

Bethlehem Lutheran Church—William Penn Founded 1860—Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

AUGUST 10, 2025 10:15 A.M.



Pastor
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Acolyte Wyatt Schramm

<u>Greeter</u> Theresa Kettler

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost August 10, 2025 – 10:15 AM

Divine Service: Setting I

Order of Service: Lutheran Service Book, pp 151-166

Pre-Service Music



August Bible Verse

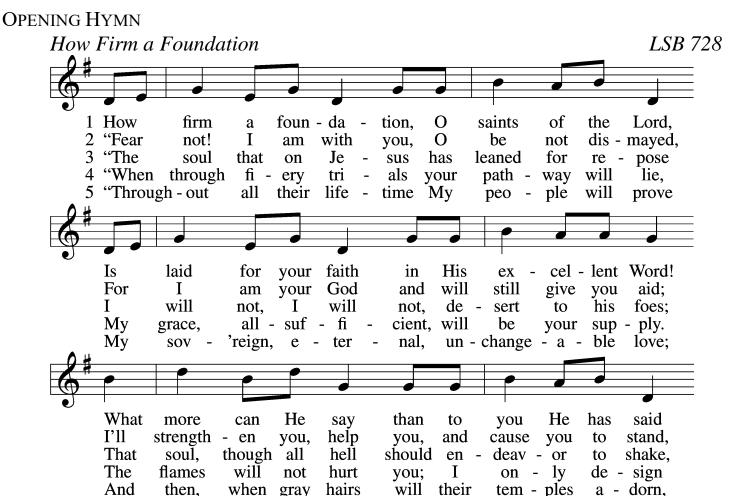
Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

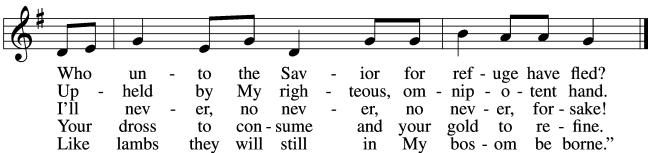
*James 5:16**

Our Mission Statement

Representing God's Love to Our Congregation, Community, and the World!

Ringing of the Church Bell





Text: A Selection of Hymns, 1787, London, alt. Tune: Genuine Church Music, 1832, Winchester. Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

INVOCATION LSB 151

PIn the name of the Father and of the Holy Spirit

C Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

LSB 151

- **P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- © But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.
- P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.



INTROIT

Psalm 147:8–11; antiphon: v. 7

Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;

make melody to our God on the lyre!

He covers the heavens with clouds; he prepares rain for the earth;

he makes grass grow on the hills.

He gives to the beasts their food,

and to the young ravens that cry.

His delight is not in the strength of the horse,

nor his pleasure in the legs of a man,

but the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him,

in those who hope in his steadfast love.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;

make melody to our God on the lyre!

KYRIE LSB 152

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.



P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

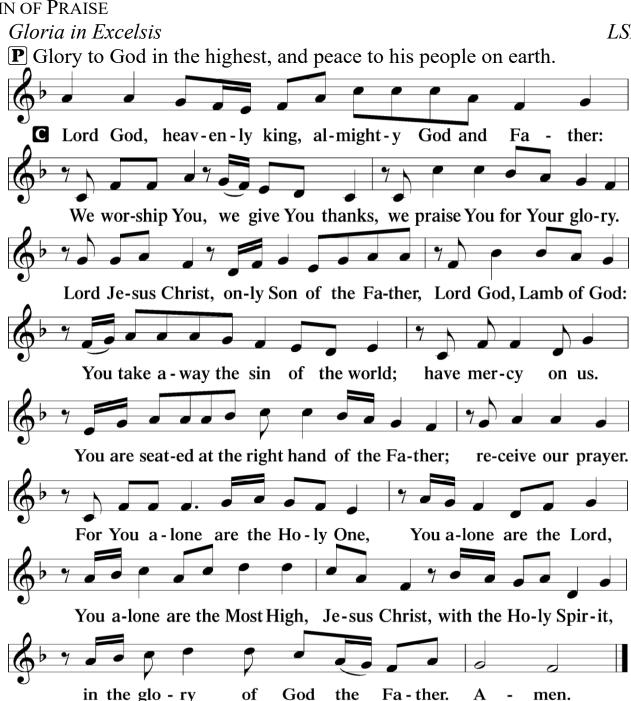


P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



HYMN OF PRAISE

Gloria in Excelsis LSB 154



COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.



