

Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church

6514 E 750 N Ossian, IN 46777

A congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod



The Seventh Sunday after Trinity

Divine Service Three

August 3, 2025

Vol. 127-36

Invocation (please stand)

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my 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.

Service of the Word pg. 184

Introit (sung responsively)



Clap your hands, all | peoples!*

Shout to God with loud | songs of joy!

For the LORD, the Most High, is | to be feared,*
a great king over | all the earth.

He subdued peoples | under us,*
and nations un- | der our feet.

Sing praises to God, sing | praises!*

Sing praises to our King, sing | praises!

For God is the King of | all the earth;*
sing praises | with a psalm!

God reigns over the | nations;*

God sits on his | holy throne.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*

and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Clap your hands, all | peoples!*

Shout to God with loud | songs of joy!

For the LORD, the Most High, is | to be feared,*

a great king over | all the earth.

Kyrie

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Gloria in Excelsis

Glory be to God on high: and on earth peace, good - will toward
men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
O Lord God, heav'n - ly King, God the Fa - ther Al - mighty.
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.

Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-

on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on-ly art the Lord.

Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,

art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

G And with thy spir - it.

P Let us pray.

P O God, whose never-failing providence orders all things both in heaven and earth, we humbly implore You to put away from us all hurtful things and to give us those things that are profitable for us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Old Testament Reading

Genesis 2:7–17

⁷Then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. ⁸And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. ⁹And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. ¹⁰A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers. ¹¹The name of the first is the Pishon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. ¹²And the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. ¹³The name of the second river is the Gihon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Cush. ¹⁴And the name of the third river is the Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates. ¹⁵The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. ¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Come, O children, lis- | ten to me;*
I will teach you the fear | of the LORD.
Those who look to him are | radiant,*
and their faces shall never | be ashamed.

Epistle

Romans 6:19–23

¹⁹I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification. ²⁰When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? The end of those things is death. ²²But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. ²³For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

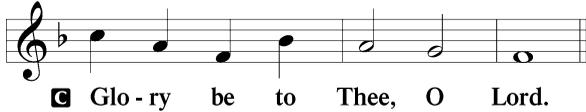
Alleluia



Holy Gospel

Mark 8:1–9

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the eighth chapter.



¹In those days, when again a great crowd had gathered, and they had nothing to eat, [Jesus] called his disciples to him and said to them, ²**"I have compassion on the crowd, because they have been with me now three days and have nothing to eat. ³And if I send them away hungry to their homes, they will faint on the way. And some of them have come from far away."** ⁴And his disciples answered him, "How can one feed these people with bread here in this desolate place?" ⁵And he asked them, **"How many loaves do you have?"** They said, "Seven." ⁶And he directed the crowd to sit down on the ground. And he took the seven loaves, and having given thanks, he broke them and gave them to his disciples to set before the people; and they set them before the crowd. ⁷And they had a few small fish. And having blessed them, he said that these also should be set before them. ⁸And they ate and were satisfied. And they took up the broken pieces left over, seven baskets full. ⁹And there were about four thousand people. And he sent them away.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



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.

Hymn of the Day

#819 Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good

Sermon

Offertory

The musical score is written on five staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below the notes. The lyrics are:

C Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
 new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
 way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
 from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
 tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

Offering

Prayer of the Church

We remember all those in need of continued strength and healing:

Eleanor Fenker (granddaughter of Peter and Sandy Meyer)

Carolyn Brinkeley (recovering from Pneumonia)

Steve Ashcroft (grandfather of Ron Trammel)

Raven Baker (daughter of Ryan and Kari)

Ron Whitesel, Donna Schumm, Gail Werling

Judy Morris (friend of Mike and Linda Bultemeier)

Carla Wiederhold (cousin of Otto Clausen battling cancer)

Brandon Tomlinson (son in-law of the Brinkeleys)

Sandra Flum (Susan Graft's sister)

Safe travels – Pastor Wirgau's trip to Africa

Sorrow in the time of death: family and friends of our sister in Christ, Charlotte Bultemeier

In Thanksgiving of 13 years of marriage to Brandon and Erin Schumm

We pray for our expectant mothers: Abigail (Springer) Mayer, Molly Kleppinger, Betsy Dodgers
Grace (Bauermeister) Cornman

We pray for protection: Pastor and Mrs. Moebring's son Stephen in Israel.

