



Bethlehem Lutheran Church—William Penn
Founded 1860—Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
FEBRUARY 1, 2026
10:15 AM



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Robert Kettler

Wayne Klussmann

Acolyte

Michael Hinze

Greeter

Ann Koester

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 1, 2026 – 10:15 AM

Divine Service: Setting III with Holy Communion

Order of Service: *Lutheran Service Book, pp 184-202*

Pre-Service Music



February Bible Verse

Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.

Deuteronomy 31:6

Our Mission Statement

Representing God's Love to Our Congregation, Community, and the World!



COMMUNION STATEMENT

In Light of 1 Cor. 11:23-26, Bethlehem Lutheran Church maintains the historical practice of “closed” communion in the belief that the Sacrament requires faith in Christ's words that His body and blood are truly present. Furthermore, participation in the Sacrament is a sign of our unity in the faith with all those who join us at the altar. *For that reason, we ask that those visitors desiring to commune be members in good standing of a congregation of the LCMS and speak to the pastor or an elder before the beginning of the service.* Our denial of admission to those who are members of another confession is not a judgment upon their faith but a recognition that we hold to different confessions concerning God, salvation, and the Sacrament itself. Such individuals are invited to speak with the pastor following the service.

Ringling of the Church Bell

OPENING HYMN

Dearest Jesus, We Are Here

LSB 592



1	Dear - est	Je - sus,	we	are	here,	Glad - ly	Your com -
2	Your com - mand	is	clear	and	plain,	And	we would o -
3	There - fore	we	have	come	to You,	In	our arms this
4	Gra - cious Head,	Your	mem - ber	own;	Shep - herd,	take	Your
5	Now in - to	Your	heart	we	pour	Prayers	that from our



mand o - bey - ing; With this child we now draw near
bey it du - ly: "You must all be born a - gain,
in - fant bear - ing. Tru - ly here Your grace we view;
lamb and feed it; Prince of Peace, make here Your throne;
hearts pro - ceed - ed. Our pe - ti - tions heav'n - ward soar;



In re - sponse to Your own say - ing That to You it
Heart and life re - new - ing tru - ly, Born of wa - ter
May this child, Your mer - cy shar - ing, In Your arms be
Way of Life, to heav - en lead it; Pre - cious Vine, let
May our hearts' de - sires be heed - ed! Write the name we



shall be giv - en As a child and heir of heav - en.
and the Spir - it, And My king - dom thus in - her - it."
shield - ed ev - er, Yours on earth and Yours for - ev - er.
noth - ing sev - er From Your side this branch for - ev - er.
now have giv - en; Write it in the book of heav - en!

Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672–1737; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Tune: Johann Rudolph Ahle, 1625–73, alt. Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

INVOCATION

LSB 184

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

C Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

LSB 184

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Silence for reflection of God's Word and for self-examination.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I 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

INTROIT

Psalm 1:1-5; antiphon: v. 6

For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,

but the way of the wicked will perish.

Blessèd is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,

nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;

but his delight is in the law of the LORD,

and on his law he meditates day and night.

He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season,
and its leaf does not wither.

In all that he does, he prospers.

The wicked are not so,

but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,

nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning,


is now, and will be forever. Amen.

For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,


but the way of the wicked will perish.

GLORIA PATRI

LSB 186




C Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost;



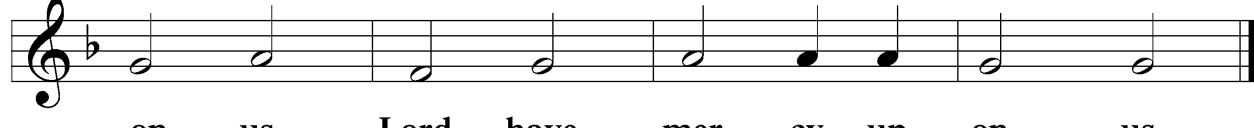
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

