

Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church

6514 E 750 N Ossian, IN 46777

A congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod



Baptism of our Lord

Divine Service – Setting One

January 11, 2026

Vol. 128-07

Processional Hymn

#837 Lift High the Cross



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro-claim Till



all the world a - dore His sa - cred name.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our Cap - tain trod,
2 Led on their way by this tri - um - phant sign,
3 All new - born sol - diers of the Cru - ci - fied
4 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,



Our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
The hosts of God in con - qu'ring ranks com - bine.
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died.
As Thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to Thee.

5 Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. Refrain

6 So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory! Refrain

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827-1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874-1956, alt.

Tune: Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875-1947

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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 therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

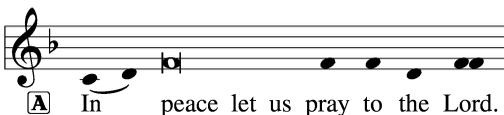
Service of the Word pg. 151

Introit (*sung responsively*)



Behold the Lord, the rul- | er, has come,*
and the kingdom and the power and the glory are | in his hand.
I have found David, my | servant;*
with my holy oil I have a- | nointed him.
I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, for- | ever;*
with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all gener- | ations.
He shall cry to me, “You are my | Father,*
my God, and the Rock of my sal- | vation.”
And I will make him the | firstborn,*
the highest of the kings | of the earth.
My steadfast love I will keep for him for- | ever,*
and my covenant will stand | firm for him.
*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.
Behold the Lord, the rul- | er, has come,*
and the kingdom and the power and the glory are | in his hand.
I have found David, my | servant;*
with my holy oil I have a- | nointed him.

Kyrie





C Lord, have mer - cy.



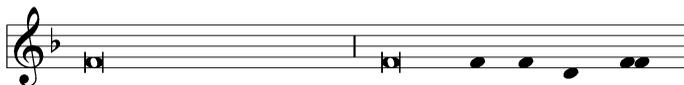
A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



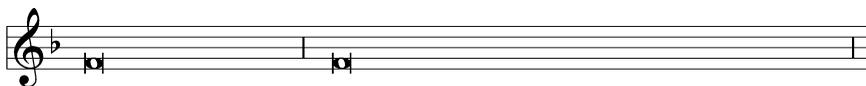
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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



C Lord, have mer - cy.



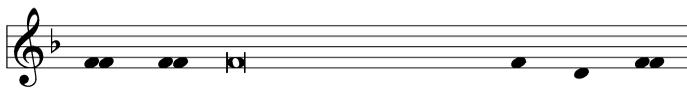
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



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,

“I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness;
I will take you by the hand and keep you;
I will give you as a covenant for the people,
a light for the nations,
⁷to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.

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

Gradual

Blessèd be the LORD, the God of | Israel,*
who alone does | wondrous things.
Blessèd be his glorious name for- | ever;*
may the whole earth be filled with his glory! Amen and | Amen!

Epistle

1 Corinthians 1:26–31

²⁶For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. ³¹Therefore, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

- 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 3:13–17

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the third chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” ¹⁵But Jesus answered him, “**Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.**” Then he consented. ¹⁶And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; ¹⁷and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

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 \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn of the Day

#406 To Jordan Came the Christ, Our Lord



1 To Jor - dan came the Christ, our Lord, To do His
 2 O hear and mark the mes - sage well, For God Him -
 3 These truths on Jor - dan's banks were shown By might - y
 4 There stood the Son of God in love, His grace to



Fa - ther's plea - sure; Bap - tized by John, the Fa - ther's Word
 self has spo - ken. Let faith, not doubt, a - mong us dwell
 word and won - der. The Fa - ther's voice from heav'n came down,
 us ex - tend - ing; The Ho - ly Spir - it like a dove



Was giv - en us to trea - sure. This heav'n - ly wash - ing
 And so re - ceive this to - ken. Our Lord here with His
 Which we do well to pon - der: "This man is My be -
 Up - on the scene de - scend - ing; The tri - une God as -



now shall be A cleans - ing from trans - ges - sion
 Word en - dows Pure wa - ter, free - ly flow - ing.
 lov - ed Son, In whom My heart has plea - sure.
 sur - ing us, With prom - is - es com - pel - ling,



