

Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church

6514 E 750 N Ossian, IN 46777

A congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod



Third Sunday in Lent

"Oculi"

Divine Service – Setting Three

March 8, 2026

Vol. 128-15

Opening Hymn

#345 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding



1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is
 2 Star - tled at the sol - emn warn - ing, Let the
 3 See, the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, Comes with
 4 So, when next He comes in glo - ry And the
 △ 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion To the



near," we hear it say. "Cast a - way the
 earth - bound soul a - rise; Christ, its sun, all
 par - don down from heav'n. Let us haste, with
 world is wrapped in fear, He will shield us
 Fa - ther and the Son With the ev - er -



works of dark - ness, All you chil - dren of the day!"
 sloth dis - pel - ling, Shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
 tears of sor - row, One and all, to be for - giv'n;
 with His mer - cy And with words of love draw near.
 liv - ing Spir - it While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt.
 Tune: William H. Monk, 1823–89
 Text and tune: Public domain

Order of Holy Baptism (*Harper Lee Miller*) (see insert-please return to an usher)

Service of the Word pg. 184

Introit (*sung responsively with the choir*)



My eyes are ever | toward the LORD,*
 for he will pluck my feet out | of the net.

Turn to me and be gra- | cious to me,*
for I am lonely and af- | flicted.

To you, | O LORD,*
 I lift | up my soul.

O my God, in you I trust; let me not be | put to shame;*
let not my enemies exult | over me.

The troubles of my heart | are enlarged;*
 bring me out of my dis- | tresses.

Consider my affliction and my | trouble,*
and forgive | all my sins.

Oh, guard my soul, and de- | liver me!*

Let me not be put to shame, for I take ref- | uge in you.

*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.

My eyes are ever | toward the LORD,*

for he will pluck my feet out | of the net.

Turn to me and be gra- | cious to me,*

for I am lonely and af- | flicted.

Kyrie

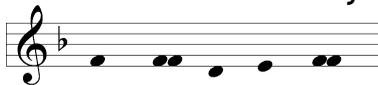


C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



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

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



P Let us pray.

P O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; 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.

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 26:1–15

¹In the beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, this word came from the LORD: ²“Thus says the LORD: Stand in the court of the LORD’s house, and speak to all the cities of Judah that come to worship in the house of the LORD all the words that I command you to speak to them; do not hold back a word. ³It may be they will listen, and every one turn from his evil way, that I may relent of the disaster that I intend to do to them because of their evil deeds. ⁴You shall say to them, ‘Thus says the LORD: If you will not listen to me, to walk in my law that I have set before you, ⁵and to listen to the words of my servants the prophets whom I send to you urgently, though you have not listened, ⁶then I will make this house like Shiloh, and I will make this city a curse for all the nations of the earth.’”

⁷The priests and the prophets and all the people heard Jeremiah speaking these words in the house of the LORD. ⁸And when Jeremiah had finished speaking all that the LORD had commanded him to speak to all the people, then the priests and the prophets and all the people laid hold of him, saying, “You shall die! ⁹Why have you prophesied in the name of the LORD, saying, ‘This house shall be like Shiloh, and this city shall be desolate, without inhabitant’?” And all the people gathered around Jeremiah in the house of the LORD.

¹⁰When the officials of Judah heard these things, they came up from the king’s house to the house of the LORD and took their seat in the entry of the New Gate of the house of the LORD. ¹¹Then the priests and the prophets said to the officials and to all the people, “This man deserves the sentence of death, because he has prophesied against this city, as you have heard with your own ears.”

¹²Then Jeremiah spoke to all the officials and all the people, saying, “The LORD sent me to prophesy against this house and this city all the words you have heard. ¹³Now therefore mend your ways and your deeds, and obey the voice of the LORD your God, and the LORD will relent of the disaster that he has pronounced against you. ¹⁴But as for me, behold, I am in your hands. Do with me as seems good and right to you. ¹⁵Only know for certain that if you put me to death, you will bring innocent blood upon yourselves and upon this city and its inhabitants, for in truth the LORD sent me to you to speak all these words in your ears.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Choral Response “When I Survey this Wondrous Cross”

Epistle

Ephesians 5:1–9

¹Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. ²And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

³But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. ⁴Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. ⁵For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. ⁶Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. ⁷Therefore do not associate with them; ⁸for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true).

