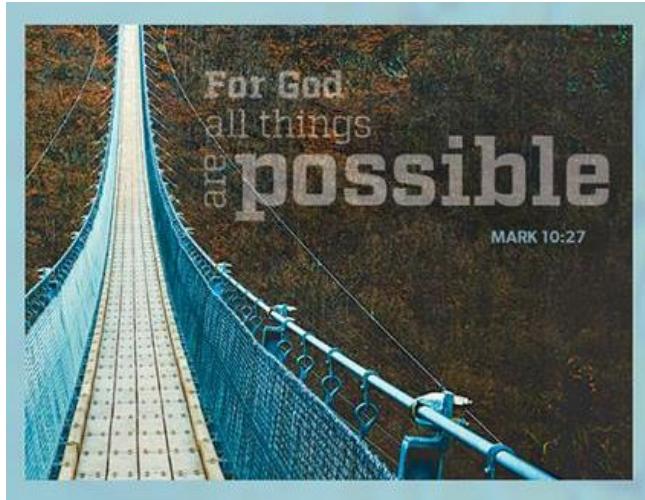




Welcome to Bethlehem Lutheran Church

God's Family Working Together To Welcome All



21st Sunday after Pentecost

October 9th & 13th

W8267 Hwy 33 East
Portage, WI 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

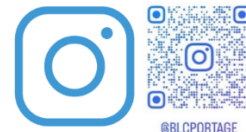
code to enter your record of communion or open this link:

<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, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have honored you with our lips, but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues. The cravings at war within us cause conflicts and disputes. In our desire to be first we make distinctions among ourselves. We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last. In your great mercy, forgive us our sins. Draw near to us with grace in time of need, and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God promises to forgive our iniquity and to remember our sin no more. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, the source of eternal healing, your sins are forgiven. God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. **Amen.**

❖ GATHERING HYMN

#838 “Beautiful Savior”

❖ 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 and ever-living God, increase in us your gift of faith, that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to what lies ahead, we may follow the way of your commandments and receive the crown of everlasting joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING: Amos 5:6-7, 10-15

⁶Seek the LORD and live, or he will break out against the house of Joseph like fire, and it will devour Bethel, with no one to quench it. ⁷Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood, and bring righteousness to the ground! ¹⁰They hate the one who reproves in the gate, and they abhor the one who speaks the truth. ¹¹Therefore because you trample on the poor and take from them levies of grain, you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not live in them; you have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink their wine.

¹²For I know how many are your transgressions, and how great are your sins—you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe, and push aside the needy in the gate. ¹³Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time; for it is an evil time. ¹⁴Seek good and not evil, that you may live; and so the LORD, the God of hosts, will be with you, just as you have said. ¹⁵Hate evil and love good, and establish justice in the gate; it may be that the LORD, the God of hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: 90:12-17

¹²So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

¹³**Return, O LORD; how long will you tarry? Be gracious to your servants.**

¹⁴Satisfy us by your steadfast love in the morning; so shall we rejoice and be glad all our days.

¹⁵**Make us glad as many days as you afflicted us and as many years as we suffered adversity.**

¹⁶Show your servants your works, and your splendor to their children.

¹⁷**May the graciousness of the Lord our God be upon us; prosper the work of our hands; prosper our handiwork.**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 4:12-16

¹²Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.

¹⁴Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. 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 10:17-31

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

⁷As [Jesus] was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” ¹⁸Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. ¹⁹You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.’ ” ²⁰He said to him, “Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.” ²¹Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” ²²When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many

possessions. ²³Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!” ²⁴And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” ²⁶They were greatly astounded and said to one another, “Then who can be saved?” ²⁷Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.”

²⁸Peter began to say to him, “Look, we have left everything and followed you.” ²⁹Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, ³⁰who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. ³¹But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.” The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN’S SERMON (Sunday)

SERMON

❖ HYMN OF THE DAY

#685 v 1-3 “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: Challenged by God’s Word in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and the whole creation.

A brief silence.

