

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

LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR NOVEMBER 23, 2025 10:15 A.M.



Pastor
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Billy Ashorn
Blane Ashorn
Brian Ashorn
Westin Ashorn

Acolyte Norman Krieg

<u>Greeter</u> Brenda Gaskamp

Last Sunday of the Church Year November 23, 2025 – 10:15 AM

Divine Service: Setting I

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

Pre-Service Music



November Bible Verse

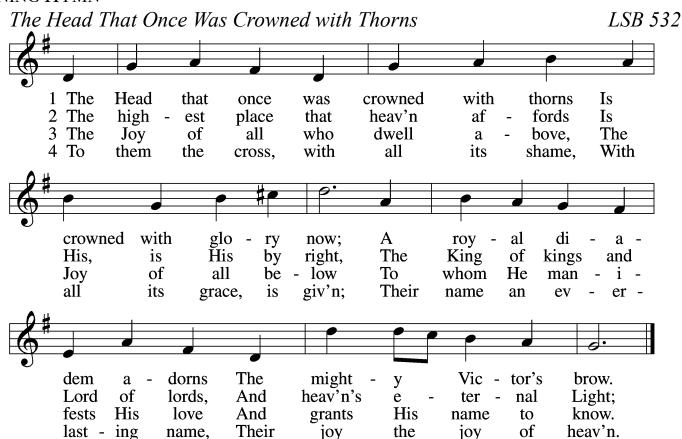
And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness. *Genesis 15:6*

Our Mission Statement

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

Ringing of the Church Bell





- 5 They suffer with their Lord below, They reign with Him above, Their profit and their joy to know The myst'ry of His love.
- 6 The cross He bore is life and health,
 Though shame and death to Him:
 His people's hope, His people's wealth,
 Their everlasting theme.

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

INVOCATION LSB 151

P In the name of the Father and of the

→ Son 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.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- 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.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

INTROIT

Psalm 134; antiphon: Psalm 33:8

Let all the earth fear the LORD;

let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him!

Come, bless the LORD, all you servants of the LORD,

who stand by night in the house of the LORD!

Lift up your hands to the holy place

and bless the LORD!

May the LORD bless you from Zion,

he who made heaven and earth!

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.

Let all the earth fear the LORD;

let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him!

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.





SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.



- P Let us pray.
- 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

Malachi 3:13-18

¹³"Your words have been hard against me, says the LORD. But you say, 'How have we spoken against you?' ¹⁴You have said, 'It is vain to serve God. What is the profit of our keeping his charge or of walking as in mourning before the LORD of hosts? ¹⁵And now we call the arrogant blessed. Evildoers not only prosper but they put God to the test and they escape.""

¹⁶Then those who feared the LORD spoke with one another. The LORD paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the LORD and esteemed his name. ¹⁷"They shall be mine, says the LORD of hosts, in the day when I make up my treasured possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him. ¹⁸Then once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him."

- **P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

Revelation 7:14b; Psalm 84:5

These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation.

They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Blessèd are those whose strength is in you,

in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

EPISTLE

Colossians 1:13-20

¹³He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. ¹⁹For in him all the fullness of God was pleased

to dwell, ²⁰and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

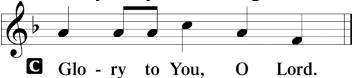
- **P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

Stand



HOLY GOSPEL Luke 23:27-43

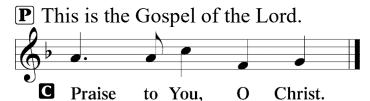
P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-third chapter.



²⁷And there followed [Jesus] a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for him. ²⁸But turning to them Jesus said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹For behold, the days are coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!' ³⁰Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us,' and to the hills, 'Cover us.' ³¹For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

³²Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. ³³And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments. ³⁵And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!" ³⁶The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴²And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." ⁴³And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."



APOSTLES' CREED LSB 159

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

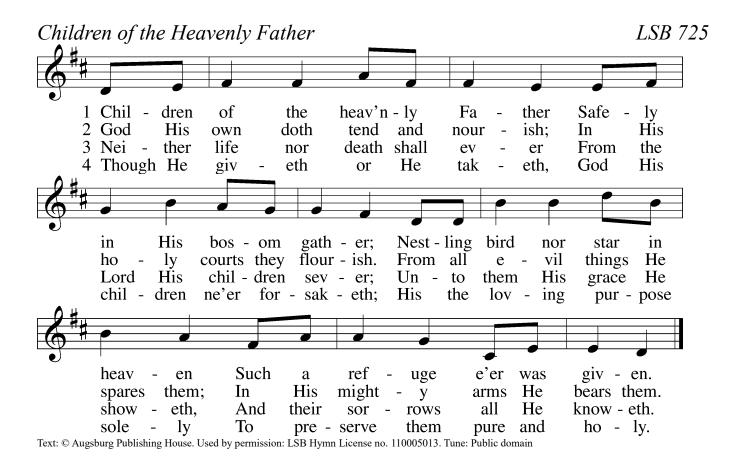
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the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