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Tract

Psalm 123:1–3a

To you I lift | up my eyes,*

O you who are enthroned in the | heavens!

Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their | master,*

so our eyes look to the LORD our God, till he has mercy up- | on us.

Have mercy upon us, | O LORD,*

have mercy up- | on us.

Holy Gospel

Luke 11:14–28

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the eleventh chapter.



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

¹⁴Now [Jesus] was casting out a demon that was mute. When the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke, and the people marveled. ¹⁵But some of them said, “He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the prince of demons,” ¹⁶while others, to test him, kept seeking from him a sign from heaven. ¹⁷But he, knowing their thoughts, said to them, “**Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and a divided household falls.** ¹⁸And if Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that I cast out demons by Beelzebul. ¹⁹And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. ²⁰But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. ²¹When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe; ²²but when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his spoil. ²³Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. ²⁴“When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and finding none it says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ ²⁵And when it comes, it finds the house swept and put in order. ²⁶Then it goes and brings seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there. And the last state of that person is worse than the first.” ²⁷As he said these things, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, “Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts at which you nursed!” ²⁸But he said, “**Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!**”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.



night and hope of ev - 'ry na - tion: Hear and re - ceive Your
foes their ban - ners are un - furl - ing And with great spite their
shield when earth - ly ar - mor fails us; And in the day when
Church, our trou - bled souls as - suag - ing, Peace when the world its



Church's sup - pli - ca - tion, Lord God Al - might - y.
fi - ery darts are hurl - ing, O Lord, pre - serve us.
hell it - self as - sails us, Grant us Your peace, Lord:
end - less war is wag - ing, Peace in Your heav - en.

Text: Matthäus Apelles von Löwenstern, 1594–1648; tr. Philip Pusey, 1799–1855, alt.
Tune: Antiphoner, 1746, Poitiers
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Offertory



C Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -



new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -



way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it



from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -



tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Offering

Prayer of the Church

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

Darlene Jester (sister of Melissa Tolson), Jerry Springer

Amelia Phillips, James DeFrain, Kenneth Werling

Jenny Peterson (friend of Cheryl Louison)

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)

Baptismal Blessing: *Harper Lee Miller*

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

Reese Springer, Lillyan Laley, Jessica Schumm, Shelby Todd, Grace (Stoppenhagen) Mandeville, Kristen 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

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.

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.



G A - men.

Agnus Dei



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



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



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



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



world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Distribution

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

Distribution Hymns

#631 Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face



1 Here, O my Lord, I see Thee face to face;
 2 Here would I feed up - on the bread of God;
 3 This is the hour of ban - quet and of song;
 4 I have no help but Thine; nor do I need



Here would I touch and han - dle things un - seen;
 Here drink with Thee the roy - al wine of heav'n;
 This is the heav'n - ly ta - ble spread for me;
 An - oth - er arm but Thine to lean up - on.



Here grasp with firm - er hand the e - ter - nal grace,
 Here would I lay a - side each earth - ly load,
 Here let me feast and, feast - ing, still pro - long
 It is e - nough, my Lord, e - nough in - deed;



And all my wea - ri - ness up - on Thee lean.
 Here taste a - fresh the calm of sin for - giv'n.
 The brief bright hour of fel - low - ship with Thee.
 My strength is in Thy might, Thy might a - lone.

5 Mine is the sin, but Thine the righteousness;
 Mine is the guilt, but Thine the cleansing blood;
 Here is my robe, my refuge, and my peace:
 Thy blood, Thy righteousness, O Lord my God.

6 Too soon we rise; the vessels disappear;
 The feast, though not the love, is past and gone;
 The bread and wine remove, but Thou art here;
 Nearer than ever; still my shield and sun.