Compassionate God, embolden the church to seek all who are lost, clothe those who are naked, and mend what is broken. Bring healing to the people of Syria, Lebanon, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Ukraine, Yemen, Israel, Palestine, and Iran. May we be generous bearers of your eternal love. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Sustaining God, as we approach harvest time, we pray for farmers, field workers, and those who process crops. Keep us mindful of environmental threats to the nourishing food that feeds the world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Steadfast God, inspire world leaders to share resources and work collectively to end global poverty, starvation, and preventable disease. Direct us to seek justice and equity, that all may live in peace, especially in Burundi, Central African Republic, Haiti, Somalia, The Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Mozambique. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, we pray for those who are afflicted, tormented, grieving, oppressed, and lonely especially those on our prayer list and those in our hearts. Deliver the strength of your love and compassion to all who need it today. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Generous God, we give thanks for the first nations and tribes who inhabited this land. We lament the harm done by colonization. Call us to deeper appreciation and care for the languages, rituals, and history of all Indigenous people. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Ever-living God, we rejoice to be heirs of the eternal life made real in Jesus' death and resurrection. We give thanks for saints of all times and places, first and last, who still inspire us to faithful living. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in the saving grace you freely give, both now and forever. **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

Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **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...

❖

The first line of musical notation is on a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It contains eight measures of music. The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), and C4 (half).

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

The second line of musical notation is on a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It contains eight measures of music. The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), and C4 (half).

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

Jesus welcomes you to this table. Come, here is your God.

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

Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Highway clean-up is today following worship service.
- Church property clean-up is next Saturday, Oct. 19th at 9:00 am.
- Next Sunday we will have a blessing of the quilts, 4th grade Bibles, as well as Pledge Sunday, please bring your 2025 pledge forms with you.
- Faith with Harbor Recovery Center is here with us today.

MILESTONES

- Today is Pastor Appreciation Day! To show our appreciation for Pastor Jaime and her three years here with us, please join us in the fellowship hall after worship for refreshments!

❖ BLESSING

God all mighty, God most merciful ✝ bless you, keep you, and give you peace.

Amen.

❖ SENDING HYMN (sing 2x) “May the God of Hope Go with Us” Text: Alvin Schutmaat, 1921–1988, alt.

May the God of Hope Go with Us

**May the God of hope go with us ev'ry day,
to a world in need with news of joy and peace.**

**May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to ev'ry land and race.**

**Praying, let us work for peace;
singing, share our joy with all;**

**working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.**

❖ DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

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All Saint's Sunday

If you've lost a loved one in the past year and would like their name recognized during worship on Oct. 30 & Nov. 10, please submit their name to the office by Oct. 21st.

Trunk or Treat

Sat. Oct. 26th from 2-4 pm we will have Trunk or Treat here at the church. There will be activities, snacks, and pumpkin painting. All are welcome to this free event!



Wed. Worship Team, 5:30 pm 10/9

Music: Jody
Altar Guild/Communion Assistant:
Judy Donahue & Geoff Gilbert

Sun. Worship Team, 9:00 am 10/13

Music: Jody
Reader: Lisa Cook
Usher: Ann Ciske
Acolyte: Leah Haroldson
Altar Guild/Com. Assist.: Sue Conner
Video Production: Ben Rudolph
Communion Assist.: Ginny McNeal

Wed. Worship Team, 5:30 pm 10/16

Music: Ronna
Acolyte: Makenzie Schmidtke
Altar Guild/Communion Assistant:
Sharon Horvath

Sun. Worship Team, 9:00 am 10/20

Music: Praise Team
Reader & Usher: Bonnie Dixon
Acolyte: Mikayla Bovre
Altar Guild/Communion Assistant:
Marie Kucksdorf
Video Production: Ben Rudolph
Com. Assist.: Bobbie Goodman

Food Drive



We're holding a food drive the month of October into November to help stock the

shelves at the Portage & Wyocena Food Pantries!

Chimes Articles Due

Please have articles for the November Chimes submitted to the office no later than Oct. 21st.

Church Prayer List, please pray for:

Bonnie Bender, Lee Chenoweth, Shelvy Ritter, Mark Teslik, Donn Trinrud

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)
The Family of Tatiana Sampson
Randy Schwenke (son of Nancy Schwenke)
Dan Swift (son of Joan Swift)
Tom Teslik (son of Mark Teslik)
Devan & family (friends of the Hayes family)

This Week at BLC

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

Monday, October 14th

1:00 pm Euchre Card Club

Tuesday, October 15th

9:00 am Quilters

Wednesday, October 16th

5:30 pm Worship
6:30 pm Confirmation Class
6:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal

Thursday, October 17th

9:00 am – 12:00 pm Vaccination Clinic
6:30 pm Church Council meeting

Saturday, October 19th

9:00 am Church property fall clean-up

Sunday, October 20th

9:00 am Worship, Pledge Sunday, Bible Sunday, Blessing of the Quilts
10:15 am Sunday School

Thank you to Chaplain Mark Teslik for leading Wednesday Worship Service!