



Welcome to Bethlehem Lutheran Church

God's Family Serving Christ with Love



**For God  
all things  
are possible**

MARK 10:27

**20<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY after PENTECOST –October 10, 2021**

W8267 Hwy 33 East, Portage, Wisconsin 53901

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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

#574, "Here I Am, Lord"

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

**Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us your gift of faith, that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to what lies ahead, we may follow the way of your commandments and receive the crown of everlasting joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

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

FIRST READING: Amos 5:6-7, 10-15

*Amos was a herdsman by profession and a prophet by God's call. During a time of great prosperity in the northern kingdom of Israel, the prophet speaks to the wealthy upper class. He warns his listeners that fulfilling God's demand for justice brings blessing, while corruption and oppression incur God's wrath.*

<sup>6</sup>Seek the LORD and live, or he will break out against the house of Joseph like fire, and it will devour Bethel, with no one to quench it. <sup>7</sup>Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood, and bring righteousness to the ground!

<sup>10</sup>They hate the one who reproves in the gate, and they abhor the one who speaks the truth.

<sup>11</sup>Therefore because you trample on the poor and take from them levies of grain, you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not live in them; you have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink their wine. <sup>12</sup>For I know how many are your transgressions, and how great are your sins—you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe, and push aside the needy in the gate. <sup>13</sup>Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time; for it is an evil time.

<sup>14</sup>Seek good and not evil, that you may live; and so the LORD, the God of hosts, will be with you, just as you have said. <sup>15</sup>Hate evil and love good, and establish justice in the gate; it may be that the LORD, the God of hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

#### PSALM 90:12-17

*So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom. (Ps. 90:12)*

<sup>12</sup>So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

<sup>13</sup>**Return, O LORD; how long will you tarry? Be gracious to your servants.**

<sup>14</sup>Satisfy us by your steadfast love in the morning; so shall we rejoice and be glad all our days.

<sup>15</sup>**Make us glad as many days as you afflicted us and as many years as we suffered adversity.**

<sup>16</sup>Show your servants your works, and your splendor to their children.

<sup>17</sup>**May the graciousness of the Lord our God be upon us; prosper the work of our hands; prosper our handiwork.**

#### SECOND READING: Hebrews 4:12-16

*We cannot hide our thoughts, desires, and actions from God, to whom we are completely accountable. Nevertheless, Jesus understands our human weakness and temptations, because he also experienced them. Therefore we can approach the throne of grace to receive divine mercy from Christ.*

<sup>12</sup>Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. <sup>13</sup>And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.

<sup>14</sup>Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. <sup>15</sup>For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup>Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

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

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia.* Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. *Alleluia. (Matt. 5:3)*

#### GOSPEL: Mark 10:17-31

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

*Jesus has been teaching his disciples about what is most valued in God's eyes. Now, a conversation with a rich man brings his message home to the disciples in a way that is surprising but unforgettable.*

<sup>17</sup>As [Jesus] was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" <sup>18</sup>Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. <sup>19</sup>You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.' " <sup>20</sup>He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth." <sup>21</sup>Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." <sup>22</sup>When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

<sup>23</sup>Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" <sup>24</sup>And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! <sup>25</sup>It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." <sup>26</sup>They were greatly astounded and said to one another, "Then who can be saved?" <sup>27</sup>Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible."

<sup>28</sup>Peter began to say to him, "Look, we have left everything and followed you." <sup>29</sup>Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, <sup>30</sup>who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. <sup>31</sup>But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first." The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*\*You may be seated\**

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN SING

### THE SERMON

*\*Please rise in body and/or spirit\**

### SERMON HYMN

#807 v. 1, 3 "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

### 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**

## INSTALLATION OF PASTOR JAIME BENSON

**Pr. Rilling:** Having been authorized by the church to install Rev. Jaime Louise Benson, our co-worker in the gospel, as pastor, I now ask for certification of this call.

**Council Member:** After prayerful deliberation, we, of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, have called Rev. Jaime Louise Benson as pastor. I present her and this letter certifying the call.

*\*You may be seated\**

**Pr. Rilling:** *A reading from John:* Jesus said, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you. Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” *(John 20:21-23)*

*A reading from Matthew:* Jesus said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” *(Matthew 28:18-20)*

*A reading from First Timothy:* Set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Attend to the public reading of scripture, to exhorting, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you through prophecy with the laying on of hands by the council of elders. Put these things into practice, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress. Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; continue in these things, for in doing this you will save both yourself and your hearers. *(1 Timothy 4:12-16)*

Jaime in the presence of this assembly will you commit yourself to this new trust and responsibility, in the confidence that it comes from God through the call of the church?

