



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

SANCTITY OF LIFE SUNDAY
JANUARY 18, 2026
10:15 AM



Pastor

Rev. Kelly Dean Krieg
(214) 208-1364

PastorKrieg@BethlehemWmPenn.org

Ushers

Stanley Haferkamp
Kevin Harrington
David Hodge
Keith Huber

Secretary

Janice Pazderny
(979) 836-7303

Office@BethlehemWmPenn.org

Acolyte

Kinsley Haferkamp

Crucifer

Dillion Nowicki

Greeter

Theresa Kettler

Organist

Ann Sommer

Sanctity of Life Sunday
January 18, 2026 – 10:15 AM

Divine Service with Holy Communion

Pre-Service Music



Representing God's Love
To our Congregation,
Community, and the World

January Bible Verse

The steps of a man are established by the Lord, when he delights in his way; though he fall, he shall not be cast headlong, for the Lord upholds his hand.

Psalm 37:23-24

Our Mission Statement

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



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

Stand and turn to face the Cross for the Processional Hymn.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Before You, Lord, We Bow

LSB 966



1 Be - fore You, Lord, we bow, Our God who reigns a - bove
2 The na - tion You have blest May well Your love de - clare,
3 May ev - 'ry moun - tain height, Each vale and for - est green,
4 Earth, hear your Mak - er's voice; Your great Re - deem - er own;
5 And when in pow'r He comes, Oh, may our na - tive land



And rules the world be - low, Bound-less in pow'r and love. Our thanks
From foes and fears at rest, Pro - tect - ed by Your care. For this
Shine in Your Word's pure light, And its rich fruits be seen! May ev -
Be - lieve, o - bey, re - joice, And wor-ship Him a - lone. Cast down
From all its rend - ing tombs Send forth a glo-rious band, A count -



we bring In joy and praise, Our hearts we raise To You, our King!
bright day, For this fair land—Gifts of Your hand—Our thanks we pay.
'ry tongue Be tuned to praise And join to raise A grate - ful song.
your pride, Your sin de - plore, And bow be - fore The Cru - ci - fied.
less throng, With joy to sing To heav'n's high King Sal - va - tion's song!

Tune and text: Public domain

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

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the **†** Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

CONFESSiON AND ABSOLUTION

PSALM 139

P O Lord, you have searched me and known me!

C **You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar.**

P You search out my path and my lying down

C **and are acquainted with all my ways.**

P Even before a word is on my tongue,

C **behold, O Lord, you know it altogether.**

P You hem me in, behind and before,

C **and lay your hand upon me.**

P Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;

C **it is high; I cannot attain it.**

P Almighty and Everlasting God, Your understanding comprehends all things. You see how Your creatures have departed from Your wise design. You know the desires of all humankind have become entirely unrighteous. Our thoughts, words, and deeds worship us above You and serve self instead of one another. Yet Your Son has assumed our feeble nature and feels our weakness and need. For the sake of His sacrifice, remember us in mercy. Lay not Your hand of reckoning upon us and grant remission of all our sins.

C Amen.

P Where shall I go from your Spirit?

C Or where shall I flee from your presence?

P If I ascend to heaven, you are there!

C If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!

P If I take the wings of the morning

C and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

P even there your hand shall lead me,

C and your right hand shall hold me.

P If I say, “Surely the darkness shall cover me,

C and the light about me be night,”

P even the darkness is not dark to you;

C the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you.

P O Lord, our Heavenly Father, You pursue us in jealousy to the ends of the heavens and earth. We cannot flee from Your judgment nor hide from the punishments we deserve. But Your Son, our Savior Christ Jesus, has traded our guilt in exchange for His glory. His death and resurrection have brought us the light of life everlasting. Drive our evils away from us with repentance, forgiveness, and faith, that we may behold Your goodness now and evermore.

C Amen.

P For you formed my inward parts;

C you knitted me together in my mother's womb.

P I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

C Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.

P My frame was not hidden from you,

C when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

P Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them,

C the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.

P How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!

C How vast is the sum of them!

P If I would count them, they are more than the sand.

C I awake, and I am still with you.

P Children of men, do not fear! Incarnate Christ Jesus has come among us, sharing both womb and world, plumb the depths of the earth, plundered death and the tomb. Take heart, for the Almighty Maker has created, redeemed, and called you His own. Upon your confession, in the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Oh, that you would slay the wicked, O God!