Sit

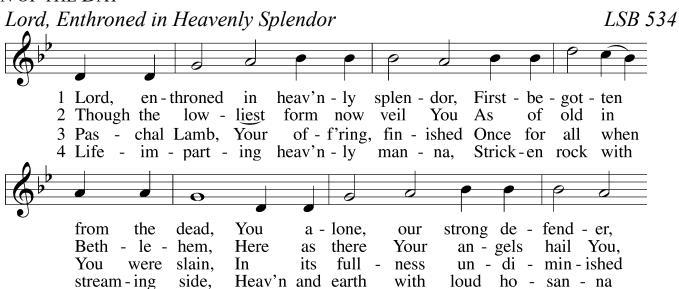
CHILDREN'S HYMN

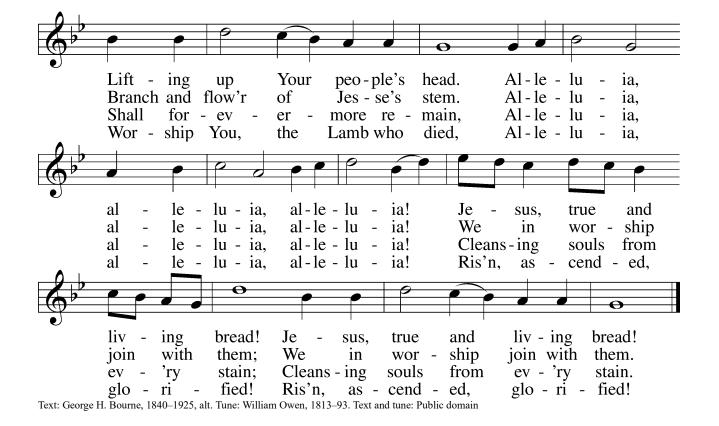
Children come forward during Children's Hymn



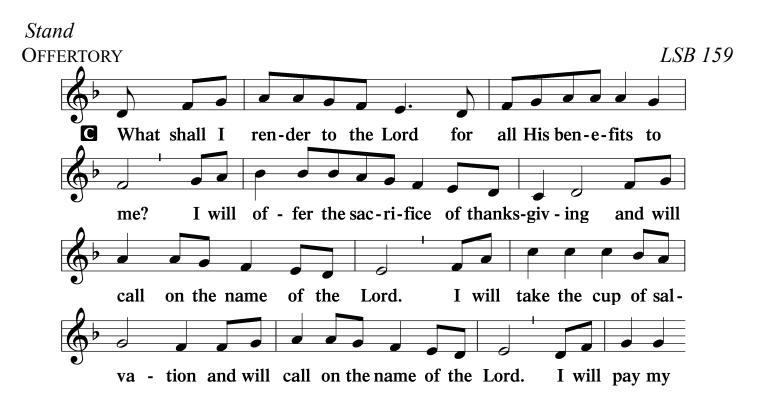
CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

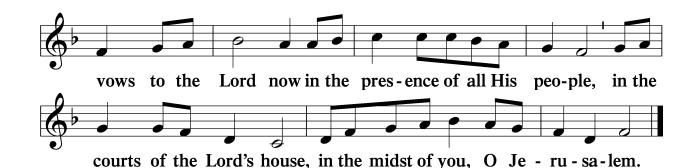






SERMON The Days Are Coming Malachi 3:13-18; Luke 23:27-43





OFFERING PRAYER

Sit

OFFERING

Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD'S PRAYER

LSB 162

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

C 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

Thine the Amen. Thine the Praise LSB 680 1 Thine the Thine praise Al le a men the Thine the Thine life ter nal ly the e Thine the tru ly Thine the Thine the yes 4 Thine the king -Thine prize Thine dom the the 5 Thine the glo ry in the night No more Thine the last lu - ias an - gels raise ing head ev - er Thine the prom - ise let there be vi - sion Thine the tree Thine the the guest all from Thee ta - ble we mer - cy full sur - prise Thine the won - der ban - quet then the praise on - ly light Thine the riv - er Thine dy - ing the tree Thine the break - ing Thine glo - ry Thine the of the bread the A11 the earth on bend - ed knee Gone the nail - ing gone the glo - ry Thine the yet to be Then the ring - ing and glo - ry ho - ly Then the jus - tice of Thine the Thine the Thy ways Then the Lamb e - ter - nal - ly Then the ho - lv Thine har - vest Thine the sto - ry the then the cup rail - ing Gone the plead - ing the Gone the gone cry sing - ing Then the end of all the war Thine the sto - ry ho - ly Then the wel - come the least Then the to Cel bi - lee Thine the bra - tion iu e vine-vard cup lift - ed then the lift - ed is up up. dy - ing sigh - ing gone the what was loss lift - ed high. lov - ing liv - ing Thine the ev - er more ev - er - more. in - creas - ing won - der all at Thy feast at Thy feast. the bright - ness splen-dor Thine on - ly Thee on - ly Thee.