7 Feast after feast thus comes and passes by,
 Yet, passing, points to that glad feast above,
 Giving sweet foretaste of the festal joy,
 The Lamb's great marriage feast of bliss and love.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808-89, alt.
 Tune: Henry Lawes, 1595-1662
 Text and tune: Public domain

#632 O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee



1 O Je - sus, bless - ed Lord, to Thee My heart - felt
2 Break forth, my soul, for joy and say: What wealth is



thanks for - ev - er be, Who hast so lov - ing -
come to me this day! My Sav - ior dwells with -



ly be - stowed On me Thy bod - y and Thy blood.
in my heart: How blessed am I! How good Thou art!

Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo, 1634-1703; tr. Arthur J. Mason, 1851-1928
Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois
Text and tune: Public domain

#716 I Walk in Danger All the Way



1 I walk in dan - ger all the way. The thought shall nev - er
2 I pass through tri - als all the way, With sin and ills con -
3 And death pur - sues me all the way, No - where I rest se -
4 I walk with an - gels all the way, They shield me and be -



leave me That Sa - tan, who has marked his prey, Is
tend - ing; In pa - tience I must bear each day The
cure - ly; He comes by night, he comes by day, He
friend me; All Sa - tan's pow'r is held at bay When



plot - ting to de - ceive me. This foe with hid - den snares
cross of God's own send - ing. When in ad - ver - si - ty
takes his prey most sure - ly. A fail - ing breath, and I
heav'n - ly hosts at - tend me; They are my sure de - fense,



May seize me un - a - wares If I should fail to
I know not where to flee, When storms of woe my
In death's strong grasp may lie To face e - ter - ni -
All fear and sor - row, hence! Un - harmed by foes, do



watch and pray. I walk in dan - ger all the way.
 soul dis - may, I pass through tri - als all the way.
 ty to - day As death pur - sues me all the way.
 what they may, I walk with an - gels all the way.

5 I walk with Jesus all the way,
 His guidance never fails me;
 Within His wounds I find a stay
 When Satan's pow'r assails me;
 And by His footsteps led,
 My path I safely tread.
 No evil leads my soul astray;
 I walk with Jesus all the way.

6 My walk is heav'nward all the way;
 Await, my soul, the morrow,
 When God's good healing shall allay
 All suff'ring, sin, and sorrow.
 Then, worldly pomp, begone!
 To heav'n I now press on.
 For all the world I would not stay;
 My walk is heav'nward all the way.

Text: Hans Adolf Brorson, 1694-1764; tr. Ditlef G. Ristad, 1863-1938, alt.
 Tune: Geist-reiches Gesang-Buch, 1708, 4th ed., Halle, ed. Johann A. Freylinghausen
 Text and 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 -



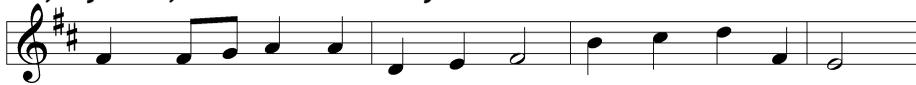
more than an - y That brought me sal -
 did re - lease me In a dear for -
 come un - rav - eled, And, a - gainst your
 bright - ly flash - es: Bap - tism has the
 tin - ues prais - ing: I am bap - tized



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!

Text: Erdmann Neumeister, 1671-1756; tr. Robert E. Voelker, 1957
 Tune: Johann Caspar Bachofen, 1695-1755, alt.
 Text: © 1991 Robert E. Voelker. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001711
 Tune: Public domain

