



# Welcome to Bethlehem Lutheran Church

*God's Family Working Together To Welcome All*



## 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

November 3<sup>rd</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>

W8267 Hwy 33 East  
Portage, WI 53901

Pastor Jaime Benson  
Office: 608-742-8502

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

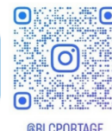
code to enter your record of communion or open this link:

<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



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*Enter to praise*

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*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, our refuge, our delight, our beginning and our end.  
**Amen.**

Let us come in truth before the one who loves us and has freed us from our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Eternal One, robed in majesty and mercy,

**we confess that sin has taken hold of us and we are complicit in its power. We are disturbed in spirit and our hearts cannot rest. Unbind us and set us free. Lead us again to the waters of rebirth, that we may live just and generous lives for the good of your world and the care of our neighbors, following in the servant way of Jesus. Amen.**

These words are trustworthy and true: Christ bore our sins once, for all, on the cross, swallowing up death forever. For his sake, you are † forgiven and God remembers your sin no more. Let your heart be glad again, and rejoice in your salvation.

**Amen.**

❖ GATHERING HYMN

#695 v 1-2 “As Saints of Old”

❖ 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, you show forth your almighty power chiefly by reaching out to us in mercy. Grant us the fullness of your grace, strengthen our trust in your promises, and bring all the world to share in the treasures that come through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 17:8-16

<sup>8</sup>The word of the LORD came to [Elijah,] saying, <sup>9</sup>“Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there; for I have commanded a widow there to feed you.” <sup>10</sup>So he set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; he called to her and said, “Bring me a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink.” <sup>11</sup>As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, “Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.” <sup>12</sup>But she said, “As the LORD your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a jug; I am now gathering a couple of sticks, so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die.”

<sup>13</sup>Elijah said to her, “Do not be afraid; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterwards make something for yourself and your son. <sup>14</sup>For thus says the LORD the God of Israel: The jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the LORD sends rain on the earth.” <sup>15</sup>She went and did as Elijah said,

so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days. <sup>16</sup> The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by Elijah. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: 146

<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Praise the LORD, O my soul!

<sup>2</sup> **I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

<sup>3</sup> Put not your trust in rulers, in mortals in whom there is no help.

<sup>4</sup> **When they breathe their last, they return to earth, and in that day their thoughts perish.**

<sup>5</sup> Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the LORD their God;

<sup>6</sup> **who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps promises forever;**

<sup>7</sup> who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger. The LORD sets the captive free.

<sup>8</sup> **The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.**

<sup>9</sup> The LORD cares for the stranger; the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

<sup>10</sup> **The LORD shall reign forever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 9:24-28

<sup>24</sup> Christ did not enter a sanctuary made by human hands, a mere copy of the true one, but he entered into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. <sup>25</sup> Nor was it to offer himself again and again, as the high priest enters the Holy Place year after year with blood that is not his own; <sup>26</sup> for then he would have had to suffer again and again since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the age to remove sin by the sacrifice of himself. <sup>27</sup> And just as it is appointed for mortals to die once, and after that the judgment, <sup>28</sup> so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin, but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him. 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 12:38-44

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

<sup>38</sup> As [Jesus] taught, he said, “Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, <sup>39</sup> and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! <sup>40</sup> They devour widows’ houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.”

<sup>41</sup> He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. <sup>42</sup> A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. <sup>43</sup> Then he called his disciples and said to them, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. <sup>44</sup> For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.” The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN’S SERMON (Sunday)

SERMON

❖ HYMN OF THE DAY

#685 v 1-2 “Take My Life, That I May Be”

❖ 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: Rooted in God’s abundant love for the world, let us pray for our neighbors, the church, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

Renew your church, O God. Make us servants to one another for the sake of the gospel. Instill a heart for service and a passion for justice in our bishops, deacons, pastors, and lay leaders. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Renew your creation, O God. Sustain the earth and seas and all that is in them. Kindle in us a reverent awe for all creatures great and small, and strengthen us in our pursuit of climate justice. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Renew the nations, O God. Heal our nation's veterans from the unseen wounds of war. Tend to their trauma and soothe burdened consciences. Guide leaders of the world to end conflicts and pursue peace. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Renew your people, O God. Protect those in our communities who are vulnerable or ill especially those on our prayer list and those in our hearts. Accompany persons who are unemployed or underemployed, children who are in foster care, and those who live alone. Watch over and uphold them. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Renew this congregation, O God. Give us clarity in our mission and boldness in our witness. Bless our ministries that attend to basic needs of any who lack sufficient resources, that all may live with dignity. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Happy are those whose help was in you. We give thanks for all your faithful ones who praised you as their God all their life long. As we eagerly wait for you, inspire us by their lives of service. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P: We offer our prayers to you, gracious God, trusting in your boundless love for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ our Savior. **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

