

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

NEW YEAR'S EVE WORSHIP

DECEMBER 31, 2025
7:00 PM



Pastor

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Organist

Ann Sommer

Ushers

Jason Ashorn
Kaisen Ashorn
Melvin Ashorn
Eric Berglund

Acolyte

Amelia Kettler

New Year's Eve Worship
December 31, 2025 – 7:00 PM

A Worship Service of Remembrance & Anticipation
On the Eve of the New Year

Pre-Service Music



In Light of 1 Cor. 11:23-26, Bethlehem Lutheran Church maintains the historical practice of “closed” communion in the belief that the Sacrament requires faith in Christ’s words that His body and blood are truly present. Furthermore, participation in the Sacrament is a sign of our unity in the faith with all those who join us at the altar. *For that reason, we ask that those visitors desiring to commune be members in good standing of a congregation of the LCMS and speak to the pastor or an elder before the beginning of the service.* Our denial of admission to those who are members of another confession is not a judgment upon their faith but a recognition that we hold to different confessions concerning God, salvation, and the Sacrament itself. Such individuals are invited to speak with the pastor following the service.

Ringing of the Church Bell

OPENING HYMN

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

LSB 733



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, Our hope for years to come,
2 Un - der the shad - ow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood Or earth re - ceived her frame,
4 A thou-sand a - ges in Thy sight Are like an eve - ning gone,



Our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, And our e - ter - nal home:
Suf - fi - cient is Thine arm a - lone, And our de - fense is sure.
From ev - er - last - ing Thou art God, To end - less years the same.
Short as the watch that ends the night Be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Soon bears us all away;
We fly forgotten as a dream
Dies at the op’ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while
troubles last
And our eternal home!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt. Tune: William Croft, 1678–1727.
Text and tune: Public domain

A REMINISCENCE OF THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 2025

P In the name of the Father and of the  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Each year marks milestones and turning points in the lives of God's people within this congregation. Babies have been born and born again in the water of Holy Baptism. God, in His infinite wisdom and love, has called a number of His saints home to live with Him in heaven. Young people who have diligently studied the truth of God's Word have confirmed their resolve to remain faithful to the doctrine of our church throughout their lives. The Lord has also shepherded new families into our fold. New families have begun as men and women have entered the solemn covenant of marriage. This Year of Our Lord, 2025, has been a time of great blessing for all of us. We recall and give thanks for those blessings now by enumerating the baptisms, confirmations, marriages, and funerals that have taken place during the past twelve months.

BAPTISMS

<i>Tripp Medve</i>	<i>January 19</i>
<i>Peyton Glenz</i>	<i>September 28</i>

CONFIRMANDS

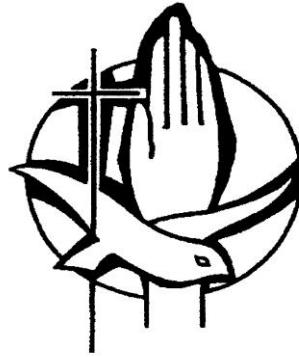
<i>Harlee Duckett</i>	<i>April 13</i>
<i>Connor Gresham</i>	<i>April 13</i>

NEW MEMBERS

<i>Claire Berglund</i>	<i>April 23</i>
<i>Lillian Berglund</i>	<i>April 23</i>
<i>Keith Huber</i>	<i>July 23</i>
<i>Billy Minar</i>	<i>July 23</i>
<i>Cathy Hodge</i>	<i>October 22</i>
<i>David Hodge</i>	<i>October 22</i>

SAINTS CALLED HOME

<i>Peggye Baldwin</i>	<i>April 18</i>
<i>Willie Kankel, Jr.</i>	<i>May 1</i>
<i>Roger Schroeder</i>	<i>June 27</i>
<i>Dorine Selman</i>	<i>July 22</i>
<i>James Schoenemann</i>	<i>August 14</i>
<i>Milton Schwartz</i>	<i>October 15</i>



Stand

CONFESSiON & ABSOLUTION

P The eyes of the Lord are always upon you, from the beginning of the year even unto the end.

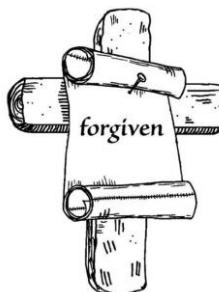
C The Lord shows mercy to them that wait for Him, to the soul that seeks Him.

P Let us then search and examine our ways, and turn again to the Lord.

