

Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church

6514 E 750 N Ossian, IN 46777

A congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod



Holy Innocents, Martyrs

Divine Service – Setting One

December 28, 2025

Vol. 128-05

Processional Hymn

#399 The Star Proclaims the King Is Here



1 The star pro - claims the King is here; But, Her - od,
 2 The east - ern sa - ges saw from far And fol - lowed
 3 With - in the Jor - dan's sa - cred flood The heav'n - ly
 4 And oh, what mir - a - cle di - vine, When wa - ter
 Δ 5 For this Thy glad e - piph - a - ny All glo - ry,



why this sense - less fear? For He who of - fers heav'n - ly
 on His guid - ing star; And, led by light, to light they
 Lamb in meek - ness stood That He, of whom no sin was
 red - dened in - to wine! He spoke the word, and forth it
 Je - sus, be to Thee, Whom with the Fa - ther we a -



birth Seeks not the king - doms of this earth.
 trod And by their gifts con - fessed their God.
 known, Might cleanse His peo - ple from their own.
 flowed In streams that na - ture ne'er be - stowed.
 dore, And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - er - more.

Text: Coelius Sedulius, 5th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.
 Tune: Geistliche Lieder aufs new gebessert, 1535, Wittenberg, ed. Joseph Klug
 Text and tune: Public domain

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.
- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C** But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.
- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I



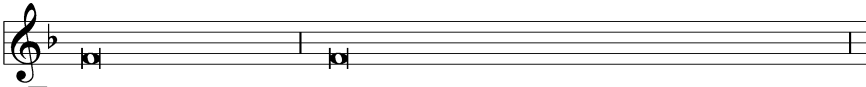
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



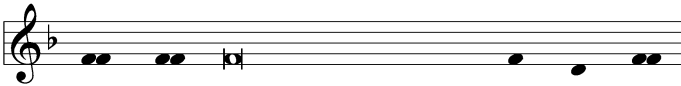
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

Gloria in Excelsis



A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His peo - ple on earth.



C Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:



We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.



For You a - lone are the Ho - ly One, You a - lone are the Lord,



You a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, the martyred innocents of Bethlehem showed forth Your praise not by speaking but by dying. Put to death in us all that is in conflict with Your will that our

lives may bear witness to the faith we profess with our lips; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 31:15–17

¹⁵Thus says the LORD:

“A voice is heard in Ramah,
lamentation and bitter weeping.
Rachel is weeping for her children;
she refuses to be comforted for her children,
because they are no more.”

¹⁶Thus says the LORD:

“Keep your voice from weeping,
and your eyes from tears,
for there is a reward for your work,
declares the LORD,
and they shall come back from the land of the enemy.

¹⁷There is hope for your future,
declares the LORD,
and your children shall come back to their own country.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the | wicked.*

For you, O Lord, | are my hope.

Upon you have I leaned from be- | fore my birth,*

you are he who took me from my | mother’s womb.

My mouth is filled | with your praise,*

and with your glory | all the day.

Epistle

Revelation 14:1–5

¹Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father’s name written on their foreheads. ²And I heard a voice from heaven like the roar of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder. The voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps, ³and they were singing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. ⁴It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for

they are virgins. It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These have been redeemed from mankind as firstfruits for God and the Lamb, ⁵and in their mouth no lie was found, for they are blameless.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse



C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 2:13–18

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹³When [the wise men] had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” ¹⁴And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called my son.” ¹⁶Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: ¹⁸“A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

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 ✝ of the world to come. Amen.**

Hymn of the Day

#969 Sweet Flowerets of the Martyr Band



1 Sweet flow - 'rets of the mar - tyr band, Plucked by the
 2 First vic - tims for the in - car - nate Lord, A ten - der
 3 Ah, what a - vailed King Her - od's wrath? He could not
 Δ 4 O Lord, the vir - gin - born, we sing E - ter - nal



