

# Bethlehem Lutheran Church



## Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024

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12903 Clara St.  
Carlyle (Ferrin), IL 62231  
618-545-9543  
[www.bethlehemplutheranferrin.org](http://www.bethlehemplutheranferrin.org)

Pastor Jonathan Jennings  
[pastor@bethlehemplutheranferrin.org](mailto:pastor@bethlehemplutheranferrin.org)  
Cell: 219-309-6941

Secretary: Dena Brammeier  
[bethlehemferrinchurch@gmail.com](mailto:bethlehemferrinchurch@gmail.com)  
Cell: 618-304-4564

**The Order of Worship  
Divine Service Setting Three (LSB 184)**

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

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**Announcements**

**Opening Hymn: The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done** **LSB 464**

**Confession and Absolution\*** **LSB 184**

**Introit\***

(Ps. 86:1, 7, 12-13; antiphon: Ps. 86:3, 5)

Be gracious to me, O Lord,  
for to you do I cry all the day.

**For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving,  
abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you.**

Incline your ear, O LORD, and answer me,  
for I am poor and needy.

**In the day of my trouble I call upon you,  
for you answer me.**

I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart,  
and I will glorify your name forever.

**For great is your steadfast love toward me;  
you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.**

**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.**

Be gracious to me, O Lord,  
for to you do I cry all the day.

For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving,  
abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you.

**Kyrie\*** **LSB 186**

**Gloria in Excelsis\*** **LSB 187**

**Collect\*:** O Lord, we pray that Your grace may always go before and follow after us, that we may continually be given to all good works; 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 17:17-24**

<sup>17</sup> After this the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, became ill. And his illness was so severe that there was no breath left in him. <sup>18</sup> And she said to Elijah, “What have you against me, O man of God? You have come to me to bring my sin to remembrance and to cause the death of my son!” <sup>19</sup> And he said to her, “Give me your son.” And he took him from her arms and carried him up into the upper chamber where he lodged, and laid him on his own bed. <sup>20</sup> And he cried to the LORD, “O LORD my God, have you brought calamity even upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by killing her son?” <sup>21</sup> Then he stretched himself upon the child three times and cried to the LORD, “O LORD my God, let this child’s life come into him again.” <sup>22</sup> And the LORD listened to the voice of Elijah. And the life of the child came into him again, and he revived. <sup>23</sup> And Elijah took the child and brought him down from the upper chamber into the house and delivered him to his mother. And Elijah said, “See, your son lives.” <sup>24</sup> And the woman said to Elijah, “Now I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in your mouth is truth.”

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

**Gradual:** Nations will fear the name of the LORD, and all the kings of the earth will fear your glory. For the LORD builds up Zion; he appears in his glory.

**Epistle: Ephesians 3:13-21**

<sup>13</sup> So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory. <sup>14</sup> For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, <sup>15</sup> from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, <sup>16</sup> that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, <sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, <sup>18</sup> may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, <sup>19</sup> and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. <sup>20</sup> Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at

work within us, <sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

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

**Alleluia\***

**LSB 190**

**Holy Gospel\*: Luke 7:11-17**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 7<sup>th</sup> chapter. **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

<sup>11</sup> Soon afterward he went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a great crowd went with him. <sup>12</sup> As he drew near to the gate of the town, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow, and a considerable crowd from the town was with her. <sup>13</sup> And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." <sup>14</sup> Then he came up and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." <sup>15</sup> And the dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. <sup>16</sup> Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has arisen among us!" and "God has visited his people!" <sup>17</sup> And this report about him spread through the whole of Judea and all the surrounding country.

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

**Apostles' Creed\***

**LSB 192**

**Hymn of the Day: The Will of God Is Always Best**

**LSB 758**

**Sermon**

**Offertory\***

**LSB 192**

**Offering**

**Prayer of the Church\***

**Lord's Prayer\***

**Benediction\***

**Closing Hymn: Rejoice, My Heart, Be Glad and Sing**

**LSB 737**

### **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 **4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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 it 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 20<sup>th</sup> around 1pm to start peeling and coring the apples. Then on Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup> 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](https://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.

**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.

**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 Class/Sunday School  
9:30am Divine Service  
Wednesday: 6:00pm-7:30pm Religion/Confirmation Classes  
Friday: 1:00pm Apple Peeling  
Saturday: 7:00am Applebutter Cooking  
Sunday: 8:30am Bible Class/Sunday School  
9:30am Divine Service