

Welcome to  
**Bethlehem Lutheran Church**

*Loving God, Serving Other*  
**Reformation Sunday**  
**October 27, 2024**



By the end of the seventeenth century, many Lutheran churches celebrated a festival commemorating Martin Luther's posting of the Ninety-five Theses, a summary of abuses in the church of his time. At the heart of the reform movement was the gospel, the good news that it is by grace through faith that we are justified and set free.

**Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**1915 N First St, DeKalb IL 60115**  
**(815) 758-3203**  
**Rev. Bob Hansen**  
**Michael Graddy, Musician**

## GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.  
**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God,  
**have mercy on us.**  
**We confess that we have honored you with our lips,**  
**but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues.**  
**The cravings at war within us**  
**cause conflicts and disputes.**  
**In our desire to be first**  
**we make distinctions among ourselves.**  
**We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last.**  
**In your great mercy, forgive us our sins.**  
**Draw near to us with grace in time of need,**  
**and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ,**  
**our Savior and Lord.**  
**Amen.**

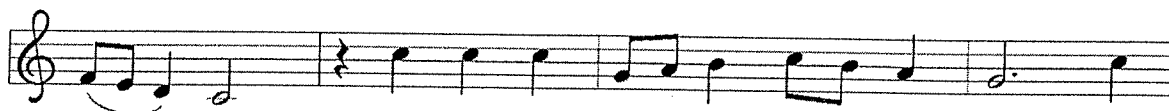
God promises to forgive our iniquity  
and to remember our sin no more.  
By grace you have been saved.  
In the name of † Jesus Christ,  
the source of eternal healing,  
your sins are forgiven.  
**Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN ELW 504

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -  
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -  
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -  
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and  
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom  
 your us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they  
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe  
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?  
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;  
 weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might  
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,  
 in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;  
 goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,



he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.  
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.  
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.  
 they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
 Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther  
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
And the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
And also with you.

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.  
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.  
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:  
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;  
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.  
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.  
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.  
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Eternal light, shine in our hearts. Eternal wisdom, scatter the darkness of our ignorance. Eternal compassion, have mercy on us. Turn us to seek your face, and enable us to reflect your goodness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **WORD**

God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching, and song.

### **First Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-9**

<sup>7</sup>Thus says the Lord:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,  
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;  
proclaim, give praise, and say,  
“Save, O Lord, your people,  
the remnant of Israel.”

<sup>8</sup>See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,  
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,  
among them the blind and the lame,  
those with child and those in labor, together;  
a great company, they shall return here.

<sup>9</sup>With weeping they shall come,  
and with consolations I will lead them back,  
I will let them walk by brooks of water,  
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;  
for I have become a father to Israel,  
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

## Psalm: Psalm 126

<sup>1</sup> When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,  
then were we like those who dream.

<sup>2</sup> **Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.  
Then they said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things  
for them."**

<sup>3</sup> The Lord has done great things for us,  
and we are glad indeed.

<sup>4</sup> **Restore our fortunes, O Lord,  
like the watercourses of the Negeb.**

<sup>5</sup> Those who sowed with tears  
will reap with songs of joy.

<sup>6</sup> **Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,  
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

## Second Reading: Hebrews 7:23-28

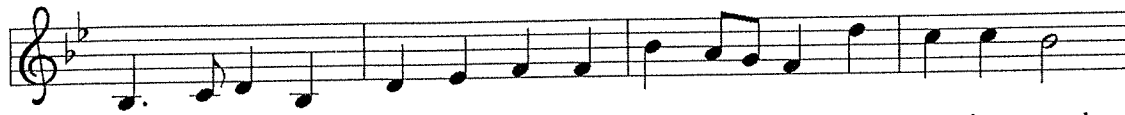
<sup>23</sup> The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office; <sup>24</sup> but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. <sup>25</sup> Consequently he is able for all time to save those who approach God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

<sup>26</sup> For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. <sup>27</sup> Unlike the other high priests, he has no need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for those of the people; this he did once for all when he offered himself. <sup>28</sup> For the law appoints as high priests those who are subject to weakness, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.

