



# Welcome to Bethlehem Lutheran Church

God's Family Serving Christ with Love



## 17<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY after PENTECOST – September 15 & 19, 2021

W8267 Hwy 33 East, Portage, Wisconsin 53901

608-742-8502

[www.bethlehemLCportage.org](http://www.bethlehemLCportage.org)

[bethluch15@gmail.com](mailto: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.

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*Enter to Praise*

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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 (Sunday)

#787 v. 1, 2, “On Eagle’s Wings”

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, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*\*You may be seated for the readings\**

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 11:18-20

*Today’s reading tells of the suffering of the prophet Jeremiah, who announced God’s word to Judah but was met with intense opposition and persecution. Jeremiah continues to trust in God in the midst of his suffering.*

<sup>18</sup>It was the LORD who made it known to me, and I knew; then you showed me their evil deeds. <sup>19</sup>But I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter. And I did not know it was against me that they devised schemes, saying, “Let us destroy the tree with its fruit, let us cut him off from the land of the living, so that his name will no longer be remembered!” <sup>20</sup>But you, O LORD of hosts, who judge righteously, who try the heart and the mind, let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 54

*God is my helper; it is the Lord who sustains my life. (Ps. 54:4)*

<sup>1</sup>Save me, O God, by your name; in your might, defend my cause.

<sup>2</sup>**Hear my prayer, O God; give ear to the words of my mouth.**

<sup>3</sup>For strangers have risen up against me, and the ruthless have sought my life, those who have no regard for God.

<sup>4</sup>**Behold, God is my helper; it is the Lord who sustains my life.**

<sup>5</sup>Render evil to those who spy on me; in your faithfulness, destroy them.

<sup>6</sup>**I will offer you a freewill sacrifice and praise your name, O LORD, for it is good.**

<sup>7</sup>For you have rescued me from every trouble, and my eye looks down on my enemies.

SECOND READING: James 3:13--4:3, 7-8a

*The wisdom God gives unites our hearts and minds. Instead of living to satisfy our own wants and desires, we manifest this wisdom in peace, gentleness, mercy, and impartiality toward others.*

<sup>13</sup>Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. <sup>14</sup>But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. <sup>15</sup>Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. <sup>16</sup>For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. <sup>17</sup>But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. <sup>18</sup>And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.<sup>4:</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? <sup>2</sup>You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. <sup>3</sup>You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. <sup>7</sup>Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8a</sup>Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*\*Please rise in body and/or spirit for the Gospel\**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia.* God has called us through the proclamation of the good news,\* that we may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. *Alleluia.* (2 Thess. 2:14)

GOSPEL: Mark 9:30-37

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

*Jesus' teaching and action in this text are directed to the church whenever it is seduced by the world's definition of greatness: prestige, power, influence, and money. The antidote to such a concern for greatness is servanthood.*

<sup>30</sup>[Jesus and the disciples went on] and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it;<sup>31</sup> for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again."

<sup>32</sup>But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

<sup>33</sup>Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?” <sup>34</sup>But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. <sup>35</sup>He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.” <sup>36</sup>Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, <sup>37</sup>“Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.” The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*\*You may be seated\**

### THE SERMON

SERMON HYMN (Sunday)

#487 v. 1 “What Feast of Love”

*\*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.*

God of community, we pray for the church around the world. Unite us in our love for you. Help us overcome our divisions, that we are encouraged to work together for your sake. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of creation, we pray for this hurting earth. Awaken in us a new desire to care for this world and empower us to support agencies, organizations, and individual efforts to heal our environment. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of cooperation, we pray for nations of the world embroiled in conflict. Inspire leaders to listen to each other and work towards peaceful solutions to disagreements. Protect the vulnerable, especially children, who cannot find safety in their home or country. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of comfort, we pray for all who live with mental or physical illness. Help them find appropriate care. Bring healing and wholeness when the path forward seems bleak. Let us pray for all of those on our prayer list. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of compassion, we pray for the young people of this congregation. Renew in us your call to welcome the children in our midst. As they grow, strengthen their faith and our commitment to them. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of consolation, we give you thanks for our loved ones who have died and pray for all who grieve today. Shine your grace on all your saints. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

P: 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 (Sunday)

#772 v. 1, 4 "Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways"

## DISMISSAL

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

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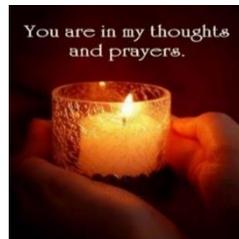
## Depart to Share

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### ***Please Pray For***

#### **Church Prayer List:**

Brian Franson  
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  
Jody Crosby  
John and Judy Skille (Tania Anderson's parents)  
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

### 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!

### Sign up for Text Messages

Contact the church office if you want to receive text message reminders and updates about events, meetings, closures, etc. Directions can also be found in the August Chimes.

### Coffee Hour

Coffee hour is back! Sign up in the Narthex.



### Life Line Screening will be here Tuesday, October 12

A package of five screenings to identify risk for stroke, heart disease and other chronic conditions will be offered for \$149 and take 60-90 minutes to complete. If you register today, you will receive a \$10 discount. Register by calling toll free 1-888-653-6441 or text the word "circle" to 797979.

#### Today's Worship Team

Wednesday 5:30 pm, 9/15

Music: Samantha

Usher: Geoff Gilbert

Sunday Morning Service 9am, 9/19

Music: Ronna

Reader: Ellen Kabele

Usher: \_\_\_\_\_

Video Production: \_\_\_\_\_

Coffee Hour: \_\_\_\_\_

Altar Flowers: Joan & Roger Von Haden in memory of Joan's brother Alan Lawrence

### This Week:

#### Wednesday, September 15

10:30 am Tai Chi

5:30 pm Worship

6:30 pm 1<sup>st</sup> Confirmation Class

#### Thursday, September 16

6:30 pm Council Meeting

#### Friday, September 17

**CHIMES articles due to office**

10:30 am Tai Chi

#### Sunday, September 19

9 am In person & Online Worship

10:15 am Sunday School

#### Monday, September 20

10:30 Tai Chi

6:30 pm SRA Meeting

6:30 pm Card Club

#### Tuesday, September 21

9 am Quilters

7 pm SREA Annual Meeting

#### Wednesday, September 22

10:30 am Tai Chi

5:30 pm Worship

6:30 pm Confirmation Class

#### Next Week's Worship Team

Wednesday 5:30pm, 9/22

Music: Samantha

Usher: Geoff Gilbert

Sunday Morning Service 9am, 9/26

Music: Carla

Reader: Kerry Melby

Usher: Jeff Melby

Video Production: \_\_\_\_\_

Coffee Hour: Cloe Rehdantz