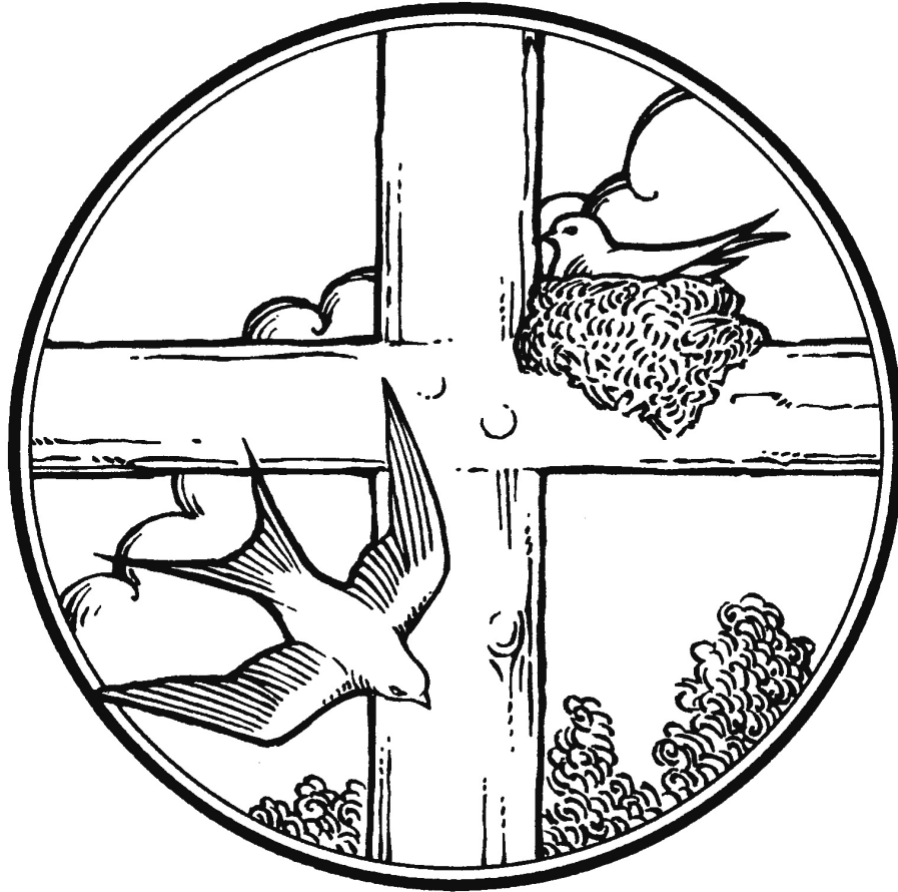


Bethlehem Lutheran Church



Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity September 8th, 2024

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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: All Depends on Our Possessing **LSB 732**

Confession and Absolution* **LSB 184**

Introit*

(Ps. 86:4, 6, 15a, 16; antiphon: Ps. 86:1a, 2b, 3)

Incline your ear, O LORD, and answer me,

Save your servant, who trusts in you—you are my God.

Be gracious to me, O Lord,

for to you do I cry all the day.

Gladden the soul of your servant,

for to you, O Lord, do I lift up my soul,

Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer;

listen to my plea for grace.

But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious;

turn to me and be gracious to me;

give your strength to your servant,

and save the son of your maidservant.

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.

Incline your ear, O LORD, and answer me,

Save your servant, who trusts in you—you are my God.

Be gracious to me, O Lord,

for to you do I cry all the day.

Kyrie*

LSB 186

Gloria in Excelsis*

LSB 187

Collect*: O Lord, we implore You, let Your continual pity cleanse and defend Your Church; and because she cannot continue in safety without Your aid, preserve her

evermore by Your help and goodness; 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: 1 Kings 17:8-16

⁸Then the word of the LORD came to him, ⁹“Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. Behold, I have commanded a widow there to feed you.” ¹⁰So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, “Bring me a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.” ¹¹And as she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, “Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.” ¹²And she said, “As the LORD your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. And now I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it and die.” ¹³And Elijah said to her, “Do not fear; go and do as you have said. But first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterward make something for yourself and your son. ¹⁴For thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, ‘The jar of flour shall not be spent, and the jug of oil shall not be empty, until the day that the LORD sends rain upon the earth.’” ¹⁵And she went and did as Elijah said. And she and he and her household ate for many days. ¹⁶The jar of flour was not spent, neither did the jug of oil become empty, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by Elijah.

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

Gradual: It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in man. It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in princes.

