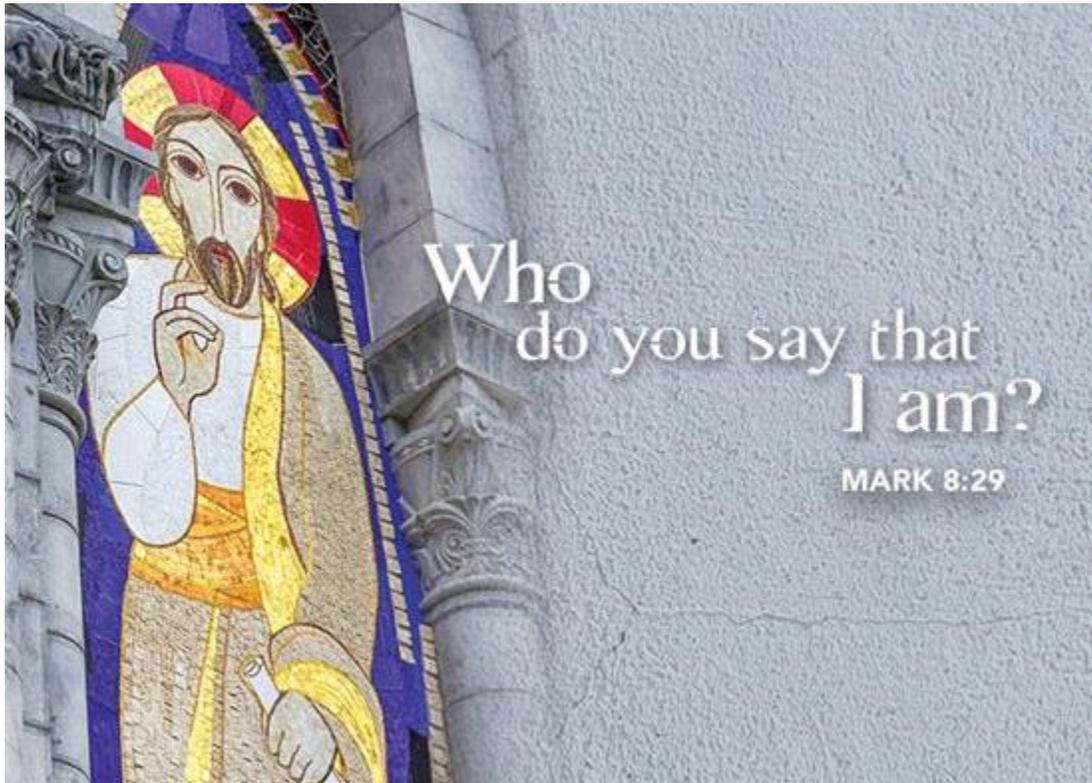




Welcome to Bethlehem Lutheran Church

God's Family Serving Christ with Love



16th SUNDAY after PENTECOST – September 8 & 12, 2021

W8267 Hwy 33 East, Portage, Wisconsin 53901

608-742-8502 www.bethlehemLCportage.org bethluch15@gmail.com

Church Office Hours: Mon-Wed 9am-3pm, Thurs & Fri 9am-12pm

Holy Communion is celebrated each week; all people of God are welcome. Please fill out a Communion Registration card found in the pew racks, and put it in the offering bowl as you leave the sanctuary. **Please either pick up your prepackaged communion elements on your way into the sanctuary or you may come up to the altar to receive it.** It contains a wafer, which you open first by lifting the clear cellophane on top and then the grape juice. If you would like a **gluten free wafer**, please let the usher know before the start of worship.

Children's Worship Activity Bags are available in the Narthex with activities for your children, please help yourself. You can place the used activity bags in the basket located beneath the activity bag tree as you leave. We have a **Cry Room** for your comfort where you can hear and see the service. Due to Covid-19 we are asking that you **reserve the Cry Room** and it will only be for one family as a time.

Hearing assistance devices are available on the counter in the Narthex for your convenience. Please ask the greeter or usher for help.

