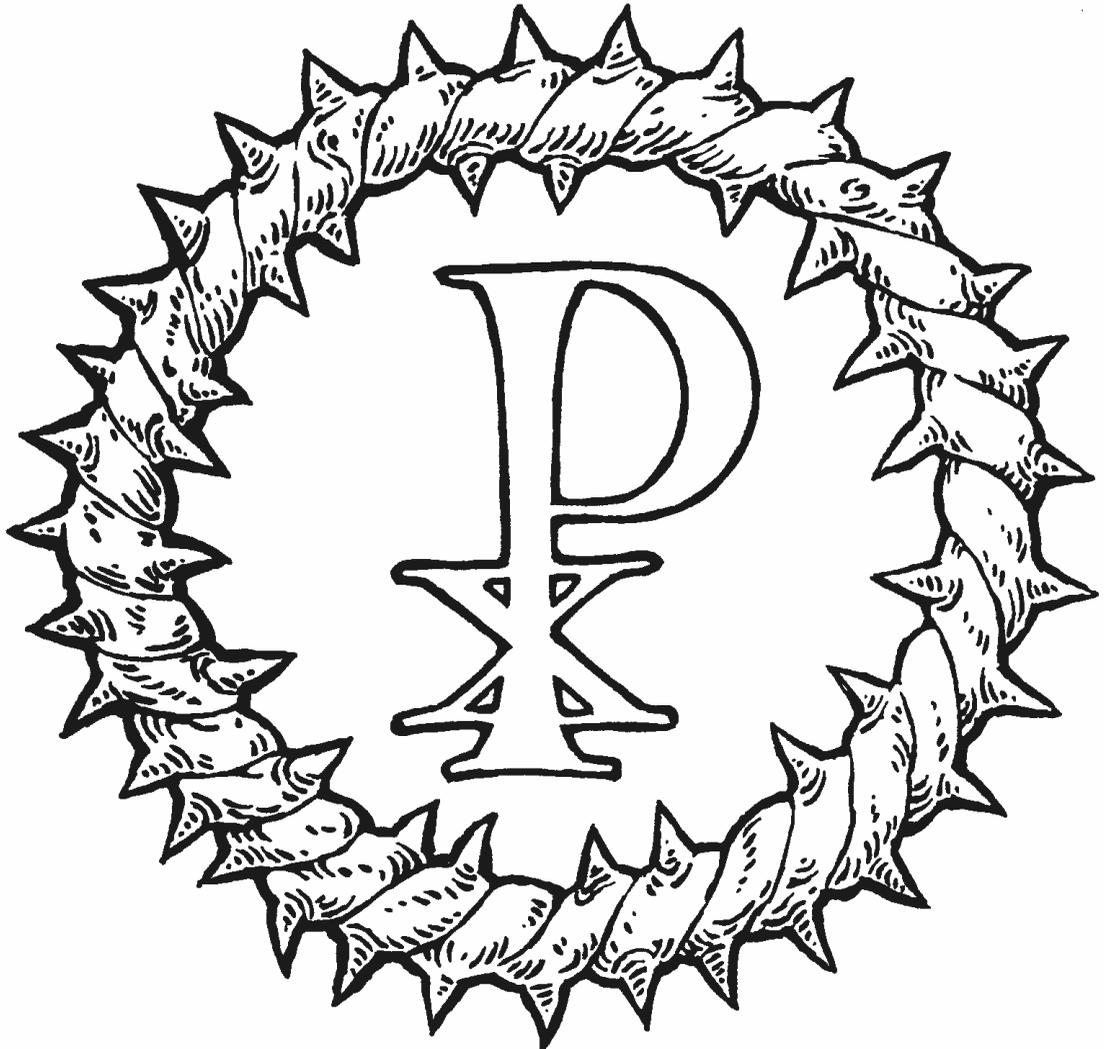


# Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church

6514 E 750 N Ossian, IN 46777

*A congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod*



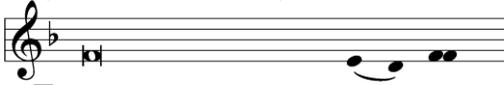
*Lenten Mid-week*

*Evening Prayer with Holy Communion*

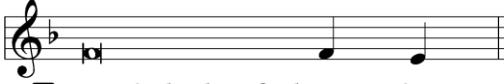
March 18, 2026

# Service of Light pg. 243

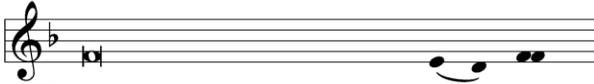
## Versicles (Lenten response)