And by His blood and ag - o - ny Re - lease from death's
 God's Ho - ly Spir - it here a - vows Our kin - ship while
 Him you must hear, and Him a - lone, And trust in full -
 That in our Bap - tism He will thus A - mong us find



op - pres - sion. A new life now a - waits us.
 be - stow - ing The Bap - tism of His bless - ing.
 est mea - sure The word that He has spo - ken."
 a dwell - ing To com - fort and sus - tain us.

5 To His disciples spoke the Lord,
 "Go out to ev'ry nation,

And bring to them the living Word
And this My invitation:
Let ev'ryone abandon sin
And come in true contrition
To be baptized and thereby win
Full pardon and remission
And heav'nly bliss inherit."

6 But woe to those who cast aside
This grace so freely given;
They shall in sin and shame abide
And to despair be driven.
For born in sin, their works must fail,
Their striving saves them never;
Their pious acts do not avail,
And they are lost forever,
Eternal death their portion.

7 All that the mortal eye beholds
Is water as we pour it.
Before the eye of faith unfolds
The pow'r of Jesus' merit.
For here it sees the crimson flood
To all our ills bring healing;
The wonders of His precious blood
The love of God revealing,
Assuring His own pardon.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Elizabeth Quitmeyer, 1911-88, alt.
Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, 1524, Wittenberg, ed. Johann Walter
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Sermon

Prayer of the Church

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

Terry Werling (nephew of Doyle Werling and Jean Anderson)

Brianne Graft (daughter inlaw of Kim and Gina)

Jenny Peterson (friend of Cheryl Louison), Kenneth Werling, James DeFrain

Dan Bush (stepfather of Chad Dunham)

Grace Anderson (friend of Macie Saalfrank with brain tumor)

Lisa Imbody (Layne Fisher's sister)

Hazel Krenzke (granddaughter of Dan and Sue Buchinger)

Brittany (Conrad) Clausius

Elaine Scallon (cousin of Loren Dathe battling cancer)

Carla Wiederhold (cousin of Otto Clausen battling cancer)

Brandon Tomlinson (son in-law of the Brinkleys), Sandra Flum (Susan Graft's sister)

We pray for our expectant mothers *Hannah Stuckwisch, Makena Graham
Kaitlin (Meyer) Blair, Reese Springer, Lillyan Laley*

We pray for our members shut-in:

Ruth Witte (Ossian Healthcare)

Marilyn Meyer (Kingston)

Marilyn 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

Offering

Offertory



What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
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.

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.

Lord's Prayer

- P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

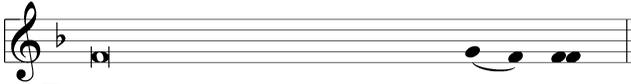
- C** **Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine 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.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei



C 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; 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

#404 Jesus, Once with Sinners Numbered



1 Je - sus, once with sin - ners num - bered, Had no blem - ish
 2 John con - fessed Him as the Sav - ior— “Look, the sin - less
 3 This the bap - tism that our Sav - ior Great - ly longed to
 4 Je - sus, once with sin - ners num - bered, Full o - be - dience



of His own; In the wa - ters of the Jor - dan
 Lamb of God!” Yet he dared not loose the san - dals
 un - der - go; This the crim - son cleans - ing need - ed
 was Your path; You, by death, have con - se - crat - ed



His true worth and work were shown: Heav - en o - pened
 Of the One God’s love had shod. Oh, how fair the
 So the world God’s love might know; This the mis - sion
 Wa - ter in this sav - ing bath: Dy - ing to the



and the Spir - it There de - scend - ed like a
 feet of Je - sus, Bring - ing news of peace to
 of Mes - si - ah As He stepped from Jor - dan’s
 sin of Ad - am, Ris - ing to a life of



dove, As the Fa - ther’s voice re - sound - ed,
 us, Christ, the her - ald of sal - va - tion,
 stream, He, the cho - sen and a - noint - ed
 grace; We are count - ed with the righ - teous,



“Hear My Son, the One I love.”
 Preach - ing mer - cy from the cross:
 Son of God, sent to re - deem.
 O - ver us the cross You trace.