C O men of blood, depart from me!

P They speak against you with malicious intent;

C your enemies take your name in vain.

P Do I not hate those who hate you, O Lord?

C And do I not loathe those who rise up against you?

P I hate them with complete hatred;

C I count them my enemies.

P Search me, O God, and know my heart!

C Try me and know my thoughts!

P And see if there be any grievous way in me,

C and lead me in the way everlasting!

C 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.

P Lord God, our Father and Savior, open our hearts to receive and delight in Your wonders. Open our lips to rejoice and proclaim all Your works. Strengthen us in flesh and spirit to refuse wickedness and replace the lust for control with Your own truth and love. Give us courage to rescue the vulnerable and compassion to relieve the victim that together we may share Your life.

C Amen.

Sit

HYMN OF PRAISE

How Great Thou Art

LSB 801



2 When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der, I hear the

3 But when I think that God, His Son not spar - ing, Sent Him to

4 When Christ shall come with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion And take me

*Refrain*

Text: Carl Gustaf Boberg, 1859–1940; tr. Stuart W. K. Hine, 1899–1989 Tune: Swedish; arr. Stuart W. K. Hine, 1899–1989 Text and tune: © 1949, 1953 The Stuart Hine Trust, admin. EMI CMG and Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005013 –1989 Text and tune: © 1949, 1953 The Stuart Hine Trust, admin. EMI CMG and Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005013

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Job 10:9–13

⁹Remember that you have made me like clay;
and will you return me to the dust?

¹⁰Did you not pour me out like milk
and curdle me like cheese?

¹¹You clothed me with skin and flesh,
and knit me together with bones and sinews.

¹²You have granted me life and steadfast love,

and your care has preserved my spirit.
¹³Yet these things you hid in your heart;
I know that this was your purpose.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

Psalm 117:1-2a; 96:8

Praise the LORD, all nations!
Extol him, all peoples!
For great is his steadfast love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.
Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
bring an offering, and come into his courts!

EPISTLE

Hebrews 2:5–18

⁵Now it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking. ⁶It has been testified somewhere,

“What is man, that you are mindful of him,
or the son of man, that you care for him?

⁷You made him for a little while lower than the angels;
you have crowned him with glory and honor,
⁸putting everything in subjection under his feet.”

Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. ⁹But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

¹⁰For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering. ¹¹For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one origin. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers, ¹²saying,

“I will tell of your name to my brothers;
in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise.”

¹³And again,

“I will put my trust in him.”

And again,

“Behold, I and the children God has given me.”

¹⁴Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. ¹⁶For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. ¹⁷Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. ¹⁸For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

COMMON ALLELUIA



C 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.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 10:24–33

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the tenth chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

²⁴“A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. ²⁵It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household.

²⁶“So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. ²⁷What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. ²⁸And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. ³²So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, ³³but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

NICENE CREED

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.

And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.

And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the
dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
glorified,

who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

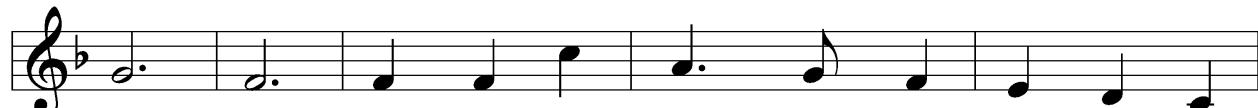
HYMN OF THE DAY

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

LSB 790



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won - drous - ly
3 Praise to the Lord, who has fear - ful - ly, won - drous - ly,
4 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de -
5 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a -



a - tion! O my soul, praise Him, for He is your
reign - ing And, as on wings of an ea - gle, up -
made you, Health has be - stowed and, when heed - less - ly
fend you; Sure - ly His good - ness and mer - cy shall
dore Him! All that has life and breath, come now with



health and sal - va - tion! Let all who hear Now to His
lift - ing, sus - tain - ing. Have you not seen All that is
fall - ing, has stayed you. What need or grief Ev - er has
dai - ly at - tend you. Pon - der a - new What the Al -
prais - es be - fore Him! Let the A - men Sound from His



tem - ple draw near, Join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
need - ful has been Sent by His gra - cious or - dain - ing?
failed of re - lief? Wings of His mer - cy did shade you.
might - y can do As with His love He be - friends you.
peo - ple a - gain; Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore Him!