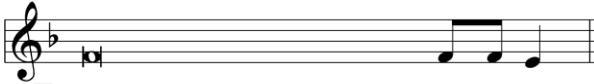
**L** Now is the time of God's fa - vor;



**C** now is the day of sal - va - tion.



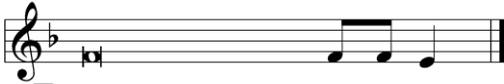
**L** Turn us again, O God of our sal - va - tion,



**C** that the light of Your face may shine on us.



**L** May Your justice shine like the sun;



**C** and may the poor be lift - ed up.

## Phos Hilaron



**L** Joy - ous light of glo - ry:



**C** of the im - mor - tal Fa - ther; heav - en - ly, ho - ly,



bless - ed Je - sus Christ. We have come to the

set - ting of the sun, and we look to the eve - ning light.

We sing to God, the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it:

You are wor - thy of be - ing praised with pure voic - es for -

ev - er. O Son of God, O Giv - er of life:

the u - ni - verse pro - claims Your glo - ry.

### Thanksgiving for Light

Blessèd are You, O Lord our God, king of the u - ni - verse,

who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of

fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ;

may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path;

for You are mer - ci - ful, and You love Your whole cre - a - tion



and we, Your creatures, glo-ri-fy You, Father, Son, and Ho-ly Spir-it.



**C** A - men.

## Psalm 141



**C** Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,



the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.



**I** O Lord, I call to You; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice



when I cry to You. **C** Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,



the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.



**II** Set a watch be - fore my mouth, O Lord, and guard the door of my lips.



**I** Let not my heart in - cline to an - y e - vil thing;



let me not be oc - cu - pied in wick - ed - ness with e - vil - do - ers.

**II** But my eyes are turned to You, O God; in You I take refuge.  
 Strip me not of my life. **C** 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.  
 Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,  
 the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

### Psalms Prayer

- L** Let us pray.  
 Let the incense of our repentant prayer ascend before You, O Lord, and let Your loving-kindness descend on us that, with purified minds, we may sing Your praises with the Church on earth and the whole heavenly host and may glorify You forever.
- C** Amen.

### Psalmsody (sung responsively with the choir)

*Psalms 103*

- <sup>1</sup>Bless the LORD, | O my soul,\*  
 and all that is within me,  
 bless his | holy name!
- <sup>2</sup>Bless the LORD, | O my soul,\*  
 and forget not all his | benefits,
- <sup>3</sup>who forgives all your in- | iquity,\*  
 who heals all your dis- | eases,

**4**who redeems your life | from the pit,\*  
who crowns you with steadfast love and | mercy,  
**5**who satisfies | you with good\*  
so that your youth is renewed like the | eagle's.

**6**The LORD works | righteousness\*  
and justice for all who | are oppressed.

**7**He made known his ways to | Moses,\*  
his acts to the people of | Israel.

**8**The LORD is merciful and | gracious,\*  
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love.

**9**He will not | always chide,\*  
nor will he keep his anger for- | ever.

**10**He does not deal with us according | to our sins,\*  
nor repay us according to our in- | iquities.

**11**For as high as the heavens are a- | bove the earth,\*  
so great is his steadfast love toward those who | fear him;

**12**as far as the east is | from the west,\*  
so far does he remove our transgres- | sions from us.

**13**As a father shows compassion to his | children,\*  
so the LORD shows compassion to those who | fear him.

**14**For he | knows our frame;\*  
he remembers that | we are dust.

**15**As for man, his days | are like grass,\*  
he flourishes like a flower | of the field;

**16**for the wind passes over it, and | it is gone,\*  
and its place knows | it no more.

**17**But the steadfast love of the LORD is from  
everlasting to everlasting on those who | fear him,\*  
and his righteousness to children's | children,

