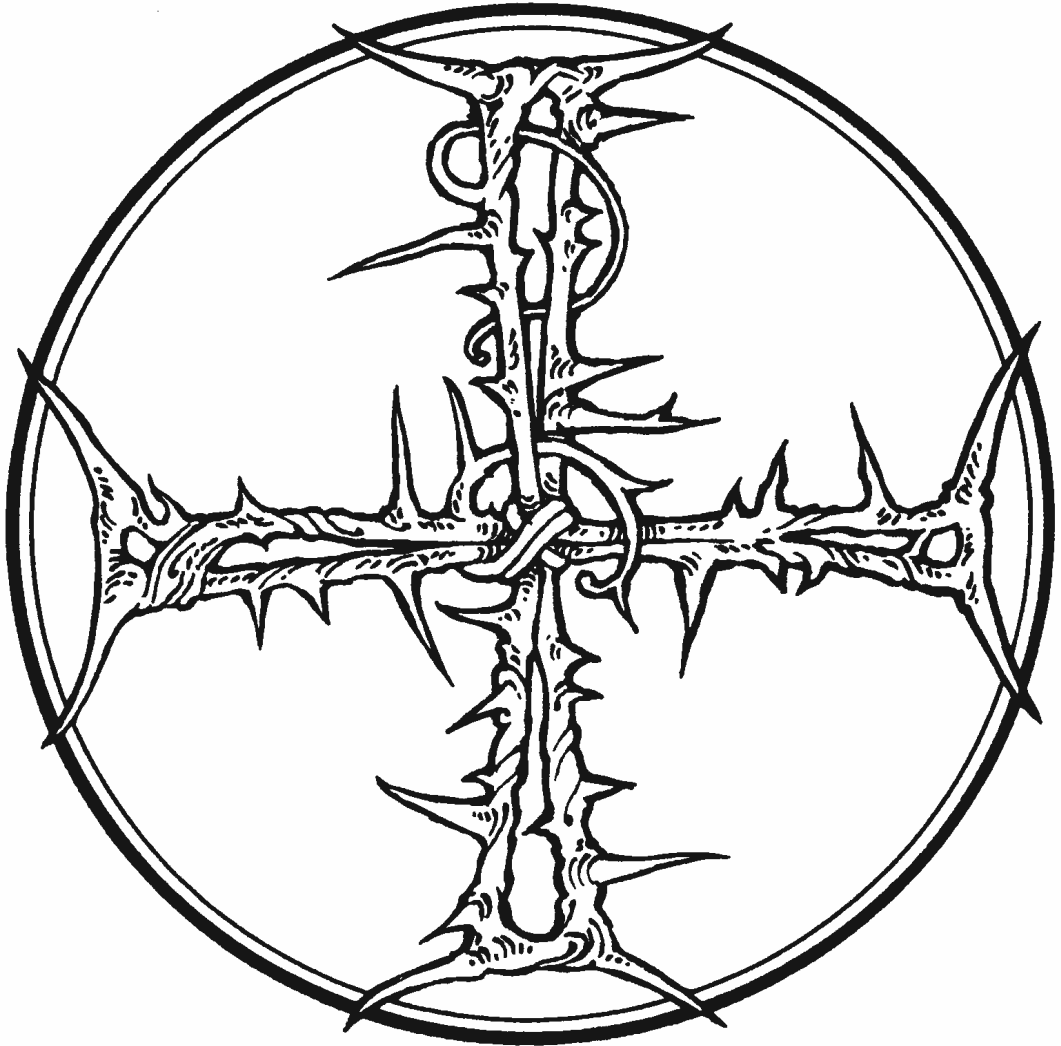


Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church

6514 E 750 N Ossian, IN 46777

A congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod



Lenten Mid-week

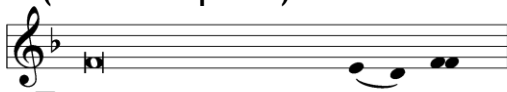
Evening Prayer with Holy Communion

March 25, 2026

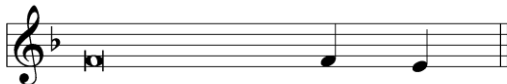
We are now in the season of Lent known as Passiontide. We are nearing Easter and before we get to Holy Week there are some changes in our Lenten fasting in order to draw attention to some important things. First you will notice that the crosses have been veiled. Our eyes will fast from seeing the cross until Good Friday. Second, just as our tongues have fasted from saying Alleluia, for the next two weeks we will also omit the *Gloria Patre* (Glory be to the Father . . .) including in the Introit and the Nunc Dimittis. Not that we refrain from giving God the glory, but that we further restrain our praise as we anticipate the glory of Christ's cross and resurrection. May God bless our Lenten worship.

