

Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church

6514 E 750 N Ossian, IN 46777

A congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod



The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Divine Service One

April 26, 2026

Vol. 128-22

Processional Hymn

#684 Come unto Me, Ye Weary



- 1 "Come un - to Me, ye wea - ry, And I will give you rest."
2 "Come un - to Me, ye wan - d'ers, And I will give you light."
3 "Come un - to Me, ye faint - ing, And I will give you life."
4 "And who - so - ev - er com - eth, I will not cast him out."



- O bless - ed voice of Je - sus, Which comes to hearts op - pressed!
O lov - ing voice of Je - sus, Which comes to cheer the night!
O cheer - ing voice of Je - sus, Which comes to aid our strife!
O pa - tient love of Je - sus, Which drives a - way our doubt,



- It tells of ben - e - dic - tion, Of par - don, grace, and peace,
Our hearts were filled with sad - ness, And we had lost our way;
The foe is stern and ea - ger, The fight is fierce and long;
Which, though we be un - wor - thy Of love so great and free,



- Of joy that hath no end - ing, Of love that can - not cease.
But Thou hast brought us glad - ness And songs at break of day.
But Thou hast made us might - y And strong - er than the strong.
In - vites us ver - y sin - ners To come, dear Lord, to Thee!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98, alt.
Tune: Friedrich K. Anthes, 1812–after 1857
Text and tune: Public domain

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I 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)



Shout for joy to God, all the earth. Alle- | lua.*

Sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise! Alle- | lua.

Say to God, “How awesome | are your deeds!”*

So great is your power that your enemies come cringing | to you.”

Come and see what | God has done:*

he is awesome in his deeds toward the chil- | dren of man.

Bless our God, O | peoples;*

let the sound of his | praise be heard,

who has kept our soul among the | living*

and has not let our | feet slip.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*

and to the Holy | Spirit;

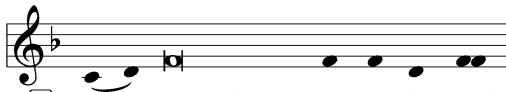
as it was in the be- | ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Shout for joy to God, all the earth. Alle- | lua.*

Sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise! Alle- | lua.

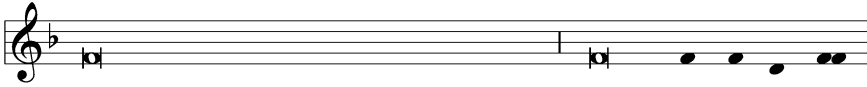
Kyrie



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



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.



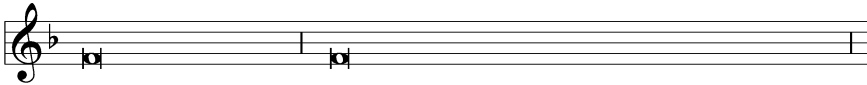
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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



C Lord, have mer - cy.



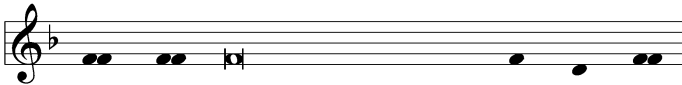
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



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



C A - men.

This Is the Feast

Refrain

C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

1 — Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
 4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
 5 For the Lamb who was slain has be -

blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*
 hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*
 gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*

Final Refrain

C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, You show those in error the light of Your truth so that they may return to the way of righteousness. Grant faithfulness to all who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's Church that they may avoid whatever is contrary to their confession and follow all such things as are pleasing to 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.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 40:25–31

- ²⁵To whom then will you compare me,
that I should be like him? says the Holy One.
- ²⁶Lift up your eyes on high and see:
who created these?
He who brings out their host by number,
calling them all by name,
by the greatness of his might,
and because he is strong in power
not one is missing.
- ²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,
“My way is hidden from the LORD,
and my right is disregarded by my God”?
- ²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.
- ²⁹He gives power to the faint,
and to him who has no might he increases strength.
- ³⁰Even youths shall faint and be weary,
and young men shall fall exhausted;
- ³¹but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;
they shall run and not be weary;
they shall walk and not faint.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

1 Peter 2:11–20

¹¹Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. ¹²Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation. ¹³Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, ¹⁴or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. ¹⁵For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. ¹⁶Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. ¹⁷Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

¹⁸Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust. ¹⁹For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. ²⁰For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God.