Epistle: Galatians 5:25–6:10

²⁵If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another. **6** Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. ²Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. ³For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. ⁴But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. ⁵For each will have to bear his own load. ⁶Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches. ⁷Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. ⁸For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap

corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. ⁹ And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. ¹⁰ So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

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

Alleluia*

LSB 190

Holy Gospel*: Matthew 6:24-34

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 6th chapter. **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

²⁴ “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money. ²⁵ “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷ And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? ²⁸ And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹ yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ³⁰ But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? ³¹ Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³² For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. ³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. ³⁴ “Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

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

Nicene Creed*

LSB 191

Hymn of the Day: What God Ordains Is Always Good

LSB 760

Sermon

Offertory*

LSB 192

Offering

Prayer of the Church*

Service of the Sacrament*	LSB 194
Distribution Hymns: 750, 704, 737 (Hymn of the Month), 725	
Nunc Dimittis*	LSB 199
Benediction*	
Closing Hymn: Evening and Morning	LSB 726

Announcements

Lutheran Catechesis Class: As mentioned in previous weeks, members of the church are invited to attend pastors' Lutheran Catechesis class in the preschool basement on Wednesday nights beginning at 6pm. This is a great opportunity for members to review the basic tenants of what we believe, teach, and confess as Lutherans. This week our focus will be on the 2nd and 3rd Commandments.

Hymn of the Month: The hymn of the month for September is 'Rejoice, My Heart, Be Glad and Sing' (LSB 737) by Paul Gerhardt. Gerhardt did not have an easy life. He endured the horrors of the Thirty Years War (1618-1648) where it is estimated that 4.5 to million soldiers and civilians died. Additionally, he lost his pastoral position in Berlin for refusing to compromise his Lutheran convictions. He also endured the death of four of his five children and his wife. It is in this suffering that Gerhardt writes 'Rejoice, My Heart, Be Glad and Sing' (LSB 737). It seems odd to sing a hymn that speaks of rejoicing in the midst of suffering. And not only that, it seems odd to hear that this suffering comes from God Himself. Stanza 5 speaks of God chiding us and His rod falling upon us. And yet, this hymn would have us reflect upon the Scriptural truth that God, in His infinite wisdom, disciplines us from time to time (See Hebrews 12) in order to strengthen faith and draw us closer to Him. 'His wisdom never plans in vain nor falters nor mistakes' (Stz. 6). In the midst of tears, there is no reason to despair (Stz. 3). Why not? It is because of Jesus, who is our treasure, joy, life, light, Lord, counselor, shield, and great reward (Stz.2). In Christ, not only can we endure suffering, but we can rejoice knowing that God will make a blessed ending (Stz. 6). God's richest blessings to you as you sing and meditate on this hymn throughout September.

Preschool: As mentioned last week, we are in the process of cleaning up the preschool. This morning is the last day to see if there is anything that you need or could use. After today, material will be donated.

Help Wanted: We are in need of Sunday School teachers. If you have read the bible ever and have a basic knowledge of it - guess what - you are more than qualified to help instruct our youth in God's Word. And as you men are spiritual heads of your household, you are especially fit for this responsibility in our church. The time commitment is not too much as teachers rotate monthly, and you will be given material to use for class. Ultimately, this is a wonderful opportunity to share God's truth with our youth and have a hand in raising up the next generation of Christians.

Catechism Learn-By-Heart: While school is back in full swing, it's always the perfect 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.

Help Needed for Apple Butter: It is that time once again! Time for the annual apple peeling and cooking to make this Ferrin fall favorite; however, we need your help! Please come join us, Friday, September 20th around 1pm to start peeling and coring the apples. Then on Saturday, September 21st we will begin at 7:00am to cook, stir, and can the delicious apple butter. Come; help us keep this tradition alive. Please pray for God to bless us with good weather, willing helpers, and safety. We are cooking 25 bushels, so we could use as many hands as possible for both days. Oh, there will be lunch available too! (BBQ sandwiches and soups and sides) You are welcome to bring something, if you wish.

The Sarcoma Stomp Run for Research will be held on October 12th from 10am-2pm at the Carlyle Lake Main Dam. This 5K and Fun Run benefits the STL Cure Sarcoma and the Bo Arvin Memorial. In addition to the run, there will be a bounce house, kids activities, food trucks. For additional information about this, please go to runsignup.com/race/il/carlyle/sarcomastomprunforresearch or search for 'Sarcoma Stomp Run for Research' on Facebook. You may also contact either Joann Sugg (618-581-9443) or Madi Nolte (618-335-3432).

Sterling Silver Evening Planned: The CORLHS Sterling Evening is right around the corner! We will be gathering on October 19, 2024, for our 20th annual dinner and auction. We are currently accepting donations for both the live and silent auctions. New items only please. Your donations may be dropped off at the school (or with your congregational representative) during school hours from now until October 11th. Thank you!!! — The Sterling Evening Planning Committee.

This Week in our congregation:

Sunday: 8:30am Bible Class/Sunday School
9:30am Divine Service
Wednesday: 6:00pm- Religion/Confirmation Classes
Saturday: 7:30am Congregational Work Day
Sunday: 8:30am Bible Class/Sunday School
9:30am Divine Service