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955

Tune: William B. Roberts, 1947

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Tune: © 1995 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001711

#596 All Christians Who Have Been Baptized



1 All Chris-tians who have been bap-tized, Who know the God of
2 You were be-fore your day of birth, In-deed, from your con-
3 But all of that was washed a-way— Im-mersed and drowned for-
4 In Bap-tism we now put on Christ— Our shame is ful-ly



heav-en, And in whose dai-ly life is prized The name of
cep-tion, Con-demned and lost with all the earth, None good, with-
ev-er. The wa-ter of your Bap-tism day Re-stored a-
cov-ered With all that He once sac-ri-ficed And free-ly



Christ once giv-en: Con-sid-er now what God has done, The
out-ex-cep-tion. For like your par-ents' flesh and blood, Turned
gain what-ev-er Old Ad-am and his sin de-destroyed And
for us suf-fered. For here the flood of His own blood Now



gifts He gives to ev-'ry-one Bap-tized in-to Christ Je-sus!
in-ward from the high-est good, You con-stant-ly de-nied Him.
all our sin-ful selves em-ployed Ac-cord-ing to our na-ture.
makes us ho-ly, right, and good Be-fore our heav'n-ly Fa-ther.

- 5 O Christian, firmly hold this gift
And give God thanks forever!
It gives the power to uplift
In all that you endeavor.
When nothing else revives your soul,
Your Baptism stands and makes you whole
And then in death completes you.
- 6 So use it well! You are made new—
In Christ a new creation!
As faithful Christians, live and do
Within your own vocation,
Until that day when you possess
His glorious robe of righteousness
Bestowed on you forever!

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-76; tr. Jon D. Vieker, 1961

Tune: Etlich Cristlich liden, 1524, Wittenberg

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Tune: Public domain

#594 God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It



1 God's own child, I glad - ly say it: I am bap-tized
 2 Sin, dis - turb my soul no long - er: I am bap-tized
 3 Sa - tan, hear this proc - la - ma - tion: I am bap-tized
 4 Death, you can - not end my glad-ness: I am bap-tized
 5 There is noth - ing worth com - par - ing To this life-long



in - to Christ! He, be - cause I could not pay it,
 in - to Christ! I have com - fort e - ven strong - er:
 in - to Christ! Drop your ug - ly ac - cu - sa - tion,
 in - to Christ! When I die, I leave all sad - ness
 com - fort sure! O - pen - eyed my grave is star - ing:



Gave my full re - demp - tion price. Do I need earth's
 Je - sus' cleans - ing sac - ri - fice. Should a guilt - y
 I am not so soon en - ticed. Now that to the
 To in - her - it par - a - dise! Though I lie in
 E - ven there I'll sleep se - cure. Though my flesh a -



treas - ures man - y? I have one worth
 con - science seize me Since my Bap - tism
 font I've trav - eled, All your might has
 dust and ash - es Faith's as - sur - ance
 waits its rais - ing, Still my soul con -



more than an - y That brought me sal -
 did re - lease me In a dear for -
 come un - rav - eled, And, a - gainst your
 bright - ly flash - es: Bap - tism has the
 tin - ues prais - ing: I am bap - tized



va - tion free Last - ing to e - ter - ni - ty!
 giv - ing flood, Sprin - kling me with Je - sus' blood?
 tyr - an - ny, God, my Lord, u - nites with me!
 strength di - vine To make life im - mor - tal mine.
 in - to Christ; I'm a child of par - a - dise!

#602 The Gifts Christ Freely Gives



- 1 The gifts Christ free - ly gives He gives to you and me
2 The gifts flow from the font Where He calls us His own;
3 The gifts of grace and peace From ab - so - lu - tion flow;
4 The gifts are there each day The ho - ly Word is read;



To be His Church, His bride, His cho - sen, saved and free!
New life He gives that makes Us His and His a - lone.
The pas - tor's words are Christ's For us to trust and know.
God's chil - dren lis - ten, hear, Re - ceive, and they are fed.