Lord Jesus, our portion and our cup, you offered yourself in love for the world, and in this meal you nourish us with your life. Fill us with your abundance, that we may feed the hungry and welcome the stranger, trusting in your name. **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

Behold, God is making all things new. Take your place in the new creation.



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**

Faithful God, you have spread before us a feast of rich food and drink in the body and blood of your Son. Now send us out to labor with you, in service to the world you have made, and among the people you have made your home, in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Food drive continues
- Carla needs one or two more people to play hand chimes for Christmas
- We will have an Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service on Nov. 24<sup>th</sup> at **9:30 am**. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex if you can bring a breakfast item that day for the coffee hour.
- Quilt tickets on sale, drawing is Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup> at 3:00 pm.

**MILESTONES**

❖ **BLESSING**

The Ancient One, enthroned, the Crucified One, now risen, the Indwelling One, poured out, ✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

❖ **SENDING HYMN**

#779 “Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

❖ **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Encourage one another in Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

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**November 22, 2024**

**12:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

**November 23, 2024**

**9:00 am – 3:00 pm**

Food available on site.

Over **40** Vendors!

Check out the Quilt in the narthex that is available to win!

**Sun. Worship Team, 9:00 am 11/3**

Music: Ronna  
Usher & Reader: Ellen Kabele  
Acolytes: Hartley Bell & Ben Haroldson  
Altar Guild & Com. Assist: Lisa Cook  
Video Production: Lori & Brady Cox  
Communion Assistant: Bobbie Goodman

**Wed. Worship Team, 5:30 pm 11/06**

Music: Jody  
Acolyte: Kinleyh Anderson  
Usher: Geoff Gilbert  
Altar Guild & Communion Assistant: Cheryl Hebel

**Sun. Worship Team, 9:00 am 11/10**

Music: Jody  
Reader & Communion Assistant: Ginny McNeal  
Usher: Larry Sween  
Acolytes: Mikayla Bovre & Alyvia Bell  
Altar Guild & Communion Assistant: Nancy Loether  
Video Production: Joe Jackowski  
Coffee Hour: Tania Anderson

**Wed. Worship Team, 5:30 pm 11/13**

Music: Ronna  
Acolyte: Makenzie Schmidtke  
Usher: Geoff Gilbert  
Altar Guild & Communion Assistant: Judy Donahue

**River Haven Homeless Shelter**

**Fundraiser**

Order online from Papa Murphy's of Portage from Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> and 20% of your purchase will be donated to the shelter. PapaMurphys.com  
Enter code: LOVE

**Church Prayer List, please pray for:**

Bonnie Bender, Jim Crawford, Shelvy Ritter, Mark Teslik, Donn Trinrud, Family of Lee Chenoweth

**Our Extended Family Prayer List:**

Nick Ciske (son of Ann Ciske)  
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)  
Randy Schwenke (son of Nancy Schwenke)  
Dan Swift (son of Joan Swift)  
Tom Teslik (son of Mark Teslik)

**This Week at BLC**

Tai Chi is M, W, F @ 10:30 am

**Monday, November 04<sup>th</sup>**

1:00 pm Euchre Card Club

**Tuesday, November 05<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 am Quilters

11:00 am Bible Study

**Wednesday, November 06<sup>th</sup>**

5:30 pm Worship

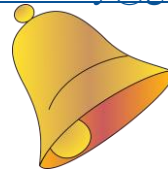
6:30 pm Confirmation

**Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 am Worship – All Saint's Day

**Bell Ringers Wanted**

The Salvation Army is looking for Bell Ringers! If you can help, please visit: [www.registertoring.com](http://www.registertoring.com), phone 608-617-3237 or email [portagesalarmy@gmail.com](mailto:portagesalarmy@gmail.com)



**Thank you** Chaplain Mark Teslik for leading worship!