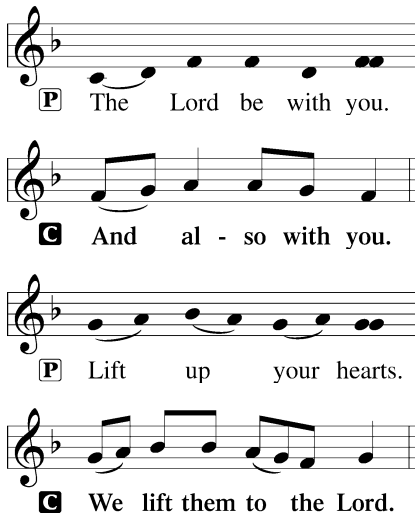
ty - rant's ruth - less hand Up - on the thresh - old
 flock to feel the sword; Be - side the al - tar's
 stop the Sav - ior's path. A - lone, while oth - ers
 praise to You, our King, Whom with the Fa - ther



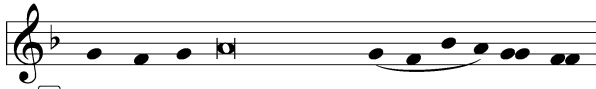
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will
 call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
 va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
 vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the
 courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

Service of the Sacrament pg. 160

Preface



P The Lord be with you.
C And al - so with you.
P Lift up your hearts.
C We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface (Abbreviated)

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

Sanctus



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo-ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the
 world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the
 sin of the world; grant us peace.

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

#365 Away in a Manger

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask Thee to stay

The lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet head.
 But lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing He makes.
 Close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.

The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,
 I love Thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,
 Bless all the dear chil - dren in Thy ten - der care,



The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
 And stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
 And take us to heav - en to live with Thee there.

Text (sts. 1-2): Little Children's Book, 1885, Philadelphia; (st. 3): Vineyard Songs, 1892, Louisville, alt.
 Tune: William J. Kirkpatrick, 1838-1921
 Text and tune: Public domain

#362 O Sing of Christ



1 O sing of Christ, whose birth made known The kind-ness of the Lord,
 2 What Ad-am lost, none could re - claim, And Par - a - dise was barred
 3 He came to that which was His own, But He was not re - ceived;
 4 Lord Je - sus Christ, You deigned to dwell A - mong us here on earth



E - ter - nal Word made flesh and bone So we could be re - stored.
 Un - til the sec - ond Ad - am came To mend what sin had marred.
 Yet still through Him God's glo - ry shone, And some His name be - lieved.
 As God with us, Em - man - u - el, To bring this ho - ly birth.



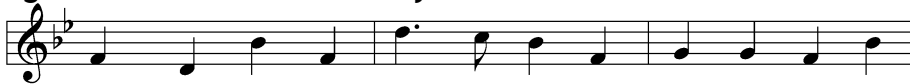
Up - on our frail hu - man-i - ty God's fin - ger chose to trace
 For when the time was full and right God sent His on - ly Son;
 To these He gave the right to be The heirs of heav'n a - bove,
 Though rich, You will - ing - ly be - came One with our pov - er - ty,



The full-ness of His de - i - ty, The i - con of His grace.
 He came to us as life and light And our re - demp-tion won.
 Born not of hu - man an - ces - try But born of God in love.
 That we might share Your wealth and name For all e - ter - ni - ty!

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955
 Tune: English; adapt. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958
 Text: © 1996 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001711
 Tune: Public domain

#367 Angels from the Realms of Glory



1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er
 2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, Bright - er vi - sions
 4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, Watch - ing long in
 △ 5 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,



all the earth; Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
 flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing,
 beam a - far; Seek the great De - sire of na - tions,
 hope and fear, Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,
 Spir - it, Son, Ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing



Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth.
 Yon - der shines the In - fant Light.
 Ye have seen His na - tal star.
 In His tem - ple shall ap - pear.
 To the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship;



Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Text (sts. 1, ref. 2-4): James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt.; (st. 5): Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, Salisbury, alt.
 Tune: Henry T. Smart, 1813-79
 Text and tune: Public domain

#381 Let Our Gladness Have No End



1 Let our glad - ness have no end, al - le - lu - ia!
 2 Proph - e - sied in days of old, al - le - lu - ia!
 3 See, the love - liest bloom - ing rose, al - le - lu - ia!
 4 In - to flesh is made the Word, al - le - lu - ia!



For to earth did Christ de - scend, al - le - lu - ia!
 God has sent Him as fore - told, al - le - lu - ia!
 From the branch of Jes - se grows, al - le - lu - ia!
 He, our ref - uge and our Lord, al - le - lu - ia!