KYRIE

LSB 186



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




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

HYMN OF PRAISE


Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 187

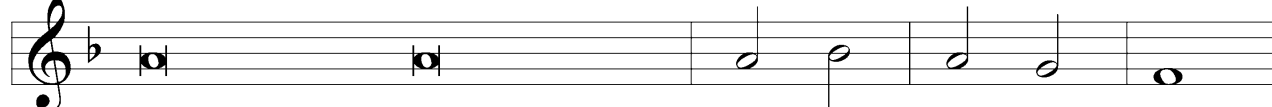
P Glory be to God on High,




C and on earth peace, good - will toward



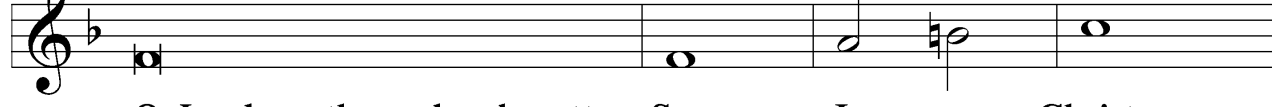
men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,



we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.



O Lord God, heav'n - ly King, God the Fa - ther Al - mighty.



O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
 that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.
 Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.
 Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-
 on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on-ly art the Lord.
 Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho-ly Ghost,
 art most high in the glory of God the Father. A-men.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

P Let us pray.

C Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

- ¹Hear what the LORD says:
 Arise, plead your case before the mountains,
 and let the hills hear your voice.
- ²Hear, you mountains, the indictment of the LORD,
 and you enduring foundations of the earth,
 for the LORD has an indictment against his people,
 and he will contend with Israel.
- ³“O my people, what have I done to you?
 How have I wearied you? Answer me!
- ⁴For I brought you up from the land of Egypt
 and redeemed you from the house of slavery,
 and I sent before you Moses,
 Aaron, and Miriam.
- ⁵O my people, remember what Balak king of Moab devised,
 and what Balaam the son of Beor answered him,
 and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
 that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”
- ⁶“With what shall I come before the LORD,
 and bow myself before God on high?
 Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
 with calves a year old?
- ⁷Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
 with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
 Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
 the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”
- ⁸He has told you, O man, what is good;
 and what does the LORD require of you
 but to do justice, and to love kindness,
 and to walk humbly with your God?

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Praise the LORD, all nations!
Extol him, all peoples!
For great is his steadfast love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.
Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
bring an offering, and come into his courts!

EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

¹⁸The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

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

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

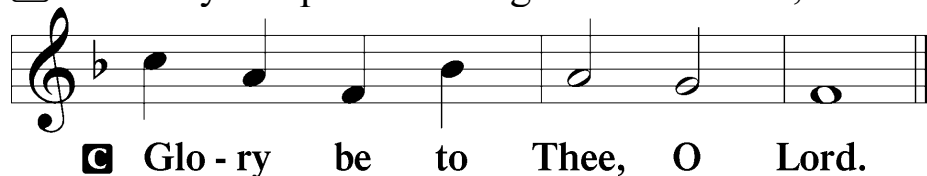
Stand



HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 5:1-12

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.



¹Seeing the crowds, [Jesus] went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

²And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

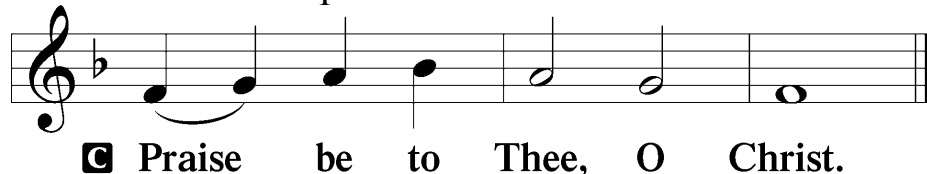
⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**☩ I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.**