Landrie Levitz, sister of Mariab Trammel who is in the Middle East

We pray for our members shut-in:

Ruth Witte (Ossian Healthcare)

Marihyn Meyer (Kingston)

Marihyn Franke (Christian Care)

Rev. Donald Lutz (Lutheran Life Village)

Norwin and Martha Bauermeister (Astral in Auburn)

We pray for our Church, School and all her workers

We pray for all military personnel

Service of the Sacrament pg. 194

Preface



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.



C It is meet and right so to do.

Proper Preface (Abbreviated)

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bles - ed is He, bles - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Lord's Prayer

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 ✠ 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 ✠ 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 al - ways.



A - men.

Agnus Dei



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Distribution

Today we celebrate the Lord's Supper in our worship. Bethlehem Lutheran Church administers this Holy Supper in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions. It is celebrated in the confidence that we receive, along with the Bread and Wine, the very Body and Blood of Jesus through which we receive the forgiveness of sins. Furthermore, the communicants as a body of believers make a confession of the unity of their faith. **Those desiring to receive the Sacrament with us, who are not communicant members of Bethlehem or of a sister congregation of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, are asked to please speak with the Pastor before the service.**

Distribution Hymns

#640 Thee We Adore, O Hidden Savior

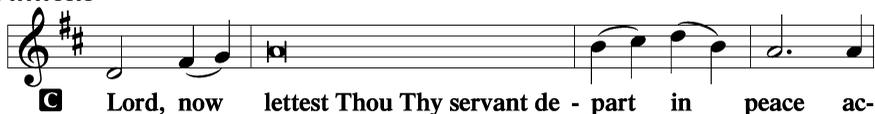
#641 You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

#642 O Living Bread from Heaven

#561 The Tree of Life

#709 The King of Love My Shepherd Is

Nunc Dimittis



to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,

is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Thanksgiving

A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

Post-Communion Collect

A 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 A - men.

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus

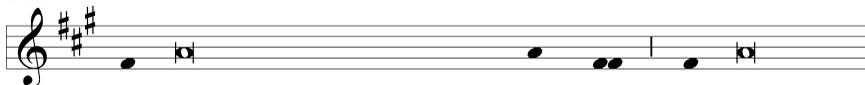


A Bless we the Lord.

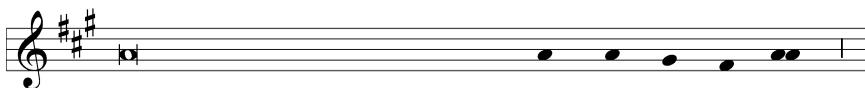


G Thanks be to God.

Benediction



P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



G A-men, a-men, a - men.

Closing Hymn

#643 Sent Forth by God's Blessing

WE WELCOME ALL VISITORS this morning to our church and worship service in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Please take a moment to sign one of the register books located in each of the church foyers. If you would like to be contacted by the pastor or an elder, then please take a moment to fill out one of the green cards on the narthex tables and give it to an elder or drop it in the offering collection plate. Please be sure to introduce yourself to the Pastor and to others in attendance and feel free to worship with us again. Thank you!

IN HIS SERVICE

Preaching	Sem. Brandon Streeks
Celebrant	Rev. Anthony Dodgers
Vicar	Sem. Charles McLain
Deaconess	Wendy Boehm
Head Elder	Glen Werling
Elders on Duty	Ted Schumm and Jerry Meyer
Kantor	Richard Brinkley
Acolytes	Elders
Altar Guild Chairman	Cheryl Louison and Deann Oliver
Ushers	Todd Ottinger, Ethan Ottinger, Landon Geiger Jay Werling, Chad Dunham, Collin Laley, Kaden Laley

Pastor: Rev. Samuel Wirgau	260-273-7595
(Samuel.wirgau@gmail.com)	

