



# Welcome to Bethlehem Lutheran Church

God's Family Serving Christ with Love



## 9<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**August 3 & 7, 2022**

W8267 Hwy 33 East,  
Portage, Wisconsin 53901

Pastor Jaime Benson

Office: 608-742-8502

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

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

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**Holy Communion** is celebrated each week; all people of God are welcome. We offer communion two ways: prepacked and communion at the altar. You can pick up the prefilled communion cup on your way into the sanctuary or ask the usher for it at communion time. 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. We have begun to offer communion at the altar again for those that wish to come up. Please fill out a Communion Card found in the pew racks and give it to the usher when you come up for communion.

**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.

**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 & FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins. We invite those who are able to stand each time this symbol ❖ appears in the bulletin.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, whose steadfast love endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful God,

**we confess that we have not followed your path but have chosen our own way. Instead of putting others before ourselves, we long to take the best seats at the table. When met by those in need, we have too often passed by on the other side. Set us again on the path of life. Save us from ourselves and free us to love our neighbors. Amen.**

Hear the good news!

God does not deal with us according to our sins but delights in granting pardon and mercy. In the name of ✚ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are free to love as God loves. **Amen.**

❖ GATHERING HYMN

#771, v. 1, 3 “God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens”

❖ 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 God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

FIRST READING: Genesis 15:1-6

<sup>1</sup>After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” <sup>2</sup>But Abram said, “O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” <sup>3</sup>And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.” <sup>4</sup>But the word of the LORD came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.” <sup>5</sup>He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” <sup>6</sup>And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 33:12-22

<sup>12</sup>Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD! Happy the people chosen to be God’s heritage!

<sup>13</sup>**The LORD looks down from heaven, and sees all humankind.**

<sup>14</sup>God sits firmly enthroned and watches all who dwell on the earth.

<sup>15</sup>**God fashions all their hearts and observes all their deeds.**

- <sup>16</sup>A king is not saved by the size of the army, nor are warriors rescued by their great strength.  
<sup>17</sup>**The horse gives vain hope for victory; despite its great strength it cannot save.**  
<sup>18</sup>Truly, your eye is upon those who fear you, O LORD,  
upon those who wait for your steadfast love,  
<sup>19</sup>**to deliver their lives from death, and to keep them alive in time of famine.**  
<sup>20</sup>Our innermost being waits for you, O LORD, our helper and our shield.  
<sup>21</sup>**Surely, our heart rejoices in you, for in your holy name we put our trust.**  
<sup>22</sup>Let your lovingkindness, O LORD, be upon us, even as we place our hope in you.

**SECOND READING: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16**

<sup>1</sup>Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. <sup>2</sup>Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. <sup>3</sup>By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

<sup>8</sup>By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. <sup>9</sup>By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. <sup>10</sup>For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. <sup>11</sup>By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. <sup>12</sup>Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.”

<sup>13</sup>All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, <sup>14</sup>for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. <sup>15</sup>If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup>But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

❖ **GOSPEL: Luke 12:32-40**

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

[Jesus said:] <sup>32</sup>“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. <sup>33</sup>Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. <sup>34</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

<sup>35</sup>“Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; <sup>36</sup>be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. <sup>37</sup>Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. <sup>38</sup>If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

<sup>39</sup>“But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>40</sup>You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.” The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

### CHILDREN’S MESSAGE (Sunday)

#### SERMON

#### ❖ SERMON HYMN

#638 “Blessed Assurance”

#### ❖ 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: Trusting in God’s extraordinary love, let us come near to the Holy One in prayer.

#### *A brief silence.*

Let your lovingkindness be upon your church. Fill all who proclaim the gospel with your Spirit. Equip your flock to speak your word of promise and hope in the midst of fear and uncertainty. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Let your lovingkindness be upon your creation. Dwell among us and sustain our earthly home. In places of famine, provide nourishment. In places of plenty, fashion us to be good stewards of your bounty. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Let your lovingkindness be upon your world. Be our helper and our shield in places torn by strife and violence. Raise up courageous leaders to govern with compassion and justice. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Let your lovingkindness be upon your children. Look upon all who wait for your steadfast love. Console those who grieve and embrace those who cry out to you *especially for all of those on*

*our prayer list.* Help us to trust your promise and not be afraid. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Let your lovingkindness be upon this community. Fashion our hearts to strive for the way of peace. Strengthen the outreach ministries of this congregation and all who care for those in need. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

With thanksgiving we remember all who have died in faith and now rest in you. As they placed their hope in you, so strengthen us to trust in your promise of new life. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P: Receive the prayers of your children, merciful God, and hold us forever in your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ, our holy Wisdom. **Amen.**

❖ PEACE

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

THE OFFERING

*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 have set before us a plentiful harvest. As we feast on your goodness, strengthen us to labor in your field, and equip us to bear fruit for the good of all, in the name of Jesus. **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.**

..we praise your name and join the unending hymn...



**Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:**



**Heav- en and earth are full of your glo- ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.**



**Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who**



**comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.**

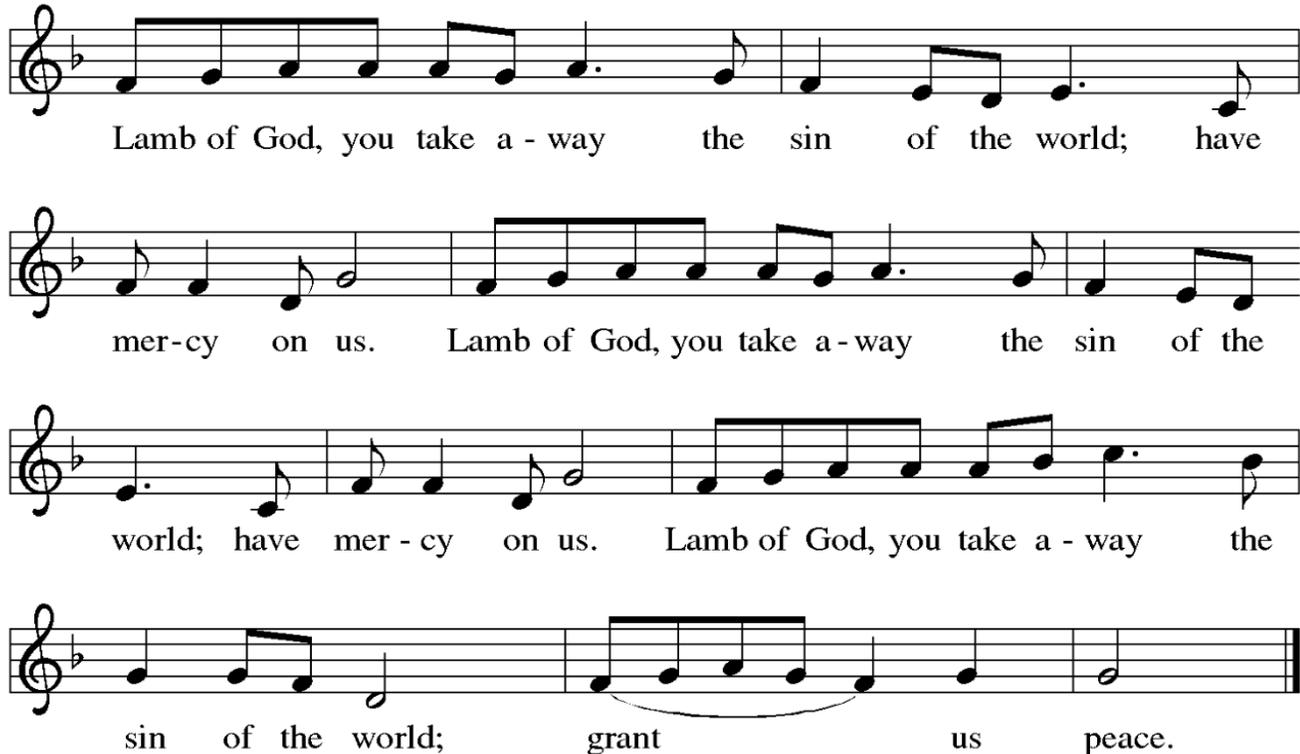
❖ WORDS OF INSTITUTION

❖ 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

In Christ's presence there is fullness of joy. Come to the banquet.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

*You may come forward to receive communion at this time. If you prefer to celebrate communion in your pew with prepackaged elements, please let the usher know.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Life-giving God, through this meal you have bandaged our wounds and fed us with your mercy. Now send us forth to live for others, both friend and stranger, that all may come to know your love. This we pray in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Let the office know if you can be a regular worship volunteer – sign up sheet in narthex
- There will be no online worship service next week, Sunday, Aug 14<sup>th</sup>
- Blessing of the Pets & Pet Fest – Aug 14<sup>th</sup> help spread the word!