#663 Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray



1 Rise, my soul, to watch and pray; From your sleep a - wak -
 2 Watch a - gainst the dev - il's snares Lest a - sleep he find
 3 Watch! Let not the wick - ed world With its lies de - feat
 4 Watch a - gainst your - self, my soul, Lest with grace you tri -
 5 But while watch - ing, al - so pray To the Lord un - ceas -



en! Be not by the e - vil day Un - a - wares o'er -
you; For in - deed no pains he spares To de - ceive and
you Lest with bold de - cep - tions hurled It be - tray and
fle; Let not self your thoughts con - trol Nor God's mer - cy
ing. God pro - tects you day by day, Strength and faith in -



tak - en; For the foe, Well we know, Is a
blind you. Sa - tan's prey Oft are they Who se -
cheat you. Watch and see Lest there be Faith - less
sti - fle. Pride and sin Lurk with - in, All your
creas - ing, So that still Mind and will Shall u -



har - vest reap - ing While the saints are sleep - ing.
cure are sleep - ing And no watch are keep - ing.
friends to charm you, Who but seek to harm you.
hopes to shat - ter; Heed not when they flat - ter.
nite to serve Him And for - ev - er love Him.

Text: Johann Burkhard Freystein, 1671–1718; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Tune: Hundert . . . geistlicher Arien, 1694, Dresden, alt.
Text and tune: Public domain

Nunc Dimittis



Lord, now letteth 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. 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,

B 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.

B A - men.

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus

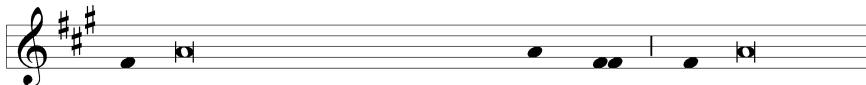


A Bless we the Lord.

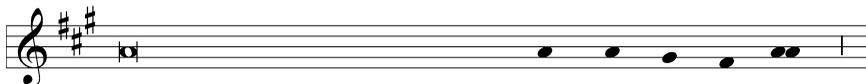


C Thanks be to God.

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.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

Closing Hymn

#714 Who Trusts in God a Strong Abode



1 Who trusts in God A strong a - bode In heav'n and
2 Though Sa - tan's wrath Be - set our path And world - ly
3 In all the strife Of mor - tal life Our feet will



earth pos - sess - es; Who looks in
scorn as - sail - us, While You are
stand se - cure - ly; Temp - ta - tion's

love To Christ a - bove, No fear that heart op -
near, We shall not fear; Your strength will nev - er
hour Will lose its pow'r, For You will guard us

press - es. In You a - lone, Dear Lord, we own Sweet
fail - us. Your rod and staff Will keep us safe And
sure - ly. O God, re - new With heav'n - ly dew Our

hope and con - so - la - tion, Our shield from foes, Our balm for
guide our steps for - ev - er; Nor shades of death Nor hell be -
bod - y, soul, and spir - it Un - til we stand At Your right

woes, Our great and sure sal - va - tion.
neath Our lives from You will sev - er.
hand Through Je - sus' sav - ing mer - it.

Text: tr. Benjamin H. Kennedy, 1804–99, alt.; (st. 1): Joachim Magdeburg, c. 1525–after 1587; (sts. 2–3): Harmonia cantionum, 1597, Leipzig
Tune: Claudin de Sermisy, c. 1490–1562
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!

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

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 Meyer and Steve Conrad
Kantor	Richard Brinkley
Choir	Bethlehem Adult Choir
Acolytes	JT Holtzclaw and Lucas Werling
Altar Guild Chairman	Deann Oliver and Denise Schumm
Ushers	Travis Avey, Jeff Gresley Dean Schemann, 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
Website for Church and School: www.blcsossian.org	

TODAY	9:00 a.m.	Divine Service with Holy Communion
	10:30 a.m.	Adult Bible Class or Sunday School
	11:30 a.m.	Board of Elders Meeting
	11:30 a.m.	Voice of Bethlehem (WZBD 92.7)
MONDAY	2:00 p.m.	WOB Bible Study
	5:30 p.m.	Wholyfit (downstairs music room)
	NO	Handbell Choir Practice
TUESDAY	5:30 p.m.	Board of Christian Education Meeting
WEDNESDAY	10:15 a.m.	Chapel Service
	5-5:30 p.m.	Confession and Absolution
	5:30 p.m.	Adult Catechesis Class
	6:00 p.m.	Lenten Supper
	7:00 p.m.	Divine Service
		Adult Choir Practice
THURSDAY	5:30 p.m.	Wholyfit (downstairs music room)
	6:30 p.m.	WOB Bible Study
FRIDAY	6:00 p.m.	Social Studies Fair (school gym)
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)

BAPTIZED TODAY into the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is Harper Lee Miller, daughter of Dakota Miller and Samantha Tolson. Sponsor for Harper is Ian Tolson. We welcome Harper as a member of the Kingdom of God and joint heir with us of all God's blessings.