- **C** And al so with you.
- P Let us pray.
- C Almighty and merciful God, it is by Your grace that we live as Your people who offer acceptable service. Grant that we may walk by faith, and not by sight, in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Sit.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 15:1-6

After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision:

"Do not be afraid, Abram.

I am your shield,

your very great reward."

² But Abram said, "Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³ And Abram said, "You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir."

⁴Then the word of the LORD came to him: "This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir." ⁵ He took him outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be."

⁶ Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE Hebrews 11:1-16

¹Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ²For by it the people of old received their commendation. ³By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

⁴By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks. ⁵By faith Enoch was

taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God. ⁶And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. ⁷By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

⁸By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. ¹¹By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. ¹²Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.

¹³These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. ¹⁴For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for t

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

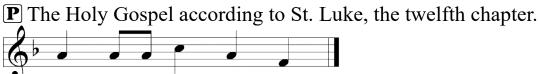
Stand.



COMMON ALLELUIA LSB 156



HOLY GOSPEL Luke 12:22-34



O

Glo - ry to You,

²²[Jesus] said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. ²³For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. ²⁴Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! ²⁵And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? ²⁶If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest? ²⁷Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ²⁸But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! ²⁹And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. ³⁰For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. ³¹Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you.

³²"Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. ³⁴For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."



APOSTLES' CREED LSB 159

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life \(\frac{1}{2}\) everlasting. Amen.

Sit.

HYMN OF THE DAY





Text: Jacob Fabricius, 1593-1654; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.. Tune: German, 1534, Nürnberg. Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON "Fear Not" - Genesis 15:1-6



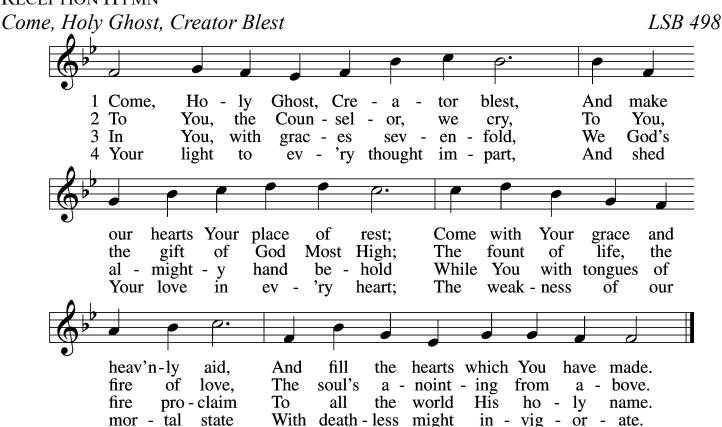
OFFERING PRAYER

Sit.

OFFERING

The Reception Hymn is sung during the Offering.

RECEPTION HYMN



5 Drive far away our wily foe, And Your abiding peace bestow; With You as our protecting guide, No evil can with us abide.

state

mor - tal

6 Teach us to know the Father, And You, from both, as Three in That we Your name may ever bless And in our lives the truth confess.

 \triangle 7 Praise we the Father and the Son And Holy Spirit, with them One, And may the Son on us bestow The gifts that from the Spirit flow!

Text: attr. Rabanus Maurus, 776-856; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-78, alt. Tune: Geistliche Lieder auffs new gebessert, 1533, Wittenberg, ed. Joseph Klug Text and tune: Public domain



RECEPTION OF MEMBERS BY TRANSFER

Name	Date Received
Keith Huber	July 23, 2025

- P Beloved in the Lord, our Lord Jesus Christ said to His apostles: "Whoever confesses Me before men, I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven." Lift up your hearts, therefore, to the God of all grace and joyfully give answer to what I now ask you in the name of the Lord.
- **P** Do you this day in the presence of God and of this congregation acknowledge the gifts that God gave you in your Baptism?
- R Yes, I do.
- **P** Do you renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways?
- R Yes, I renounce them.
- **P** Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord, and in the Holy Spirit?
- **R** Yes, I believe in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- P Do you hold all the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God and the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, drawn from them and confessed in the Small Catechism, to be faithful and true?
- \mathbf{R} I do.