Service of Light pg. 243

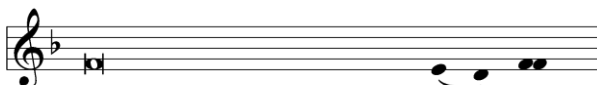
Versicles (Lenten response)



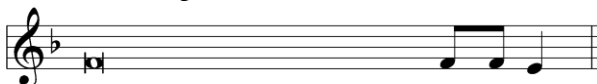
L Now is the time of God's fa - vor;



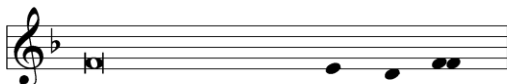
C now is the day of sal - va - tion.



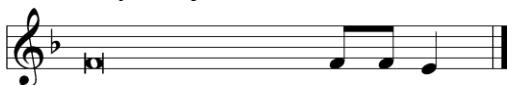
L Turn us again, O God of our sal - va - tion,



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

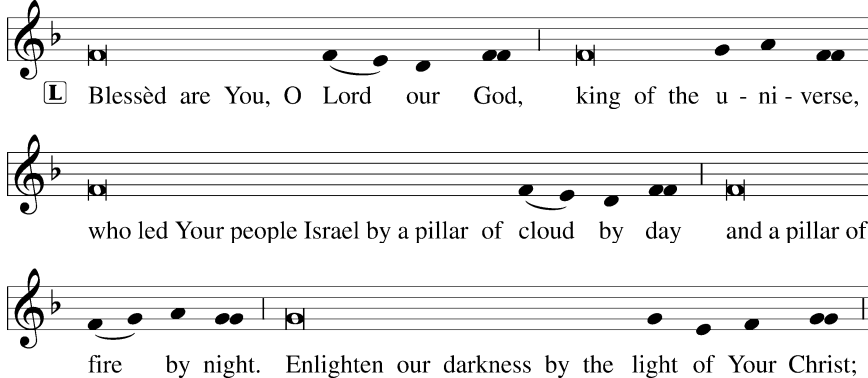


L Joy - ous light of glo - ry:



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



L 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





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 ref - uge.



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.

Psalm 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.

Psalmody (*sung responsively*)



¹Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your | steadfast love,*
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my trans- | gressions.

²**Wash me thoroughly from my in- | iquity,*
and cleanse me | from my sin!**

³For I know my trans- | gressions,*
and my sin is ever be- | fore me.

⁴**Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil | in your sight,*
so that you may be justified in your words
and blameless in your | judgment.**

⁵Behold, I was brought forth in in- | iquity,*
and in sin did my mother con- | ceive me.

⁶**Behold, you delight in truth in the inward | being,*
and you teach me wisdom in the | secret heart.**

⁷Purge me with hyssop, and I | shall be clean;*
wash me, and I shall be whit- | er than snow.

⁸**Let me hear joy and | gladness;*
let the bones that you have bro- | ken rejoice.**

⁹Hide your face | from my sins,*
and blot out all my in- | iquities.

¹⁰**Create in me a clean heart, | O God,*
and renew a right spirit with- | in me.**

¹¹Cast me not away from your | presence,*
and take not your Holy Spirit | from me.

¹²**Restore to me the joy of your sal- | vation,*
and uphold me with a willing | spirit.**

¹³Then I will teach transgressors | your ways,*
and sinners will re- | turn to you.

¹⁴**Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God,
O God of my sal- | vation,*
and my tongue will sing aloud of your | righteousness.**

¹⁵O Lord, open | my lips,*
and my mouth will de- | clare your praise.

¹⁶**For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would | give it;*
you will not be pleased with a burnt | offering.**

¹⁷The sacrifices of God are a broken | spirit;*
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will | not despise.

¹⁸**Do good to Zion in your good | pleasure;*
build up the walls of Je- | rusalem;**

¹⁹then will you delight in right sacrifices,
in burnt offerings and whole burnt | offerings;*
then bulls will be offered on your | altar.

Office Hymn

#766 (vs 1,6,9) Our Father, Who from Heaven Above



1 Our Fa - ther, who from heav'n a - bove Bids all of us to
6 For - give our sins, Lord, we im - plore, That they may trou - ble
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
us no more; We, too, will glad - ly those for - give Who
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
hurt us by the way they live. Help us in our com - mu - ni -
what we ask we shall re - ceive. Thus in Your name and at Your



say But from our in - most hearts to pray.
ty To serve each oth - er will - ing - ly.
Word We say, "A - men, O hear us, Lord!"

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.