Tune and text: Public domain

SERMON

Known Before We Knew Ourselves

Psalm 139

Stand

OFFERTORY



C What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all His ben - e - fits to

me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will
 call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
 va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
 vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the
 courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

OFFERING PRAYER

Sit

OFFERING

Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C And al - so with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

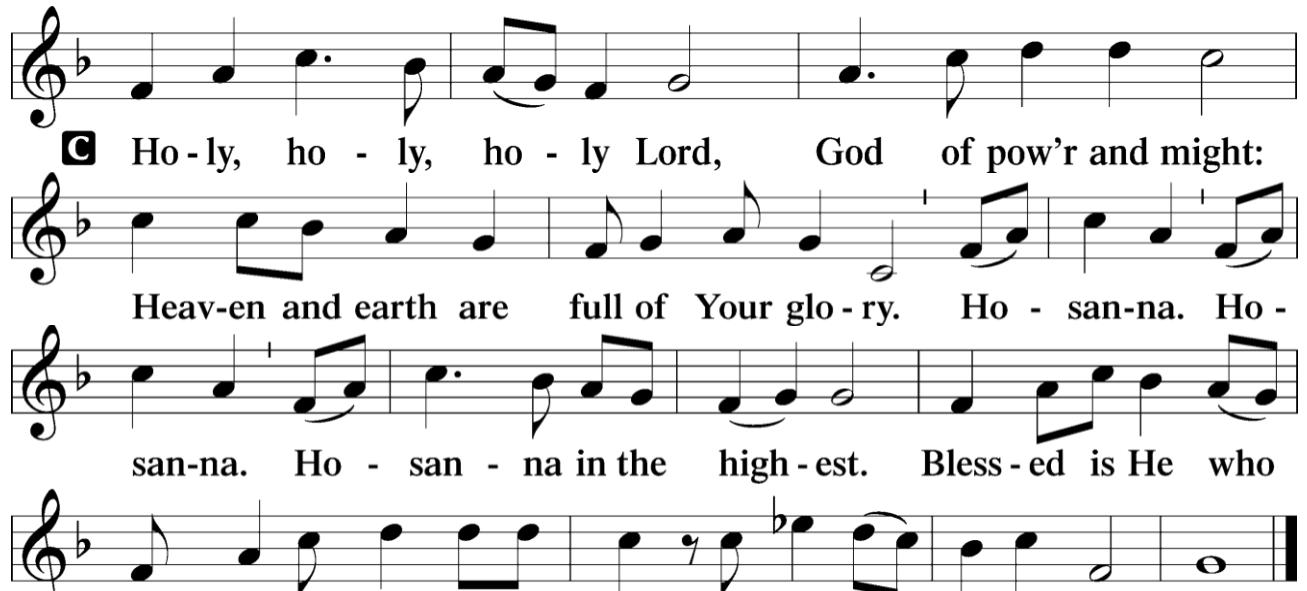
C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS



C 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.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C 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.

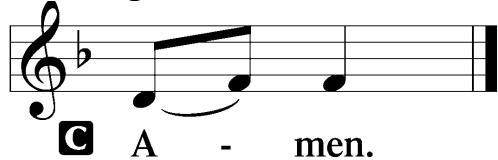
THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

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.”

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.



C A - men.