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

John 16:16–22

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the sixteenth chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹⁶[Jesus said:] “A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me.” ¹⁷So some of his disciples said to one another, “What is this that he says to us, ‘A little while, and you will not see me, and again a little while, and you will see me’; and, ‘because I am going to the Father?’” ¹⁸So they were saying, “What does he mean by ‘a little while’? We do not know what he is talking about.” ¹⁹Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, “Is this what you are asking yourselves, what I meant by saying, ‘A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me’? ²⁰Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your

sorrow will turn into joy. ²¹When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. ²²So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.”

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

#483 With High Delight Let Us Unite



1 With high de-light Let us u - nite In songs of great
2 True God, He first From death has burst Forth in - to life,
3 Let prais-es ring; Give thanks, and bring To Christ our Lord



ju - bi - la - tion. Ye pure in heart, All bear your part,
all sub-du - ing. His en - e - my Doth van - quished lie;
ad - o - ra - tion. His hon - or speed By word and deed



Sing Je - sus Christ, our sal - va - tion. To set us
His death has been death's un - do - ing. "And yours shall
To ev - 'ry land, ev - 'ry na - tion. So shall His



free For - ev - er, He Is ris'n and sends To all earth's
be Like vic - to - ry O'er death and grave," Saith He, who
love Give us a - bove, From mis - er - y And death set



ends Good news to save ev - 'ry na - tion.
gave His life for us, life re - new - ing.
free, All joy and full con - so - la - tion.

Text: Georg Vetter, 1536-99; tr. Martin H. Franzmann, 1907-76

Tune: Cinqante Pseaumes, 1543, Geneva

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Tune: Public domain

Sermon

Prayer of the Church

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

Rev. Raymond and Abigail Doubrava and unborn child (New Hope pastor)

Ralph Bauermeister, Donna Schumm

Joyce Schaper, Cameron Sprunger (nephew of Stan and Pat Meyer)

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)

We pray for our expectant mothers Reese Springer, Lilyan 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)

Norvin and Martha Bauermeister (Astral in Auburn)

We pray for our Church, School and all her workers -

Seminarians being Called to their Pastoral Vocation (Sem. Morgan Phillips)

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.



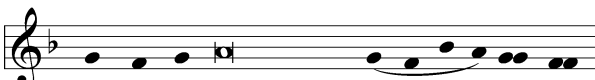
C And al - so with you.



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."

Distribution Hymns

#639 Wide Open Stand the Gates



1 Wide o - pen stand the gates a - dorned with pearl, While
 2 He speaks the Word the bread and wine to bless: "This
 3 The cher - u - bim, their fac - es veiled from light, While



round God's gold - en throne The choirs of saints in
 is My flesh and blood!" He bids us eat and
 saints in won - der kneel, Sing praise to Him whose



end - less cir - cles curl, And joy - ous praise the Son!
 drink with thank - ful - ness This gift of ho - ly food.
 face with glo - ry bright No earth - ly masks con - ceal.



They watch Him now de - scend - ing To vis - it wait - ing earth.
 All hu - man thought must fal - ter— Our God stoops low to heal,
 This sac - ra - ment God gives us Binds us in u - ni - ty,



The Lord of Life un - end - ing Brings dy - ing hope new birth!
 Now pres - ent on the al - tar, For us both host and meal!
 Joins earth with heav'n be - yond us, Time with e - ter - ni - ty!

