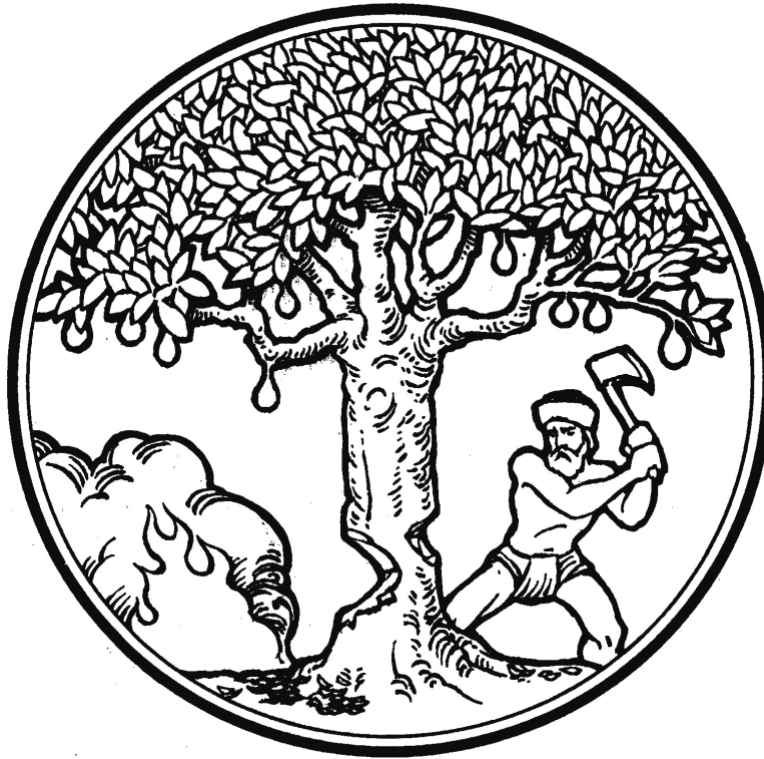


Bethlehem Lutheran Church



Eighth Sunday after Trinity **July 21st, 2024**

**12903 Clara St.
Carlyle (Ferrin), IL 62231
618-545-9543
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**Pastor Jonathan Jennings
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The Order of Worship
Divine Service Setting Three (LSB 184)

*(Please stand if you are able for portions of the liturgy marked with an *)*

Announcements

Opening Hymn: O Holy Spirit, Grant Us Grace **LSB 693**

Confession and Absolution **LSB 184**

Introit* (Ps. 48:1, 3, 11, 14; antiphon: Ps. 48:9-10)

We have thought on your steadfast love, O God,
in the midst of your temple.

As your name, O God, so your praise reaches to the ends of the earth.

Your right hand is filled with righteousness.

Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised
in the city of our God, his holy mountain.

Within her citadels

God has made himself known as a fortress.

Let Mount Zion be glad!

Let the daughters of Judah rejoice because of your judgments!

This is God, our God forever and ever.

He will guide us forever.

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.

We have thought on your steadfast love, O God,
in the midst of your temple.

As your name, O God, so your praise reaches to the ends of the earth.

Your right hand is filled with righteousness.

Kyrie* **LSB 186**

Gloria in Excelsis* **LSB 187**

Collect: Grant to us, Lord, the Spirit to think and do always such things as are right, that we, who cannot do anything that is good without you, may be enabled by You to live

according to Your will; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 23:16-29

¹⁶ Thus says the LORD of hosts: “Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you, filling you with vain hopes. They speak visions of their own minds, not from the mouth of the LORD. ¹⁷ They say continually to those who despise the word of the LORD, ‘It shall be well with you’; and to everyone who stubbornly follows his own heart, they say, ‘No disaster shall come upon you.’”¹⁸ For who among them has stood in the council of the LORD to see and to hear his word, or who has paid attention to his word and listened? ¹⁹ Behold, the storm of the LORD! Wrath has gone forth, a whirling tempest; it will burst upon the head of the wicked. ²⁰ The anger of the LORD will not turn back until he has executed and accomplished the intents of his heart. In the latter days you will understand it clearly. ²¹ “I did not send the prophets, yet they ran; I did not speak to them, yet they prophesied. ²² But if they had stood in my council, then they would have proclaimed my words to my people, and they would have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their deeds. ²³ “Am I a God at hand, declares the LORD, and not a God far away? ²⁴ Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the LORD. ²⁵ I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, ‘I have dreamed, I have dreamed!’ ²⁶ How long shall there be lies in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart, ²⁷ who think to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, even as their fathers forgot my name for Baal? ²⁸ Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let him who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? declares the LORD. ²⁹ Is not my word like fire, declares the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?