C O Lord, we confess this night vows unfulfilled, good purposes forgotten, opportunities neglected, duties left undone, we have spoken unkind words, we have done ungenerous deeds, we have cherished unholy desires; we have neglected You and Your word in our lives. We have no refuge but in Your patient mercy. Show us Your compassion; forgive, correct, and heal us; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P Almighty God hears the faithful prayers of His people. Long before creation He chose us to be His children and heirs of eternal salvation. Through the death of Jesus Christ His Son we have peace with God. In His place, and by His command I forgive you all of your sins. In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Sit



SERMON HYMN

Across the Sky the Shades of Night

LSB 899



1 A - cross the sky the shades of night This New Year's Eve are
 2 Be - fore the cross sub - dued we bow, To You our prayer ad -
 3 We gath - er up in this brief hour The mem - 'ry of Your
 4 We now re - mem - ber, as we pray, Our dear ones in Your
 5 Then, gra - cious God, in years to come, We pray Your hand may



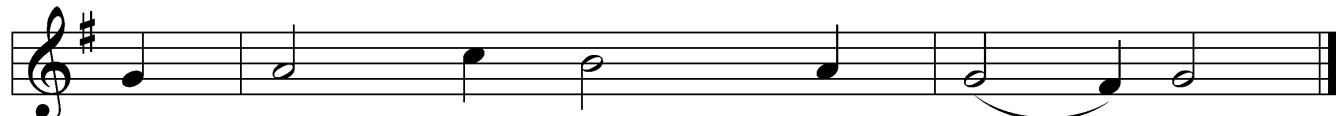
fleet - ing. We deck Your al - tar, Lord, with light, In
 dress - ing, Re - count - ing all Your mer - cies now, And
 mer - cies: Your won - drous good - ness, love, and pow'r Our
 car - ing Who bright - ly shine in end - less day, Past
 guide us, And, on - ward through our jour - ney home, Your



sol - emn wor - ship meet - ing; And as the year's last
 all our sins con - fess - ing; Be - seech - ing You this
 grate - ful song re - hears - es; For You have been our
 death and all de - spair - ing. At our life's end, Lord,
 mer - cy walk be - side us Un - til at last our



hours go by, We raise to You our ear - nest cry,
 com - ing year To keep us in Your faith and fear
 strength and stay In man - y a dark and drea - ry day
 as Your own, Bring us with them a - round Your throne,
 ran - somed life Is safe from per - il, toil, and strife



Once more Your love en - treat - ing.
 And crown us with Your bless - ing.
 Of sor - row and re - vers - es.
 The joys of heav - en shar - ing.
 When heav'n it - self shall hide us.

SERMON

“At the Bend of the Stream”

Luke 12:35-40

³⁵ “Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, ³⁶ and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks. ³⁷ Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸ If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! ³⁹ But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. ⁴⁰ You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

Stand

OFFERING PRAYER

Sit

OFFERING

Stand

PRAYERS AT THE TURN OF THE YEAR

P Heavenly Father, God from everlasting to everlasting, to whom a thousand years are like one day, like yesterday already gone, or like a short hour in the night:

C We adore and bless You as our Creator, the Giver of every good and perfect gift, the Source of all help, the God of our salvation.

P Your gracious care has brought us to this day, and it is because of Your mercy that we have not been destroyed. Year by year, You have spared and blessed us. You have not punished us as we deserve nor repaid us for our sins and wrongdoings. You have continued to speak to us in Your Word and graciously come to us in Your blessed Sacraments; You have blessed us through Your church.

C You have filled our homes and hearts with good. We acknowledge Your constant love every morning, and Your faithfulness every night, and thank and praise Your holy Name.

P Make the new year, we pray, a year of salvation for us. We enter this new year of our Lord in humble trust in Him whose name You called Jesus because He came to save all people from their sins. There is no other name given under heaven, given among men whereby we may be saved.

C **May the holy Name of Jesus be our daily shelter and only hiding place. Grant that we may experience its power each day, and in His Name, may our prayers rise as incense before You.**

P Bless Your Church throughout the world and let Your Word be proclaimed everywhere that Your kingdom may be extended to the ends of the earth. Look upon our congregation with mercy and preserve among us the faithful preaching of Your Word and the right use of the holy Sacraments.

C **Do not let Your Word fail to achieve Your purposes, but open the hearts of the hearers to receive it gladly and to obey it willingly.**

P Bless our nation and all of its people in this new year. Give our leaders wisdom and power to administer justice and to work together for the good of all. Restore honor and integrity to our government, and may self-interest and ambition be replaced by a compelling sense of duty. Maintain peace in our land and throughout the world. Where American servicemen and women stand in defense of our country, protect their lives, and bring them safely home again.