Refrain



On this day God gave us Christ, His Son, to save



us; Christ, His Son, to save us.
 Text (sts. 1, ref, 3-4): tr. unknown, alt.; (st. 2): tr. Vincent Pisek, 1859-1930
 Text and tune: Bohemian, 15th cent.
 Text and tune: Public domain

#383 A Great and Mighty Wonder



1 A great and might - y won - der, A full and ho - ly cure:
 2 The Word be - comes in - car - nate And yet re - mains on high,
 3 While thus they sing your Mon - arch, Those bright an - gel - ic bands,
 4 Since all He comes to ran - som, By all be He a - dored,
 5 All i - dols then shall per - ish And Sa - tan's ly - ing cease,



The vir - gin bears the in - fant With vir - gin hon - or pure!
 And cher - u - bim sing an - thems To shep - herds from the sky.
 Re - joice, O vales and moun - tains, And o - ceans, clap your hands.
 The in - fant born in Beth - l'em, The Sav - ior and the Lord.
 And Christ shall raise His scep - ter, De - cree - ing end - less peace.

Refrain



Pro - claim the Sav - ior's birth: "To God on high be



glo - ry And peace to all the earth!"

Text: Germanus, c. 634-c. 734; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt.
 Tune: Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng, 1599, Köln
 Text and tune: Public domain

Nunc Dimittis



Lord, now You let Your ser - vant go in peace; Your word has been ful -



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which You have pre -

pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re -
veal You to the na - tions and the glo - ry of Your peo - ple Is - ra - el.
Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

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.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C A - men.

Closing Hymn

#412 The People That in Darkness Sat



1 The peo - ple that in dark - ness sat A glo - rious
2 To hail Thee, Sun of Righ - teous - ness, The gath - 'ring
3 To us a Child of hope is born, To us a
4 His name shall be the Prince of Peace, The Ev - er -



light have seen; The light has shined on them who long In
na - tions come; They joy as when the reap - ers bear Their
Son is giv'n, And on His shoul - der ev - er rests All
last - ing Lord, The Won - der - ful, the Coun - sel - or, The



shades of death have been, In shades of death have been.
har - vest trea - sures home, Their har - vest trea - sures home.
pow'r in earth and heav'n, All pow'r in earth and heav'n.
God by all a - dored, The God by all a - dored.

- 5 His righteous government and pow'r
Shall over all extend;
On judgment and on justice based,
His reign shall have no end,
His reign shall have no end.

- △ 6 Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray,
And make us Thine alone,
Who with the Father ever art
And Holy Spirit, one,
And Holy Spirit, one.

Text: John Morison, 1749-98, alt.
Tune: Nicolaus Herman, c. 1480-1561
Text and tune: Public domain

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	Rev. Samuel Wirgau
Celebrant	Rev. Anthony Dodgers
Vicar	Sem. Charles McLain
Fieldworker	Sem. Brandon Streeks
Deaconess	Wendy Boehm
Head Elder	Bruce Werling
Elders on Duty	Bruce Meyer and Steve Conrad
Kantor	Richard Brinkley
Organist	Emilie Meyer
Acolytes	Alex Fuhrmann and Lucas Werling
Crucifer	Alex Fuhrmann
Altar Guild Chairman	Cheryl Louison and Deann Oliver
Ushers	Travis Avey, Jeff Gresley, Dean Scheuann Peyton Laley, Gavin Laley, Kyle Patrick, Aaron Anthony

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
<i>Website for Church and School: www.blcsossian.org</i>	

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)
MONDAY	NO SCHOOL Dec. 22 – Jan. 4
	NO Handbell Choir Practice
WEDNESDAY	NO Chapel Service
	NO Catechesis Class
	7:00 p.m. New Year's Eve Service
SUNDAY	9:00 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
	NO Adult Bible Class – Sunday School
	11:30 a.m. Voice of Bethlehem (WZBD 92.7)

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

Please join us for WORSHIP: New Year's Eve Service on December 31st at 7:00 p.m.

2026 Offering Envelopes Please plan to pick up your box from the tables in the north hallway. Boxes should be in alphabetical order. Please contact the church office if you have any questions. Thank you

WIDOWS GROUP EVENT – The next Widows Group will be on Sunday, January 11th at noon. We will be having an Epiphany potluck in the fellowship hall with card games afterwards. Contact Gail Werling for more information.