**Pr. Jaime:** I will, and I ask God to help me.

**Pr. Rilling:** Will you preach and teach in accordance with the holy scriptures and with the confessions of the Lutheran church? Will you carry out this ministry in harmony with the constitutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America?

**Pr. Jaime:** I will, and I ask God to help me.

**Pr. Rilling:** Will you be diligent in your study of the holy scriptures and in your use of the means of grace? Will you love, serve, and pray for God’s people, nourish them with the word and sacraments, and lead them by your own example in faithful service and holy living?

**Pr. Jaime:** I will, and I ask God to help me.

**Pr. Rilling:** Will you give faithful witness in the world, that God's love may be known in all that you do?

**Pr. Jaime:** I will, and I ask God to help me.

**Pr. Rilling:** Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things, graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform them.

**Congregation: Amen.**

*\*Please rise in body and/or spirit\**

**Pr. Rilling:** People of God, will you receive Jaime as a messenger of Jesus Christ sent to serve all people with the gospel of hope and salvation?

Will you regard her as a servant of Christ and a steward of the mysteries of God?

**Congregation: We will, and we ask God to help us.**

**Pr. Rilling:** Will you pray for her, help and honor her for her work's sake, and in all things strive to live together in the peace and unity of Christ?

**Congregation: We will, and we ask God to help us.**

**Pr. Rilling:** Jaime the office of pastor of Bethlehem Lutheran Church is now committed to you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Congregation: Amen.**

**Pr. Rilling:** The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make you complete in everything good so that you may do God's will, working in you that which is pleasing in God's sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever.

**Congregation: Amen.**

**Council Member:** You have been called to be among us to baptize, to teach, and to forgive sins.

**Council Member:** You have been called to be among us to proclaim the good news.

**Council Member:** You have been called to be among us to preside at the Lord's supper.

**Pr. Rilling:** People of God, I present to you Jaime, your pastor. Let us welcome her in the name of Christ.

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.*

Uniting God, you call forth different gifts in those who follow you. Encourage us to welcome the diverse benefits and blessings of the whole church in teaching, preaching, prophecy, healing, and more. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Nurturing God, you bring forth crops from the soil and bounty from the trees. Increase the produce of the land and bless all who toil in fields and orchards. Provide for good working conditions and keep them safe. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Empowering God, you offer compassion for those who are overlooked or forgotten. Open the hearts of local, national, and world leaders to show such compassion and love for their neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Sheltering God, in Jesus you travelled among us without a place to lay your head. Provide safe places to sleep and rest for those who have no place to live. Sustain ministries that offer food, clothing, and peace of mind. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Renewing God, you bring life out of death. Help us part with those things that are no longer beneficial to us and open our hearts to see where new life is budding in this congregation. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Supporting God, you guide those who are called to do your good works. Guide Pr. Jaime as she begins her new journey as pastor. Help us welcome her warmly and support her along the way. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Eternal God, we thank you for the lives of those who have died. Make us confident in your promise of salvation and support us in our own journey of faith. 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.**



DISMISSAL

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

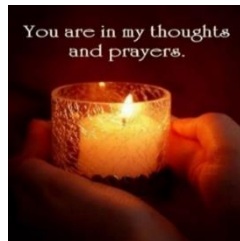
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Depart to Share

Please Pray For

**Church Prayer List:**

- 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.



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

**Our Extended Family Prayer Concerns:**

- 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!



**Coat Drive: Oct 1 - 17**

Accepting gently used clean winter coats & boots, infant to adult. Special needs for children's sizes. Drop off in Narthex during office hours or at the Portage Police Department

**Meeting Thursday, October 14<sup>th</sup>**

For a tour of the International Crane Foundation. Call Joanne Genrich for details.



Sign up in the narthex.

**Today's Worship Team**  
Wednesday 5:30 pm, 10/6  
Music: Ronna  
Usher: Geoff Gilbert

Sunday Morning Service 9am, 10/10  
Music: Carla  
Reader: John Denhartigh  
Usher: John Denhartigh  
Video Production: Justice Oh  
Coffee Hour: Welcome Reception  
Altar Flowers: Lucile Gauger in honor of her sister's birthday

**Next Week's Worship Team**  
Wednesday 5:30pm, 10/13  
Music: Ronna  
Usher: Geoff

Sunday Morning Service 9am, 10/17  
Music: Ronna  
Reader: Kerry Melby  
Usher: Ellen Kabele  
Video Production: Jeff Melby  
Coffee Hour: \_\_\_\_\_



### 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.



#### Fall Food Drive

We will be collecting food for the Wyocena Food Pantry starting October 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### Sign up for Text Messages

Contact the church office if you want to receive text message reminders and updates about faith formation classes, events, meetings, closures, etc.



