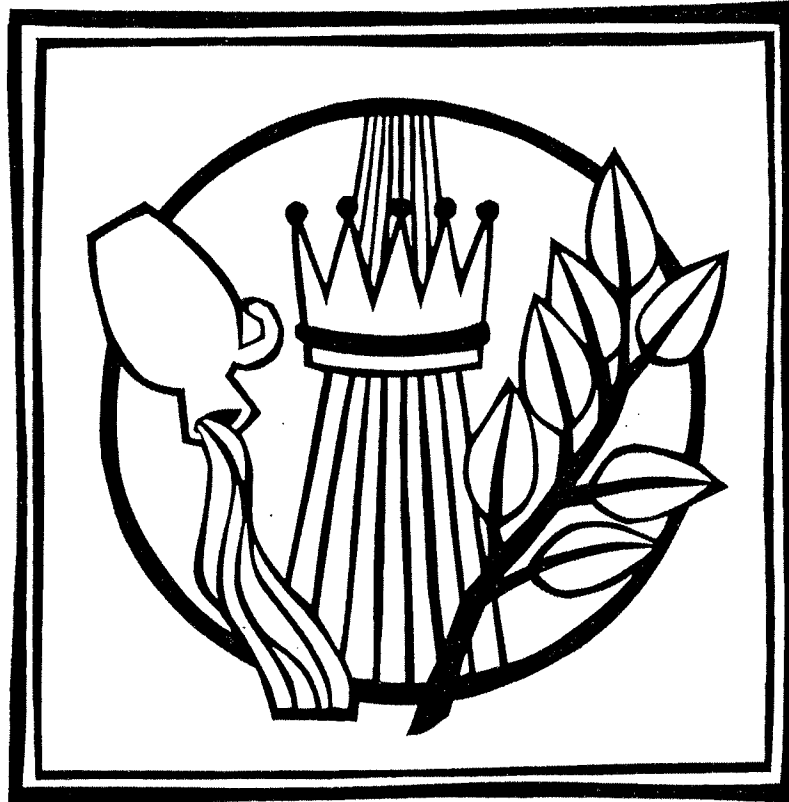


Welcome to
Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Loving God, Serving Others
17th Sunday after Pentecost
September 15, 2024



Three weeks ago we heard Peter's confession of faith as told in John's gospel. This week we hear Mark's version, when Peter says, "You are the Messiah." In John, the stumbling block is Jesus' invitation to eat his flesh, given for the life of the world. In Mark too the scandal has to do with Jesus' words about his own coming death, and here Peter himself stumbles over Jesus' words. But Jesus is anointed (the meaning of *messiah*) in Mark only on the way to the cross (14:3); so we are anointed in baptism with the sign of the cross.

Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church
1915 N First St, DeKalb IL 60115
(815) 758-3203
Rev. Sharon Rogers
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.

God, Bless the Hands



1 God, bless the hands stretched out in love through floods be - low and
2 Bring com - fort to the hearts that mourn, left bro - ken, emp - tied
3 O God, our strength and ref - uge sure, our hope while storms of



storms a - bove; they search and res - cue, com - fort, calm, give
by the storm. Give hope to those in deep - est grief; em -
life en - dure: teach us to live in har - mo - ny with



shel - ter, of - fer heal - ing balm. Oh, guard them by your
pow - er us to bring re - lief. To you, O God, we
earth and riv - er, sky and sea, pre - serv - ing wa - ters,



stead - fast hand; reach out in love to help us stand.
raise our hands. Save us, we pray, from sink - ing sands.
air, and lands as ho - ly work for hu - man hands.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: MELITA, John B. Dykes, 1823-1876

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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.

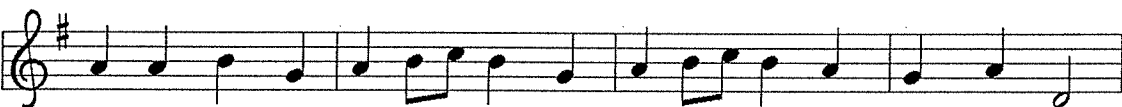
CANTICLE OF PRAISE



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

O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

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

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a

- ⁴The Lord God has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.
Morning by morning he wakens—
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.
- ⁵The Lord God has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.
- ⁶I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.
- ⁷The Lord God helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
⁸he who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.
Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.
- ^{9a}It is the Lord God who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

Psalm: Psalm 116:1-9

¹I love the Lord, who has heard my voice,
and listened to my supplication,

²**for the Lord has given ear to me
whenever I called.**

³The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave came upon me;
I came to grief and sorrow.