Saints blest with these rich gifts Are chil - dren who pro - claim
Here He for - gives our sins With wa - ter and His Word;
For - give - ness that we need Is grant - ed to us there;
Christ fills them with Him - self, Blest words that give them life,



That they were won by Christ And cling to His strong name.
The tri - une God Him - self Gives pow'r to call Him Lord.
The Lord of mer - cy sends Us forth in His blest care.
Re - stor - ing and re - fresh - ing Them for this world's strife.

- 5 The gifts are in the feast,
Gifts far more than we see;
Beneath the bread and wine
Is food from Calvary.
The body and the blood
Remove our ev'ry sin;
We leave His presence in
His peace, renewed again.
- 6 All glory to the One
Who lavishes such love;
The triune God in love
Assures our life above.
His means of grace for us
Are gifts He loves to give;
All thanks and praise for His
Great love by which we live!

#604 I Bind unto Myself Today



1 I bind un - to my - self to - day The
 2 I bind this day to me for - ev - er, By
 3 I bind un - to my - self to - day The
 4 A - gainst the de - mon snares of sin, The
 Δ 5 I bind un - to my - self the name, The



strong name of the Trin - i - ty By
 pow'r of faith, Christ's in - car - na - tion, His
 pow'r of God to hold and lead, His
 vice that gives temp - ta - tion force, The
 strong name of the Trin - i - ty By



in - vo - ca - tion of the same, The
 Bap - tism in the Jor - dan Riv - er, His
 eye to watch, His might to stay, His
 nat - ural lusts that war with - in, The
 in - vo - ca - tion of the same, The

Repeat after st. 1 only.



Three in One and One in Three.
 cross of death for my sal - va - tion,
 ear to hear - ken to my need,
 hos - tile foes that mar my course;
 Three in One and One in Three.



(2) His burst - ing from the spic - ed tomb, His
 (3) The wis - dom of my God to teach, His
 (4) Or few or man - y, far or nigh, In
 (5) Of whom all na - ture has cre - a - tion, E -



rid - ing up the heav'n - ly way, His
 hand to guide, His shield to ward, The
 ev - 'ry place and in all hours, A -
 ter - nal Fa - ther, Spir - it, Word. Praise



com - ing at the day of doom,
 Word of God to give me speech,
 gainst their fierce hos - til - i - ty,
 to the Lord of my sal - va - tion;



I bind un - to my - self to - day.
 His heav'n - ly host to be my guard.
 I bind to me those ho - ly pow'rs.
 Sal - va - tion is of Christ the Lord!

Text: attr. Patrick, c. 372-466; tr. Cecil F. Alexander, 1818-95
 Tune: Irish
 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

#601 All Who Believe and Are Baptized



1 All who be - lieve and are bap - tized Shall see the Lord's sal - va - tion;
2 With one ac - cord, O God, we pray: Grant us Your Ho - ly Spir - it.



Bap - tized in - to the death of Christ, They are a new cre - a - tion.
Help us in our in - fir - mi - ty Through Je - sus' blood and mer - it.



Through Christ's re - demp - tion they shall stand A - mong the glo - rious,
Grant us to grow in grace each day That by this sac - ra -



heav'n - ly band Of ev - 'ry tribe and na - tion.
ment we may E - ter - nal life in - her - it.

Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo, 1634-1703; tr. George A. T. Rygh, 1860-1942, alt.