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

Gradual: Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me! In you, O LORD, do I take refuge; let me never be put to shame.

Epistle: Romans 8:12-17

¹² So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³ For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of

God are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

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

Alleluia*

LSB 190

Holy Gospel*: Matthew 7:15-23

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 7th chapter. **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

¹⁵ “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶ You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷ So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸ A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ Thus you will recognize them by their fruits. ²¹ “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²² On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ ²³ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

Apostles’ Creed*

LSB 192

Hymn of the Day: In God, My Faithful God

LSB 745

Sermon

Offertory*

LSB 192

Offering

Prayer of the Church*

Lord’s Prayer*

Benediction*

Closing Hymn: All Christians Who Have Been baptized

LSB 596

Announcements

Voters’ Meeting: Our next voters’ meeting will take place tonight at 7pm.

Voters' Meeting Report: Reports for the upcoming Voters' Meeting are available in the narthex for members to pick-up and review.

Hymn of the Month: The hymn of the month for July is Paul Gerhardt's (1607-1676) hymn, 'All Christians Who Have Been Baptized' (LSB 596). The hymn's earliest source directed that it be sung to the tune of the great justification hymn, "Salvation unto us has come" (LSB 556). Yet, LSB sets it to the tune of Martin Luther's justification hymn, "Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice" (LSB 556). Either hymn is fitting for this Baptism hymn, for Baptism gives the gift of justification (God's declaration of righteousness for Christ's sake) to sinners. And so, in stanza 1, Gerhardt invites us to consider the gift that God "gives to everyone baptized into Christ Jesus" (Stz. 1). Gerhardt's use of "you" and "us" in the hymn makes it clear that the new birth by water and the Spirit in Baptism (John 3:5-6) brings the comfort of Christ's atonement to all who are baptized. However, is Baptism really necessary? Stanzas 2 and 3 answer that question: "You were before your day of birth...condemned and lost with all the earth" (Psalm 51:5; Romans 3:23). Yet, "all of that was washed away in Baptism. Baptism is a great comfort for:

- sin is "washed away – Immersed and drowned forever" (Stz. 3),
- it restores a sinner (Stz. 3),
- it is where we "put on Christ-Our shame is full covered" (Stz.4), and
- "here the flood of [Christ's] own blood now makes us holy, right, and good before our heavenly Father" (Stz. 4).

All of this gives us Christians the confidence to live in Christ, "in all that you endeavor" (Stz. 5) "within your own vocation" (Stz. 6). I pray God's richest blessings as you sing and meditate on this hymn.

Catechism Learn-By-Heart: This summer is a great time for students of all ages to work on learning-by-heart the Small Catechism. Handouts for the Catechism Learn-by-Heart Program are available in the narthex. While memorization is not a part of our modern culture and is deemed unimportant, learning the Small Catechism by heart is important. We know of no Jesus except that Jesus who is revealed to us in sacred Scripture. The Small Catechism gives us the most important texts and primary vocabulary of Holy Scripture so that we may boldly confess the faith in our vocations.

Hoffman Town Wide Yard Sales: Join the fun at the 33rd annual Hoffman Village Wide Yard Sale on Saturday, August 3rd starting at 8:00 am. Rain or Shine there will be bargains to be found. Trinity Hoffman youth group will have a food stand at the bank and the Hoffman Fire Department will be serving food at the fire station. There is a sign-up sheet at the post office if you plan on having a yard sale. See you there!

Private Confession and Absolution: The Lutheran Confessions state that private absolution should be retained and not abolished in the churches (Augsburg Confession XI). With this in mind, if at any time you desire private confession and absolution, please give Pastor Jennings a call to set-up a time to meet privately.

Issues Etc.: Truth, Goodness & Beauty... Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. You can tune in live weekdays from 3-5 p.m. on KFUE, 850 AM in St. Louis. You can also listen at your convenience at issuesetc.org, the LPR mobile app and your favorite podcast provider.

Find Bethlehem on Podbean or Facebook: Listen to Pastor Jennings sermons on Podbean or our Facebook page. Download the app 'Podbean' to your smartphone. Search for Bethlehem Lutheran church and begin listening.

This Week in our congregation:

Sunday: 8:30am Bible Study/Sunday School
9:30am Divine Service
7:00pm Voters' Meeting
Sunday: 8:30am Bible Class/Sunday School
9:30am Divine Service