**18**to those who keep his | covenant\*  
and remember to do his com- | mandments.

**19**The LORD has established his throne in the | heavens,\*  
and his kingdom rules | over all.

**20**Bless the LORD, O you his | angels,\*  
you mighty ones who do his word,  
obeying the voice | of his word!

**21**Bless the LORD, | all his hosts,\*  
his ministers, who | do his will!

**22**Bless the LORD, all his works,  
in all places of his do- | minion.\*  
Bless the LORD, | O my soul!

*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.*

## Choir “Lamb of God, Pure and Holy”

### Office Hymn

### #766 (vs 1,5,9) Our Father, Who from Heaven Above



1 Our Fa - ther, who from heav'n a - bove Bids all of us to  
5 Give us this day our dai - ly bread, And let us all be  
9 A - men, that is, so shall it be. Make strong our faith in



live in love As mem-bers of one fam - i - ly And  
clothed and fed. Save us from hard-ship, war, and strife; In  
You, that we May doubt not but with trust be - lieve That



pray to You in u - ni - ty, Teach us no thought-less words to  
plague and fam - ine, spare our life, That we in hon - est peace may  
what we ask we shall re - ceive. Thus in Your name and at Your



say But from our in - most hearts to pray.  
live, To care and greed no en - trance give.  
Word We say, “A - men, O hear us, Lord!”

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; (sts. 1, 9): tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; (st. 5): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001, alt.  
Tune: attr. Martin Luther, 1483–1546  
Text (sts. 1, 9): Public domain  
Text (st. 5): © 1980 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001711  
Tune: Public domain

## Reading

*John 19:16b–30*

So they took Jesus, <sup>17</sup>and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. <sup>18</sup>There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. <sup>19</sup>Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.” <sup>20</sup>Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek. <sup>21</sup>So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but rather, ‘This man said, I am King of the Jews.’” <sup>22</sup>Pilate answered, “What I have written I have written.” <sup>23</sup>When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, <sup>24</sup>so they said to one another, “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be.” This was to fulfill the Scripture which says, “They divided my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.” So the soldiers did these things, <sup>25</sup>but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary

Magdalene. <sup>26</sup>When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, **“Woman, behold, your son!”** <sup>27</sup>Then he said to the disciple, **“Behold, your mother!”** And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

<sup>28</sup>After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), **“I thirst.”** <sup>29</sup>A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. <sup>30</sup>When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, **“It is finished,”** and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

**L** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Final Reading Response

**L** In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

**C** But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.

## Sermon

### 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.

## Prayer of the Church

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

*Darlene Jester (sister of Melissa Tolson), Jerry Springer*

*Amelia Phillips, James DeFrain*

*Jenny Peterson (friend of Cheryl Louison)*

*Kenneth Werling*

*Dan Bush (stepfather of Chad Dunham)*

*Grace Anderson (friend of Macie Saalfrank)*

*Hazel Krenzke (granddaughter of Dan and Sue Buchinger)*

*Brittany (Conrad) Clausius*

*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, Jessica Schumm, Shelby Todd, Grace (Stoppenhagen) Mandeville, Kristin Gresley*

### 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

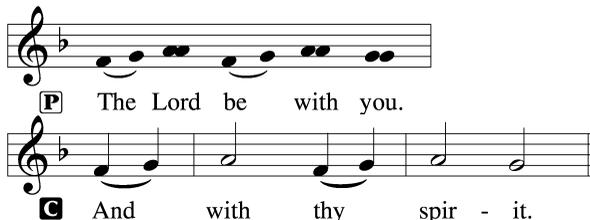
*The Board of Education seeking qualified candidates for teaching positions.*

### We pray for all military personnel

## Offering

# 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,



bless - ed is He, bless - 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.



**C** 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 Hymn**

**#642 O Living Bread from Heaven**

1 O liv - ing Bread from heav - en, How well You  
 2 My Lord, You here have led me To this most  
 3 You gave me all I want - ed; This food can  
 4 Lord, grant me then, thus strength - ened With heav'n - ly

feed Your guest! The gifts that You have giv - en  
 ho - ly place And with Your - self have fed me  
 death de - stroy. And You have free - ly grant - ed  
 food, while here My course on earth is length - ened,

Have filled my heart with rest. Oh, won - drous food of  
 The trea - sures of Your grace; For You have free - ly  
 The cup of end - less joy. My Lord, I do not  
 To serve with ho - ly fear. And when You call my

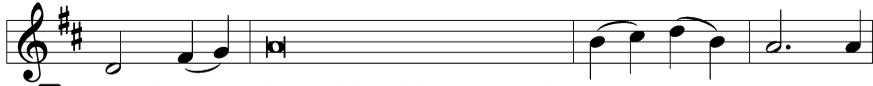
bless - ing, Oh, cup that heals our woes! My heart, this  
 giv - en What earth could nev - er buy, The bread of  
 mer - it The fa - vor You have shown, And all my  
 spir - it To leave this world be - low, I en - ter,



gift pos - sess - ing, With prais - es o - ver - flows.  
life from heav - en, That now I shall not die.  
soul and spir - it Bow down be - fore Your throne.  
through Your mer - it, Where joys un - min - gled flow.