C **Give success to all work in town and countryside; provide us with our daily bread, and keep us from sickness and all other ills. Crown the year with Your goodness so that Your glory may continue among us.**

P Watch over our homes; bless them with peace and happiness, and grant that all parents may rule their households in true godliness and bring up their children in reverence for You. Keep the privileged and the prosperous from worldly pride and the poor and needy from murmuring, envy, and discontent.

C **Provide for widows and orphans and all who are lonely and afflicted, and have mercy on all who are sick. When the righteous cry, hear them and rescue them from all their troubles.**

P As all our days have been written in Your book, even from eternity, we commit ourselves into your hands. Keep us from every evil of body and soul, and bless us with what You know is best. Help us in the new year to walk in newness of life, using every new day to love and do Your will so that if this coming year may be our last on earth, we may at the appointed time end our life in peace and begin the new year of eternity in your perfect presence and to your never-ending praise.

C Hear us, eternal God, for the sake of Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today, and forever. Amen.



THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.



HOLY COMMUNION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My \ddagger body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My \ddagger blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

Sit

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

I Lay My Sins on Jesus

LSB 606



1 I lay my sins on Je - sus, The spot - less Lamb of God;
2 I lay my wants on Je - sus; All full - ness dwells in Him;
3 I rest my soul on Je - sus, This wea - ry soul of mine;



He bears them all and frees us From the ac - curs - ed load.
He heals all my dis - eas - es; My soul He does re - deem.
His right hand me em - brac - es; I on His breast re - cline.



I bring my guilt to Je - sus To wash my crim - son stains
I lay my griefs on Je - sus, My bur - dens and my cares;
I love the name of Je - sus, Im - man - uel, Christ, the Lord;



Clean in His blood most pre - cious Till not a spot re - mains.
He from them all re - leas - es; He all my sor - rows shares.
Like fra - grance on the breez - es His name a - broad is poured.



Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior

LSB 619

1 Thy bod - y, giv'n for me, O Sav - ior, Thy blood which
 2 With Thee, Lord, I am now u - nit - ed; I live in
 3 Who can con - demn me now? For sure - ly The Lord is
 4 Though death may threat - en with dis - as - ter, It can - not
 5 My heart has now be - come Thy dwell-ing, O bless - ed,

Thou for me didst shed, These are my life and
 Thee and Thou in me. No sor - row fills my
 nigh, who jus - ti - fies. No hell I fear, and
 rob me of my cheer; For He who is of
 ho - ly Trin - i - ty. With an - gels I, Thy

strength for - ev - er, By them my hun - gry soul is fed.
 soul, de - light - ed It finds its on - ly joy in Thee.
 thus se - cure - ly With Je - sus I to heav - en rise.
 death the mas - ter With aid and com - fort e'er is near.
 prais - es tell - ing, Shall live in joy e - ter - nal - ly.

Refrain

Lord, may Thy bod - y and Thy blood Be for my soul the high - est good!

Text: Friedrich Christian Heyder, 1677–1754; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, abr. Tune: Emskirchner Choral-Buch, 1756, Leipzig Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005013 Tune: Public domain

O Savior of Our Fallen Race

LSB 403

5 For from the Father's throne You came,
His banished children to reclaim;
And earth and sea and sky revere
The love of Him who sent You here.

Alleluia!

6 And we are jubilant today,
For You have washed our guilt away.
O hear the glad new song we sing
On this, the birthday of our King!

Alleluia!

△7 O Christ, Redeemer virgin-born,
Let songs of praise Your name adorn,
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Spirit evermore.

Alleluia!

God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It

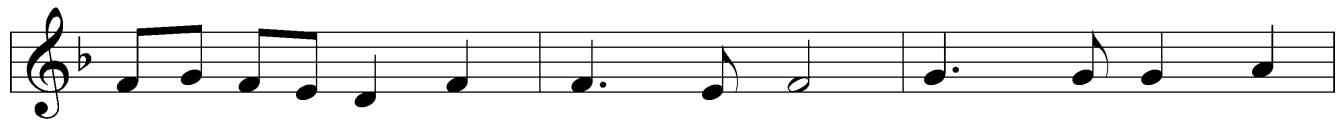
LSB 594



1 God's own child, I glad - ly say it: I am bap - tized
 2 Sin, dis - turb my soul no long - er: I am bap - tized
 3 Sa - tan, hear this proc - la - ma - tion: I am bap - tized
 4 Death, you can - not end my glad - ness: I am bap - tized
 5 There is noth - ing worth com - par - ing To this life - long



in - to Christ! He, be - cause I could not pay it,
 in - to Christ! I have com - fort e - ven strong - er:
 in - to Christ! Drop your ug - ly ac - cu - sa - tion,
 in - to Christ! When I die, I leave all sad - ness
 com - fort sure! O - pen - eyed my grave is star - ing:



Gave my full re - demp - tion price. Do I need earth's
 Je - sus' cleans - ing sac - ri - fice. Should a guilt - y
 I am not so soon en - ticed. Now that to the
 To in - her - it par - a - dise! Though I lie in
 E - ven there I'll sleep se - cure. Though my flesh a -



treas - sures man - y? I have one worth
 con - science seize me Since my Bap - tism
 font I've trav - eled, All your might has
 dust and ash - es Faith's as - sur - ance
 waits its rais - ing, Still my soul con -



more than an - y That brought me sal -
 did re - lease me In a dear for -
 come un - rav - eled, And, a - gainst your
 bright ly flash - es: Bap - tism has the
 tin - ues prais - ing: I am bap - tized



va - tion free Last - ing to e - ter - ni - ty!
 giv - ing flood, Sprin - kling me with Je - sus' blood?
 tyr - an - ny, God, my Lord, u - nites with me!
 strength di - vine To make life im - mor - tal mine.
 in - to Christ; I'm a child of par - a - dise!

Stand

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise

LSB 680



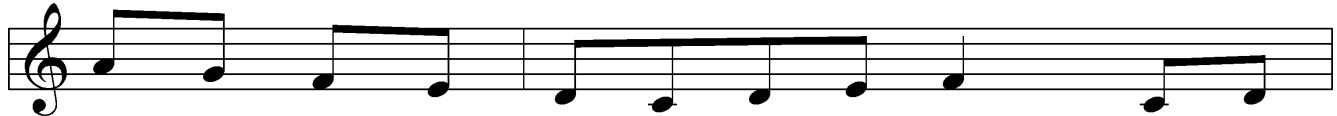
1 Thine the a - men Thine the praise Al - le -
2 Thine the life e - ter - nal - ly Thine - the -
3 Thine the tru - ly Thine the yes Thine the -
4 Thine the king - dom Thine the prize Thine the -
5 Thine the glo - ry in the night No more



lu - ias an - gels raise Thine the ev - er - last - ing head
prom - ise let there be Thine the vi - sion Thine the tree
ta - ble we the guest Thine the mer - cy all from Thee
won - der full sur - prise Thine the ban - quet then the praise
dy - ing on - ly light Thine the riv - er Thine the tree



Thine the break - ing of the bread Thine the glo - ry Thine the
All the earth on bend - ed knee Gone the nail - ing gone the
Thine the glo - ry yet to be Then the ring - ing and the
Then the jus - tice of Thy ways Thine the glo - ry Thine the
Then the Lamb e - ter - nal - ly Then the ho - ly ho - ly



sto - ry Thine the har - vest then the cup Thine the
rail - ing Gone the plead - ing gone the cry Gone the
sing - ing Then the end of all the war Thine the
sto - ry Then the wel - come to the least Then the
ho - ly Cel - e - bra - tion ju - bi - lee Thine the



vine - yard then the cup is lift - ed up lift - ed up.
sigh - ing gone the dy - ing what was loss lift - ed high.
liv - ing Thine the lov - ing ev - er - more ev - er - more.
won - der all in - creas - ing at Thy feast at Thy feast.
splen - dor Thine the bright - ness on - ly Thee on - ly Thee.

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and † give you peace.

C Amen.

Sit

CLOSING HYMN

Forth in the Peace of Christ We Go

LSB 920



1 Forth in the peace of Christ we go;
2 King of our hearts, Christ makes us kings;
3 Priests of the world, Christ sends us forth
4 Christ's lips, His Word we speak;
5 We are the Church; Christ bids us show

Christ to the world with joy we bring;
King - ship with Him His ser - vants gain;
This world of time to con - se - crate,
Proph - ets are we whose deeds pro - claim
That in His Church all na - tions find

Christ in our minds, Christ on our lips,
With Christ the Ser - vant - Lord of all,
This world of sin by grace to heal,
Christ's truth in love that we may be
Their hearth and home where Christ stores

Christ in our hearts, the world's true king.
Christ's world we serve to share Christ's reign.
Christ's world in Christ to re - cre - ate.
Christ in the world, to spread Christ's name.
True peace, true love to all man - kind.

*Let us give thanks to God for the Year of Our Lord 2025
and trust that He will graciously go with us into the Year of Our Lord 2026.*