HYMN OF THE DAY

Son of God, Eternal Savior

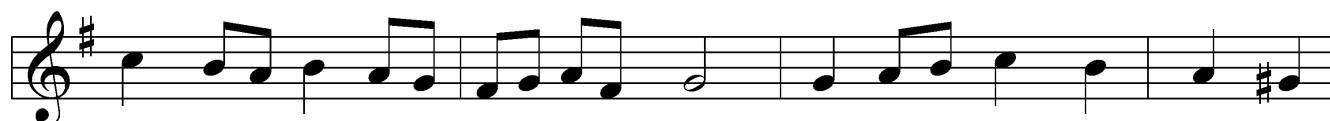
LSB 842



1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, Source of life and
 2 As You, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, So may we for
 3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and
 4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, Source of life and



truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us
 oth - ers live. Free - ly have Your gifts been grant - ed;
 Prince of Peace; Hush the storm of strife and pas - sion,
 truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us



Hal - lows all our hu - man race, You our Head, who, throned in
 Free-ly may Your ser - vants give. Yours the gold and Yours the
 Bid its cru - el dis - cords cease. By Your pa - tient years of
 Hal - lows all our hu - man race: By Your pray - ing, by Your



glo - ry, For Your own will ev - er plead: Fill us with Your
 sil - ver, Yours the wealth of land and sea; We but stew - ards
 toil - ing, By Your si - lent hours of pain, Quench our fe - vered
 will - ing That Your peo - ple should be one, Grant, O grant our



love and pit - y, Heal our wrongs, and help our need.
 of Your boun - ty Held in sol - emn trust will be.
 thirst of plea - sure, Stem our self - ish greed of gain.
 hope's fru - i - tion: Here on earth Your will be done.

Text: Somerset T. C. Lowry, 1855–1932, alt. Tune: Oude en Nieuwe Hollantse . . . Contradanseu, c. 1710, Amsterdam. Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

There, I Said It. Now I'm Done.

Micah 6:1-8

Stand

OFFERTORY

LSB 192



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

Sit

OFFERING

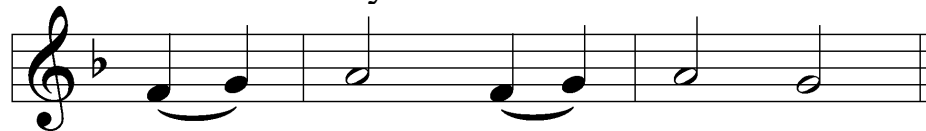
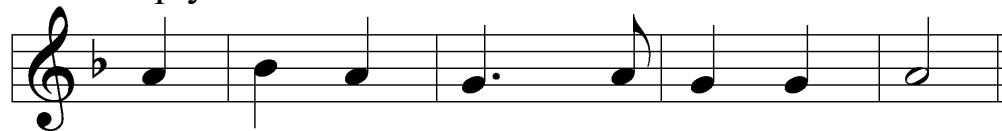
Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

LSB 194

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 unto the Lord our God.



C It is meet and right so to do.

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing

SANCTUS

LSB 195



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,



bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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

LSB 197

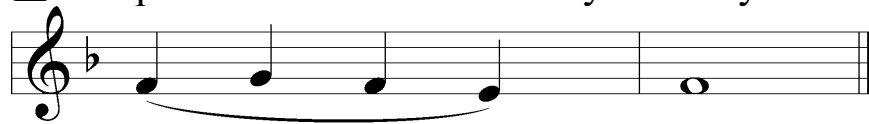
P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and
 when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said:
 "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in
 remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given
 thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the
 new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of
 sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI

LSB 197

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.



C A - men.

AGNUS DEI

LSB 198



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.

Sit

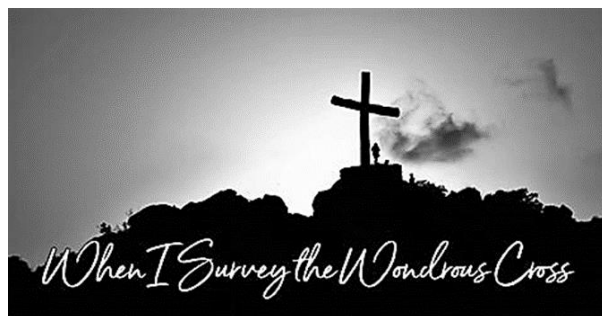
DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