Text: J. K. Wilhelm Loehe, 1808–72; tr. Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923–2007

Tune: Christlich Neu-vermehrt . . . Gesangbuch, 1663, Erfurt

Text: © 2002 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001711

Tune: Public domain

#462 All the Earth with Joy Is Sounding



1 All the earth with joy is sound - ing: Christ has ris - en
 2 Christ, the dev - il's might un - wind - ing, Leaves be - hind His
 3 Je - sus, au - thor of sal - va - tion, Shared in our hu -
 4 Praise the Lord, His reign com - menc - es, Reign of life and



from the dead! He, the great - er Jo - nah, bound - ing
 bor - rowed tomb. Strong - er He, the strong man bind - ing,
 man - i - ty; Crowned with ra - diant ex - al - ta - tion,
 lib - er - ty— Pas - chal Lamb, for our of - fens - es,



From the grave, His three - day bed, Wins the prize:
 Takes, dis - arms his house of doom; In the rout
 Now He shares His vic - to - ry! From His face
 Slain and raised to set us free! Ev - er - more



Death's de - mise— Songs of tri - umph fill the skies.
 Cast - ing out Pow'rs of dark - ness, sin, and doubt.
 Shines the grace Meant for all our fall - en race.
 Bow be - fore Christ, the Lord of Life a - dore!

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955

Tune: Herbert Howells, 1892-1983

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Tune: © 1968 Novello & Company Limited. Used by permission: Bethlehem Lutheran Church no. 201006277

#474 Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en! Trum - pets re -
 2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter Tell - ing the
 3 Je - sus the vine, We are the branch - es; Life in the
 4 Weep - ing, be gone; Sor - row, be si - lent: Death put a -
 5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er, Gold - en Je -



sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light! Splen - dor, the Lamb, Heav - en for -
 sto - ry to o - pen our eyes; Break - ing our bread, Giv - ing us
 Spir - it the fruit of the tree; Heav - en to earth, Christ to the
 sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright. Cher - u - bim sing: "O grave, be
 ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb, Riv - er of life, Saints and arch -



ev - er! Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!
 glo - ry: Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.
 peo - ple, Gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.
 o - pen!" Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.
 an - gels, Sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!

Refrain



Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise:



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, 1926–2009

Tune: David N. Johnson, 1922–87

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Tune: © 1968 Augsburg Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001711

#477 Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven



1 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Hearts to heav'n and voic - es raise:
2 Al - le - lu - ia, Christ is ris - en! Death at last has met de - feat:
△ 3 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ry be to God on high:



Sing to God a hymn of glad - ness, Sing to God a hymn of praise;
See the an - cient pow'rs of e - vil In con - fu - sion and re - treat;
Al - le - lu - ia to the Sav - ior Who has gained the vic - to - ry;



He who on the cross a vic - tim For the world's sal - va - tion bled—
Once He died, and once was bur - ied: Now He lives for - ev - er - more,
Al - le - lu - ia to the Spir - it, Fount of love and sanc - ti - ty!



Je - sus Christ, the King of Glo - ry, Now is ris - en from the dead.
Je - sus Christ, the world's Re - deem - er, Whom we wor - ship and a - dore.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia To the tri - une Maj - es - ty!

Text (sts. 1, 3): Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–85; (st. 2): rev. The Jubilate Group

Tune: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827; adapt. Edward Hodges, 1796–1867

Text (st. 2): © 1982 The Jubilate Group, admin. Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001711

Text (sts. 1, 3) 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.

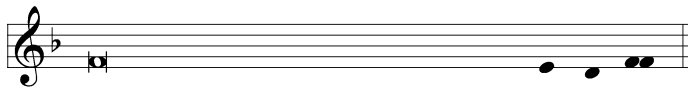
Post-Communion Collect

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

#646 Church of God, Elect and Glorious



1 Church of God, e - lect and glo - rious, Ho - ly
 2 God has called you out of dark - ness In - to
 3 Once you were an al - ien peo - ple, Strang - ers
 4 Church of God, e - lect and ho - ly, Be the



na - tion, cho - sen race; Called as God's own
 His most mar - v'lous light; Brought His truth to
 to God's heart of love; But He brought you
 peo - ple He in - tends; Strong in faith and



spe - cial peo - ple, Roy - al priests and heirs of
 life with - in you, Turned your blind - ness in - to
 home in mer - cy, Cit - i - zens of heav'n a -
 swift to an - swer Each com - mand your Mas - ter



grace: Know the pur - pose of your call - ing,
 sight. Let your light so shine a - round you
 ove. Let His love flow out to oth - ers,
 sends: Roy - al priests, ful - fill your call - ing



