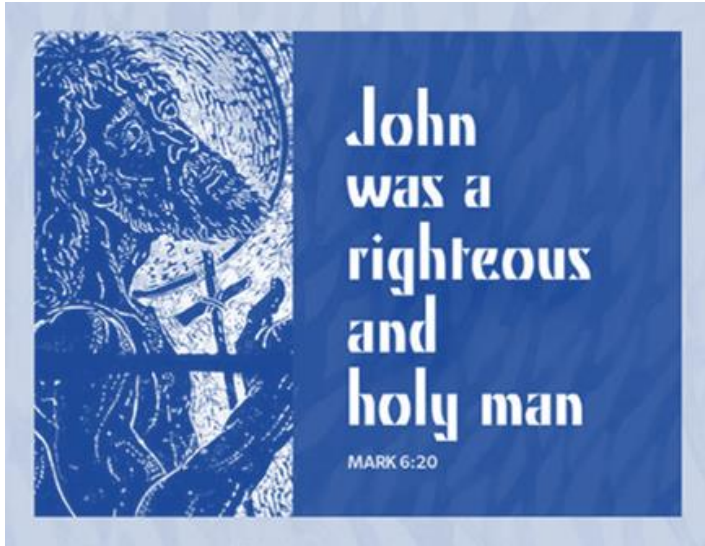




Welcome to Bethlehem Lutheran Church

God's Family Serving Christ with Love



8th Sunday after Pentecost

July 10th & July 14th

W8267 Hwy 33 East,
Portage, Wisconsin 53901

Pastor Jaime Benson
Office: 608-742-8502

www.bethlehemLCportage.org

Church Office Hours:

Mon-Wed 9 am to 3 pm

Thurs-Fri 9 am to 12 pm

or by appointment

Hearing assistance devices are in the Narthex. Please ask the usher if you have any questions.

Large print copies of the bulletin are available in the Narthex.

Daily Devotionals are available in the Narthex. These are in regular or large print.

Holy Communion is celebrated each week; all people of God are welcome. We offer it prepacked or continuous. The prefilled communion cup is in a basket just before you enter the sanctuary. Lift the clear cellophane on top to get the wafer and then you have the grape juice. If you would like a **gluten free wafer**, please let the usher know before the start of worship. We also offer continuous communion for those that wish to come up.

Communion Card - Please fill out a card found in the pew racks and give it to the usher when you come up for communion. You may also scan this QR

code to enter your record of communion or open this link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/MM0URweYEh?origin=lprLink>



Children's Worship Activity Bags are available in the Narthex with activities for your children. 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.

Ways to stay connected. Follow us on



Enter to praise

We invite those who are able to stand each time this symbol ❖ appears in the bulletin.

❖ CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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.

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

#786 "O Holy Spirit, Enter In"

❖ 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, from you come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING: Amos 7:7-15

⁷ This is what [the Lord GOD] showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand. ⁸ And the LORD said to me, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A plumb line." Then the Lord said, "See, I am setting a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel; I will never again pass them by; ⁹ the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate, and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste, and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword." ¹⁰ Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, "Amos has conspired against you in the very center of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words.

¹¹ For thus Amos has said, 'Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel must go into exile away from his land.' " ¹² And Amaziah said to Amos, "O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there; ¹³ but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom." ¹⁴ Then Amos answered Amaziah, "I am

no prophet, nor a prophet's son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, ¹⁵ and the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.'” The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: 85:8-13

⁸ I will listen to what the LORD God is saying; for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.

⁹ **Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you, that your glory may dwell in our land.**

¹⁰ Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

¹¹ **Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

¹² The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, and our land will yield its increase.

¹³ **Righteousness shall go before the LORD and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:3-14

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵ He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸ that he lavished on us.

With all wisdom and insight ⁹ he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹ In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹² so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴ this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory. 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 READING: Mark 6:14-29

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

¹⁴ King Herod heard of [the disciples' preaching,] for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." ¹⁵ But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." ¹⁶ But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised." ¹⁷ For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. ¹⁸ For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife."

¹⁹ And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, ²⁰ for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. ²¹ But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. ²² When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it."