LSB 425

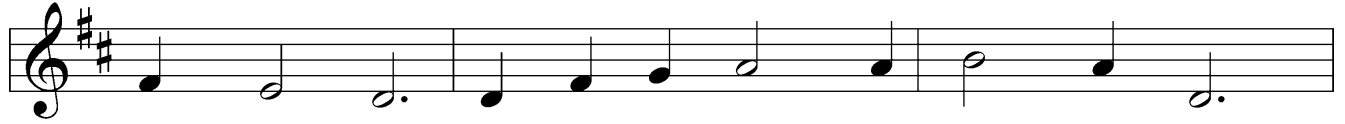
1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross On which the
 2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast Save in the
 3 See, from His head, His hands, His feet Sor - row and
 4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, That were a
 Prince of Glo - ry died, My rich - est gain I
 death of Christ, my God; All the vain things that
 love flow min - gled down! Did e'er such love and
 trib - ute far too small; Love so a - maz - ing,
 count but loss And pour con - tempt on all my pride.
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to His blood.
 sor - row meet Or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
 so di - vine, De - mands my soul, my life, my all!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748. Tune: Lowell Mason, 1792–1872. Text and tune: Public domain





1 Je - sus, Thy bound - less love to me No thought can reach, no
 2 O grant that noth - ing in my soul May dwell, but Thy pure
 3 This love un - wea - ried I pur - sue And daunt - less - ly to
 4 In suf - f'ring be Thy love my peace, In weak - ness be Thy



tongue de - clare; U - nite my thank - ful heart to Thee,
 love a - lone; Oh, may Thy love pos - sess me whole,
 Thee as - pire. Oh, may Thy love my hope re - new,
 love my pow'r; And when the storms of life shall cease,



And reign with - out a ri - val there! Thine whol - ly, Thine a -
 My joy, my trea - sure, and my crown! All cold - ness from my
 Burn in my soul like heav'n - ly fire! And day and night, be
 O Je - sus, in that fi - nal hour, Be Thou my rod and



lone I am; Be Thou a - lone my con - stant flame.
 heart re - move; My ev - 'ry act, word, thought be love.
 all my care To guard this sa - cred trea - sure there.
 staff and guide, And draw me safe - ly to Thy side!

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. John B. Wesley, 1703–91, alt. Tune: Norman Cocker, 1889–1953. Text: Public domain. Tune: © Oxford University Press.
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1 Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive; Oh, may all this
 2 We de - serve but grief and shame, Yet His words, rich
 3 Sheep that from the fold did stray No true shep - herd
 4 I, a sin - ner, come to Thee With a pen - i -



say - ing pon - der Who in sin's de - lu - sions live
 grace re - veal - ing, Par - don, peace, and life pro - claim;
 e'er for - sak - eth; Wea - ry souls that lost their way
 tent con - fes - sion. Sav - ior, mer - cy show to me;



And from God and heav - en wan - der! Here is hope for
 Here our ills have per - fect heal - ing. Firm - ly in these
 Christ, the Shep - herd, gent - ly tak - eth In His arms that
 Grant for all my sins re - mis - sion. Let these words my



all who grieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.
 words be - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.
 they may live: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.
 soul re - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.

- 5 Oh, how blest it is to know:
 Were as scarlet my transgression,
 It shall be as white as snow
 By Thy blood and bitter passion;
 For these words I now believe:
 Jesus sinners doth receive.
- 6 Now my conscience is at peace;
 From the Law I stand acquitted.
 Christ hath purchased my release
 And my ev'ry sin remitted.
 Naught remains my soul to grieve:
 Jesus sinners doth receive.
- 7 Jesus sinners doth receive;
 Also I have been forgiven;
 And when I this earth must leave,
 I shall find an open heaven.
 Dying, still to Him I cleave:
 Jesus sinners doth receive.



