky Lueckemeyer; 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:*

- Bentke – Roger
- Berglund – Lillian, Claire
- Holle – Waldo
- Holtkamp – Benjamin
- O’Neil – Tracey, Jim
- Pazderny – Janice

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### This Week’s Schedule

**July 26 – August 2**



#### **Today: *Ninth Sunday after Pentecost***

**9:00 AM** Sunday School & Adult Bible Class  
**10:15 AM** Divine Worship: Setting III with Holy Communion  
Acolyte: Kinsley Haferkamp  
Greeter: Ann Koester  
Ushers: Charles Meyer      Paul Richter  
             Colin Schomburg      Collin Schroeder



#### **Thursday:**

**6:30 PM** Ladies Bible Study



#### **Saturday:**

**7:30 AM** Men’s Club Breakfast, Bible Study & Meeting



#### **Next Sunday: *Tenth Sunday after Pentecost***

**9:00 AM** Sunday School & Adult Bible Class  
**10:15 AM** Divine Worship: Setting III with Holy Communion  
Acolyte: Taylor Nowicki  
Greeter: Jennifer Krieg  
Ushers: Michael Schroeder      Shane Schroeder  
             Trenton Schwartz      Lance Searle

**Serving in July: Elder – Clinton Kettler / Trustee – Doyle Dahmann**

**Serving in August: 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 in celebration of Amber Molitor's 19<sup>th</sup> birthday.*

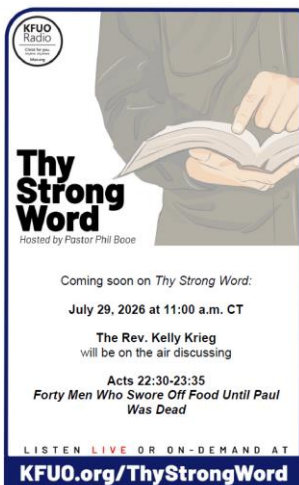


Through our congregation's participation in the Adopt-a-Seminarian program, we have been blessed to be paired with seminarian William Killinger and his wife, Skylar. We will continue to collect gifts all year long, sending them each quarter. Simply place your gift in the offering plate and designate it for "Seminarian William Killinger".

## Congregational Potluck

Join us **today** following the Divine Service for a congregational potluck as we welcome our Adopt-a-Seminarian, William Killinger, and his wife, Skylar. This will be a wonderful opportunity to enjoy fellowship with them and encourage them as he prepares for pastoral ministry.

A free-will offering will be received during the potluck to support William and Skylar as they continue their seminary studies. We hope you will join us for this special afternoon of Christian fellowship and encouragement.



Pastor Krieg will be the live guest speaker for Thy Strong Word this **Wednesday, July 29<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM**. He will be discussing **Acts 22:30-23:35**. His broadcast will be available **LIVE or ON-Demand** at **KFUO.org/ThyStrongWord**.



**The Men's Club monthly breakfast will be this Saturday, August 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 AM in the Parish Hall. Men of the congregation, this is your opportunity to bond as brothers in Christ, and be fed, both in body and Spirit. All men of the congregation are invited to attend. Breakfast will be served, with fellowship and Bible study to follow.**



### **Bethlehem Lutheran Schützenverein Men's Club Skeet Shoot & Breakfast Social**

Join us for a morning of fellowship, food, and friendly competition at our **Men's Club Skeet Shoot & Breakfast Social** on **Saturday, August 15**, at **Dos Rios Ranch**, located on **Highway 105 between the Brazos and Navasota Rivers.**

#### **Schedule**

- **7:00–8:00 AM** – Breakfast and check-in
- Shooting begins following check-in

A **suggested freewill donation of \$20 per gun** will be collected to go towards the men's club and the church.

#### **RSVP**

Please RSVP to **David Hodge** by text or phone at (214) 597-1646, or by email at [hodge.david@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hodge.david@sbcglobal.net).

We hope you'll join us for a great morning of Christian fellowship, good food, and outdoor fun!



### **LWML Canned Food Drive Supporting Bread Partners of Washington County**

The ladies of LWML are inviting everyone to take part in a food drive **through August 30**. Please bring canned and non-perishable food items to the Parish Hall. Your donations will help provide meals for families in need right here in our community. Learn more at [breadpartnersfoodpantry.org](http://breadpartnersfoodpantry.org)).



**St. Paul Lutheran Church in Austin is hosting a Young Adult Conference October 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> for ages 18-35.** Tickets are \$10.00. Join fellow Lutheran young adults for a weekend of fellowship. For more information and/or to register, scan the QR code.



### **Sunday School Teachers Needed for 2026–2027**

"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it." (*Proverbs 22:6*)

As we prepare for the upcoming Sunday School year, we are seeking faithful volunteers to help teach our children God's Word. There are few greater privileges than sharing the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ with the next generation

and helping our children grow in the faith from an early age. The lessons they learn today will serve as a firm foundation for a lifetime of hearing, believing, and confessing God's Word.