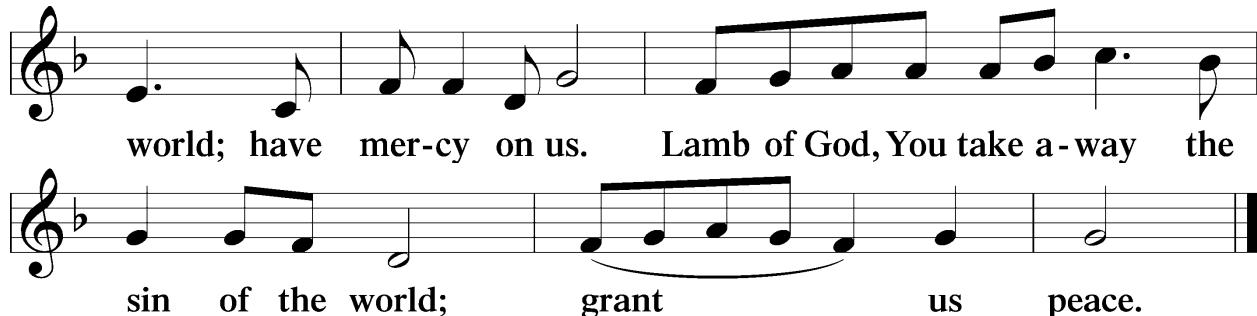
AGNUS DEI



C 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



DISTRIBUTION HYMN

The Infant Priest Was Holy Born

LSB 624

1 The in - fant Priest was ho - ly born For us un -
2 This great High Priest in hu - man flesh Was i - con
3 The ho - ly Lamb un - daunt - ed came To God's own
4 But death would not the vic - tor be Of Him who
ho - ly and for - lorn; From flesh - ly tem - ple
of God's righ - teous - ness. His hal - lowed touch brought
al - tar lit with flame; While weep - ing an - gels
hung up - on the tree. He leads us to the
forth came He, A - noint - ed from e - ter - ni - ty.
sanc - ti - ty; His hand re - moved im - pu - ri - ty.
hid their eyes, This Priest be - came a sac - ri - fice.
Ho - ly Place With - in the veil, be - fore God's face.

- 5 The veil is torn, our Priest we see,
As at the rail on bended knee
Our hungry mouths from Him receive
The bread of immortality.
- 6 The body of God's Lamb we eat,
A priestly food and priestly meat;
On sin-parched lips the chalice pours
His quenching blood that life restores.
- 7 With cherubim and seraphim
Our voices join the endless hymn,
And "Holy, holy, holy" sing
To Christ, God's Lamb, our Priest and King.

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

LSB 443



1 Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na, The lit - tle chil - dren sang;
2 From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed Mid an ex - ul - tant crowd,
3 "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" That an - cient song we sing;



Through pil - lared court and tem - ple The love - ly an - them rang.
The vic - tor palm branch wav - ing And chant-ing clear and loud.
For Christ is our Re - deem - er, The Lord of heav'n our King.



To Je - sus, who had blessed them, Close fold - ed to His breast,
The Lord of earth and heav - en Rode on in low - ly state
Oh, may we ev - er praise Him With heart and life and voice



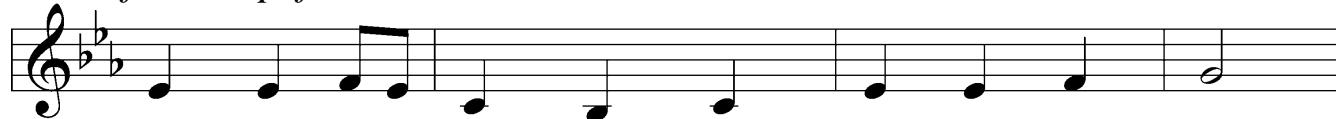
The chil - dren sang their prais - es, The sim-plest and the best.
Nor scorned that lit - tle chil - dren Should on His bid - ding wait.
And in His bliss - ful pres - ence E - ter - nal - ly re - joice!

Text: Jeannette Threlfall, 1821-80, alt. Tune: Gesangbuch der Herzogl. Hofkapelle, 1784, Württemberg Text and tune: Public domain



Lord of All Hopefulness

LSB 738



1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,
2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,
3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,
4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



Whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy:
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
Your hands swift to wel - come, Your arms to em - brace:
Whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm:



Be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,
Be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,
Be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,
Be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,



Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Text: Jan Struther, 1901–53. Tune: Irish. Text: © Oxford University Press. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005013. Tune: Public domain



Jesus Comes Today with Healing

LSB 620



1 Je - sus comes to - day with heal - ing, Knock - ing at my
2 Christ Him - self, the priest pre - sid - ing, Yet in bread and
3 Un - der bread and wine, though low - ly, I re - ceive the
4 God de - scends with heav'n - ly pow - er, Gives Him - self to



door, ap - peal - ing, Of - f'ring par - don, grace, and peace.
wine a - bid - ing In this ho - ly sac - ra - ment,
Sav - ior ho - ly, Blood and bod - y, giv'n for me,
me this hour In this or - di - nar - y sign.



He Him - self makes prep - a - ra - tion, And I hear His
Gives the bread of life, once bro - ken, And the cup, the
Ver - y Lamb of God from heav - en, Who to bit - ter
On my tongue His pledge re - ceiv - ing, I ac - cept His



in - vi - ta - tion: "Come and taste the bless - ed feast."
pre - cious to - ken Of His sa - cred cov - e - nant.
death was giv - en, Hung up - on the curs - ed tree.
grace, be - liev - ing That I taste His love di - vine.