Tune: attr. Martin Luther, 1483–1546

Text: Public domain

Tune: Public domain

Reading

Luke 23:26–49

²⁶And as they led him away, they seized one Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus. ²⁷And there followed him a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for him. ²⁸But turning to them Jesus said, **“Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children.** ²⁹**For behold, the days are coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!’** ³⁰**Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us,’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us.’** ³¹**For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?”** ³²Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. ³³And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴And Jesus said, **“Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”** And they cast lots to divide his garments. ³⁵And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!” ³⁶The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” ³⁸There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.” ³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!” ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴²And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your

kingdom.”⁴³ And he said to him, **“Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”**⁴⁴ It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour,⁴⁵ while the sun’s light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two.⁴⁶ Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, **“Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!”** And having said this he breathed his last.⁴⁷ Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying, **“Certainly this man was innocent!”**⁴⁸ And all the crowds that had assembled for this spectacle, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts.⁴⁹ And all his acquaintances and the women who had followed him from Galilee stood at a distance watching these things.

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 \dagger of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

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

Joyce Schaper, Jerry Springer

Darlene Jester (sister of Melissa Tolson)

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 *Makena Graham, Kaitlin (Meyer) Blair, Reese Springer*

Lillian 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,



bles - 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 \dagger 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 \dagger blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



A - men.

Agnus Dei



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



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



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

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the
world, grant us Thy peace. A - - men.

Distribution

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

Distribution Hymn

#431 Not All the Blood of Beasts

1 Not all the blood of beasts On Jew - ish al - tars slain
2 But Christ, the heav'n - ly Lamb, Takes all our sins a - way;
3 My faith would lay its hand On that dear head of Thine,
4 My soul looks back to see The bur - den Thou didst bear
5 Be - liev - ing, we re - joice To see the curse re - move;

Could give the guilt - y con-science peace Or wash a - way the stain.
A sac - ri - fice of no - bler name And rich - er blood than they.
While as a pen - i - tent I stand, And there con - fess my sin.
When hang - ing on the curs - ed tree; I know my guilt was there.
We bless the Lamb with cheer - ful voice And sing His bleed - ing love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.
Tune: William Daman, c. 1540-1591
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,

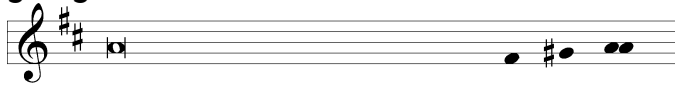


a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy



peo-ple Is - ra-el.

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.



G And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus

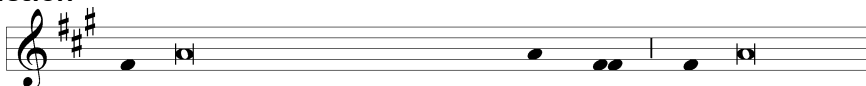


A Bless we the Lord.

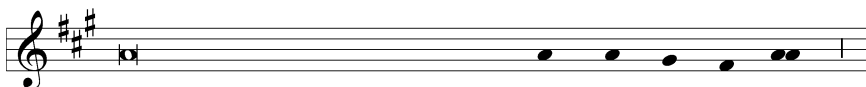


G Thanks be to God.

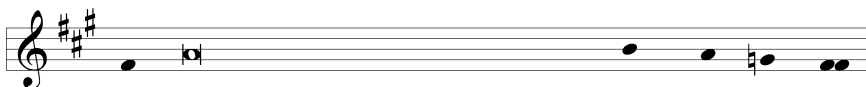
Benediction



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



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



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



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

Closing Hymn

#878 Abide with Me



1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.
2 I need Thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;
3 Come not in ter - rors, as the King of kings,
4 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;



The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.
What but Thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?
But kind and good, with heal - ing in Thy wings;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;



When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
Who like Thy - self my guide and stay can be?
Tears for all woes, a heart for ev - 'ry plea.
Change and de - cay in all a - round I see;



Help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.
Through cloud and sun - shine, O a - bide with me.
Come, Friend of sin - ners, thus a - bide with me.
O Thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.

- 5 I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still if Thou abide with me!
- 6 Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793-1847, alt.
Tune: William H. Monk, 1823-89
Text and tune: Public domain

IN HIS SERVICE

Preaching / Celebrant
Vicar
Fieldworker
Deaconess
Head Elder
Elders on Duty
Kantor
Acolytes
Altar Guild Chairman
Ushers

Rev. Samuel Wirgau
Sem. Charles McLain
Sem. Brandon Streeks
Wendy Boehm
Bruce Werling
Steve Conrad, Bruce Meyer
Richard Brinkley
JT Holtzclaw and Matthew Rekeweg
Deann Oliver and Denise Schumm
Todd Ottinger, Ethan Ottinger, Landon Geiger
Jay Werling, Collin Laley, Kaden Laley, Chad Dunham

Pastor: Rev. Samuel Wirgau (Samuel.wirgau@gmail.com)	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
Website for Church and School: www.blcsossian.org	

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!

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