Tune: Etlich Cristlich liden, 1524, Wittenberg

Text and tune: Public domain

IN HIS SERVICE

Preaching / Celebrant	Rev. Samuel Wirgau
Vicar	Sem. Charles McLain
Fieldworker	Sem. Brandon Streeks
Deaconess	Wendy Boehm
Head Elder	Bruce Werling
Elders on Duty	Bruce Werling and Mike Schumm
Kantor	Richard Brinkley
Acolytes	Jude Wirgau and Hunter Householder
Crucifer	Jonah Bultemeier
Altar Guild Chairman	Deann Oliver and Denise Schumm
Ushers	Jared Conrad, Mike Nahrwold, Jacob Meyer, Trent Bultemeier Andrew Stoppenhagen, Nathanael Werling, Jacob Werling

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
	10:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class or Sunday School
	11:30 a.m. Voice of Bethlehem (WZBD 92.7)
MONDAY	6:00 p.m. PTL Meeting
	7:00 p.m. Handbell Choir Practice
TUESDAY	5:30 p.m. Board of Christian Education Meeting
	6:00 p.m. Visual Faith
WEDNESDAY	10:00 a.m. Chapel Service
	5:30 p.m. Catechesis Class
	7:00 p.m. Spoken Divine Service
	Adult Choir Practice
SATURDAY	8:00 p.m. WOB Book Club (Crimson House)
	Bethlehem Varsity Girls Tournament
SUNDAY	9:00 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
	10:30 a.m. 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/bethlehemplutheranchurchossian> 9:00 a.m. Livestream

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!

PASTORS CALENDAR - Pastor Wirgau will be away next Sunday Morning (January 18) attending to his duties as a Circuit Visitor. Please contact him if you have any needs. Thank you.

PAINTING CLASS – The Women of Bethlehem will be hosting a Painting Class on Saturday, February 1st. If interested, please sign up on the sheet posted to the WOB bulletin board.

The 2026 Usher Schedule is now available and can be picked up in the church office.

Chapel Mission Project – Bethlehem Lutheran School will be participating in a “Penny War” between the student chapel families to help with our next chapel offering to Orphan Grain Train. The money will be used to purchase and assemble school-supply kits. These kits will be assembled during Lutheran Schools Week, January 26-30. There will be opportunities for the church and school to work together on donations. There are jars located in the hallway during school days and in the church on weekends. Each jar has the name of a chapel family. How to play: Pennies and dollars (\$1, \$5, \$10, etc.) count as positive points, silver coins (nickels, dimes, quarters) count as negative points. Each chapel family will compete to see who can raise the most funds.

WIDOWS GROUP EVENT – The next Widows Group will be TODAY, 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.

Aluminum Can Recycling Collection- The Washington DC group would like to remind everyone that we are looking for “pop can” style cans only for collection purposes. We are starting to find trash and glass in the recycling bin here at church which slows the sorting process down. If anyone has any questions, please contact Jay Werling or Jason Rekeweg. Thanks to everyone for your continued support.

Folk Dancing - Sunday, February 8th from 3:00 to 4:30 pm in the school gym.

Adults and children are invited to attend. No experience is required. Instructions will be given before each dance. Admission: \$1 per person or \$5 per family. For questions contact Kantor Brinkley. Please join us for this fun event!

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 Jill Holtzclaw 260-301-1965 our current PTL representative.**

Vendors wanted! The St. John-Emmanuel Lutheran School 7th/8th grade classes are sponsoring a spring craft show on Saturday, March 7, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the gym at Emmanuel (Soest) to raise funds for their Washington, DC Trip. Craft booth pricing and registration form available at <https://bit.ly/SJECraft>. Direct questions to Mr. Jesse Muehler by email to jessem@stjohn-emmanuel.com or call the school office at (260) 639-0123.

A Red Cross Blood Drive has been scheduled for **Sunday, January 18**, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Family Life Center at Zion, Friedheim. Do you want to schedule a time for you to give? Go to the following link, <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=zflc> and sign up! The Red Cross is looking forward to having another successful blood drive at our facilities. It's a life-saving event! Any questions, please contact Wava Lichtle or Dale Heckman.

