

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Lori Bonkoski

Sunday, October 19, 2025

Music: Glenda McGaffee

Lay Reader: Pam Sells

Deacon: Deb Haak



WELCOME/ANNOUCEMENTS

SILENT PRAYER

***Please stand if you are able**

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

Amen.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful and loving God,

we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found.

Amen.

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of ✝ Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

Amen.

***GATHERING HYMN #773 "Precious Lord, Take My Hand"**

1. Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand, I am tired, I am weak, I am worn. Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light. Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.
2. When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near, when my life is almost gone, hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall. Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.
3. When the darkness appears and the night draws near, and the day is past and gone, at the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand. Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

***GREETING:**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

***HYMN OF PRAISE ELW p.204**

1. Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth.
Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:
we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.
2. Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
Son of God and gracious Savior, you have come from heav'n above;
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us; in your promise firm we stand.
3. Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call;
Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:
Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright.
For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O Lord God, tireless guardian of your people, you are always ready to hear our cries.
Teach us to rely day and night on your care. Inspire us to seek your enduring justice for
all this suffering world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

FIRST READING: Genesis 32:22-31

²² The same night [Jacob] got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³ He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. ²⁴ Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. ²⁵ When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ²⁶ Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." ²⁷ So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." ²⁸ Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed." ²⁹ Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. ³⁰ So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, yet my life is preserved." ³¹ The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip.

R: The Word of the Lord **C: Thanks be to God**

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 121

- ¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?
- ² **My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.**
- ³ The LORD will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
- ⁴ **Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;**

⁵ the LORD watches over you; the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

⁶ **the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.**

⁷ The LORD will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.

⁸ **The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.**

SECOND READING: 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have known sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the person of God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

^{4:1} In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: ² proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage with the utmost patience in teaching. ³ For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound teaching, but, having their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires ⁴ and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. ⁵ As for you, be sober in everything, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

R: The Word of the Lord **C: Thanks be to God**

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word. Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred. Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

***GOSPEL READING Luke 18:1-8**

¹ Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. ² He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. ³ In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my accuser.' ⁴ For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.' " ⁶ And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? ⁸ I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

P: This is, the Gospel of our Lord **C: Thanks be to God**

MESSAGE – Pastor Lori

***HYMN OF THE DAY #517 “Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word”**

1. Lord, keep us steadfast in your word; curb those who by deceit or sword would wrest the kingdom from your Son and bring to naught all he has done.
2. Lord Jesus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are Lord of lords alone; defend your holy church, that we may sing your praise eternally.
3. O Comforter of priceless worth, send peace and unity on earth; support us in our final strife and lead us out of death to life.

SERVICE OF BAPTISM – Baker Madison Helgeson

Daughter of Travis & McKenzie Helgeson.

Baptismal Sponsors: Brandon Boeve, Jessical Boelman

In baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God. Who presents this precious child for Holy Baptism?

PARENTS: I present *Baker Madison Helgeson* for baptism.

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have your child baptized into Christ? **I do.**

As you bring your ***daughter*** to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with her among God's faithful people,
bring her to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
place in her hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture her in faith and prayer,
so that ***Baker*** may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help ***Baker*** grow in Christian faith and life? **I do.**

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture ***Baker*** in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help her live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church? **I do.**

*People of God, do you promise to support ***Baker*** and pray for her in his new life in Christ? **We do.***

Do you renounce the devil and all forces that defy God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

I ask the congregation to stand and profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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 again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people of Israel from slavery and into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

The congregation may be seated.

Baker Madison Helgeson, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the son, and of the Holy Spirit. ***Amen.***

You belong to Christ; in whom you have been baptized. Alleluia.

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

*Sustain **Baker** with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen***

Baker, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen**

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

P: God of Grace, C: receive our prayer.

***PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. C: And also with you.

***OFFERING**

***OFFERING SONG #685 Take My Life, That I May Be", vs 1, 4, 6**

1. Take my life, that I may be consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.
4. Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect and use ev'ry pow'r as thou shall choose.
6. Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

P: Lord of the harvest,

C: we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

***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.

COMMUNION

***BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you now and forever. **Amen.**

***POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

***BENEDICTION**

The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, ✝ bless you now and forever.
Amen.

***SENDING HYMN #543 "Go, My Children, with My Blessing"**

1. "Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone. Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own. In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever. Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own."
2. "Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure. Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure. Here you heard my dear Son's story, here you touched him, saw his glory. Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure."
3. "Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me. Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free. Here my Spirit's power filled you, here my tender comfort stilled you. Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free."

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.
Thanks be to God.

Prayer Concerns: : Doug Boeve, Marvin Albers, Addison Swenson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Haven and Karissa Kerkhove-Brandt will be confirmed next Sunday, October 26. Please join us in celebrating this important milestone in their faith journey.

Trunk or Treat event, in conjunction with Trick or Treating at the Tuff Memorial Home, Sunday, October 26 from 2-4. Decorate your car, truck, golf cart – anything goes! Best "Trunk" wins a prize. Contact Board of Ed or the church office to register and with questions. Collecting paper products for Project Love.

Sign up sheets posted to work, donate food, and to make frozen meals to sell at **BLC Fall Festival** on November 12. Contact Dawn Sandager or Nancy Sandager with questions

See bulletin board in the narthex for information on **fall happenings** in area churches.

Music teacher needed for Sunday School. Please contact a member of the Board of Education if interested.

Help Wanted: Need someone to help with power point at Sunday morning worship. If interested, please contact Dawn Leenderts. Will train! (507-962-3560)