1 By grace I'm saved, grace free and bound-less; My soul, be-lieve and
 2 By grace! None dare lay claim to mer - it; Our works and con - duct
 3 By grace God's Son, our on - ly Sav - ior, Came down to earth to
 4 By grace! This ground of faith is cer - tain; As long as God is



doubt it not. Why stag - ger at this word of prom - ise?
 have no worth. God in His love sent our Re - deem - er,
 bear our sin. Was it be - cause of your own mer - it
 true, it stands. What saints have penned by in - spi - ra - tion,



Has Scrip - ture ev - er false - hood taught? No! Then this word must
 Christ Je - sus, to this sin - ful earth; His death did for our
 That Je - sus died your soul to win? No, it was grace, and
 What in His Word our God com - mands, Our faith in what our



true re - main: By grace you too will life ob - tain.
 sins a - tone, And we are saved by grace a - lone.
 grace a - lone, That brought Him from His heav'n - ly throne.
 God has done De - pends on grace— grace through His Son.

5 By grace to timid hearts that tremble,
 In tribulation's furnace tried,
 By grace, in spite of fear and trouble,
 The Father's heart is open wide.
 Where could I help and strength secure
 If grace were not my anchor sure?

6 By grace! On this I'll rest when dying;
 In Jesus' promise I rejoice;
 For though I know my heart's condition,
 I also know my Savior's voice.
 My heart is glad, all grief has flown
 Since I am saved by grace alone.

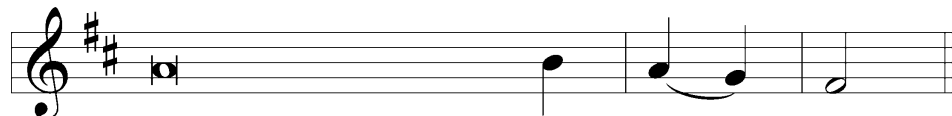
NUNC DIMITTIS

LSB 199

C 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. 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

LSB 200

P O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,


C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

P 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 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 Amen.

SALUTATION AND BENEDICAMUS

LSB 201

P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

P Bless we the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

LSB 202

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, a-men, a - men.

Sit

CLOSING HYMN

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

LSB 427



1 In	the	cross	of	Christ	I	glo - ry,	Tow'r - ing
2 When	the	woes	of	life	o'er -	take me,	Hopes de -
3 When	the	sun	of	bliss	is	beam - ing	Light and
4 Bane	and	bless -	ing,	pain	and	plea - sure	By the



o'er	the	wrecks	of	time.	All	the	light	of	sa - cred
ceive,	and	fears	an -	noy,	Nev -	er	shall	the	cross for -
love	up -	on	my	way,	From	the	cross	the	ra - diance
cross	are	sanc -	ti -	fied;	Peace	is	there	that	knows no



sto -	ry	Gath -	ers	round	its	head	sub -	lime.
sake	me;	Lo,	it	glows	with	peace	and	joy.
stream -	ing	Adds	more	lus -	ter	to	the	day.
mea -	sure,	Joys	that	through	all	time	a -	bide.



POSTLUDE

Welcome to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, where we worship in the name of the crucified and risen Lamb of God, Jesus Christ our Lord. Blessings to you as you worship with us today.



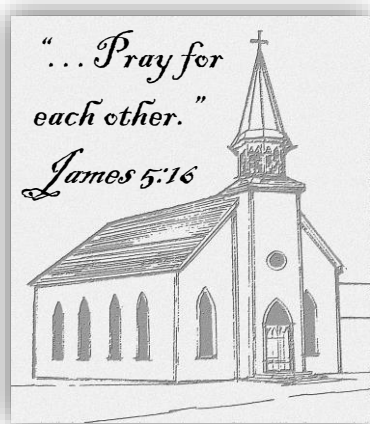
Congregation: Prayers for healing for Lillian Hayden from knee surgery; for Edith Erwin recovery and healing from surgery; for Tom Hayden's recovery after surgery and continued healing; for Becky Lueckemeyer recovery; for Adeline Platt's health; for health and

healing for Lathel Norris; and Deloris Griffin; for our shut-in members: Renee Brinkmann, Mildred Holle, Lathel Norris, Elvera Schroeder, and others who are unable to come to church.