WORSHIP SERVICES FOR THE SEASON OF LENT – Please join us for Evening Prayer with Holy Communion on Wednesday evenings beginning at 7:00 pm. Also, feel free to attend the morning Chapel Services at 10:00 am. *The Bethlehem Youth and parents will be serving a Lenten Dinner beginning at 6:00pm. and the meal for Wednesday, March 11th Lasagna, Chicken Carbonara, Salad, Breadsticks and Assorted Desserts.*

INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION - As in years past, for all the Wednesdays of Lent Pastor will be available for Individual Confession and Absolution (LSB page 292) from 5:00-5:30 in the sanctuary of Bethlehem for those who would desire this as part of the Lenten devotions. As with the rite of Confession and Absolution that begins each of our Sunday services, the rite for individuals is yet another opportunity for us to confess our sins and receive forgiveness from Christ through the pastor. Every sin does not need to be listed nor do any particular sins need to be named. But for those sins "which we know and feel in our hearts" (Small Catechism) this is a wonderful opportunity to hear and receive the comforting forgiveness of Christ. Pastor will never speak of the sins confessed as he vowed in his ordination. He is happy to familiarize you with the rite either before Wednesday or when you come in. He is also available at other times by appointment. If you have questions, reach out to him.

EASTER FLOWER ORDERS - The deadline for orders is TODAY and can be turned into the church office. Extra forms are located on the Scrip table in the church foyer. Thank you.

FISH FRY April 25th - *Committee meeting briefly after church on Sunday March 15th in overflow. Anyone is welcome to be on the Committee.*

Visual Faith Workshop | Tuesday, March 10 from 6-8pm Join us for Around the Word, a practice where we focus on a passage of Scripture in different Bible translations and apply it to our lives today. We will also be creating Easter faith mail to share with friends and family. RSVP at <https://blcsossian.org/visual-faith-ministry/> or contact Deann Oliver at 616-894-0144

THANK YOU to everyone for their door offering donation to the Seminary and Northern Wells Food Pantries. We will continue to have boxes available for physical donations throughout the Lenten season in the church foyer.

St. John Bingen annual Dan's Fish and Tenderloin Dinner – Sunday, March 15th, 10:30-1:00 pm, at Wyneken Memorial Lutheran School. Adults \$15.00; Children (6-12) \$10.00, 5 & under free. All proceeds go to the HVAC Fund. Drive thru and carry out available.

POE FIRE DEPT – ALL YOU CAN EAT PANCAKE AND SAUSAGE - Sunday March 29th from 9-1:00 pm. Adults \$10, Children 6-12 \$5, Children under 6 Free. Carry out also available.

SCRIP – Please be sure to check out our new scrip certificate order sheet and ordering dates posted on the bulletin board. *Next order date will be March 15th.* **For questions or for placing an order, please contact Jill Holtzclaw 260-301-1965 our current PTL representative.**

Offering March 1, 2026

Average weekly need \$14,000

Home Fund Env.	\$9,645.70
Synod	70.00
Loose	276.15
Scholarship Fund	
Sunday School	10.25
Improvement Fund	270.00
Endowment Fund	500.00
Organ Fund	510.00
Music Fund	
Gym Rental	280.00
Copy Machine	25.00
Door Offering	<u>1,125.00</u>
Total	\$12,712.10