Show to all His might - y deeds; Tell of love that
 That God's name is glo - ri - fied And all find fresh
 Let them feel a Fa - ther's care; That they too may
 Through your sac - ri - fice and prayer; Give your lives in



knows no lim - its, Grace that meets all hu - man needs.
 hope and pur - pose In Christ Je - sus cru - ci - fied.
 know His wel - come And His count - less bless - ings share.
 joy - ful ser - vice— Sing His praise, His love de - clare.

Text: James Edward Seddon, 1915-83

Tune: Cyril V. Taylor, 1907-92

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Tune: © 1942, renewed 1970 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001711

IN HIS SERVICE

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Preaching | Rev. Samuel Wirgau |
| Celebrant | Rev. Anthony Dodgers |
| Fieldworkers | Sem. Brandon Streeks, Sem. Nolan Wolf |
| Deaconess | Wendy Boehm |
| Head Elder | Bruce Werling |
| Elders on Duty | Bruce Werling and Mike Schumm |
| Kantor | Richard Brinkley |
| Organist | Emilie Meyer |
| Acolytes | Alex Fuhrmann and Jude Wirgau |
| Crucifer | JT Holtzclaw |
| Altar Guild Chairman | Deann Oliver and Denise Schumm |
| Ushers | Josh Boehm, Ed Black, Aspen Fisher, Brandon Schumm Don Schueler, Graham Stoppenhagen, Coty Newnum, Jason Rekoweg |

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

| | | |
|------------------|-------------------|---|
| TODAY | 9:00 a.m. | Divine Service with Holy Communion |
| | 10:30 a.m. | Adult Bible Class and Sunday School |
| | 11:30 a.m. | Voter's Assembly Meeting |
| | 11:30 a.m. | Voice of Bethlehem (WZBD 92.7) |
| MONDAY | 6:30 p.m. | Handbell Choir Practice |
| WEDNESDAY | 10:00 a.m. | Chapel Service |
| | 5:30 p.m. | Adult Catechesis Class |
| | 7:00 p.m. | Spoken Divine Service |
| | 7:30 p.m. | Adult Choir Practice |
| THURSDAY | 5:00 p.m. | Endowment Committee Meeting |
| SUNDAY | 8:00 a.m. | WOB Meeting |
| | 9:00 a.m. | Divine Service with Holy Communion |
| | 10:30 a.m. | Adult Bible Class and 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!

VOTER'S ASSEMBLY MEETING – TODAY, APRIL 26TH AT 11:30 A.M.

Election for next year's church officers is on the agenda. Slate of candidates is posted to the bulletin boards.

SPECIAL SERVICES IN MAY - Please join us: Public Examination Service, Wednesday, May 13th at 7:00 p.m. Ascension Divine Service, Thursday, May 14th at 7:00 p.m. Confirmation Sunday, May 17th at 9:00 a.m.

A BIG THANK YOU to our Women of Bethlehem for cleaning the church. Wonderful job!

Concordia Seminary invites you to Kramer Chapel for Call Day

Tuesday, April 28th at 7:00 pm for second-year students receiving their vicarage and deaconess internship assignments, marking a significant step in their formation. (Sem. Brandon Streeks – Vicarage placement). Wednesday, April 29th at 7:00 pm for the graduating pastoral ministry students who learn where they have been called to serve as pastors. (Sem. Morgan Phillips – Pastoral) Both services will be livestreamed on CTSFW's Call Day service pages.