²³ And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." ²⁴ She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." ²⁵ Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." ²⁶ The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. ²⁷ Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, ²⁸ brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. ²⁹ When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb. The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

❖ CHILDREN'S SERMON (Sunday)

❖ SERMON

❖ HYMN OF THE DAY

#812 v 1-3 "Faith of Our Fathers"

❖ 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.

❖ MISSION STATEMENT

Bethlehem Lutheran Church is a growing community where we love inclusively, welcome, serve, and thrive through our relationship with God.

❖ THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *Pray aloud as the Spirit guides you.*

P: One in the communion of saints and in the power of the Holy Spirit, we join our voices in prayer.

A brief silence.

You gather your people into the body of Christ. Where your church is wounded, heal it. Where it is right, strengthen it. Where it is divided, reunite it. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

From before the foundation of the world, you are God. Revive ecosystems destroyed by human greed. Curb our desire to put wealth ahead of the health of all who call this planet home. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You establish equity and make justice. Within every nation, tribe, and land, cause laws to be written and customs to be observed that protect the most vulnerable. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

On the cross your beloved Son endured pain and death. Bring healing to those in need, hope to any in despair, and comfort to the dying. We pray especially for those on our prayer list and those in our hearts. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You send your Spirit into this community of faith. Empower our ministries that serve and build up local communities. Nurture our partnerships with other community organizations. We pray especially for all the volunteers involved with the “Love Our Neighbor” Campaign this coming week. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All peoples praise you, O God. We give you thanks and praise for the lives of our loved ones who now rest in you. In the fullness of time gather us with all your saints in light. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

P: Holy God, holy and merciful: into your outstretched arms we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in the one who is the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

❖ PEACE

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

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

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.**

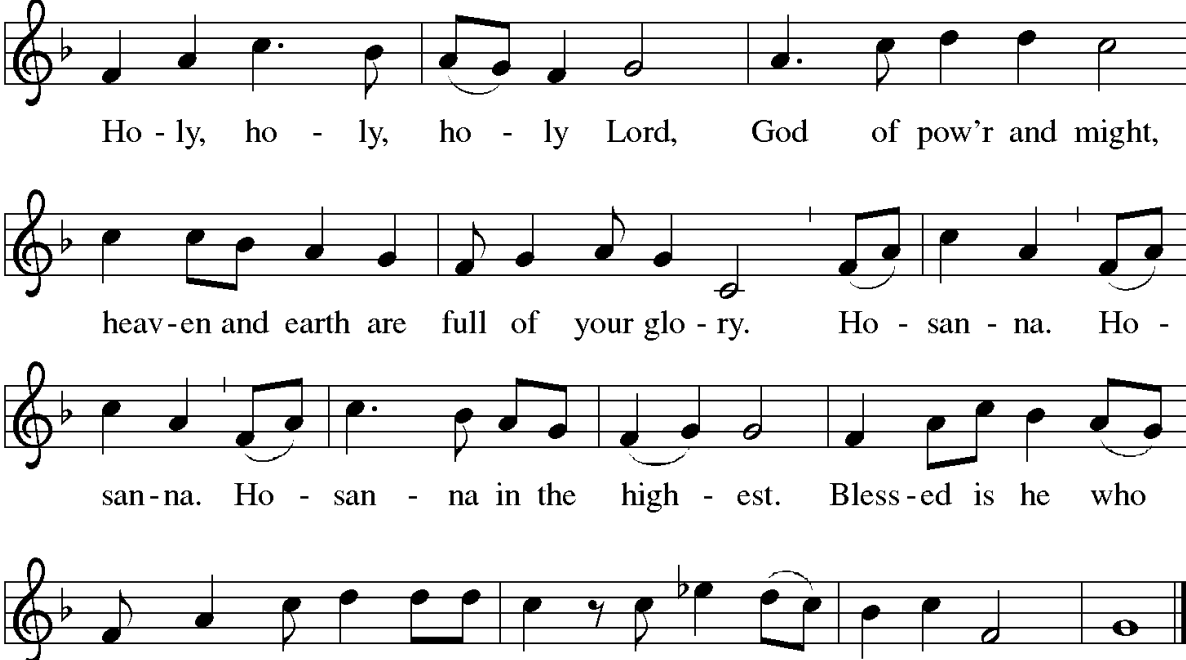
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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 their 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

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



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



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

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

- Chimes Articles are due to the office by July 20th.
- Parents, please get your child registered for VBS!
- Items needed for the Community Cookout, July 20th. Please see the board in the narthex.
- Outdoor Worship Service here next Sunday. Come as you are & bring a lawn chair!