Financial Report

Home Fund Balance	\$48,786.81
Next week's bills due:	\$15,000
Bills due two weeks:	\$5,000
Savings Account Balance	\$59,530.09
Borrowed from Savings:	\$14,983.81
Operating Loan Balance	\$30,000
Borrowed from Op Loan	\$0.00

Church Attendance

Last Sunday	170/120
Wednesday	87/62



BETHLEHEM

LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP

When: March 18, 2026

Time: 4pm-6pm

Where: 7545 N. 650 E. Ossian, IN
Ossian, IN 46777

Who: Anyone who is interested in sending their child to kindergarten at Bethlehem for the 2026-2027 school year



The House of Daily Bread

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer following
The week following The Third Sunday in Lent



Jeremiah was charged with speaking evil when he spoke the Word of the Lord (Jer. 26:1–15). So also, Jesus is accused of doing evil when in fact He is doing good. He casts out a demon from a mute man so that he is able to speak (Luke 11:14–28). But some said Jesus did this by the power of Beelzebub, Satan. Like Pharaoh of old, their hearts were hard (Ex. 8:16–24). They did not recognize the finger of God, the power of the Holy Spirit at work in and through Jesus. Jesus is the Stronger Man who overcomes the strong man. He takes the devil's armor of sin and death and destroys it from the inside out by the holy cross. He exorcizes and frees us by water and the Word. We were once darkness, but now we are light in Christ the Lord (Eph. 5:1–9). As children of light, our tongues are loosed to give thanks to Him who saved us.

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: "Lord of Our Life" LSB #659

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

The Catechism:

What is Confession?

Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.

What sins should we confess?

Before God we should plead guilty of all sins, even those we are not aware of, as we do in the Lord's Prayer, but before the pastor we should confess only those sins which we know and feel in our hearts.

Which are these?

Consider your place in life according to the Ten Commandments: Are you a father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, or worker? Have you been disobedient, unfaithful, or lazy? Have you been hot-tempered, rude, or quarrelsome? Have you hurt someone by your words or deeds? Have you stolen, been negligent, wasted anything, or done any harm?

Psalm 4 and/or the appointed daily Psalms listen below.

Daily Psalm	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
A.M.	65	66	68	71	73	75,76	78
P.M.	63, 64	67, 70	69	72	74	77	79

Daily Bible Reading

Mon.	John 6:35-40 - Jesus Is the Bread of Life Genesis 29:1-30
Tues.	Luke 22:39-43- Jesus Prays on the Mount of Olives Genesis 35:1-29
Wed.	Romans 12:1-21 - A Living Sacrifice Genesis 37:1-36
Thu.	1 Timothy 2:1-4- Pray for All People Genesis 39:1-23
Fri.	Galatians 1:3-5 - "Gave Himself for Our Sins" Genesis 40:1-23
Sat.	<i>Look ahead to Sunday's Readings</i>

Prayers

Collect of the Day

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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: Darlene, Jerry, Dale, Brianne, Jenny, James, Kenneth, Dan, Grace, Hazel, Brittany, Brandon, Sandra **Expectant mothers:** Hannah, Makena, Kaitlin, Reese, Lillyan, Jessica, Shelby, Grace; Kristen **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: Fourth Sunday in Lent (Laetare)

Old Testament: Exodus 16:2-21 Epistle: Galatians 4:21-31; Gospel: John 6:1-15; Hymns: 423; 743; 634; 420; 729; 845; 510; 774

EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM

Please return your advanced order with payment to the church office
by **Sunday, March 8th**

.....
Easter Lilies # White \$11.00 ea.
Tulips # Purple # Yellow \$ 9.50 ea.
Geraniums..... # Red # Salmon \$13.00 ea.
Mums # Yellow \$15.50 ea.
Hydrangeas..... # Pink # Blue \$29.50 ea.

(Make checks payable to Women of Bethlehem) **Total Order** \$ _____

Ordered by: _____

In Loving Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

***Flowers may be picked up after the April 5th 9:00 a.m. Easter Service.
Please call Kay Schumm (260-273-7402) or Gina Graft (260-273-5035) for questions.*