ATTENTION WOMEN OF BETHLEHEM – Please join us for our next meeting scheduled for Sunday, May 3rd at 8:00 a.m.

PAVILLION PROJECT – Church council is looking for a few volunteers to be on the aesthetic committee. This will be a short-term committee and will help in getting estimates on picnic tables and setting colors in place. If interested, please contact Neil Stoppenhagen.

SCHOOL BOOK FAIR - The purpose of the Bethlehem School Library is to supplement classroom learning and provide motivation for reading enjoyment. Visiting the school library helps students learn the basics of library use and etiquette. You can donate books from the Library and Classroom Library Teacher Wishlists with free "Ship-to-School" shipping. Browse requested books at: storyglorykids.org/blcs-wishlists Get your orders in TODAY.

Women of Bethlehem Book Club – The next book pick for summer reading is Rebellion 1776 by Laurie Halse Anderson and is also available through our current school online Book Fair.

<http://storyglorykids.org/bethlehem> Use promo code BETHLEHEM at checkout, which provides a 10% discount and earmarks 10% of sales for your school. A discussion date will be announced later.

WOMEN OF BETHLEHEM are invited to enjoy a time of fun and fellowship on Saturday May 9. Meet at the pavilion by Bluffton Hardee's at 9:00 am for a peaceful walk along the river greenway. At 10:00 we will head to Hughe's Bakery & Coffee Shop to enjoy delicious tea, coffee, and food. Please contact Lynae Laley to ask questions and sign up. 260-413-4891.

FOOD DRIVE –collection of non-perishable food items for the Concordia Seminary and Northern Wells Food Pantries will continue for another couple of weeks. Collection boxes are located in the church foyer. Please keep your donations coming! Thank you

The DC Group is once again having a **METAL RECYCLING DRIVE – NOW** till the end of May, a dumpster will be available at Jay Werling's house (4126 E 800 N Ossian) for any metal to be recycled. Aluminum cans are also welcome. Proceeds are to help the next group of students attend a class trip to Washington DC.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS – The theme for this year's VBS is "Created in Christ". June 8-11 Registration forms are available on the scrip table. For questions, please contact Deaconess Boehm,

SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL ENDOWMENT -Every year, our church and school are given a dollar amount to match by The Lutheran Foundation as we contribute to Bethlehem's Endowment. This current year, that amount is \$14,900. We have currently sent about \$9,000 to the Endowment. Our final contributions need to be in by June 1. We have met this match every year so far. Would you please consider donating to the Endowment as you are able? Every gift is a blessing to our students and every gift counts! Thank you for all your support!

SCRIP – Please be sure to check out our new scrip certificate order sheet and ordering dates posted on the bulletin board. Special orders are due May 17th. **For questions or for placing an order, please contact Jill Holtzclaw 260-301-1965 our current PTL representative.**

| <u>Offering April 19, 2026</u> | |
|--|---------------|
| <u>Average weekly need \$14,000</u> | |
| Home Fund Env. | \$9,061.21 |
| Synod | 50.00 |
| Loose | 1,381.52 |
| Scholarship Fund | |
| Sunday School | 2.50 |
| Improvement Fund | |
| Endowment Fund | 175.00 |
| Organ Fund | 99.47 |
| Music Fund | |
| Memorials | <u>360.00</u> |
| Total | \$11,129.70 |

| <u>Financial Report</u> | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Home Fund Balance | \$205.40 |
| Next week's bills due: | \$5,000 |
| Bills due two weeks: | \$15,000 |
| Savings Account Balance | \$68,610.08 |
| Borrowed from Savings: | \$13,378.81 |
| Operating Loan Balance | \$30,000 |
| Borrowed from Op Loan | \$0.00 |

| <u>Church Attendance</u> | |
|---------------------------------|---------|
| Sunday | 212/149 |
| Wednesday | 19/16 |



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, USA IT'S BOOK FAIR TIME!

Find wholesome, high-quality books for the entire family.
Enjoy 10% off your purchase, and 10% of sales will support BLCS.