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Office	260-597-7121
Bethlehem Lutheran School	260-597-7366
Assoc. Pastor, Headmaster: Rev. Anthony Dodgers	616-648-6489
Kantor: Mr. Richard Brinkley	260-705-4105
Deaconess: Wendy Boehm	260-415-8526

Website for Church and School: www.blcsossian.org

TODAY	9:00 a.m.	Divine Service with Holy Communion
	NO	Adult Bible Class or Sunday School
	11:30 a.m.	Voice of Bethlehem (WZBD 92.7)
WEDNESDAY	7:00 p.m.	Evening Spoken Service
THURSDAY	4-7 p.m.	School Registration (Fellowship Hall)
SUNDAY	9:00 a.m.	Divine Service with Holy Communion
	10:30 a.m.	Adult Bible Class or Sunday School
	11:30 a.m.	Voice of Bethlehem (WZBD 92.7)
	4:00 p.m.	Back to School Information and Dinner Night

Announcements can be emailed to the church secretary at bethlehemosiansec@gmail.com or the church office at 597-7121.
<https://www.youtube.com/bethlehemplutheranchurchossian> 9:00 a.m. Livestream

Church Council meeting – Sunday, August 17th

FLOWERS PLACED under the hymn board have been given to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for 13 years of marriage to Brandon and Erin Schumm.

PASTOR'S CALENDAR – Pastor Wirgau will be gone July 30-August 5 assisting Lutheran Theological Seminary in Pretoria, South Africa in their efforts to train future pastors for southern Africa through the St. Philip Lutheran Mission Society. If there are any pastoral needs during this time please contact Pastor Dodgers or one of the Elders.

BABY SHOWER – The Women of Bethlehem are hosting a Baby Ingathering for Seminarian Brandon and Shaeli Streeks. A table is set up in the church foyer for cards, gifts, diapers and wipes. They are due anytime and are expecting a boy!

CARD SHOWER - Marilyn Meyer will be celebrating her 93rd birthday next Wednesday, August 6. If you would like to send her a birthday card, her address is Marilyn Meyer, Room 406, Kingston Residence, 7515 Winchester Road, Fort Wayne, 46819, We wish Marilyn God's blessings on her birthday.

SUNDAY SCHOOL will be starting up again in September after Labor Day. We are looking for someone to help with the nursery class (0-3) with Mrs. Phillips, if you are interested, please contact Lane Harkless, Mrs. Phillips, or Deaconess Boehm.

Visual Faith Ministry - 2nd Tuesday of the Month, beginning **September 9**.

Mark your calendars for our first monthly Visual Faith Ministry (VFM) Workshop! Join us from 6:00 - 8:00 pm as we explore visual, faith-based processes that combine prayer with Scripture reading and reflection on God's Word. We will explore practices that help us remember God's Word and serve as reminders of His presence in our lives. "Hands-on" practices such as Bible journaling, visual prayer/prayer spaces, Scripture Scribing, Devotional processing, Visual Church Year/Worship Into the Week processes and Logos365 are some of the "faith tools" that help bring focus while dealing with the distractions of our noisy, busy, media-driven lives. All materials will be provided and no creativity required! For more information visit www.visualfaithmin.org or reach out to Deaconess Wendy Boehm, Kim Werling or Deann Oliver.

We are collecting paper crafting donations to build supplies for this new ministry. Scrapbook and patterned paper, punches, paper cutters, washi tape, rubber stamps, ink pads, scissors, glue sticks, colored pencils, markers, old greeting cards, and other paper crafting supplies can be placed in the "VFM" bin located in the North hallway. Thanks for your support!!!

Shakespeare in the Garden - All are invited to the Dodgers' Home to read through Shakespeare's tragedy: "Macbeth" - the Scottish play about the man who killed his king. The

Parlor City Shakespeare Company (including a couple of our own church members) will be performing this play in September. Reading through it in a group will help make it easier to fully enjoy the performance. We will continue to meet on **Saturdays, August 9, and 16, from 9-11am**. Drinks will be provided. Snacks to share are welcome, but not necessary. Weather permitting, we will sit outside, so if you have a lawn chair, please bring it, but we will have several available. Copies of the play will also be available. And if you don't like to read out loud, feel free to just come and listen.