⁴**Then I called upon the name of the Lord:
“O Lord, I pray you, save my life.”**

⁵Gracious is the Lord and righteous;
our God is full of compassion.

⁶**The Lord watches over the innocent;
I was brought low, and God saved me.**

⁷Turn again to your rest, O my soul.
for the Lord has dealt well with you.

⁸**For you have rescued my life from death,
my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling;**

⁹I will walk in the presence of the Lord
in the land of the living.

Second Reading: James 3:1-12

¹Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ²For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. ³If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. ⁴Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! ⁶And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. ⁷For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, ⁸but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. ¹¹Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? ¹²Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

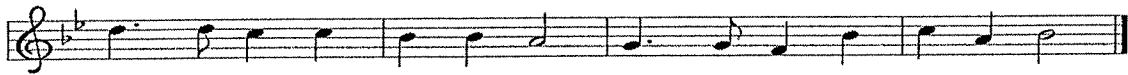
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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 8:27-38

²⁷Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” ²⁸And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” ²⁹He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” ³⁰And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

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

MESSAGE

REV. SHARON ROGERS

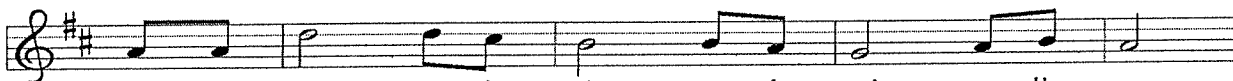
Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song



1 *Jé - sus, je vou - drais te chan - ter sur ma rou - te;*
 2 Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney;
 3 Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.
 4 As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant,
 I fear in the dark and the doubt of my jour - ney;



Jé - sus, je vou - drais t'an - non - cer à mes voi - sins par - tout,
 I'll tell ev - 'ry - bod - y a - bout you wher - ev - er I go:
 May all of my joy be a faith - ful re - flec - tion of you.
 to car - ry your cross and to share all your bur - dens and tears.
 but cour - age will come with the sound of your steps by my side.



car toi seul es la vie et la paix et l'a - mour:
 you a - lone are our life and our peace and our love.
 May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.
 For you saved me by giv - ing your bod - y and blood.
 And with all of the fam - 'ly you saved by your love,



Jé - sus, je vou - drais te chan - ter sur ma rou - te.
 Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney.
 Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.
 As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant.
 we'll sing to your dawn at the end of our jour - ney.

- 2 *Jésus, je voudrais te louer sur ma route;
 Jésus, je voudrais que ma voix soit l'écho de ta joie,
 et que chante la terre et que chante le ciel;
 Jésus, je voudrais te louer sur ma route.*
- 3 *Jésus, je voudrais te servir sur ma route,
 Jésus, je voudrais partager les souffrances de ta croix,
 car tu livres pour moi et ton corps et ton sang;
 Jésus, je voudrais te servir sur ma route.*
- 4 *Jésus, je voudrais tout au long de ma route,
 entendre tes pas résonner dans le nuit près de moi,
 jusqu'à l'aube du jour où ton peuple sauvé,
 Jésus, chantera ton retour sur ma route.*

Text: Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus and L'Arche Community; tr. Stephen Somerville, b. 1931
 Music: LES PETITES SOEURS, Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus and L'Arche Community
 Text and music © 1987 Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus
 Tr. © 1970 Stephen Somerville

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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

Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church throughout the world. Form us into communities of forgiveness and grace. Help us to notice where you are calling us into new relationships, and give us courage to embrace the uncomfortable and unfamiliar. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for the earth and all its inhabitants. Protect lands at risk of wildfire and heal dying forests. Where fire brings destruction, raise up new growth. Guide us in tending precarious ecosystems. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for those who govern nations, tribes, and cities. Open them to the cries of people in need. Direct them in shaping policies that prioritize the health and well-being of all who struggle with hunger and housing insecurity. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for all who are ill, all who are lonely or anxious, and all who grieve. Draw them close to you and soothe them with the promise of your enduring love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for teachers, professors, librarians, school administrators, staff, and all who support the education of young people. Sustain them as they shape learning communities, rooted in equity and authenticity. We pray for children of all ages in their learning. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We remember our beloved dead, who with the great cloud of witnesses bear witness to your saving grace. Accompany us in our pilgrimage of faith, that we too place our hope and trust in you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

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.