5 Let me praise God's boundless favor,
Whose own feast of love I savor,
Bidden by His gracious call.
Wedding garments He provides me,
With a robe of white He hides me,
Fits me for the royal hall.

6 Now have I found consolation,
Comfort in my tribulation,
Balm to heal the troubled soul.
God, my shield from ev'ry terror,
Cleanses me from sin and error,
Makes my wounded spirit whole.

Stand

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

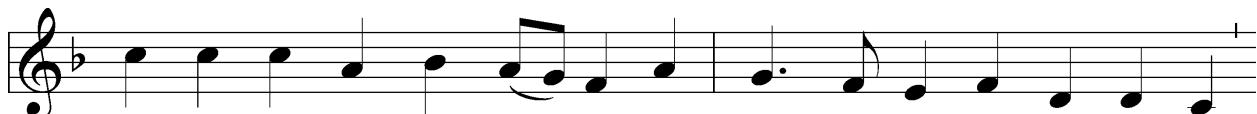
Thank the lord



C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'-ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

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 $\text{\tfrac{a}{c}}$ give you peace.

C Amen.

Face the cross for the Closing Hymn.

CLOSING HYMN



1 God, who made the earth and heav - en, Dark - ness and light:
 2 And when morn a - gain shall call us To run life's way,
 3 Guard us wak - ing, guard us sleep - ing, And when we die,
 △ 4 Ho - ly Fa - ther, throned in heav - en, All - ho - ly Son,



You the day for work have giv - en, For rest the night. May Your
 May we still, what - e'er be - fall us, Your will o - obey. From the
 May we in Your might - y keep-ing All peace - ful lie. When the
 Ho - ly Spir - it, free - ly giv - en, Blest Three in One: Grant us



an - gel guards de - fend us, Slum - ber sweet Your mer - cy send us,
 pow'r of e - vil hide us, In the nar - row path - way guide us,
 last dread call shall wake us, Then, O Lord, do not for - sake us,
 grace, we now im - plore You, Till we lay our crowns be - fore You



Ho - ly dreams and hopes at - tend us All through the night.
 Nev - er be Your smile de - nied us All through the day.
 But to reign in glo - ry take us With You on high.
 And in wor - thier strains a - dore You While a - ges run.

Text (st. 1): Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, alt.; (sts. 2, 4): William Mercer, 1811–73, alt.; (st. 3): Richard Whately, 1787–1863, alt. Tune: Welsh, 18th cent. Text and tune: Public domain



POSTLUDE

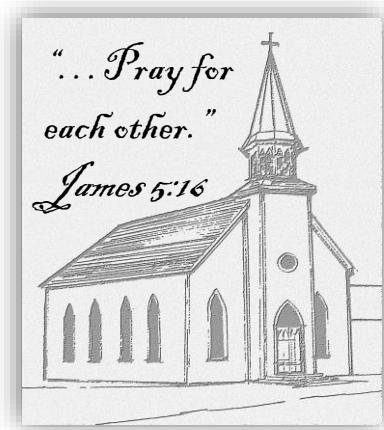
*Welcome to Bethlehem Lutheran Church,
 where we worship in the name of the crucified
 and risen Lamb of God, Jesus Christ our Lord.
 Blessings to you as you worship with us today.*

Congregation: Prayers for Peggy McDonald and her family, healing for Lillian Hayden from knee surgery; for Edith Erwin recovery and healing from surgery; for Tom Hayden's recovery after surgery and continued healing; for Adeline Platt's health; for health and healing for Lathel Norris; 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.

Community: 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.

World: 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:

- Ahsan – Ron, Tina, Joshua, Aliyah, Henry
- Andrejcak – Ray, Melanie
- Ashorn – Billy, Vickie
- Hayden – Tom, Lillian, Alyssa, Javier
- Hermann - Benjamin
- Hinze – Donna
- McDonald – Peggy
- Medve – Travis, Samantha, Tessa, Tripp
- Meyer – Dennis, Pat

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Week's Schedule

January 18 – January 25



Today: *Sanctity of Life Sunday*
9:00 AM Sunday School, Adult Bible Class
10:15 AM Divine Service with Holy Communion

Acolyte: Kinsley Haferkamp
Crucifer: Dillion Nowicki
Greeter: Theresa Kettler
Ushers: Stanley Haferkamp David Hodge
 Kevin Harrington Keith Huber