MILESTONES

❖ BLESSING

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

❖ SENDING HYMN

#763 v 1,4 “My Life Flows On in Endless Song”

❖ DISMISSAL

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

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Depart to Share

Wednesday Worship Team, 5:30 pm 7/10

Music: Ronna
Acolyte: Kinleyh or Avri Anderson
Altar Guild/Com. Assist.: Judy Donahue

Sunday Worship Team, 9:00 am 7/14

Music: Jody
Reader & Com. Assist.: Ellen Kabele
Usher: Sandy Sween
Video Production: Jeff Melby
Acolyte: Hartley Bell
Altar Guild & Com. Assist.: Kerry Melby

Wednesday Worship Team, 5:30 pm 7/17

Music: Carla
Acolyte: Kinleyh Anderson
Altar Guild/Com. Assist.: Sharon Horvath

Sunday Outdoor Worship Team, 9am 7/21

Music: Carla
Reader & Com. Assist.: Ginny McNeal
Usher: Bobbie Goodman
Acolyte: Mikayla Bovre
Altar Guild & Com. Assist.: Nancy Loether

This Week at BLC

Monday, July 15th

10:30 am Tai Chi

1:00 pm Euchre Card Club

Wednesday, July 17th

Food Pantry Volunteers

10:30 am Tai Chi

5:30 pm Worship

Thursday, July 18th

6:30 pm Council

Friday, July 19th

10:30 am Tai Chi

Saturday, July 20th

Chimes Articles Due to the office

3:00 pm Community Cookout at Goodyear Park in Portage

Sunday, July 21st

9:00 am Outdoor Worship

Free Event!

“In The Garden” by Matthew Widman, The MemoryCare Plays Anthology

Wednesday, July 17, 2024

Meal at 4:30 pm

Play & Community Conver.: 5:30-7:30 pm

Held at Pardeeville Senior Center on Industrial Dr. Call 608-742-9233 to reserve tickets for this free event or for more info.

Community Cookout

Saturday, July 20th – 3:00 pm

Goodyear Park in Portage

There will be prizes and children’s activities. Also a skateboarding demo & instruction on a first come, first-served basis for ages 7-17.

VBS

July 29 – August 2nd. This will be held at the Methodist Church in Portage. Please register early if possible to help to determine the number of supplies needed!

Church Prayer List, please pray for:

Bonnie Bender

Lee Chenoweth

Shelvy Ritter

Mark Teslik

Donn Trinrud

Our Extended Family Prayer List:

Janice Atkinson (sister of Betty Ring)

Tony Dixon (nephew of Brian Franson/Bonnie Dixon)

Laura Gramer (granddaughter to Dianna Bush)

Chris Kelly (friend of Ginny/Jack Paulson & Nancy/Emil Loether)

Sue Linton (friend of Betty Ring)

Yvonne Marshall (daughter of Jean Elliott)

Freda Manzullo (sister of Mark Teslik)

Nan Rebholz (mother of Robin Kvalo)

Steve Rohrbacher(son of Ed & Marie Rohrbacher)

Tatiana Sampson (niece of Jean Elliott)

Randy Schwenke (son of Nancy Schwenke)

Sharon Stickford (friend of Ginny Paulson)

Shiloh (granddaughter to Ann Ciske)

Outdoor Worship

Sunday, July 21st – 9:00 am

Here at Bethlehem – come as you are that day and bring a chair!

Worship at the Fair

Sunday, July 28th – 9:30 am

No service here that day, see you there!

Pet Fest/Pet Blessing

We’re looking at the end of September/early October to have Pet Fest/Pet Blessing Sunday. If anyone is interested in organizing this, please let the office know!