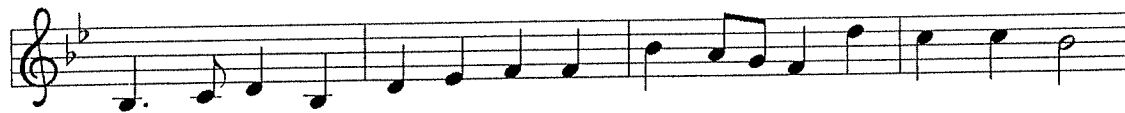
Word of God, Word of Life

**Thanks be to God!**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

The gospel according to Mark.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

### **Gospel: Mark 10:46-52**

<sup>46</sup>As [Jesus] and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. <sup>47</sup>When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” <sup>48</sup>Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” <sup>49</sup>Jesus stood still and said, “Call him here.” And they called the blind man, saying to him, “Take heart; get up, he is calling you.” <sup>50</sup>So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. <sup>51</sup>Then Jesus said to him, “What do you want me to do for you?” The blind man said to him, “My teacher, let me see again.” <sup>52</sup>Jesus said to him, “Go; your faith has made you well.” Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

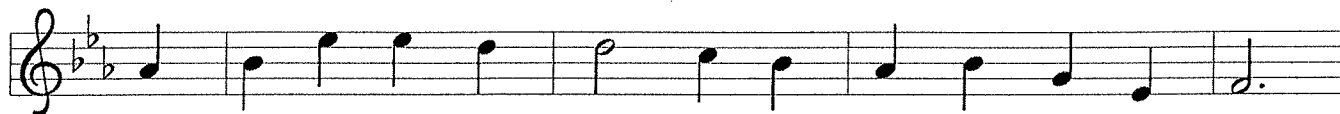
**MESSAGE**

**REV. BOB HANSEN**

## The Church's One Foundation



1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;  
2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,  
3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,  
4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war,  
5 Yet she on earth has u - nion with God, the Three in One,



she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.  
her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth:  
by schisms . . rent a - sund - er, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,  
she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;  
and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.



From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;  
one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,  
yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"  
till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,  
Oh, bless - ed heav'n - ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by your grace,



with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.  
and to one hope she press - es with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.  
and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.  
and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.  
that we, like saints be - fore us, may see you face to face.

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839-1900  
Music: AURELIA, Samuel S. Wesley, 1810-1876



## APOSTLE'S CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Challenged by God's Word in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and the whole creation.

*A brief silence.*

Eternal Counselor, guide the church along your paths of mercy. Direct it to be a refuge where all are genuinely welcomed and their gifts are celebrated. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Eternal Nurturer, preserve natural places for rest and rejuvenation. Guide the work of conservationists, park managers, urban planners, gardeners, and all caretakers of natural spaces. Attune us to the wonders we disregard or fail to notice. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Eternal Wisdom, strengthen the voices of those who cry out for change to unjust systems. Give lawmakers, judges, and all those who occupy seats of power listening and compassionate hearts. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Eternal Compassion, train us to respond to the cries of those in any kind of need. Give encouragement and comfort to those who call out for relief from pain, grief, or oppression.

God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Eternal Servant, grant vision and wisdom to the church so that those who are in need are not ignored. May the command of Jesus to love our neighbor sharpen our focus for work in the kingdom. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Eternal Hope, may the legacy of the saints inspire us every day. We hold fast to the promise that we will be together in your presence forever. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in the saving grace you freely give, both now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## **MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Blessed are you, O God,  
source of every gift of your creation.  
By these gifts and with our lives,  
help us to serve one another and all in need,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

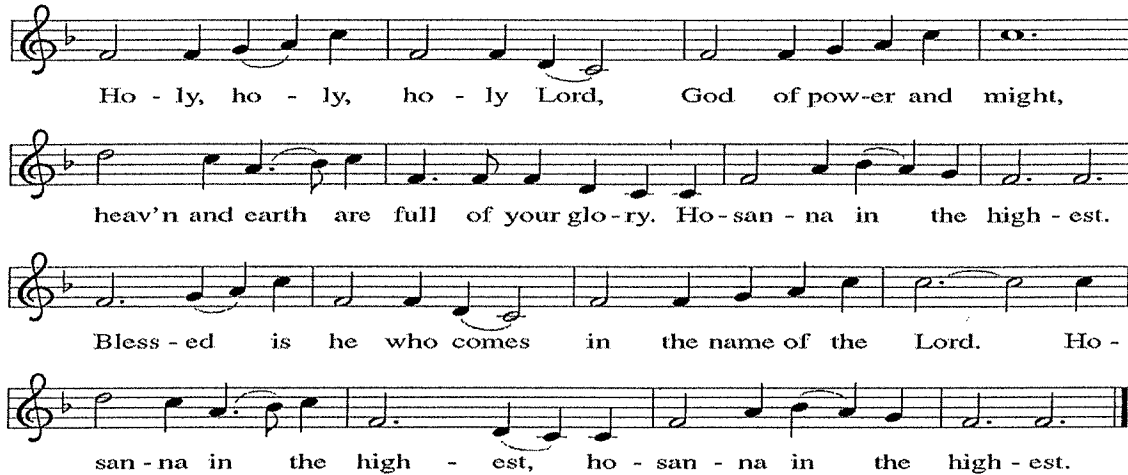
The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise.....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