Wednesday: Cancelled



Thursday: **6:30 PM** Ladies Bible Study



Saturday:



Next Sunday: The Conversion of St. Paul

9:00 AM Sunday School, Adult Bible Class
10:15 AM Divine Worship: Setting I with Holy Communion
Acolyte: Taylor Nowicki
Crucifer: Winston Krieg
Greeter: Marilyn Klussmann
Ushers: Craig Kankel Clinton Kettler
 Caleb Kettler Matt Kettler

Serving in January: Elder – Clinton Kettler / Trustee – Doyle Dahmann

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 Theresa Kettler

3rd Annual Quiz Night to Support the Youth League Summer Trip

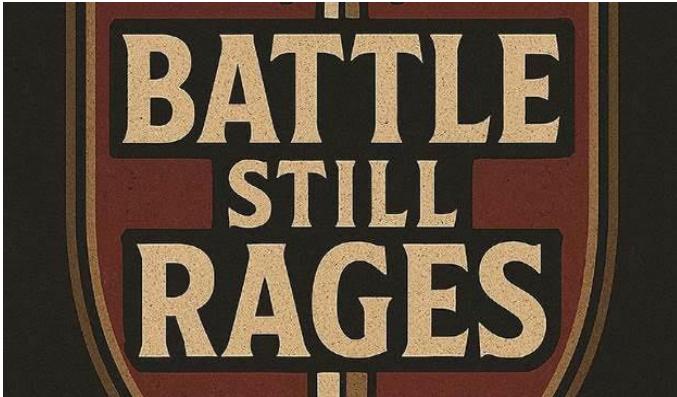


The Bethlehem Lutheran Church Youth League, in conjunction with the Grace Lutheran Church Youth League of Brenham, would like to invite you to the **3rd Annual Quiz Night on Friday, February 20th, at the Sons of Hermann hall in Brenham, from 5:30 to 9:00 pm**. The evening consists of 10 rounds of trivia. Questions are answered by teams, and after each round, team standings are announced. Each team consists of six members; please RSVP to Pastor Krieg (pastorkrieg@bethlehemwmpenn.org) with your team by February 15th. Each round will have a different focus to test your overall trivia knowledge. Prizes are awarded to the winners throughout the night. At the end of the evening, a Quiz Night Champion is crowned. Will your team be proven the smartest in Washington County? Will the trophy stay here at Bethlehem or will Grace take it home? Sign up to find out!



Life Magnified 2026: You are encouraged to join together on **Saturday, January 24th**, as we celebrate the Lord's gift of life and rally to defend it. **Beginning at 9:00 AM at St. Paul – Austin TX**, there will be a Matins prayer service and a Bible study/presentation led by

Pastor Steven Cholak. After lunch, the group will move to the Texas Capitol and join in the Texas Rally for Life. Lunch will be provided free of charge, please RSVP Here: <https://www.stpaulaustin.org/events/life-magnified-2026/>



Spotlight On Life 2026: The Battle Still Rages

Join us for our fourth annual Spotlight On Life. Politics and technology have shifted the focus of protecting the unborn from the national stage to individual states and from abortion clinics to homes. We will explore how this affects the pro-life efforts.

Speakers:

Rev. Dr. Aric Fenske (Director, Lutherans For Life)

Pastor Robert Paul (Memorial Lutheran Church, Houston)

Pastor Michael Salemink (Assistant Professor of Pastoral Ministry and Missions, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne)

Mrs. Carol Tobias (President, National Right To Life, Washington, DC)

Pastor Laurence White (Our Savior Lutheran Church, Houston)

Freewill Event for **February 21, 2026**

8:30 AM Check-in • 4:30 PM Wrap-up

Light Breakfast • Intriguing Speakers • Delicious Lunch • Round Table Q&A • Sanctuary & Bell Tower Tour (optional)

Register here: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/spotlight-on-life-2026-the-battle-still-rages>



Soup for the Group Fundraiser – February 8

Please join us after church on **Sunday, February 8**, for *Soup for the Group*, a fundraiser hosted by our Youth League. Warm up with a bowl of homemade tortilla soup and enjoy fellowship while supporting our youth and their upcoming activities. The price of \$10.00 per bowl will go directly to the Youth League. Come hungry, stay awhile, or take a bowl to go, and help encourage our young people in Christ!

