

Bethlehem Lutheran Church



Third Sunday after the Epiphany

January 26th, 2025

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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

Hymn: Hail to the Lord's Anointed **LSB 398**

Confession and Absolution* **LSB 184**

Introit

(Ps. 97:1, 10-12; antiphon: Ps. 97:6, 9)

The heavens proclaim his righteousness,
and all the peoples see his glory.

**For you, O LORD, are most high over all the earth;
you are exalted far above all gods.**

The LORD reigns, let the earth rejoice;
let the many coastlands be glad!

**O you who love the LORD, hate evil! He preserves the lives of his saints; he delivers
them from the hand of the wicked.**

Light is sown for the righteous,
And joy for the upright in heart.

**Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous,
and give thanks to his holy name!**

**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.**

The heavens proclaim his righteousness,
and all the peoples see his glory.

For you, O LORD, are most high over all the earth;
you are exalted far above all gods.

Kyrie* **LSB 186**

This is the Feast* **LSB 187**

Collect*: Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch
forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; 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: 2 Kings 5:1-15a

¹ Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master and in high favor, because by him the LORD had given victory to Syria. He was a mighty man of valor, but he was a leper. ² Now the Syrians on one of their raids had carried off a little girl from the land of Israel, and she worked in the service of Naaman's wife. ³ She said to her mistress, "Would that my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." ⁴ So Naaman went in and told his lord, "Thus and so spoke the girl from the land of Israel." ⁵ And the king of Syria said, "Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel." So he went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten changes of clothing. ⁶ And he brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, "When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you Naaman my servant, that you may cure him of his leprosy." ⁷ And when the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Only consider, and see how he is seeking a quarrel with me."⁸ But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent to the king, saying, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come now to me, that he may know that there is a prophet in Israel." ⁹ So Naaman came with his horses and chariots and stood at the door of Elisha's house. ¹⁰ And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean." ¹¹ But Naaman was angry and went away, saying, "Behold, I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call upon the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place and cure the leper. ¹² Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage. ¹³ But his servants came near and said to him, "My father, it is a great word the prophet has spoken to you; will you not do it? Has he actually said to you, 'Wash, and be clean?'" ¹⁴ So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God, and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean. ¹⁵ Then he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and he came and stood before him.

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: Romans 1:8-17

⁸First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world. ⁹For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I mention you ¹⁰always in my prayers, asking that somehow by God's will I may now at last succeed in coming to you. ¹¹For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you— ¹²that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine. ¹³I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that I have often intended to come to you (but thus far have been prevented), in order that I may reap some harvest among you as well as among the rest of the Gentiles. ¹⁴I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish. ¹⁵So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome. ¹⁶For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹⁷For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

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

Alleluia *

LSB 190

Holy Gospel*: Matthew 8:1-13

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 8thchapter. **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹ When he came down from the mountain, great crowds followed him. ² And behold, a leper came to him and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, if you will, you can make me clean." ³ And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I will; be clean." And immediately his leprosy was cleansed. ⁴ And Jesus said to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a proof to them." ⁵ When he had entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, appealing to him, ⁶"Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, suffering terribly." ⁷ And he said to him, "I will come and heal

him.”⁸ But the centurion replied, “Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only say the word, and my servant will be healed.”⁹ For I too am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. And I say to one, ‘Go,’ and he goes, and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes, and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”¹⁰ When Jesus heard this, he marveled and said to those who followed him, “Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith.”¹¹ I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven,¹² while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”¹³ And to the centurion Jesus said, “Go; let it be done for you as you have believed.” And the servant was healed at that very moment.

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

Nicene Creed*	LSB 191
Hymn of the Day: From God the Father, Virgin Born	LSB 401
Sermon	
Offertory*	LSB 192
Offering	
Prayer of the Church*	
Service of the Sacrament*	LSB 194
Distribution Hymns: 409, 397, 839, 394 (Hymn of the Month)	
Nunc Dimittis*	LSB 199
Benediction*	
Hymn: O God of God, O Light of Light	LSB 810

Announcements

What Does This Mean: As of January 6th, the church has moved out of the Season of Christmas and into the Season of Epiphany. So, what does the word ‘Epiphany’ mean? Epiphany means to ‘show forth’ or ‘manifest.’ This season ‘shows forth’ who Jesus is, that is He’s true God in human flesh and blood.

New Sunday Morning Bible Study: We recently began a new Sunday morning Bible study on the Gospel according to St. John. Our study is at 8:30am in the church sanctuary. All are welcome to attend!

First Sunday Family Night: Beginning on February 2nd, we will be starting a First Sunday Family Night. On the first Sunday of every month, members are invited over to the preschool at 5:30pm for an evening of food, fun, and fellowship. Supper will be

provided. Also, feel free to bring your favorite games to share. We will conclude our time together with prayer.

Bethlehem to Host a Workshop on the Small Town Lutheran Church & Pastor: The facts are stark – Christians make up a smaller and smaller proportion of the American population every year. The average LCMS congregation is 26% smaller than it was 20 years ago. Things seem especially tough in small town churches. What's going on? What does the future hold? What should churches be doing to respond? On **February 6th at 7pm**, Bethlehem will host Rev. Heath Curtis, the Synod's Coordinator for Stewardship for a workshop on demographic change, the four challenges this brings to every church, and how our congregations can respond. Rev. Curtis is also the pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Worden, IL, and the author of the recent book, *The Small Town Lutheran Church & Pastor*. The workshop will take place at the church. Refreshments will be served as well.

Lutheran Catechesis Class: 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 4th Petition through the Conclusion of the Lord's Prayer**.

Men's Club Meeting: The next Men's Club Meeting will be Monday, February 3rd at 7:00pm in the school basement. The servers for the meeting are Carl Hanke and Rob Gerstenecker.

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.

Area Church & School Events

- **Messiah Lutheran Pork Chop Dinner:** Annual Pork Chop Dinner Fundraiser, at Messiah Lutheran in Carlyle, Sunday January 26 from 10:30-1:30 with dine in and carry-out options. \$15 gets you a grilled smoked pork chop, mashed potatoes, stuffing, brown gravy, green beans, applesauce and a homemade dessert.
- **COR Board Meeting:** The Christ Our Rock Lutheran High School Association Foundation will be held on Thursday, February 6, 7:00 at the school.
- **Trinity Lutheran School (Hoffman) Annual Pork Chop Dinner and Auction:** Hoffman Trinity Lutheran School will be hosting the annual Valentine Pork Chop Dinner and Auction on February 9th between 10:45 am -1:00 pm. Get a yummy Smoked Pork Chop, Baked Potato, Green Beans, Cinnamon Applesauce, and a delicious dessert all for only \$14.00. Tickets for children 2-10 will be \$6.00. All checks should be made payable to Trinity PTL. Carry-out dinners are also available.

The annual auction will begin at 1 p.m. in the gym. Bidding for the silent auction will be during the mealtimes, however some may close early, so check back on your bids. If you wish to see what will be on the auction, go to Facebook and search for “Trinity Lutheran Hoffman 2025 Pork Chop Dinner & Auction.” All proceeds will go toward the PTL and will be used for the continued education of the students at the school. If you would like to donate an item to the auction, please contact the school by January 31st. For those who would like to give a monetary gift, please contact the school office at 618-495-2246. Thank you for your continued support!

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 Wednesday Religion Class
Sunday: 8:30am Bible Class/Sunday School
9:30am Divine Service