Community: for Grace Lutheran School, that they may continue to be a place for the children of our community and congregation to learn and grow in their faith and knowledge of God's world; may our Lord continue to deliver to us favorable weather; for Brenham Pregnancy Center and those whose lives they touched; Faith Mission; families and individuals cared for by Child Protective Services.

World: for all those suffering through war, may God watch over and protect His children, and by His Holy Spirit, may they all come to know Christ as their Savior and thus enjoy eternity with Him, for those who have been led astray into false belief; for those facing crisis pregnancies, that they would find the strength to choose life for their unborn child; for the leaders of the nations, that they would make godly decisions for their people and countries.

Bethlehem at Prayer



Prayer is a vital part of our life together in Christ. To that end, *Bethlehem at Prayer* is a means to encourage more intentional prayer for one another. This is an opportunity for us to support one another in faith, lifting up each household by name before our gracious God. While members can always request prayers at any time, this effort ensures that every family at Bethlehem is prayed for regularly. We invite you to join us in encouragement and intercession, praying for our brothers and sisters in Christ each week.

Please remember these families in your prayers this week:

- Ashorn – Brian, Heather, Blane, Weston
- Ashorn – Jason, Wendy, Kaisen
- Hinze – Tyler, Michael, Taylor
- Hinze - Lester
- Meyers - Charles
- Minar – Billy, Lenice

May the Lord bless and strengthen them in faith and life.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Week's Schedule February 1 – 8



Today: ***Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany***
9:00 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Class
9:00 AM Youth League Meeting
10:15 AM Divine Worship: Setting III with Communion

Acolyte: Michael Hinze

Greeter: Ann Koester

Ushers: JR Kettler

Michael Kettler

Robert Kettler

Wayne Klussmann



Tuesday:
7:00 PM LWML Social
7:30 PM LWML Meeting



Wednesday:
4:30 PM Confirmation Class 7th/8th Grades



Thursday:
6:00 PM Elder's Meeting



6:30 PM Ladies Bible Study



Saturday:

7:30 AM

Men's Club Breakfast & Bible Study



Next Sunday: *Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany*

9:00 AM

Sunday School & Adult Bible Class

10:15 AM

Divine Worship: Setting III

Acolyte: Norman Krieg

Greeter: Jennifer Krieg

Ushers: Caleb Klussmann Corey Klussmann
Don Koester Valgene Kohring

Serving in February: Elder – Brad Molitor/Trustee – Robert Kettler

If you have a question or thought concerning spiritual care or the church property, please contact the appropriate elder or trustee.



The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God in celebration of Brad and Tricia Molitor's 21st anniversary.

3rd Annual Quiz Night to Support the Youth League

Summer Trip

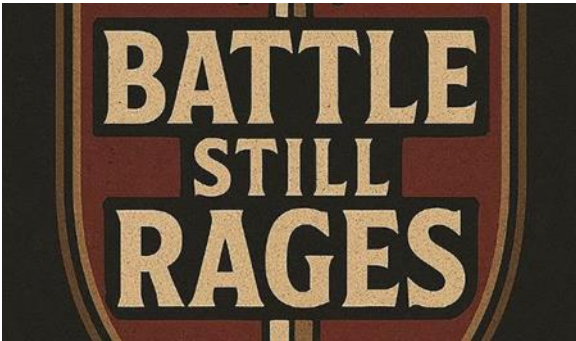


The Bethlehem Lutheran Church Youth League, in conjunction with the Grace Lutheran Church Youth League of Brenham, would like to invite you to the **3rd Annual Quiz Night on Friday, February 20th, at the Sons of Hermann hall in Brenham, from 5:30 to 9:00 pm.** The evening consists of 10 rounds of trivia. Questions are answered by teams, and after each round, team standings are announced. Each team consists of six members; please RSVP to Pastor Krieg pastorkrieg@bethlehemwmpenn.org with your team by February 15th. Each round will have a different focus to test your overall trivia knowledge. Prizes are awarded to the winners throughout the night. At the end of the evening, a Quiz Night Champion is crowned. Will your team be proven the smartest in Washington County? Will the trophy stay here at Bethlehem or will Grace take it home? Sign up to find out!