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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>: Healing for Lillian Hayden from knee surgery; healing for Don Koester as he recovers from back surgery; for Edith Erwin, healing, for Donna Hinze, who is recovering from back injury, give her peace and healing in the days and weeks ahead; for Tom Hayden's

recovery after surgery and continued healing; for Adeline Platt's health; for health and healing for Lathel Norris; for Blake Powers, Edith Erwin, and Deloris Griffin; for our shut-in members: Renee Brinkmann, Mildred Holle, Lathel Norris, Elvera Schroeder, and others who are unable to come to church

<u>Community</u>: for Grace Lutheran School, that they may continue to be a place for the children of our community and congregation to learn and grow in their faith and knowledge of God's world; may our Lord continue to deliver to us favorable weather; for Brenham Pregnancy Center and those whose lives they touched; 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:

- Foster Glenn, Connie
- Fridye Christian, Megan, Madison, Hadley, Walker
- Kohring Valgene, Diana, Forest
- Kohring Landon, Hannah, Brady
- Schwartz Jo Ann
- Schwartz Trenton

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Week's Schedule

November 23 – November 30

Today: Last Sunday of the Church Year

9:00 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Class

10:15 AM Divine Worship: Setting I

11:30 AM Shekel Store

Acolyte: Norman Krieg

Ushers: Billy Ashorn Blane Ashorn

Brian Ashorn Westin Ashorn

Wednesday: 7:00 PM Thanksgiving Eve Service

Thursday: 6:30 PM No Ladies Bible Class (Thanksgiving)

Next Sunday: First Sunday in Advent

9:00 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Class

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

Acolyte: Amelia Kettler

Ushers: Brian Crabb Daryl Dahman

Doyle Dahmann Tyler Gandy

Serving in November: 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.



The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God by Kathleen Siemsglusz



Life Thoughts from Lutherans for Life

FOR LIFE
November 23 – (Proper 29) – When people argue that we should not bring more children into a world such as this, they agree with the people of Jerusalem

at the time of its destruction: "Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed" (Luke 23:29). But this is not the way that Jesus intends us to view the gift of new life. Instead, we weep with those who cannot bear and nurse, and we celebrate God's gift of life, trusting that He will always reign over all things and be the "refuge and strength" of His people (Colossians 1:18; Psalm 46:1), and the little children will always be His "treasured possession" (Malachi 3:17).



"Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation." Psalm 111:1

Please make plans to worship with us this **Wednesday, November 26th, at 7:00 PM**. We will praise and thank our Lord with worshipful music and celebrate the Lord's Supper.



It's time to place your poinsettia order!

The cost is \$13.00. Please fill out an order form located in the narthex and place the form in the basket. You may make your check payable to Bethlehem Lutheran Church. The deadline is Sunday, December 7th. If you have any questions, please contact Vickie Ashorn at 979-277-4393.



The ladies of the LWML will be having their annual ornament exchange and dinner. The event will be held on **Tuesday**, **December 2nd at 6:30**. If there are any ladies who would like to attend this social, we would love to have you. Please **RSVP** to **Vickie Ashorn at 979-277-4393**. Bring a wrapped ornament to exchange.



Wednesday Advent Meals and Services

Midweek Advent Worship Services begin Wednesday, December 3rd at 7:00pm. Before these services, we will gather for a meal in the Parish Hall. Please sign up on the form in the Parish Hall if you would like to help with these meals. Note, there are funds available from Thrivent to help with the meals. Please contact Diane Jaehne for additional information 979-251-0248. Thank you!



Wreaths Across America Ceremony Saturday, December 13, at 10:00 am

Members of the congregation are invited to a wreath placing ceremony at the gazebo to thank God and honor our veterans. Thank you to everyone who donated money for a wreath. We now have enough wreaths for all of our veterans in the cemetery.



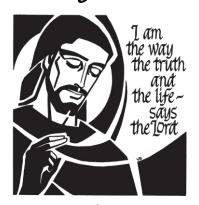
Board of Missions Canned Food Drive – Supporting Bread Partners of Washington County

As we prepare for the Thanksgiving season, our Board of Missions invites everyone to take part in a Canned Food Drive to support the vital work of

Bread Partners of Washington County (learn more at <u>breadpartnersfoodpantry.org</u>). <u>Today is the last day</u> to bring canned and non-perishable food items to the Parish Hall. Your donations will help provide meals for families in need right here in our community. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to live out our mission statement: *Representing God's Love! To our Congregation. To our Community. To the World.* Together, let's share Christ's love in a tangible way this Thanksgiving season!