Contribution
Statements

Contribution Statements for 2025 are ready for pick up in the Parish Hall. Contact Jackie Kankel if you have any questions.



There will be a quarterly **Voters' Meeting on Wednesday, January 28th at 7:30 PM**. Please refer to the information printed at the end of the bulletin.



relying upon the Lord to help them. The appearance of our Lord as the sacrificial Lamb of God (John 1) reminds us that God is always faithful (Isaiah 49:7), even at the cost of His own blood. By faith in Christ, we can and should wait patiently for the Lord (Psalm 40:1) and make Him our trust (Psalm 40:4) in any and every situation, and we should invite our neighbors to do the same.

Sunday School Corner



In our Winter unit, we continue our study of the New Testament, beginning with the account of Mary and Martha and continuing through Jesus appearing to Thomas. This morning, the kids studied the lesson "The Thankful One: Jesus Heals Ten Lepers." Encountering ten lepers on His way to Jerusalem, Jesus has mercy on them and sends them to show themselves to the priests. As they go, the lepers are healed; but only one, a Samaritan, returns to thank Jesus. To reinforce this lesson with your kids, as a family, discuss: Once again, we see in Scripture an occasion when Jesus shows love for the "outsider." God's love and grace are for all people. In our sinful state, we, too, are outsiders when it comes to God's kingdom. But thanks to Jesus, we are now and forever "insiders." What does it feel like to be an outsider? What does it feel like when someone reaches out a hand of friendship to someone who may appear to be an "outsider"? How do we share the love of Jesus with those who we might think are "outsiders"? How do you feel knowing that we are "insiders" in God's kingdom, thanks to Jesus? To "have mercy" means to care so much about someone who is suffering that you have to do something to help. Sometimes, hospitals are named "Mercy Hospital." Why might that be? What are ways that we can share God's mercy with others? Also, parents, you can join Pastor Krieg in the adult Sunday School class. See you next week!

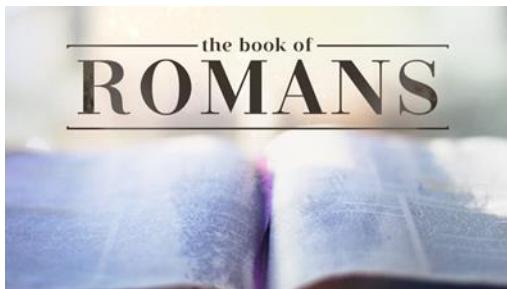
High School Lesson

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 8 – What's Yours Is Mine (2 Samuel 11-12)

In this week's lesson, our High School class explored King David's sin with Bathsheba and the murder of Uriah in "What's Yours Is Mine." Students confronted how power, desire, and self-justification led David to take what was not his and to cover sin with even greater sin. Through Nathan's confrontation, we saw how God's Law exposes the heart and calls sin what it is. Yet this account does not end in despair. We also discussed how God's mercy met David in repentance and forgiveness, pointing us to Christ, the true King, who took our guilt upon Himself and restores sinners through His grace.

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
Jan. 6	Epiphany Service	37	\$438.29
Jan. 11	Sunday School	16	\$122.00
	Youth Bible Class	3	
	Adult Bible Class	31	
Jan. 11	Worship Service	143	\$3,957.76

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Church Council January 28, 2026

Call to Order

Devotion

Roll Call

Reception of New Members and Release of Members

Minutes

Pastor’s Message and Report

Treasurer’s Report

Board of Elders

Board of Trustees

Board of Education

Old Business

New Business

- 1. The start time for week day worship services from 7:00 to 6:30.**
- 2. From the Trustees, to approve the purchase of an office safe to store documents. Cost is approximately \$1,000.00.**
- 3. Increasing the Trustees spending limits of \$750.00 to \$1,000.00.**

Announcements

Pastor has been nominated for Pastoral Counselor for Texas District LWML. If elected, the office term is for four years.