Soup for the Group Fundraiser – February 8

Please join us after church **this Sunday, February 8**, for *Soup for the Group*, a fundraiser hosted by our Youth League. Warm up with a bowl of homemade tortilla soup and enjoy fellowship while supporting our youth and their upcoming activities. The price of \$10.00 per bowl will go directly to the Youth League. Come hungry, stay awhile, or take a bowl to go, and help encourage our young people in Christ!



Spotlight On Life 2026: The Battle Still Rages

Join us for our fourth annual Spotlight On Life. Politics and technology have shifted the focus of protecting the unborn from the national stage to individual states and from abortion clinics to homes. We will explore how this affects the pro-life efforts.

Speakers: Rev. Dr. Aric Fenske (Director, Lutherans For Life)

Pastor Robert Paul (Memorial Lutheran Church, Houston)

Pastor Michael Salemink (Assistant Professor of Pastoral Ministry
And Missions, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne)

Mrs. Carol Tobias (President, National Right To Life, Washington, DC)

Pastor Laurence White (Our Savior Lutheran Church, Houston)

Freewill Event for **February 21, 2026**

8:30 AM Check-in • 4:30 PM Wrap-up

Light Breakfast • Intriguing Speakers • Delicious Lunch • Round Table
Q&A • Sanctuary & Bell Tower Tour (optional)

Our Savior Lutheran Church
5000 W. Tidwell Rd.
Houston, TX 77091

Register here: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/spotlight-on-life-2026-the-battle-still-rages>



FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR

The 2026 Flower Chart is posted in the Parish Hall foyer. Please sign up for special occasions such as anniversaries, birthdays, or other remembrances. The church secretary will remind you of your upcoming commitment via email or phone call. The Bethlehem LWML appreciates your support.



The LWML social and meeting for **February** will be held **this Tuesday the 3rd starting at 7:00 PM**. The theme is “A Heartful Gift”. Please bring a small item to play the left and right game. All the ladies of the congregation are invited to attend.



The Men's Club will hold their monthly Breakfast and Bible Study Meeting **this Saturday at 7:30 AM**.

A background graphic for the New Members Class featuring a soft, painterly sky with warm orange and yellow tones at the bottom, transitioning into a cooler blue and grey at the top.

NEW MEMBERS
CLASS

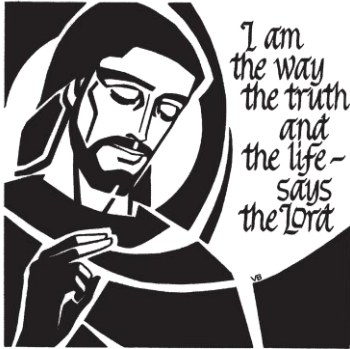
Our adult information class covers the most important teachings of the Bible as they are believed, taught, and confessed here at Bethlehem. It is designed for anyone considering membership, new members, and any member of the congregation who would like a thorough review of basic Biblical doctrine. Mark your calendar and plan to join us **beginning Monday February 9th from 6:00 to 7:30 PM**. Classes run weekly for 10-12 sessions.



February 1 (Epiphany 4) – Tragically there are many people who do in fact sacrifice the fruit of their bodies for the sins of their soul (Micah 6:7), killing their own children to undo or cover up

the sinful choices they've made. How foolish is the so-called "wisdom" of the world (1 Corinthians 1) that calls death life! And though the Lord could rightly bring an indictment against His people for this evil (Micah 6:2), He instead shames the "strong" and "wise" among us by sacrificing His only begotten Son to cover the sins of the entire world (1 Corinthians 1:27-28). In Christ crucified, all who believe will inherit the kingdom of heaven, and those who mourn the wanton destruction of life will be comforted forevermore (Matthew 5:3-4).