Sunday School Corner



In our Fall unit, we begin our study of the New Testament, beginning with the announcement of Jesus' birth and continuing through the sending of the seventy-two. This morning, the kids studied the lesson "A Water Wonder – Jesus Walks on Water." He goes to pray. Late in the night, Jesus appears to them, walking on the water. Thinking they see a ghost; the disciples first react in fear until Jesus identifies Himself to them. Peter, seeking further proof, asks to come to

Jesus on the water. Despite initial success, Peter allows fear to enter his heart and begins sinking. Peter cries out for rescue, and Jesus takes him by the hand, brings him safely into the boat, and stills the storm. To reinforce this lesson with your kids, as a family, discuss: Jesus reaches out His hand to you and me every day. Jesus is always ready to catch us when we sink in sin and unbelief. What are some times when we might feel like Peter when he was sinking? If Jesus has power over all creation, why are there still storms and tornadoes and hurricanes? Jesus promises to be with us in those storms. He does not abandon us. Jesus reached out His hand to save Peter. What are some ways that we can reach out our hand to others and show God's love? Also, parents, you can join Pastor Krieg in the adult Sunday School class. See you next week!

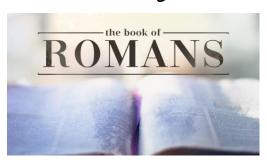
High School Lesson

Our High School Sunday School class is beginning a new study series using *Not-So-Nice Bible Stories: Master Criminals*. In this engaging and thought-provoking study, students will explore the stories of some of Scripture's most notorious wrongdoers, and discover how God's mercy and grace still shine through even the darkest human deeds. Each lesson points us to Christ, who took the punishment for all sin upon Himself and gives us forgiveness, life, and salvation. Join us as we dig into God's Word, wrestle with tough questions, and see how even "master criminals" reveal our need for the one true Savior, Jesus Christ.

Lesson 3 – Wife? What Wife? (Genesis 12:10–20)

In this week's study our High School Sunday School class looked at Abraham's deception in "Wife? What Wife?" When fear and doubt led Abraham to lie about Sarah being his sister, we saw how even the father of faith faltered. Yet God remained faithful. Students discussed how sin twists even good intentions and how God's promises never depend on our perfection. Just as God protected Sarah and kept His covenant plan moving forward, He also guards His people today through Christ, the true and faithful Son of Abraham, who never failed in obedience and whose righteousness covers all our sin.

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
Nov. 16	Sunday School	15	\$55.25
	Youth Bible Class	1	
	Adult Bible Class	22	
Nov. 16	Worship Service	111	General Fund: \$3,495.03
	_		Milton Schwartz Memorial \$225.00

2026 Budget

Pastor's Expenses:		86 675 00
Salary	\$	66,675.00
Mileage	s	1,500.00
Cell Phone	\$	1,200.00
Insurance & Benefits	\$	45,000.00
Health Savings Account	\$	6,000.00
Professional Development	\$	1,200.00
1 Totobook Hall Borotophila		
Total Pastoral Expenses	\$	121,575.00
Property Expenses:		
Property Insurance	\$	15,700.00
Repairs & Maintenance	\$	20,000.00
	ŝ	7,100.00
Cleaning & Supplies	Š	150.00
Fire Department donations	ě	4,700.00
Mowing - Church grounds	\$ \$ \$	5,000.00
Mowing - Cemetery	\$	14,000.00
Utilities		14,000.00
Total Property Expenses	\$	66,650.00
Office Expenses:		
Accounting	\$	8,100.00
A/V Payroll	\$	2,500.00
Secretary Salary	\$	10,000.00
	· \$	3,000.00
Payroll Taxes	s	7,260.00
Copier	s	1,250.00
Postage	s	450.00
IT .	S	4,000.00
Office Supplies	3	4,000.00
Total Office Expenses	\$	36,560.00
Other:		
Board of Missions	\$	2,000.00
District Convention	\$	845.00
Guest Speakers	\$	1,000.00
Lutheran Witness	\$	1,000.00
District Missions & Assessments	\$ \$ \$	10,500.00
Local Missions	\$.	1,200.00
Organist	\$	9,720.00
Sunday School & VBS	S	2,000.00
Worship Supplies	\$	5,000.00
Youth League	\$	1,500.00
	\$	34,765.00
Total Other Expenses	~	- 1,
Total Proposed Budget	\$	259,550.00