### *Words of Institution*

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

O God of resurrection and new life:  
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
Bless this feast.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.  
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.  
Breathe new life into us.  
Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

With your holy ones of all time and place, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## CONSECRATION

### LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,

As we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
And lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus welcomes you to this table.  
Come, here is your God.



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

## COMMUNION BLESSING

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy God,  
you have welcomed us to this meal  
and fed us with dignity at your table.  
Send us now to welcome others  
and to be at peace with one another,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in his mission to the world.*

### BLESSING

God all mighty,  
God most merciful  
✠ bless you, keep you,  
and give you peace.  
**Amen.**

SENDING HYMN (see page 14)

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow Jesus.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Listen, God Is Calling  
*Neno lake Mungu*

*Refrain*  
 Leader All

Ne - no, ne - no la - ke Mu - ngu la - ku - i - ta we - we,  
 Lis - ten, lis - ten, God is call - ing, through the Word in - vit - ing,

ne - no la wo - ko - vu, te - na je - ma. ma.  
 of - fer - ing for - give - ness, com - fort, and joy. joy.

Leader All

Ye - su a - li - se - ma, Mka - hu - bi - ri.  
 1 Je - sus gave his man - date: share the good news  
 2 Let none be for - got - ten through - out the world.  
 3 Help us to be faith - ful, stand - ing stead - fast,

Leader All *Refrain*

Ne - no la - ke Mu - ngu la wo - ko - vu.  
 that he came to save us and set us free.  
 In the tri - une name of God go and bap - tize.  
 walk - ing in your pre - cepts, led by your Word.

Text: Tanzanian traditional; tr. Howard S. Olson, b. 1922  
 Music: NENO LAKE MUNGU, Tanzanian tune  
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## The Week Ahead

### October 28 – November 3

Monday	12:30-Cut-Ups
Tuesday	3-5—Feed My Sheep Open 7:30-9:00-Harmonessence
Wednesday	10:30-Pantry Pick up Noon—VAC Lunch Served
Thursday	8:30—Pantry Pick up 9:30-11:30 Feed My Sheep Open 10:30-Martha's Sisters Book Study (Zoom)
Saturday	8:30/9:30—Pantry Pick up 10-2-Makers & Bakers Holiday Market Daylight Savings Ends—Fall Back those clocks!
Next Sunday	All Saints Sunday—9:30-Worship

*Our offering plate is located at the rear of the sanctuary.  
We give thanks to God for all of our gifts!*

## *Pastor Schedule for November*

**3-Pastor Sharon Rogers  
10-Pastor Bob Hansen  
17-Pastor Bob Hansen  
24-Pastor Sharon Rogers**

**If you are in need of pastoral care,  
please contact the office at 815-758-3203.**

### **Bethlehem's Church Council Communications**

- ◆ Sunday Worship Music Coordinator is Michael Graddy.
- ◆ Thank you to our Volunteers who share their time and talent.
- ◆ Office Hours are Monday, Wednesday & Thursday 8:00am to 1:00pm.
- ◆ Office needs are served by Barb Luchsinger under the supervision of Sue Ann Brown.
- ◆ Sue Ann Brown is our Finance Administrator under the supervision of Aaron Bloyd.
- ◆ Feed My Sheep Pantry Hours are Tuesday 3:00pm to 5:00pm &  
Thursday 9:30am to 11:30am.
- ◆ The Feed My Sheep Food Pantry coordinator is Karen Maciejewski under the  
supervision of SueAnn Brown.
- ◆ Club 55 Senior Services Hours are Monday through Friday 9:00am to 4:30pm.
- ◆ Kate Sullivan is the Club 55 Coordinator with SueAnn Brown as the Bethlehem  
liaison.
- ◆ Facility maintenance, key control or other building concerns are managed by Church  
Council.
  
- ◆ Church Council Members:
  - Aaron Bloyd
  - Tammie Farley
  - Dawn George
  - Bill Perian
  - Andy Velez.
  
- ◆ Questions?? Please call the Church Office at 815-758-3203 to leave a message for a  
Council Member.