Large print copies of the bulletin are available in the Narthex.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Please rise in body and/or spirit.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God our comforter: like lost sheep, we have gone astray. We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity. We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression. We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed. Free us from our sin, gracious God. Listen when we call out to you for help. Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. By the gift of grace in † Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous. Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

#527 v. 1 “Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now”

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

You may be seated for the readings

FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a

The image of the servant of the Lord is one of the notable motifs in the book of Isaiah. Today's reading describes the mission of the servant, whom early Christians associated with Jesus. Like Jesus, the servant does not strike back at his detractors but trusts in God's steadfast love.

⁴The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. ⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. ⁶I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. ⁷The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; ⁸he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. ^{9a}It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty? The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 116:1-9

I will walk in the presence of the LORD. (Ps. 116:9)

¹I love the LORD, who has heard my voice, and listened to my supplication,

²**for the LORD has given ear to me whenever I called.**

³The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave came upon me;

I came to grief and sorrow.

⁴**Then I called upon the name of the LORD: “O LORD, I pray you, save my life.”**

⁵Gracious is the LORD and righteous; our God is full of compassion.

⁶**The LORD watches over the innocent; I was brought low, and God saved me.**

⁷Turn again to your rest, O my soul. for the LORD has dealt well with you.

⁸**For you have rescued my life from death,**

my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling;

⁹I will walk in the presence of the LORD in the land of the living.

SECOND READING: James 3:1-12

This text uses various images to illustrate how damaging and hurtful the way we speak to and about others can be. Not only are we to control our speech, but what we say and how we say it are to reflect our faith.

¹Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ²For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. ³If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. ⁴Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! ⁶And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. ⁷For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, ⁸but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. ¹¹Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? ¹²Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine yield figs? No more can salt water yield fresh. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Please rise in body and/or spirit for the Gospel

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. Christ suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous,* in order to bring you to God. Alleluia. (1 Pet. 3:18)

GOSPEL: Mark 8:27-38

The holy gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

This story provides the turning point in Mark's gospel. Peter is the first human being in the narrative to acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah, but he cannot accept that as the Messiah Jesus will have to suffer. Moreover, Jesus issues a strong challenge to all by connecting discipleship and the cross.

²⁷Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" ²⁸And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." ²⁹He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." ³⁰And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

You may be seated

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS (Sunday)

THE SERMON

SERMON HYMN

#471 "Let Us Break Bread Together"

TEACHER INSTALLATION (Sunday)

Please rise in body and/or spirit

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE - *Pray aloud as the spirit guides you*

P: Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Revealing God, you have made yourself known through bread and wine, water and word. Continue to nurture your church, that it is a place where your presence is experienced and shared. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Creating God, you brought life into being and called it good. Bring new creation to lands devastated by tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, fires, and other disasters. Let us pray for all of those devastated by Hurricane Ida. Restore forests and curb overflowing waters. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Protecting God, you desire all people to live in peace and safety. Provide for all who are in danger. Strengthen first responders to help meet to the complex needs of others. Provide care and compassion as they face trauma themselves. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Transforming God, you announce release to the captives and freedom to the oppressed. Break chains of discrimination and injustice. Amplify voices that go unheard and inspire us to advocate for the those who are overlooked. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Forming God, you gather this community together. Shape our communal life, that in our prayer, praise, and worship, we honor you and encourage one another. Keep our disagreements civil and increase our joy in working together. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Redeeming God, you accompany your people through every stage of life. We give you thanks for the saints who now rest in your embrace. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

You may be seated

Due to Covid-19, we will not be collecting offerings as usual. You may put your offering in the bowl upon leaving the sanctuary. We share our offerings for the mission of Christ through Bethlehem. Thank you for your participation in this ministry to the Glory of God!