- **P** Do you intend to hear the Word of God and receive the Lord's Supper faithfully?
- **R** *I* do, by the grace of God.
- P Do you intend to live according to the Word of God, and in faith, word, and deed to remain true to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, even to death?
- **R** *I* do, by the grace of God.
- **P** Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession and Church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it?
- **R** *I* do, by the grace of God.
- P Do you desire to become a member of this congregation?
- R I do.
- P Will you support the work our gracious Lord has given this congregation with your prayers and the gifts God has given you?
- **R** *I* will, with the help of God.
- P Upon this your confession of faith, I acknowledge publicly that you are a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and of this congregation. Receive the Lord's Supper and participate with us in all the blessings of salvation that our Lord has given to His Church, in the name of the Father, the

 → Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

Stand.

P Let us pray.

Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank and praise You for Your great goodness in bringing this Your son to the knowledge of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, and enabling him both with the heart to believe and with the mouth to confess His saving name. Grant that by Your Word and Spirit he may continue steadfast in the one true faith in the fellowship of this congregation as together we await the day when all who have fought the good fight of faith shall receive the crown of righteousness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The pastor may extend the right hand of fellowship, greeting each by name. The rite concludes with the following blessing:

P The grace of our + Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

C Amen.

The new members return to their places. Stand.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH & THE LORD'S PRAYER

LSB 162

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

BENEDICTION LSB 166

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and

→ give you peace.



Sit.



CLOSING HYMN



Text: Martin E. Leckebusch, 1962 Tune: Henry V. Gerike, 1948 Text: © 2000 Kevin Mayhew Ltd. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005013 Tune: © 1973 Henry V. Gerike. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005013



POSTLUDE

Welcome to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, where we worship in the name of the crucified and risen Lamb of God, Jesus Christ our Lord.



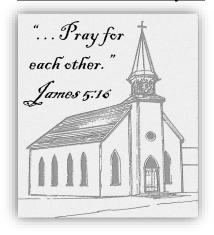
<u>Congregation</u>: For Tom Hayden's recovery after surgery and continued healing; for Adeline Platt's health; for health and healing for Lathel Norris; for Milton Schwartz, Blake Powers, Edith Erwin, and Deloris Griffin; for our shut-in members: Renee

Brinkmann, Mildred Holle, Lathel Norris, James Schoenemann, Elvera Schroeder, and others who are unable to come to church

<u>Community</u>: may our Lord continue to deliver to us favorable weather; for Brenham Pregnancy Center and those whose lives they touch; Faith Mission; families and individuals cared for by Child Protective Services

<u>World</u>: for all those suffering through war, may God watch over and protect His children, and by His Holy Spirit, may they all come to know Christ as their Savior and thus enjoy eternity with Him, for those who have been led astray into false belief; for those facing crisis pregnancies, that they would find the strength to choose life for their unborn child; for the leaders of the nations, that they would make godly decisions for their people and countries

Bethlehem at Prayer



Prayer is a vital part of our life together in Christ. To that end, *Bethlehem at Prayer* is a means to encourage more intentional prayer for one another. This is an opportunity for us to support one another in faith, lifting up each household by name before our gracious God. While members can always request prayers at any time, this effort ensures that every family at Bethlehem is prayed for regularly. We invite you to join us in encouragement and intercession, praying for our brothers and sisters in Christ each week.

Please remember these families in your prayers this week:

- Andrejczak Ray, Melanie
- Ashorn Brian, Heather, Blane, Weston
- Hermann Benjamin
- Hinze Lester
- Meyer Dennis, Pat
- Meyer Charles

May the Lord bless and strengthen them in faith and life.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Promotion Sunday

On Sunday, August 24, 2025, we will celebrate Promotion Sunday to wrap up our 2024-2025 Sunday School year. Awards will be presented to Sunday School students as they promote to the next grade level. A fried chicken meal will be served after the church service. RSVP by returning the insert in the bulletin to the basket located in the church narthex by Sunday, August 17,



2025. There will be water activities for Sunday School age children following the meal sponsored by the Board of Education. At this time, the Board of Education is looking for Sunday School teachers for the upcoming Sunday School year - September 2025 through August 2026. The sign-up sheet is located in the Parish Hall.



Help Wanted

We are also looking for someone interested in serving as the secretary of the Sunday School program for the upcoming Sunday School year. This position helps support the Board of Education by assisting with all Board activities, maintenance of financial records and performing secretarial duties in support of the Sunday School programs. If you would like more details about this position, please see one

of the Board of Education members – Sheryl Schroeder, Sharon Schwartz, and Tracy Searle.

