

WELCOME TO BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

God's Family Serving Christ with Love

W8267 Hwy 33 East, Portage, Wisconsin 53901

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8th SUNDAY after PENTECOST – July 14 & 18, 2021



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.

Enter to Praise

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, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy. **Amen.**

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our provider, **help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.**

Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, ✝ the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN (Sunday)

#789 v. 1,4,5, "Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us"

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, powerful and compassionate, you shepherd your people, faithfully feeding and protecting us. Heal each of us, and make us a whole people, that we may embody the justice and peace of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

You may be seated for the readings

FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 7:1-14a

Instead of David building a house (temple) for God, God promises to establish David's house (dynasty) forever. Centuries later, after the Babylonian exile, no king sat on the throne. Even then, however, the people of Israel remembered this promise and continued to hope for a king, the messiah, God's anointed.

¹Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." ³Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" ⁸Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. ¹²When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ^{14a}I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 89:20-37

Your love, O LORD, forever will I sing. (Ps. 89:1)

²⁰“I have found David my servant; with my holy oil have I anointed him.

²¹**My hand will hold him fast and my arm will make him strong.**

²²No enemy shall deceive him, nor shall the wicked bring him down.

²³**I will crush his foes before him and strike down those who hate him.**

²⁴My faithfulness and steadfast love are with him,
and he shall be victorious through my name.

²⁵**I will set his hand on the sea, and his right hand on the rivers.**

²⁶He will say to me, ‘You are my father, my God, and the rock of my salvation.’

²⁷**I will make him my firstborn and higher than the kings of the earth.**

²⁸I will keep my love for him forever, and my covenant will stand firm for him.

²⁹**I will establish his line forever and his throne as the days of heaven.”**

³⁰If his children forsake my teaching and do not walk according to my judgments;

³¹**if they break my statutes and do not keep my commandments;**

³²I will punish their transgressions with a rod and their iniquities with the lash;

³³**but I will not take my love from him, nor let my faithfulness prove false.**

³⁴I will not break my covenant, nor change what has gone out of my lips.

³⁵**Once for all I have sworn by my holiness: I will not lie to David.**

³⁶His line shall endure forever and his throne as the sun before me;

³⁷**it shall stand fast forevermore like the moon, the abiding witness in the sky.”**

SECOND READING: Ephesians 2:11-22

The author of this letter reminds his audience that originally they were not part of God’s chosen people. Through Jesus’ death, however, they are included in God’s household of faith, whose cornerstone is Jesus Christ.

¹¹Remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called “the uncircumcision” by those who are called “the circumcision”—a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands—¹²remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. ¹⁵He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. ¹⁷So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; ¹⁸for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, ²⁰built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. ²¹In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; ²²in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Please rise in body and/or spirit for the Gospel

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia. My sheep | hear my voice. * I know them, and they | follow me. Alleluia. (John 10:27)*

GOSPEL: Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

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

When Jesus sends his disciples out to teach and heal, they minister among large numbers of people. Their work is motivated by Christ's desire to be among those in need.

³⁰The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. ³¹He said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. ³²And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. ³³Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. ³⁴As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

⁵³When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. ⁵⁴When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, ⁵⁵and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. ⁵⁶And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed. The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

You may be seated

THE SERMON

SERMON HYMN (Sunday)

#461, "All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly"

Please rise in body and/or spirit to proclaim what we believe

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: Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Tend your church, O God. Encourage bishops, pastors, and deacons in their proclamation of the gospel. Raise up new leaders and encourage those pursuing a call to ministry. Embolden all the baptized to embody your love and justice. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Restore your creation, O God. Sustain croplands and pastures and safeguard all farm animals and livestock. Preserve lakes, rivers, and streams that offer refreshment. Revive lands recovering from natural disasters and protect coastlands threatened by rising oceans. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Reconcile the nations, O God. Break down the dividing walls that make us strangers to one another and unite us as one human family. Equip leaders to deal wisely with conflict and guide diplomats who seek peaceful solutions. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Heal your people, O God. Look with compassion on immigrants, exiles, and all who are afraid or feel lost. Give rest to those who are weary, comfort to those who are grieving, and recovery to those who are ill especially for all of those on our prayer list and for those we hold in our hearts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Nourish this congregation, O God. Prepare a table where we receive food for our hungry spirits. Renew our commitment to provide for one another and revitalize our ministries of feeding and nurturing hungry neighbors. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You lead us home, O God. We give thanks for all who have died, now citizens with the saints. As you have received them into your heavenly home, so welcome all of us to dwell in your house forever. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We lift these and all our prayers to you, O God, confident in the promise of your saving love; 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

Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. **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

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

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. You may sit after receiving Communion

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- You can bring in items for the rummage sale now and put them in designated room. They are labeled. Also looking for help with the sale; sign up is in the narthex.
- High school youth going on the Mission Trip can pick up their pizza order forms at church. Some will be left in the black mailbox outside the church office for after hour pick up.
- Coffee hour and altar flowers are back. You can sign up for both in the narthex.
- Julie is in need of help to cover the phones July 22 & 23. Let her know if you're able to help.

Please rise in body and/or spirit

BLESSING

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ✠ be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN (Sunday)

#545, "Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing"

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

Depart to Share

Today's Worship Team

Wednesday 5:30pm, 7/14

Music: Samantha

Usher: Geoff Gilbert

Sunday Morning Service 9am, 7/18

Music: Carla

Reader: Nancy Buckley

Usher: Jim Crawford

Video Production: Lori & Brady Cox

Coffee Hour: Dianna Bush & Bev Johnson

Next Week's Worship Team

Wednesday 5:30pm, 7/21

Music: Carla

Usher: Geoff Gilbert

Sunday Morning Service 9am, 7/25

Music: Ronna

Reader: Ellen Kabele

Usher: _____

Video Production: _____

Coffee Hour: Darlene Anderson-Prest

Please Pray For

Church Prayer List:

Dan & Marie Kucksdorf & family

Elaine Benson

Mary Ellen Miller

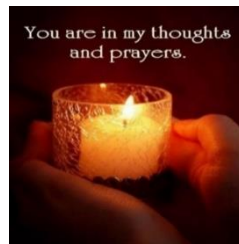
Jeremy Schilling

Bonnie Bender

Lynn Grueneberg

Bob O'Halloran

Noretta Moran



Our Extended Family Prayer Concerns:

Fred Richardson

Nelson Richardson

Meghan Wade (Dorothy Waldo's granddaughter)

Judy Crosby

John and Judy Skille (Tania Anderson's parents)

Wayne Ostertag

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)

Lucca

Bill (Ann Ciske's father-in-law)

Randy

Tom Teslik (Mark Teslik's son)

Rick Voight (Halley Harms' father)

Shannon Henderson

Dick & Rene' Johnson

Patty McGee

Natalie Pierce

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

Rummage Sale

The Rummage Sale is scheduled for August 7th. You can start to bring in items for the sale and put in the designated classrooms and coat closets. Volunteer sign up sheets are in the Narthex. We could use all the help we can get!

Attention Confirmation Kids



Here is a great way to get in some service hours: sign up to water the pumpkin patch here at church. Also watch your email for a sign up link. It will also be posted on our Website.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DADA72FA1FCC43-pumpkin>

Call for Artists

We are looking for artists to apply to be a part of the Craft & Art Market which will be held on Sept. 11th. Applications are due Aug. 5th. For more information please visit our website:

www.bethlehemlportage.org



**VBS IS BACK THIS YEAR!
AUGUST 9-13TH**

Registration is now open. Forms and information can be found in the narthex & on our website:

www.bethlehemlportage.org

This Week:

Wednesday, July 14

10:30 am Tai Chi
5:30 pm In person Worship

Friday, July 15

6:30 pm Council Meeting

Friday, July 16

10:30 am Tai Chi
Chimes articles due to office

Sunday, July 18

9 am In person & Online Worship

Monday, July 19

10:30 am Tai Chi
6:30 pm Euchre

Wednesday, July 21

10:30 am Tai Chi
5:30 pm In person Worship

Thursday & Friday, July 22 & 23

Julie out of office

Coffee Hour

Coffee hour is back! Sign up in the Narthex.

Office Help Needed

Julie is looking for help covering the office phones Thursday & Friday, July 22 & 23 from 9 am to 12 pm. If you're able to help please contact her at 742-8502. Thank you!!

Text Message Opt-in

Do you want to receive text messages for meeting reminders, special announcements, inclement weather closings? Fill out this slip and return it to the office or let Julie Saalsaa know.

Name: _____

Cell Phone: _____