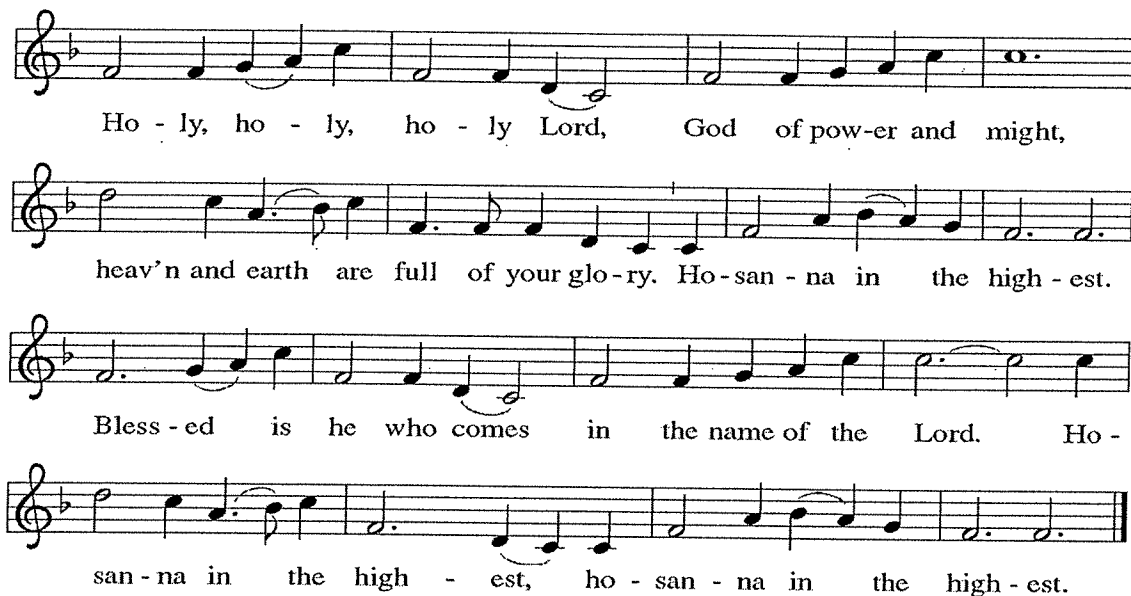
GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

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.

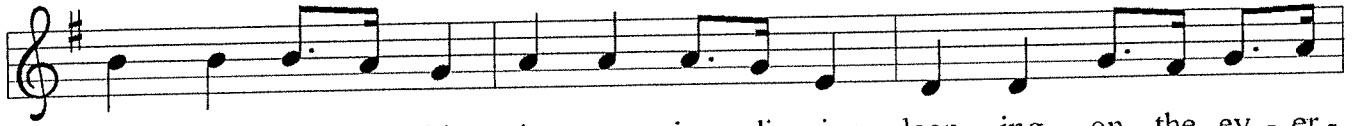
SENDING HYMN (see page 14)

DISMISSAL

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

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

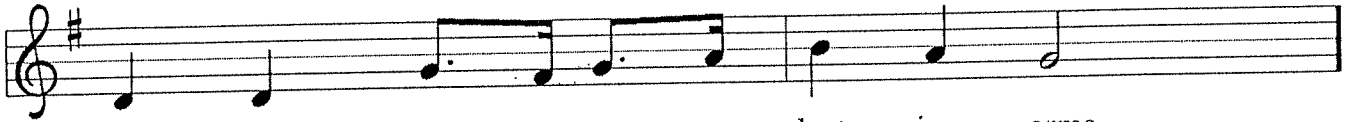
Leaning on the Everlasting Arms



1 What a fel - low-ship, what a joy di - vine, lean - ing on the ev - er -
2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil - grim way, lean - ing on the ev - er -
3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean - ing on the ev - er -



last - ing arms; what a bless - ed - ness, what a peace is mine,
last - ing arms; oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,
last - ing arms? I have bless - ed peace with my Lord so near,



lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

Refrain



Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from all a - larms;



lean - ing, lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

Text: Elisha A. Hoffman, 1839-1929
Music: SHOWALTER, Anthony J. Showalter, 1858-1924

The Week Ahead September 16-22

Monday	12:30-Cut-Ups
Tuesday	3-5—Feed My Sheep Open
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
Next Sunday	9:30 am-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 September

1—Rev. Bob Hansen
8—Rev. Bob Hansen
15—Rev. Sharon Rogers
22—Rev. Sharon Rogers
29—Rev. 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.
- ◆ Summer 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 11:00am.
- ◆ 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.