To make this ministry both manageable and enjoyable, we are looking for **two teachers to share the responsibility of each class**, allowing teachers to alternate and support one another throughout the year.

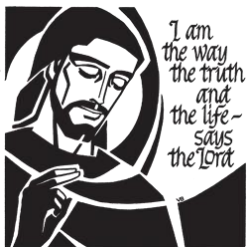
If you are willing to serve in this important ministry, please **sign up in the Parish Hall** or **speak with one of the members of the Board of Education**. Please prayerfully consider how the Lord might use your gifts to help nurture the faith of the children He has entrusted to our congregation.



### **Lutheran Education Scholarship Announcement**

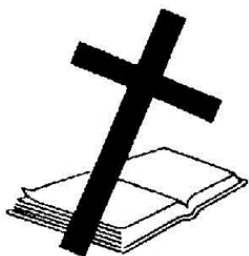
If you would like to support the LESF and help encourage faithful Lutheran education, you may contribute by placing your gift in the offering plate and designating it for the *Lutheran Education Scholarship Fund*. For more information, please see Pastor Krieg.

## Sunday School Corner



Today, the kids studied the lesson, “The Bridegroom Comes, Awake!” As Jesus began His time of ministry, He chose twelve men to follow and learn from Him. The men Jesus chose to be His closest disciples weren’t perfect—they were far from it! They were sinners, just like you and me. Jesus chose His disciples not for what they could do but for what He could do through them. Jesus did what Peter could not do. Peter spent all night trying to catch fish but could not. With a word, Jesus filled two boats with fish. Peter could not get rid of his own sin. With a word, Jesus forgave Peter and called him to come and be a disciple. Jesus awakened Peter to his need for the salvation that only He could give. He does this for us as well! As you read the Bible narrative for today from the Gospel of Luke, I want you to focus on this truth: Christ awakens us to our need for His salvation. This prepares us for His return. In the Bible narrative, Jesus comes to Peter, James, and John. He performs a miracle; He can do this because He is the Son of God. As you read, pay close attention to what Jesus says and does.

## Adult Sunday School Lesson



**Join us as we begin a new Adult Sunday School study on the Means of Grace,** the wonderful gifts through which Christ delivers forgiveness, life, and salvation to His people. Together, we will study the Word of God, Holy Baptism, Holy Absolution, and the Lord’s Supper from Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions.

What makes Lutherans speak so strongly about Baptism? Why do we believe Christ is truly present in the Lord’s Supper? Why is it proper to commune every Sunday? What is Absolution, and why is hearing forgiveness spoken aloud such a comfort? How does God actually create and strengthen faith?

These are not merely academic questions. The Means of Grace are at the very heart of the Christian life because they are the very ways Christ comes to serve sinners with His mercy and forgiveness. Even if you have not attended Sunday School recently, now is a wonderful time to begin. Whether you are a lifelong Lutheran or newer to the faith, this study will help deepen your understanding of Christ’s gifts and strengthen your confidence in His promises.

Come and receive the comfort and certainty Christ gives through His Means of Grace!



**July 26 – Pentecost 9** – God does not love us because of any quality in us, such as our age, physical ability, potential, wisdom, race, etc. (Deuteronomy 7:6-7). God chose

to love us from His own good grace and mercy and gave all He had, His own dear Son, to purchase the world from sin and have us as His own possession (Matthew 13:44). In doing so, God reveals that every person—regardless of their age, size, or condition—is a precious treasure to Him and is worthy of our love and protection.



*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 |
|---------|-------------------|------------|---------------------------------|
| July 12 | Sunday School     | 11         | \$37.00                         |
|         | Youth Bible Class | 1          |                                 |
|         | Adult Bible Class | 21         |                                 |
| July 12 | Worship Service   | 100        | General Fund: \$4,732.06        |



Bethlehem Lutheran Voter's Summary  
July 22, 2026

The Voters approved the reception of Jason, Diana and Maja Stephens from Our Savior Lutheran and the release of Claire and Lillian Berglund to St. Paul's Lutheran in Austin. Bill Minar was given a peaceful release.

The Elders reported the church should have an AED for heart emergencies if needed. The Elders would like the Trustees to investigate cost and setup.

The Trustees reported that the stained-glass window has been repaired and waiting on the painter to complete the job. The Trustees are to get 3 bids for the humidifiers to help with the moisture underneath the parish hall. A special meeting will be planned when the bids are secured.

The Board of Education reported on this year's VBS with 25 children attending each night. The offering of \$390.00 was given to the Brenham Pregnancy Center. Sunday, August 23rd was announced for Sunday School Promotion. A 2026-2027 sign-up sheet for needed teachers will be in the parish hall.

Approval was given for the William Penn Education Extension Club to meet on the third Tuesday morning of each month.