❖ BLESSING

The God of peace, Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you, comfort you, and show you the path of life this day and always. **Amen.**

❖ SENDING HYMN

#824 “This is My Father’s World”

❖ DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Love your neighbor. **Thanks be to God.**

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*Depart to share*

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**This Week’s Worship Team**

Wednesday 5:30 pm, 8/3

Music: Samantha

Acolyte: Riley Paulsen

Altar Guild: Cheryl Hebel

Sunday 9am, 8/7

Music: Samantha

Ushers: \_\_\_\_\_

Reader: Darlene Anderson

Video Production: Lori & Brady Cox

Acolyte: Courtney Hernkind

Altar Guild: Nancy Loether

Communion Assistants: \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_

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

Altar Flowers: Donna Steward in memory of George

**Next Week’s Worship Team**

Wednesday 5:30 pm, 8/10

Music: Carla

Acolyte: Dayne Wagner

Altar Guild: Judy Donahue

Sunday 9am, 8/14 – Outdoor Blessing of Pets

Music: Carla

Ushers: \_\_\_\_\_

Video Production: Justice Oh

**There will be no online worship service this day.**

**Please Pray For**

**Church Prayer List:**

Betty Ring

Donna Stewart

Lee Chenoweth

Mark Teslik

Elaine Benson

Mary Tennyson

Bonnie Bender

Lynn Grueneberg

Noretta Moran

**Our Extended Family Prayer Concerns:**

Jody Tilton (Cloe Rehdantz’s granddaughter)

Sharon Stickford (friend of Ginny Paulson’s)

Christie Rhinehart (Cloe’s daughter)

Jim Atkinson

Lori Culberson (Dianna Bush’s sister-in-law)

Lavern Allhiser (brother-in-law of Sandy Sween)

Freda Manzullo (Mark Teslik’s sister)

Judy Fleres (Ginny Paulson’s cousin)

Jody Crosby (friend of Denhartighs)

Judy Skille (Tania Anderson’s mother)

Deb Moe & family (Sandra Sween’s cousin)

Betty Hayes (Chad Hayes’ grandma)

Steve Rohrbacher (Marie & Ed’s son)

Tom Teslik (Mark Teslik’s son)

Rick Voight (Halley Harms’ father)



Tickets are for sale during office hours & after worship. Raffle will be at the end of the Arts & Craft Market on 9/24.

## This Week:

**Wednesday, August 3**

**Rummage Sale Setup – Last Day to bring items**

8:30 am VBS @ PUMC

10:30 am Tai Chi

5:30 pm Worship

**Thursday, August 4**

**Rummage Sale Setup**

8:30 am VBS @ PUMC

**Friday, August 5**

**Rummage Sale Setup**

**Saturday, August 6**

8 am – 4 pm Rummage & Bake Sale

**Sunday, August 7**

9 am Worship

**Monday, August 8**

10:30 am Tai Chi

1 pm Card Club

6 pm SREA Meeting

**Tuesday, August 9**

**Food Pantry Helpers**

## Worship Volunteers

We would like to get back to how we scheduled worship volunteers pre-Covid. This will help eliminate the last minute scramble to find people to fill spots. We would like to organize groups, much like the Acolytes & Altar Guild, where all those interested in volunteering to usher, for example, would be on a list of Ushers. A schedule would be made for several months in advance and people would be assigned a day. If you are not able to fulfill that day, you can switch with someone in your volunteer group. You will find a signup sheet in the narthex to put your name down where you'd be willing to help out. Please remember that we NEED volunteers to help run worship and have it be the experience it is. Without you, it just doesn't work! If you have never volunteered for one of these jobs, we are happy to train you. We would like to get this joining for September. If you have any questions, please contact the office or talk to Julie Saalsaa. Thank you in advance for your help and support with making our church be what it is!

## Blessing of the Pets PET FEST

SUNDAY, AUG. 14

Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
W8267 Hwy 33 E, Portage



9 am  
to  
12 pm

Please note: pets that play well with all other types of animals are encouraged to attend. Bethlehem is not liable for bad behaviors. Please also make sure all pets are leashed at all times & small pets are in carrier.

**Collection for CCHS. FREE gift for first 40 donations! See our website for a full list of needs**

Special Visit from the Columbia County Sheriff's Office K9 Unit

### 9 am Blessing of the Pets Outdoor Worship Service

(Bring a blanket or chair) If your pet isn't able to travel, you may bring along a photo for the pet blessing

### 9:30am-12:00pm-Outdoor Event/Vendors

#### Participating businesses:

- Aspen Chiropractic & Wellness
- Columbia County Humane Society (CCHS)
- Portage Vet Clinic
- Safe at Home Pet Sitting (offering \$15 nail trims)
- MATC Puppy/Dog Training
- All in the Family Creations (handmade dog coats)
- Mad Dogs Bake Shop (homemade pet treats)
- Photos By DMH (FREE Pet Photo booth)

#### Speakers @ 10 am

- Puppy/Dog Training Demonstration
- Injury Prevention Tips



## Arts & Craft Market

CALL FOR ARTISTS & CRAFTERS

EVENT: SEPTEMBER 24TH  
APPLICATION FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE:  
WWW.BETHLEHEMLCPORTAGE.ORG