DC Trip Coffee Fundraiser - Good news coffee lovers! You can now support the Washington DC group by ordering Old Canal coffee online oldcanalroasters.com. Use coupon code **AHZAVZFWRH** for a \$2 discount, and to credit our fundraiser. \$25 order minimum, items shipped directly to your home. We will continue to offer in-person sales occasionally, but this option online is available any time. Speak with DoRena Wirgau for more information.

Frozen BBQ Chicken for Sale -Thank you to everyone who supported the DC group through our Andy's Knockout Chicken Fundraiser! Leftover frozen half smoked BBQ chickens are available for sale, \$8 each.

Our first event was such a success we are doing it again this fall!!!

You're invited to join the Women of Bethlehem for Craft for a Cause on September 20th from 7:00 am - 7:00 pm. Lots of food, fellowship, prizes and 12 hours of crafting FUN!!! Registration form can be downloaded at <https://blcsossian.org/craftforacause/>. SPACE IS LIMITED and will fill up! Be sure to register EARLY! Questions? Text or Call Deann Oliver at 616-894-0144 or via email at deannrene@outlook.com Proceeds benefit the Women of Bethlehem Ministry.

Looking for Volunteers in our School- We would like to find a few more volunteers for the upcoming school year. If you are interested, or if you know someone in the area, please speak to Pastor Dodgers. He wants to make sure our teachers have the support they need as they teach our kids. There are several possibilities: volunteers could work in the classrooms, or one on one with students, or work outside the classrooms by helping the teachers with making copies, etc. Thank you for your consideration!

All Women of Bethlehem are invited to join in our fourth hike! We will meet at 9:00 am on Saturday August 9 at the White Bridge picnic area along the river in Bluffton. From there, we will carpool into Ouabache State Park. Questions? Contact Sue Buchinger at 260-758-0004. Hope you will come along!

SCRIP – Please be sure to check out our new scrip certificate order sheet and ordering dates posted on the bulletin board. **The next order date is September 1.** Ordering dates are set to reduce shipping costs. For questions or for placing an order, please contact Mariah Trammel at 260-267-1614, our PTL representative.

GARDEN OVERLOAD!! There will be a table set up in the north hallway to donate or adopt your excess garden vegetables, fruits and flowers.

Offering July 27, 2025

Average weekly need	\$13,818
Home Fund Env.	\$7,175.63
Synod	200.00
Loose	146.75
Scholarship Fund	
Sunday School	
Improvement Fund	
Endowment Fund	200.00
Organ Fund	
Right to Life	600.00
Copy Machine Usage	12.00
Total	\$8,334.38

Financial Report

Home Fund Balance	\$542.56
Next week's bills due:	\$12,000
Bills due two weeks:	\$15,000
Savings Account Balance	\$33,105.10
Borrowed from Savings:	\$24,000
Operating Loan Debt:	\$11,350
Church Attendance	
Sunday	169/133
Wednesday	29/20

RECITATION & PRAYER FOR SCHOOL AND HOME

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

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

What are the Ten Commandments?

You shall have no other gods.

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

Remember the Sabbath Day by keeping it Holy.

Honor your father and your mother.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

What is the Apostles' Creed?

I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

- *Additional Memory Work for the week may be recited.*
- *A hymn may be sung.*
- *Scripture Reading and Devotion Lesson*
- *Prayers and Intercessions*

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

Having gone through Luther's Small Catechism we will spend some time learning-by-heart some hymns of the Church.

Learn-by-heart all or some of the provided text as age and ability of your household allows.

"With the Lord Begin Your Task" – Lutheran Service Book 869 (stz. 3-4)

**(3) With your Savior at your side,
Foes need not alarm you;
In His promises confide,
And no ill can harm you.
All your trust and hope repose
In the mighty Master,
Who in wisdom truly knows
How to stem disaster**

**(4) If your task be thus begun
With the Savior's blessing,
Safely then your course will run,
Toward the promise pressing.
Good will follow everywhere
While you here must wander;
You at last the joy will share
In the mansions yonder.**