



Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Women's Thankoffering Service
September 24, 2017

**All who are able, please stand.*

Welcome & Announcements

Gathering

Leader: Hear God's call anew today. Open your hearts to believe that God knows your need for forgiveness – and forgives you. Open your ears to hear God's call. Open your hands to receive God's gifts and to use them as God intends – for the building up of the body of Christ. We hear you calling, O God.

All: Make us bold to listen and to follow your call.

Leader: Listen. Hearing is a step toward vision.

All: Listen, God is calling.

Leader: In the depth of our silence no words are necessary, no language required. In the depth of our silence, we are called to listen.

All: Listen, God is calling.

Leader: Listen to the sounds around us. Do you hear what I hear?

All: Listen to the presence of the Spirit.

Leader: Do you hear your own heart beat?

All: Be still and know that I am God. Listen, God is calling.

Leader: Listen to the cry of the hurting. Listen to the pang of the hungry. Listen to the groan of the earth. Listen to the walk of the homeless. Listen to the beat of the delighting. Listen to the weep of the grieving. Listen to the joy of the laughing.

All: Listen, God is calling.

Leader: Listen, God is calling.

All: May we hear you, O God.

May your calling quiet us.

May your calling disturb and touch our hearts.

May your calling enlarge our hopes and wonders so we live your mandate of love, offering forgiveness, comfort, and joy.

Gathering Hymn “Just a Closer Walk with Thee” ELW 697

Prayer of the Day

Leader: For the Peace of Christ: Dearest Lord Jesus, You and You alone, through Your death and resurrection, have made it possible for me to experience Your peace which surpasses all understanding. Since I have been justified through faith, I have peace with God! May this peace assure me of Your never-changing love for me. Continue to bless me with the gift of Your peace. May it be with me in all circumstances of my life. Amen.

Special Music “Walking Where Jesus Walked” Mark Joenks

First Lesson: 1 Timothy 2:1-7 NT Page 184

Psalm 145:1-8 OT Page 544

Leader: ¹I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever.

All: ²Every day I will bless you, and praise your name forever and ever.

Leader: ³Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; his greatness is unsearchable.

All: ⁴One generation shall laud your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.

Leader: ⁵On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.

All: ⁶The might of your awesome deeds shall be proclaimed, and I will declare your greatness.

Leader: ⁷They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness, and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

All: ⁸The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Second Lesson: 1 John 1:1-4 NT Page 211

Message: “Walking Where Jesus Walked”

Special Music Lynn Wilms “How Beautiful” by Twila Paris

***Apostles' Creed**

Offering

***Offertory Prayer**

Leader: God of grace

All: You have showered us with abundance and entrusted to us the ministries of this church. Accept these offerings to further your mission. Help us to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world. Accept these gifts and this prayer that, nurtured by your Word, filled with your spirit, and fed at your table, we may share with gladness all that you have shared with us. Amen.

***Prayers of the People**

Each petition ends: Lord, in your mercy,

Response: Hear our prayer.

***Lord's Prayer**

***Blessing**

Leader: May God bless you with courage, with peace, and with love, that you may freely live for God, and freely give for others.

***Dismissal**

Leader: Go in peace. Live in love, as Christ loved us.

All: Yes, we will! Thanks be to God!

***Sending Song:** "Lift High the Cross" ELW 660

OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM

Today:	9:30	Worship/Women's Thankoffering
	10:30	Fellowship/Coffee to honor Cindy Buren on 20 years at BLC
	11:00	Choir practice
Wednesday:	4:00	Kings Kamp teachers meeting
Sunday:	9:30	Worship/Communion
		Sunday School
	10:30	Fellowship
	11:00	Choir practice

September 17th: Attendance: 74 Offering: \$2,965.00
Organist: Sue Brugman
Greeters: Dennis & Donna McClain family and Dan & Darcy Brugman family

- COMMUNICATIONS:** Church Office: 933-2229
- Pastor Mark Wilms: E-mail: pmamlw@royaltelco.net
 - Pastor's cell phone: 507-251-8993
 - Lynn Wilms cell phone: 507-251-9242
 - Secretary Cindy Buren: E-mail: blc@royaltelco.net



-Ethan Batschelet, Missionary--Siloam Girls' School in India--Joyce Sabel (daughter of Roger & Betty Kruse)
 -Virginia Christensen--Linda Tewes

Hersom (daughter of Ruth Tewes)--Kim McKenney (friend of Mindy Means)--Annabelle Diekmann (mother of Calvin Diekmann)--Roger Struve--Rita Bassett (sister of Paulette Tuton)
 -Steve Bassett (brother-in-law of Paulette Tuton) *(Please call the church office to add someone to the prayer list. Requests stay on the list for one month unless you instruct us to do otherwise.)*

Virginia Christensen is now in St. Luke room W-4. Her address is 1301 St. Luke Dr., Spencer, Iowa 51357. Visitors are welcome.

Women's Thankoffering will be celebrated during worship today. We are honored to have Rochelle Christensen and Candy & Bob Ehmen as our guest speakers. We thank them for sharing their experiences from their trip to the Holy Land. As we celebrate and collect the Thankoffering, we share in a tradition dating back to the 1800's. Women would gather as we do on this special day to worship, combine their offerings, and offer them up with thanks and praise, dedicating the funds to mission. The Bethlehem Lutheran Church Women are committed to continue this tradition of giving in gratitude for blessings. The Women's Thankoffering taken today will be in addition to the regular offering, so there will be two separate offerings. Donations for the Thankoffering should be made out to BLCW.

