

WELCOME TO BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

God's Family Serving Christ with Love

W8267 Hwy 33 East, Portage, Wisconsin 53901

608-742-8502

www.bethlehemLCportage.org

bethluch15@gmail.com

Pastor Jen Johnson: BethlehemELCA.Pastor@gmail.com

24th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

NOVEMBER 15 & 18, 2020



*We gather not as perfect people,
but as forgiven people through Christ.*

Enter to Praise

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.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved. **Amen.**

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One, we confess that we are not awake for you. We are not faithful in using your gifts. We forget the least of our siblings. We do not see your beautiful image in one another. We are infected by sin that divides your beloved community. Open our hearts to your coming, open our eyes to see you in our neighbor, open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.

Beloved, we are God's children, and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us. Through † Jesus you are forgiven, by Jesus you are welcome, in Jesus you are called to rejoice! Let us live in the promises prepared for us from the foundation of the world. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

Zephaniah (like the prophet Amos in last week's first reading) presents the day of the LORD as one of judgment and wrath. Descriptions of the last day in the New Testament include details taken from Old Testament accounts of the day of the LORD.

⁷Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is at hand; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. ¹²At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, "The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm." ¹³Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them.

¹⁴The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. ¹⁵That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, ¹⁶a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

¹⁷I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the LORD, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. ¹⁸Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the LORD's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 90:1-8 [9-11] 12

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

¹Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another.

²**Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born, from age to age you are God.**

³You turn us back to the dust and say, "Turn back, O children of earth."

⁴**For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past and like a watch in the night;**

⁵you sweep them away like a dream, they fade away suddenly like the grass:

⁶**in the morning it is green and flourishes; in the evening it is dried up and withered.**

⁷For we are consumed by your anger; we are afraid because of your wrath.

⁸**Our iniquities you have set before you, and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.**

[⁹When you are angry, all our days are gone; we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

¹⁰**The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even eighty; yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and we are gone.**

¹¹Who regards the power of your wrath? Who rightly fears your indignation?
] ¹²**So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.**

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! ⁴But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁶So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing. The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. Abide in me as I abide in you; those who abide in me bear much fruit.
Alleluia. (John 15:4, 5)

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-30

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

Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁴"For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' ²¹His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more

talents.’²³ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’²⁴ Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed;²⁵ so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’²⁶ But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter?’²⁷ Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest.²⁸ So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents.²⁹ For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away.³⁰ As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ” The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

THE SERMON

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

Longing for Christ’s reign to come among us, we pray for the outpouring of God’s power on the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Lord of the church, ignite your people with the passion of your love. By the fire of your Holy Spirit, unify us across ministries, congregations, and denominations, and refine us to participate in your activity throughout the world. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord of creation, we stand in awe at the works of your hands and praise you for the beauty of nature. Bless the earth for your glory and restore its integrity where exploitation has caused ruin. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord of the nations, sound forth your justice in the ears of all leaders. Increase concern for those who are most vulnerable, especially as international leaders forge trade agreements and cooperate to end human rights abuses. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord of all in need, search out all who cry to you in distress. Scatter the heavy clouds of depression, chronic illness, unemployment, and loneliness with your radiant light. Send us as encouragement and signs of your healing. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord of the stranger, stir up holy restlessness in us to extend love to those at the margins. Release our desire for control and open us to learn from the perspectives of others. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord of the living and the dead, we give you thanks for all the saints at rest from their labors. Rouse us to live by their example, that saints yet to come may also know your love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, until that day when you gather all creation around your throne where you will reign forever and ever. **Amen.**

PEACE

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

OFFERING PRAYER

God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant. **Amen.**

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

There is a place for you at the banquet. Come and feast at Jesus' table.

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet. Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- We need volunteers to be ushers/readers
- New members – if interested in joining BLC please contact the church
- Stewardship letters – mailed this week, please mail in your pledge cards
- Quilt drawing – can buy ticket through the end of Gifts of Bethlehem
- Looking musicians/singers for Gifts of Bethlehem – contact Tania Anderson
- Looking for gift baskets or items for the baskets or baskets/containers for Gifts of Bethlehem auction – need by Dec. 4th
- Food drive – thru end of November for food pantries & ADRC

BLESSING

May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God, Sovereign, † Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

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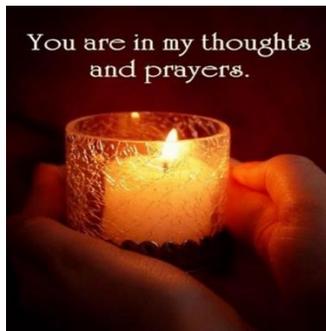
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Depart to Share

Please Pray For...

Church Prayer List:

Sally Lueptow & family
Richard Daugherty
Bob O'Halloran
Elayne Hanson
Noretta Moran



Our Extended Family Prayer Concerns:

Burson Holland
Mary Lewis (Linda's sister)
Brad Kohnke
Deb Moe & family (Sandra Sween's cousin)
Bryan Olsen (Brenda's brother-in-law)
Randy VonRuden
Betty Hayes (Chad Hayes' grandma)
Tom Kudelka
Dave Johnson (Pastor Jen's brother)
Steve Rohrbacher (Marie & Ed's son)
Lucca
Bill (Ann Ciske's father-in-law)
Diane Quick (Roger Duchow's sister)
Randy
Tom Teslik (Mark Teslik's son)
Rick Voight (Halley Harms' father)
Samantha Wallner
Shannon Henderson
Dick & Rene' Johnson
Patty McGee
Natalie Pierce

Today's Worship Team

Sunday Morning Service 9am, 11/15

Music: Carla Gerhardt

Reader/Usher: Del Molden

Next Week's Worship Team

Sunday Morning Service 9am, 11/22

Music: Carla Gerhardt

Reader/Usher: Larry Sween

Worship Volunteers Needed

Please sign up to read and/or usher. Contact the office or sign up [here](#). THANK YOU!!

This Week:

Sunday, Nov 15

9 am Online Worship

Monday, Nov 16

10:30 am Tai Chi

5:30 pm Call Committee Mtg

6 pm SRA Mtg

Wednesday, Nov 18

10:30 am Tai Chi

7pm Confirmation Zoom Class 6th – 8th Gr.

Thursday, Nov 19

6:30 pm Council Meeting

Friday, Nov 20

10:30 am Tai Chi

Chimes articles due to office

Sunday, Nov 22

9 am Online Worship

**You can still tune in at
9am Worship to listen
from your car – 88.3 FM.**



Gifts of Bethlehem

Looking for donations for gift baskets for silent auction. Are you a business owner & would like to donate something for the silent auction? Know any local businesses that would like to donate? Please bring items to church office by Dec. 4th.

We are also looking for musicians and singers for the online concert.



Interested in becoming a member of BLC, please contact the church office for more information. Member receptions scheduled for Dec. 6th & 9th

Quilt Drawing

Get your tickets for this beautiful 70"x74" quilt donation drawing. Tickets available at church office or online on our website.



**Collecting food in narthex in Nov for
local food pantries & ADRC**



**The Quilters and Bible Study will be put
on hold for now.**