#### This Week:

##### Wednesday, October 6

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

##### Friday, October 8

10:30 am Tai Chi

##### Sunday, October 10

**Pr. Jaime's Installation & Welcome Reception**  
9 am In person & Online Worship  
10:15 am Sunday School

##### Monday, October 11

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

##### Tuesday, October 12

Life Line Screening  
9 am Quilters  
5 pm Finance Meeting

##### Wednesday, October 13

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



#### WELCOMING PR. JAIME BENSON! OCT. 10TH

Please join us on Sunday, October 10<sup>th</sup> to warmly welcome Pr. Jaime Benson at 9 am worship. The Sunday School children will be singing during this special service. We will gather for a welcome reception after worship.

## Send

### A hymnbook hunt



Find a song of thanks. It might be something you sing at the end of each communion service or it may be a favorite hymn or song. Put its page number here: \_\_\_\_\_



Look for the Psalms in your hymnbook or a Bible. Find a psalm that has your age in its chapter number. What page is it on? \_\_\_\_\_ Have someone read some of the psalm verses to you. Look for today's chapter, Psalm 34.

Choose a favorite song that is sung today in worship.

\_\_\_\_\_

What makes it a favorite one for you?

\_\_\_\_\_



*Dear Lord, give us wisdom and courage for each day. We will praise you always. Amen*

### This week

Choose a song to sing before or after family meals this week or create a new mealtime prayer calling Jesus the "Bread of Life."

# Kids Celebrate

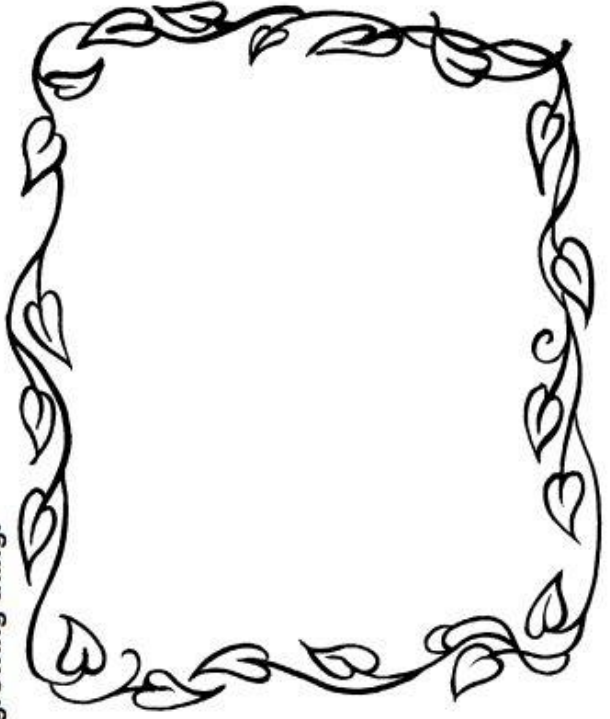
Lectionary 20



## gather

Welcome to worship. We have been living in the season after Pentecost for many weeks. Today's church name is Proper \_\_\_\_\_. (Look at the top of this bulletin.) We have been living in the season of summer many weeks. Today's date is \_\_\_\_\_. This season is a time to grow in knowing about God and a time to grow closer to God through prayers, songs, and reading the Bible. We grow just like plants grow in the summer.

**Draw a picture of yourself, then draw a picture of a growing thing.**



# hear & Celebrate

## Words of wisdom

Psalms 34:9-14

The Bible is filled with stories and wise thoughts. Some things are hard to understand. "Fear the Lord" doesn't mean "be afraid of God." It means we follow and respect an awesome, powerful, and loving God.

**Make sense out of these confusing words to find today's Psalm verse. Cross out the letters that spell the pictured items. Print the rest of the letters in order on the line beside each picture to find the verse. One has been done for you.**

Tghasossee\$



Those

swhuno



sappeelek



thbeall



stLoarrds



dlaogck



numobthreinllag



tbihakte



ciast



gocakoed



Talk together about confusing words or Bible verses that don't make sense to you.

(Psalm 34:10b)