VISUAL FAITH MINISTRY WORKSHOP | TUES, JAN 13 from 6-8pm

Join us as we explore the practice of Scripture Scribing. Create an accordion tag book to record verses about living in Christ. All supplies are provided but feel free to bring your favorite adhesive, paper trimmer and beverage. Please RSVP by Jan 9 to reserve your spot! <https://blcsossian.org/visual-faith-ministry> Contact Deann Oliver with questions 616-894-0144

CHEESE BALLS – The youth still have homemade cheese balls available in the Fellowship Hall kitchen freezer. \$7.00 each or 3 for \$20. Please see Deaconess Boehm or a youth member.

PULLED PORK FOR SALE - 1 lb. package for \$5.00 each from Women of Bethlehem.

SCRIP – Please be sure to check out our new scrip certificate order sheet and ordering dates posted on the bulletin board. For questions or for placing an order, please contact Mariah Trammel at 260-267-1614, our PTL representative.

Offering December 21, 2025

<i>Average weekly need \$14,000</i>	
Home Fund Env.	\$6,559.86
Synod	
Loose	439.26
Scholarship Fund	
Sunday School	5.25
Improvement Fund	100.00
Endowment Fund	
Organ Fund	
Fellowship Hall Rent	90.00
Wednesday Advent	<u>902.75</u>
Total	\$8,097.12

Financial Report

Home Fund Balance	\$36,418.28
Next week's bills due:	\$15,000
Bills due two weeks:	\$5,000
Savings Account Balance	\$20,140.22
Borrowed from Savings:	\$42,880
Operating Loan Balance	\$30,000
Borrowed from Op Loan	\$0.00

Church Attendance

Sunday	186/145
Christmas Eve	195
Christmas Day	152/111



Decatur Lutheran Bible Institute
2026 Sessions: January 27, February 3, 10 & 17

Choose one of these stimulating courses:

Christ and His Work: See it in the Psalms

Rev. Dr. Daniel Brege – St. Paul Preble Lutheran Church, Decatur

God's Service: The Lutheran Liturgy at the 500th Anniversary of Luther's German Mass

Rev. Raymond Doubrava II – New Hope Lutheran Church, Ossian

Bearing Fruit for God: How to Live the Christian Life

Rev. Dr. Gifford Grobien – Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne

Martyrdom Accounts from the Early Church

Rev. Andrew Yeager – St. Paul Preble Lutheran Church, Decatur

Tuition: \$10 per adult (covers 4 sessions), FREE for all students!
Bring your own personal Bible.

Enrollment: Opening night at 6:30 pm followed by
classes from 7-9:15 pm

Location: Wyneken Memorial Lutheran School,
US Hwy 27, just north of Decatur

Minimal Time Commitment!
Low Cost! No Homework!

Choose one of the four courses • Classes meet from 7:00 – 9:15 pm



Rev. Dr. Daniel Brege
St. Paul Preble Lutheran Church, Decatur

**Topic: The Psalms: A Little Bible
Christ and His Work: See it in the Psalms**

Do you want to learn about Jesus? Peer into the Psalms. Do you want to learn the basic doctrines of Christianity? Study the Psalms. Do you want to pray God's prayers? Pray the Psalms. Do you want comfort and encouragement? Consider several Psalms.

Session Topics

1. *Specifies About Jesus – in the Psalms*
2. *Realize the Catechism in the Psalms*
3. *Law and Gospel in the Psalms*
4. *Praying the Psalms*



Rev. Dr. Gifford Grobien
Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne

**Topic: Christian Ethics
Bearing Fruit for God: How to Live the Christian Life**

Drawing primarily from the Bible, this course will introduce students to ideas, concepts and applications in Christian Ethics. The course will focus on the activity of the Christian Life, considering the orders of creation: church, family, and society. Besides addressing traditional topics such as marriage and family, Christian piety, work, and citizenship, we will address contemporary challenges related to bioethics, technology, and secularism.