Text: Johann Rist, 1607-67; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.  
Tune: Musae Sioniae, 1609, vol. 7, Wolfenbüttel, ed. Michael Praetorius  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Nunc Dimittis



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-



cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,



which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,



a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy



people Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and

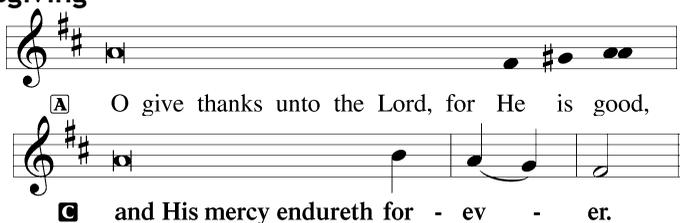


to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,



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.

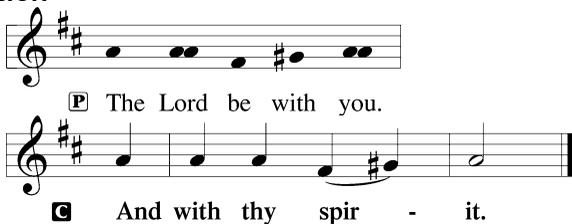
## Post-Communion Collect

- A** Let us pray.  
O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



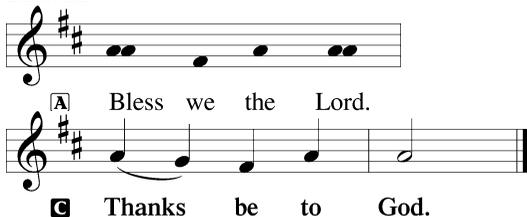
**C** A - men.

## Salutation



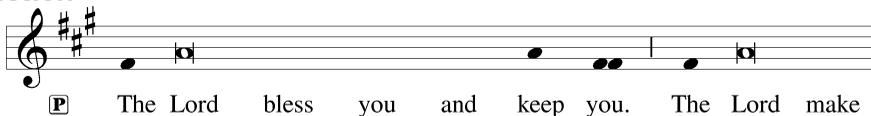
**P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** And with thy spir - it.

## Benedicamus



**A** Bless we the Lord.  
**C** 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.



■ A-men, a-men, a - men.

## Closing Hymn

## #886 The Day Thou Gavest



1 The day Thou gav - est, Lord, is end - ed,  
2 We thank Thee that Thy Church, un - sleep - ing  
3 As o'er each con - ti - nent and is - land  
4 The sun, that bids us rest, is wak - ing  
5 So be it, Lord! Thy throne shall nev - er,



The dark - ness falls at Thy be - hest;  
While earth rolls on - ward in - to light,  
The dawn leads on an - oth - er day,  
Thy saints be - neath the west - ern skies,  
Like earth's proud em - pires, pass a - way;



To Thee our morn - ing hymns as - cend - ed,  
Through all the world her watch is keep - ing,  
The voice of prayer is nev - er si - lent,  
And hour by hour, as day is break - ing,  
Thy king - dom stands and grows for - ev - er,



Thy praise shall sanc - ti - fy our rest.  
And nev - er rests by day or night.  
Nor dies the strain of praise a - way.  
Fresh hymns of thank - ful praise a - rise.  
Till all Thy crea - tures own Thy sway.

## IN HIS SERVICE

Preaching	Vicar Charles McLain
Celebrant	Rev. Samuel Wirgau
Fieldworker	Sem. Brandon Streeks
Deaconess	Wendy Boehm
Head Elder	Bruce Werling
Elders on Duty	Steve Conrad, Bruce Meyer
Kantor	Richard Brinkley
Choir	Adult Choir
Acolytes	JT Holtzclaw and Lucas Werling
Altar Guild Chairman	Deann Oliver and Denise Schumm
Ushers	Josh Boehm, Ed Black, Aspen Fisher, Brandon Schumm Don Schueler, Graham Stoppenhagen, Coty Newnum, Jason Rekeweg

Pastor: Rev. Samuel Wirgau ( <a href="mailto:Samuel.wirgau@gmail.com">Samuel.wirgau@gmail.com</a> )	260-273-7595
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: <a href="http://www.blcsossian.org">www.blcsossian.org</a></i>	

***WE WELCOME ALL VISITORS this evening*** 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!