This Week's Schedule August 10 – August 17

Today: Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Class

10:15 AM Divine Worship: Setting I

Acolyte: Charlotte Sommer

Ushers: Delwin Gaskamp Kevin Goessler

Conner Gresham Ryan Gresham

Wednesday: 8:30 AM Sonshine

6:00 PM Life with God—New Member Class

Next Sunday: Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Class

10:15 AM Divine Worship: Setting III with Holy Communion

Acolyte: Wyatt Schramme

Ushers: Stanley Haferkamp Kevin Harrington

Craig Kankel Clinton Kettler

Serving in August: Elder - Clinton Kettler/Trustee - Kevin Harrington

If you have a question or thought concerning spiritual care or the church property, please contact the appropriate elder or trustee.

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The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God by Marilyn Klussmann

Life with God New Member Class continues this Wednesday



Our adult information class covers the most important teachings of the Bible as they are believed, taught, and confessed here at Bethlehem, designed for anyone considering membership, new members, or any member of the congregation who would like a thorough review of basic

Biblical doctrine. Mark your calendar to join us **Wednesdays from 6 to 7:30 pm**. Classes are weekly 10-12 sessions.



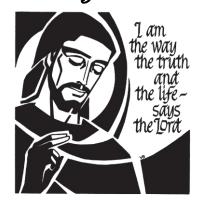
Life Thoughts from Lutherans for Life

August 10 – Pentecost IX (Proper 14C) – The Heavenly Father hopes for human offspring as

numerous as the stars (Genesis 15:5) and countless as grains of sand (Hebrews 11:12). So Christians encourage our communities to share our joy in regarding children – no matter what size, skills, or circumstances – as more precious than any amount of income, possessions, or pets (Luke 12:22-24).



Sunday School Corner



This summer, your students will explore biblical accounts that teach the biblical truths found in the Means of Grace: God's Word and the Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion. The biblical account "Jesus Gives the Lord's Supper" served as the focus for Sunday School. The kids learned that Jesus gives His true body in the Lord's Supper. Consider discussing the lesson further. "Why is it important that Jesus established the Lord's Supper? What benefits do

we receive through the Lord's Supper? Also, parents, you can join Pastor Krieg in the adult Sunday School class. See you next week!

High School Lesson

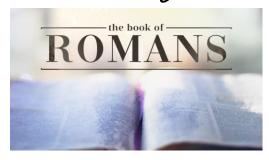
The high school youth are continuing their study focused on the Word of God. This study will help the kids gain a better understanding of the accuracy and reliability of the text we use today as the inspired Word of God. Over the next nine lessons the students will focus on:

- Jesus Christ: The Center of the Bible
- The Holy Scriptures God's Word
- The Canon God Preserves His True Word
- Understanding God's Word
- Figurative Language The Richness of Scripture
- Bringing the Good News of Salvation in a Magnificent Way
- Recognizing False Teaching
- Bible Translations

Today, our high school class studied the lesson, *Figurative Language – The Richness of Scripture*. This lesson focuses on how God desires His Word to speak to our heads and to our hearts. The figurative language used in Scripture helps to accomplish this and adds to our understanding of our great God and of His saving love for us.



Adult Sunday School Lesson



St. Paul's letter to the Romans is often called the "chief part of the New Testament." Romans clearly lays out the heart of the Christian faith: we are justified by grace alone through faith alone on account of Christ alone. In this rich epistle, Paul teaches on sin and righteousness, law and Gospel,

baptism, the struggle against the old Adam, and life lived in the freedom of the Gospel. Whether you've been attending or have yet to join us, this is a wonderful time to dig into God's Word together and grow in our understanding of His mercy in Christ. Come and be strengthened in the faith that saves and learn how the Gospel shapes our daily lives. We look forward to studying this treasure of Scripture with you! If you could not attend today, please join us next Sunday during the Adult Bible Study hour before church, starting at 9 a.m. Now is the time to commit yourself to a deeper and more meaningful understanding of God's Word and your relationship with Him. I hope to see you all next Sunday as we continue our studies.



Online Giving

You may give tithes and offerings online by clicking the "Give" tab on our website (https://www.bethlehemwmpenn.org/), or just scan the QR code to the left.

Last Week at Bethlehem

DATE	SERVICE	ATTENDANCE	GIFTS IN RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL
Aug. 3	Sunday School	7	\$60.30
	Youth Bible Class	3	
	Adult Bible Class	27	
Aug. 3	Worship Service	106	General Fund: \$6,317.00

Memorials

Roger Schroeder \$50.00