BOOK FAIR HIGHLIGHTS:

- New and classic titles for Kindergarten to 8th Grade and Parents too!
- American History selections, in recognition of America's 250th anniversary this year
- Bibles, devotionals, and outstanding Christian fiction
- Family read-alouds for all ages

HOW TO SHOP:

- 1 Select Books Online**
April 19-26 at storyglorykids.org/bethlehem
- 2 Enter Student Details on the Cart Page**
Enter your student's name and homeroom teacher
- 3 Apply Promo Code**
Enter **BETHLEHEM** to receive 10% off and benefit your school
- 4 Choose Your Shipping Method on the Checkout Page**
Receive your order at school around May 11 by selecting **free "Ship-to-school"** shipping, OR receive books at home by selecting USPS Media Mail



Storyglory Kids Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization (EIN 33-2429105). To put more good books into the hands and hearts of children, visit storyglorykids.org/donate. All donations are tax-deductible to the extent of the law.

The House of Daily Bread

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer following
The Fourth Sunday of Easter



The people of God are pilgrims and sojourners in this world, looking ahead to a destination yet to come (1 Peter 2:11–20). Though we are now children of God, the fullness of what we shall be has not yet been revealed (1 John 3:1–3). We are those who wait on the Lord. “The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him” (Lam. 3:25). Jesus tells us that the wait is just a little while. “A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me” (John 16:16). Though you must experience sorrow for a time, though you must live as strangers in a world that is at enmity with Christ, yet your sorrow will be turned to joy when He returns. “But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength” (Is. 40:31). The little while of weeping shall be replaced with an eternity of rejoicing in the presence of Christ the crucified and risen Savior. “And no one will take your joy from you” (John 16:22).

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: "With High Delight Let Us Unite" LSB #483

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

The Catechism:

How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?

Certainly not just eating and drinking do these things, but the words written here: "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins."

These words, along with the bodily eating and drinking, are the main thing in the Sacrament. Whoever believes these words has exactly what they say: forgiveness of sins.

What is 1 John 1:7?

But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. 1

John 1:7

Psalm Ps 147:1-11 and/or the appointed daily Psalms listen below.

| Daily Psalm | Sun. | Mon. | Tues. | Wed. | Thu. | Fri. | Sat. |
|-------------|------|------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| A.M. | 33 | 35 | 37 | 40 | 42, 43 | 45 | 48, 49 |
| P.M. | 34 | 36 | 38 | 39, 41 | 44 | 46, 47 | 50 |

Daily Bible Reading

| | |
|-------|---|
| Mon. | Luke 24:1-12 - The Resurrection of Our Lord Leviticus 9:1-24 |
| Tues. | Luke 24:13-27 - The Disciples on the Road to Emmaus Leviticus 10:1-20 |
| Wed. | Luke 24:28-35 - Jesus Is Revealed in the Breaking of Bread Leviticus 16:1-24 |
| Thu. | Luke 24:33-49- Jesus Eats Broiled Fish in the Upper Room Leviticus 17:1-16 |
| Fri. | Luke 24:50-53- The Ascension Leviticus 18:1-7, 20-19:8 |
| Sat. | <i>Look ahead to Sunday's Readings</i> |

Prayers

Collect of the Day

Almighty God, You show those in error the light of Your truth so that they may return to the way of righteousness. Grant faithfulness to all who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's Church that they may avoid whatever is contrary to their confession and follow all such things as are pleasing to You; 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: Rev. Raymond and Abigail, Ralph, Donna, Joyce, Cameron, Amelia, James, Kenneth, Jenny, Dan, Grace, Hazel, Brinity, Brandon, Sandra **Expectant mothers:** Kaitlin, Reese, Lillyan, Jessica, Shelby, Grace; Kristin **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 Fifth Sunday of Easter

Old Testament: Isaiah 12:1-6 Epistle: James 1:16-21; Gospel: John 16:5-15; Hymns: 790; 556; 640; 811; 816; 813; 819