Session Topics

1. *Christian Ethics: The Law and the Spirit*
2. *The Orders of Creation*
3. *Contemporary Challenges: Technology and Secularism*
4. *Issues: Bioethics and Politics*



Rev. Raymond Doubrava II
New Hope Lutheran Church, Ossian

**Topic: Liturgies
God's Service: The Lutheran Liturgy at the 300th
Anniversary of Luther's German Mass**

On Christmas Day 1525, Luther's German Mass was first used in Wittenberg and quickly spread throughout the Lutheran states. How was what Luther did innovative, and how was it consistent with the history of the Church? What ramifications does this have for us today

Session Topics

1. *Why the Divine Service?*
2. *The Biblical Foundation of the Divine Service*
3. *The Historical Foundation of the Divine Service*
4. *The Divine Service Today*



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**Topic: The Noble Army of Martyrs
Martyrdom Accounts from the Early Church**

This course will provide an in-depth history of early-church martyrs. As we examine how the martyrs bore witness to Jesus by their blood, our faith will be strengthened to follow their example and confess Christ in our own lives.

Session Topics

1. *Saint Polycarp*
2. *Saint Ignatius of Antioch*
3. *Saints Lucia, Perpetua, and Felicitas*
4. *Saint Cyprian of Carthage*

The House of Daily Bread

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer following
The week following *Holy Innocents, Martyrs*



“A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children” (Jer. 31:15). Herod rages and sends to kill all boys two years and younger (Matt. 2:16), desperate to destroy the newborn King of kings. The Church remembers these innocent victims as martyrs. They died for the One who came to die for them. This dark commemoration bears witness to the cruelty of sinful men and the world’s hatred of Christ, who has sanctified our fragile life even from His conception and birth. But the boy who escaped Bethlehem’s bloody streets unscathed went on to face thorns, nails and spear for them and for us. He is the Lamb whose name is written with the Father’s name on the foreheads of His baptized saints (Rev. 14:1). By His death, He has redeemed an inheritance for Himself and brought peace at last by His blood. On the fourth day of Christmas, we sing “a new song” of the Lamb, of Christ the true martyr, whose death testifies that our redemption is won. We “follow the Lamb wherever he goes” (Rev. 14:3, 4), for He will bring our tears to an end.

The Order of Meditation and Prayer

Pray and confess out loud as much from the order of meditation and prayer you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate.

Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.

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.

Hymn of the Week: "Let All Together Praise our God" LSB #389

Recite the Ten Commandments and the Apostles' Creed (LSB pg. 264)

The Catechism:

What is John 1:9-14?

1. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.
2. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him.
3. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.
4. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,
5. Who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.
6. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Psalm 54 and/or the appointed daily Psalms listen below.

Daily Psalm	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
A.M.	35	37	40	42, 43	45	48, 49	51
P.M.	36	38	39, 41	44	46, 47	50	52, 53

Daily Bible Reading

Mon.	John 14:1-14 - I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life Isaiah 55:1-13
Tues.	John 1:43-51- Jesus Calls Bartholomew Isaiah 58:1-59:3, 14-21
Wed.	John 20:24-29- Jesus Appears to Thomas Isaiah 60:1-22
Thu.	Matthew 9:9-13 - Jesus Calls Matthew Isaiah 61:1-11
Fri.	Ephesians 2:19-22 - No Longer Strangers Isaiah 62:1-12
Sat.	<i>Look ahead to Sunday's Readings</i>

Prayers

Collect of the Day

O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Daily Themes For Prayer

Sunday: *For the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and the Sacraments.*

Monday: For faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one's calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.

Tuesday: For deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with sin.

Wednesday: For marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.

Thursday: For the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed Sacrament of Christ's body and blood.

Friday: For the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.

Saturday: For faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God's Word on the Lord's Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ's holy gifts.

In our Prayers this week: Strength and healing: Brianne, Jennifer, Joel, Heather, Jenny, James, Kenneth, Megan, Dan, Grace, Lisa, Hazel, Brittany, Elaine, Carla, Brandon, Sandra **Expectant mothers:** Hannah, Makena, Kaitlin, Reese **Homebound:** Ruth, Marilyn, Marilyn, Donald, Norwin and Martha.

Lord's Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism
(LSB pg. 266)

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**

Looking forward to Sunday Morning: Epiphany Observed

Old Testament: Isaiah 60:1-6; Epistle: Ephesians 3:1-12; Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12; Hymns: 396, 395, 400, 839, 402, 398, 879, 397