Offering January 4, 2026

Average weekly need \$14,000

Home Fund Env.	\$8,364.79
Synod	105.00
Loose	189.90
Scholarship Fund	
Sunday School	
Improvement Fund	50.00
Endowment Fund	
Organ Fund	
New Year's Eve	<u>43,870.00</u>
Total	\$52,579.69

Financial Report

Home Fund Balance	\$81,313.88
Next week's bills due:	\$15,000
Bills due two weeks:	\$6,000
Savings Account Balance	\$25,615.58
Borrowed from Savings:	\$42,880
Operating Loan Balance	\$30,000
Borrowed from Op Loan	\$0.00

Church Attendance

Sunday	154/130
Wednesday	31/25

Here is the monthly report for the Bethlehem Lutheran School Endowment Fund by the Lutheran Foundation. The following information is accurate as of November 30, 2025:

\$373,427.82 - Amount Bethlehem sent in since 2009
 230,383.00 - Amount the Lutheran Foundation matched
 397,451.70 - Amount generated since 2009
-179,500.00 - Amount disbursed to Bethlehem since 2009
 \$821,762.52 - Value of the Endowment Fund as of November 30, 2025

Dr. David Nahrwold Fund

\$ 90,078.93 - Amount sent in since November 2024
 9,979.73 - Amount generated since November 2024
-10,000.00 - Amount disbursed to Bethlehem since 2024
 \$ 90,058.66 - Value of Dr. David Nahrwold Fund as of November 30, 2025

COME & LEARN



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 Brøge – 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!**

The House of Daily Bread

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer following
The week following the Baptism of Our Lord



Our Lord Jesus is baptized “to fulfill all righteousness” (Matt. 3:13–17). He partakes of a baptism for sinners in order that He might be our substitute and bear the judgment we deserve. In the water, Jesus trades places with us. Our sin becomes His sin. His righteousness becomes our righteousness. Our glory, therefore, is in “Christ Jesus, who became to us . . . righteousness and sanctification and redemption” (1 Cor. 1:26–31). Jesus is the “chosen” One sent from the Father to release us from the prison house of sin and death (Is. 42:1–7). Baptized into Christ, we also become the chosen ones, beloved of the Father. We cross the Jordan with Jesus (Joshua 3) through death into the promised land of new life with God.

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: "To Jordan Came the Christ Our Lord" LSB 406

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

The Catechism:

What is the First Petition of the Lord's Prayer?

Hallowed be Thy name.

What does this mean?

God's name is certainly holy in itself, but we pray in this petition that it may be kept holy among us also.

How is God's name kept holy?

God's name is kept holy when the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we, as the children of God, also lead holy lives according to it. Help us to do this dear Father in heaven!

But anyone who teaches or lives contrary to God's Word profanes the name of God among us. Protect us from this heavenly Father!

What is Matthew 18:20?

[Jesus said] For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them. Matthew 18:20

Psalm 85 and/or the appointed daily Psalms listen below.

Daily Psalm	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
A.M.	73	75, 76	78	80	82, 84	85	88
P.M.	74	77	79	81	83	86	87

Daily Bible Reading

Mon.	Mark 4:35-41 -The Stilling of the Storm Ezekiel 34:1-24
Tues.	Matthew 6:5-15- Prayer in the Sermon on the Mount Ezekiel 36:13-28
Wed.	John 17:1-26- Jesus' High Priestly Prayer Ezekiel 36:33-37:14
Thu.	Luke 21:25-36 - Watch and Pray Ezekiel 37:15-28
Fri.	Matthew 26:36-45 - Jesus Prays in the Garden of Gethsemane Ezekiel 38:1-23
Sat.	<i>Look ahead to Sunday's Readings</i>

Prayers

Collect of the Day

Father in heaven, at the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River You proclaimed Him Your beloved Son and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized in His name faithful in their calling as Your children and inheritors with Him of everlasting life; through the same 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: Terry, Brianne, Jenny, James, Kenneth, Dan, Grace, Lisa, Hazel, Brittany, Elaine, Carla, Brandon, Sandra **Expectant mothers:** Hannah, Makena, Kaitlin, Reese, Lillyan **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: The Second Sunday after Epiphany

Old Testament: Exodus 33:12-23; Epistle: Ephesians 5:22-33; Gospel: John 2:1-11; Hymns: 901; 402; 394; 636; 845; 408; 514