Sunday School Corner



In our Winter unit, we continue our study of the New Testament, beginning with the account of Mary and Martha and continuing through Jesus appearing to Thomas. This morning, the kids studied the lesson "The Kingdom of Children – Jesus Blesses the Children." The disciples try to prevent the people from bringing their children to Jesus. Jesus rebukes the disciples and draws the children near to Himself, using a child as an example of how believers receive the

kingdom of God. To reinforce this lesson with your kids, as a family, discuss: What did Jesus do for the children in Mark 10:16? How does Jesus do the same for us? What would it feel like to get a hug from Jesus? Is Jesus saying we should always be children and not grow up? If you were holding a baby, what song would you sing to teach him or her about Jesus? Which song do you like to sing to remind you about how much Jesus loves you? Also, parents, you can join Pastor Krieg in the adult Sunday School class. See you next week!

High School Lesson

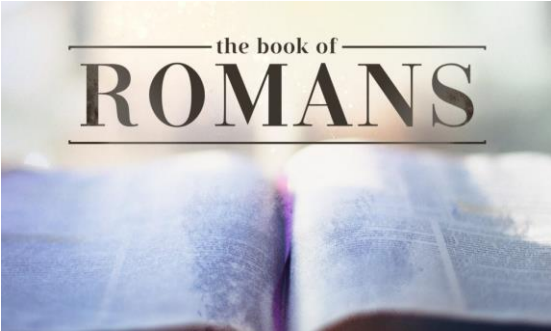
Our High School Sunday School class is beginning a new study series using Not-So-Nice Bible Stories: Master Criminals. In this engaging and thought-provoking study, students will explore the stories of some of Scripture's most notorious wrongdoers, and discover how God's mercy and grace still shine through even the darkest human deeds. Each lesson points us to Christ, who took the punishment for all sin upon Himself and gives us forgiveness, life, and salvation. Join us as we dig into God's Word, wrestle with tough questions, and see how even "master criminals" reveal our need for the one true Savior, Jesus Christ.

Lesson 8 – What's Yours Is Mine (2 Samuel 11-12)

In this week's lesson, our High School class explored King David's sin with Bathsheba and the murder of Uriah in "What's Yours Is Mine." Students confronted how power, desire, and self-justification led David to take what was not his and to cover sin with even greater sin. Through Nathan's confrontation, we saw how God's

Law exposes the heart and calls sin what it is. Yet this account does not end in despair. We also discussed how God's mercy met David in repentance and forgiveness, pointing us to Christ, the true King, who took our guilt upon Himself and restores sinners through His grace.

Adult Sunday School Lesson



St. Paul's letter to the Romans is often called the "chief part of the New Testament." Romans clearly lays out the heart of the Christian faith: we are justified by grace alone through faith alone on account of Christ alone. In this rich epistle, Paul teaches on sin and righteousness, law and Gospel, baptism, the struggle against the old Adam, and life lived in the freedom of the Gospel. Whether you've

been attending or have yet to join us, this is a wonderful time to dig into God's Word together and grow in our understanding of His mercy in Christ. Come and be strengthened in the faith that saves and learn how the Gospel shapes our daily lives. We look forward to studying this treasure of Scripture with you! If you could not attend today, please join us next Sunday during the Adult Bible Study hour before church, starting at 9 a.m. Now is the time to commit yourself to a deeper and more meaningful understanding of God's Word and your relationship with Him. I hope to see you all next Sunday as we continue our studies.



Online Giving

You may give tithes and offerings online by clicking the "Give" tab on our website (<https://www.bethlehemwmpenn.org/>), or just scan the QR code to the left.



Voter's Meeting Summary

The Voters had their quarterly meeting on Wednesday, January 28, 2026. The following items were approved:

1. To send a check of \$350.00 to St. Paul Lutheran Church Hand Bell Choir in honor of Diane Gillespie for auditing our church and Sunday School financial records.
2. To purchase an office safe for \$1,000.00 for Church documents.
3. To increase the Trustees spending limit to \$1,000.00 per incident.

The Voters did not approve the time change of week day services. The services will still be at 7:00 PM.

The Board of Missions is in discussion for setting up a scholarship fund for congregational students who attend an LCMS church school or university. More information will be available at a later date.