Adjournment with the Lord’s Prayer

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Treasurer's Report - Operating Funds
January - December 2025

CASH RECEIPTS

	Building	General	Total
Contributions	\$ 27,433.44	\$ 244,897.75	\$ 272,331.19
Interest	\$ -	\$ 14.58	\$ 14.58
Thrivent - Building Fund	\$ 9,097.00	\$ -	\$ 9,097.00
Miscellaneous	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL INFLOW	\$ 36,530.44	\$ 244,912.33	\$ 281,442.77

CASH DISBURSEMENTS

Pastor's Expenses			
Salary	\$ 50,810.04	\$ 50,810.04	
Travel Expenses (mileage, meals, etc.)	\$ 1,002.40	\$ 1,002.40	
Cell Phone	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00	
Retirement	\$ 7,699.32	\$ 7,699.32	
Health Savings Acct	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	
Health	\$ 33,123.96	\$ 33,123.96	
Disability/Accident/Life	\$ 1,840.56	\$ 1,840.56	
Continuing Education	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00	
Subtotal	\$ 102,876.28	\$ 102,876.28	
Property:			
Property Insurance	\$ 14,967.00	\$ 14,967.00	
Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 16,635.51	\$ 16,635.51	
Cleaning	\$ 6,831.05	\$ 6,831.05	
Mowing	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,500.00	
Utilities - Sanctuary	\$ 10,185.33	\$ 10,185.33	
Utilities - Parsonage	\$ 3,175.46	\$ 3,175.46	
Office:			
Accounting	\$ 8,100.00	\$ 8,100.00	
A/V staff payroll	\$ 2,475.92	\$ 2,475.92	
Secretary Salary	\$ 9,400.88	\$ 9,400.88	
Payroll Taxes	\$ 14,657.68	\$ 14,657.68	
Computer	\$ 428.97	\$ 428.97	
Copier	\$ 7,260.00	\$ 7,260.00	
Postage	\$ 1,042.30	\$ 1,042.30	
Office Supplies	\$ 3,888.62	\$ 3,888.62	
Board of Missions	\$ 1,907.10	\$ 1,907.10	
District Convention/Assessment	\$ 367.20	\$ 367.20	
Lutheran Witness	\$ 200.25	\$ 200.25	
Misc - 165th Anniversary Lunch	\$ 1,277.42	\$ 1,277.42	
Missions - TX District	\$ 10,200.00	\$ 10,200.00	
Missions - Local	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00	
Organist	\$ 9,315.00	\$ 9,315.00	
Sunday School/VBS	\$ 2,276.76	\$ 2,276.76	
Worship Supplies	\$ 4,360.65	\$ 4,360.65	
TOTAL OUTFLOW	\$ 31,602.51	\$ 205,926.87	\$ 237,529.38
NET CASH FLOW	\$ 4,927.93	\$ 38,985.46	\$ 43,913.39
1/1/2025 Balance	\$ 23,942.14	\$ 114,430.58	\$ 138,372.72
12/31/2025 Balance	\$ 28,870.07	\$ 153,416.04	\$ 182,286.11

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Treasurer's Report - Special Fund
January - December 2025

	Balance 9/30/2024	Gifts Received	Transfers Out	Balance 12/31/2024
Cemetery Fund	\$ 17,733.21	\$ 242.00	\$ (300.00)	\$ 17,675.21
Cemetery Road repair donation	\$ 7,500.00	\$ -	\$ (6,340.00)	\$ 1,160.00
Flags & Stands	\$ 300.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 300.00
Interest	\$ 404.65	\$ 8.45	\$ -	\$ 413.10
LYL	\$ -	\$ 300.00	\$ (300.00)	\$ -
Memorials	\$ 22,999.66	\$ 968.00	\$ -	\$ 23,967.66
Missions	\$ -	\$ 320.00	\$ -	\$ 320.00
New Pew Project	\$ 1,250.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,250.00
Pancake Supper	\$ 12,823.81	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,823.81
Paraments	\$ 2,572.81	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,572.81
Poinsettias	\$ -	\$ 273.00	\$ (273.00)	\$ -
Security	\$ 825.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 825.00
Shepherd's Helping Hands	\$ 4,504.77	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,504.77
Veteran's Plaque	\$ 572.70	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 572.70
Special Fund Bank Balance	\$ 71,486.61	\$ 2,111.45	\$ (7,213.00)	\$ 66,385.06

Cash on Hand
12/31/2025

General Checking Acct:			
Operating Fund	\$ 153,416.04		
Building Fund	<u>\$ 28,870.07</u>	\$ 182,286.11	
Special Checking Acct:			
Specific Funds	\$ 42,417.40		
Unspecified Memorials	<u>\$ 23,967.66</u>	\$ 66,385.06	
12/31/2025		<u>\$ 248,671.17</u>	