Cindy Buren's 20th Anniversary as Bethlehem Office Secretary

TODAY, coffee hour will be in honor of Cindy Buren and her 20 years as secretary at Bethlehem Lutheran Church! Cindy has faithfully kept our congregation's office activities humming for a generation. Be sure to stay around after the Women's Thankoffering Service this morning and offer her your congratulations and appreciation.

Hope Lutheran Church is having a **Youth Scavenger Hunt** for 6th through 12th grade students TODAY at 5:00 pm and Bethlehem youth are invited. Meet at the Everly City Park. Scavenger hunt and supper to follow.

Oct. 1st, the Milestone Ministry Team will kick off the 2017-18 Prayer Partner Program by hosting the Prayer Partner Breakfast, starting at 8:15a.m., in the Fellowship Hall of the church. Confirmation students, their families, and prayer partners will gather to learn about each other, share get acquainted activities, as well as a light breakfast. We are thankful for the adults who have accepted this very special task. They have made a commitment to pray regularly for their confirmation student, pray for the parents as they nurture the faith of their child, and to maintain contact with them through occasional calls, cards, emails. As Christian adults, we know the power of prayer; through the Prayer Partner Program, we will share that knowledge with our young people.



Also, during Worship on October 1st, **Third Grade Bibles** will be presented to 3rd graders as a milestone in their personal journey of faith. This is a special day for our congregation, when along with their parents, we have the opportunity to publicly keep the promise made at baptism-to place in their hands the Holy Scripture. Please plan to celebrate this special milestone with our 3rd graders and their families.

Sunday, Oct. 1st, BLCW St. Luke Auxiliary Offering. Breakfast goodies will be served during coffee hour and an offering basket will be available for donations. The St. Luke Auxiliary supports St. Luke Lutheran Homes by buying items needed to support St. Luke and the services they provide for their residents. Please make checks payable to St. Luke Auxiliary if you wish to support this project.

Welcome to a new year of Kings Kamp! Join us for a fun-filled year learning about Jesus- our special focus this year is prayer.

We hope all children in preschool – 5th grade will start Kings Kamp on October 4th from 3:30 – 5:00.

The registration forms are available on the table in the hallway or at CCE school.

If you are an adult and would like to volunteer – please contact Julie Christensen 712-363-1170 or Denice Schoelerman 712-260-5741. An organizational teachers meeting is September 27th at 4:00.

A signup sheet for cookies needed at Kings Kamp will be in the fellowship hall. **No nuts please!** Thank you!

Join us on Sunday, October 1st for our first Sunday School of the year! We will be introducing a new curriculum series this year titled, "Deep Blue Kids" and we invite 3 year olds through 5th graders to join us in our one-room classroom. Sunday School aged children are dismissed after the sermon and should meet their teacher in the northwest classroom of the church. Sunday School concludes at approximately 10:40 and the children are encouraged to go to music at the front of the church.

We are always looking for volunteer Sunday School teachers. If you're interested, please contact Amanda Mugge or Betsy Schoelerman.

Bible Study Coming

Get ready for midweek Bible studies starting in October in the fellowship hall! Monday evenings 6:30-8:00 PM, or Wednesday mornings 9:30-11:00 AM (same content at both). Come every week, or just when you feel like it. Treats and coffee at every session. See you October 2nd or 4th, whatever works for you.

Sermon Series on Esther

Hardly anybody reads the book of Esther, so few know that it is an exciting tale of adventure, suspense, humor, and an astonishing outcome. The sermons of October will feature this book. Follow the fate of a young girl who wins a beauty contest in ancient Persia and ends up queen, only to see God save her people from a terrible fate.

New Member Session October 7

If you or someone you know (including a non-member spouse) is interested in membership at Bethlehem, there will be an orientation session on Saturday, October 7, at 9:30 AM. Talk to Pastor Mark for more information.

A special fund has been established for a new colored digital sign for Bethlehem. The approximate cost of this sign is \$10,500 (this amount will include electrical). If you would like to donate to this special fund please write "bell tower sign" on the memo line of your check. Thank you for your help in updating the appearance of Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

Clay Central Everly Athletic Pancake Breakfast will be Sunday, October 8th, from 8:00 - 1:00 at the Jr/Sr High School Cafeteria in Everly.

Giving Moment

Did you know that gratitude is a gift to God? God loves it when we really think about His many blessings and thank Him from the bottom of our hearts. It makes us happier, relieves stress, and reminds us that our lives are so much greater than the worries we dwell on.

***Apostles' Creed**

**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 into hell.
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.**

***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.**

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

Refrain

Just a closer walk with thee,
grant it, Jesus, is my plea;
daily walking close to thee,
let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

1 I am weak but thou art strong:
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long
as I walk, let me walk close to thee. Refrain

2 Through this world of toil and snares,
if I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares?
None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee. Refrain

3 When my feeble life is o'er,
time for me will be no more;
guide me gently, safely o'er
to thy kingdom shore, to thy shore. Refrain

Lift High the Cross (ELW 660)

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.

1 Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,
our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. Refrain

2 All newborn servants of the Crucified
bear on their brows the seal of him who died. Refrain

3 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised, draw us all to thee. Refrain

4 So shall our song of triumph ever be:
praise to the Crucified for victory! Refrain

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1 Timothy 2:1-7

2First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ²for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

⁵For

there is one God;

there is also one mediator between God and humankind,

Christ Jesus, himself human,

⁶who gave himself a ransom for all

—this was attested at the right time. ⁷For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

1 John 1:1-4

1We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— ²this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us— ³we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.