OFFERING PRAYER

God of abundance, you cause streams to break forth in the desert and manna to rain from the heavens. Accept the gifts you have first given us. Unite them with the offering of our lives to nourish the world you love so dearly; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Please rise in body and/or spirit

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All who hunger and thirst, come. The table is ready.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Communion is celebrated with individual elements in your pew or you may come up to the altar to receive the prepackaged elements. You may sit after receiving Communion

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation. Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please rise in body and/or spirit

BLESSING

People of God, you are Christ's body, bringing new life to a suffering world. The holy Trinity, † one God, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

#881 "Let All Things Now Living"

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you. **Thanks be to God.**

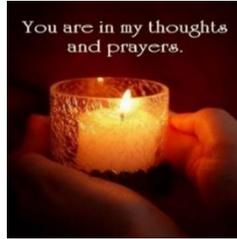
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Depart to Share

Please Pray For

Church Prayer List:

Elaine Benson
Jeremy Schilling
Bonnie Bender
Lynn Grueneberg
Noretta Moran



*Would you like someone added to the prayer list?
Contact the church staff.*

Our Extended Family Prayer Concerns:

Glenda R.
Fred Steinhaus (Jack Paulson's brother-in-law)
Joanne Hanson
Brian Loveland (friend of Lucille Gauger)
Fred Richardson
Nelson Richardson
Judy Crosby
John and Judy Skille (Tania Anderson's parents)
Julie Grueneberg (Lynn & Diane's daughter)
Brad Kohnke
Deb Moe & family (Sandra Sween's cousin)
Randy VonRuden
Betty Hayes (Chad Hayes' grandma)
Steve Rohrbacher (Marie & Ed's son)
Bill (Ann Ciske's father-in-law)
Randy
Tom Teslik (Mark Teslik's son)
Rick Voight (Halley Harms' father)
Shannon Henderson
Patty McGee
Natalie Pierce

faith formation

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH



Sunday School Rally day will be Sunday Sept. 12th.
Sunday School starts at 10:15 am. Confirmation
starts Wednesday Sept 15th 6:30 pm. Registration
forms are in the Narthex or register online on our
website.



Altar Flowers
Sign up for altar
flowers is in the
narthex.

**Sign up for Text
Message Alerts**

Contact the church office if
you want to receive text
message alerts. Directions
can also be found in the
August Chimes.

MISSION KIT UPDATE

We have used most of our supplies and need
more!! While we need almost everything, we DO NOT
need pencils. We have compiled a list of bulk items
available on Amazon and a Walmart shopping list. It
doesn't need to be these exact items, but this is just a
sample of cost-effective supplies. If you are interested
in purchasing a bulk order of something, let us know
at the church office. This will help us from having an
overabundance of any one item! Pick up a list at
church by the Mission Kit drop off shelf.

Coffee Hour

Coffee hour is
back! Sign up
in the Narthex.



This Week:

Wednesday, September 8

Food Pantry Helpers

10:30 am Tai Chi
5:30 pm Worship

Thursday, September 9

9 am Women's Group

Friday, September 10

10:30 am Tai Chi

Saturday, September 11

8:30 am – 2 pm Arts & Craft Market, Brat Fry and Bake Sale
Highway Cleanup
High School Youth Group Lock-out



Sunday, September 12

9 am In person & Online Worship – Teacher Installation & Blessing of the Backpacks
10:15 am Rally Day – 1st Day of Sunday School
10:15 am Fall Ministry Fair

Monday, September 13

10:30 Tai Chi
6 pm SREA Meeting
6:30 pm Card Club



Tuesday, September 14

9 am Quilters
5 pm Finance Meeting

Wednesday, September 15

10:30 am Tai Chi
5:30 pm Worship
6:30 pm 1st Confirmation Class



connect·grow·serve

September 12th

Reminder to all the Committees and Ministry Groups to decorate your group's table. If you need any assistance from the office, please let Julie know.

Join us for our Fall Ministry Fair. Our committees and ministry groups will each have a table showing the congregation just what they do and ways you can get involved.

There will be door prizes for those that attend.

Today's Worship Team

Wednesday 5:30 pm, 9/8

Music: Ronna

Usher: Geoff Gilbert

Sunday Morning Service 9am, 9/12

Music: Carla

Reader: Angela Pace

Usher: Sue Wenker & Bev Johnson

Video Production: Brady & Lori Cox

Coffee Hour: Crawfords

Altar Flowers: Crawfords in memory of Pearl Crawford

Next Week's Worship Team

Wednesday 5:30pm, 9/15

Music: Samantha

Usher: _____

Sunday Morning Service 9am, 9/19

Music: Ronna

Reader: Ellen Kabele

Usher: _____

Video Production: _____

Coffee Hour: _____