



Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
October 15, 2017

**All who are able, please stand.*

Welcome and Announcements

***Confession and Forgiveness**

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Leader: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Leader: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Most merciful God,

All: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

Leader: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

***Opening Hymn** “Drawn to the Light”

ELW 593

***Apostolic Greeting**

pg 138

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

All: And also with you.

***Kyrie**

pg 138

Leader: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

All: Amen.

***Hymn of Praise**

pg 139

Leader: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God’s people on earth.

**All: Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,**

we worship you,

we give you thanks,

we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ,

only Son of the Father,

Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take away the sin of the world:

have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father:

receive our prayer.

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

***Prayer of the Day**

Leader: Let us pray.

Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 25:1-9

OT Page 611

Psalm 23

OT Page 464

Leader: ¹The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

**All: ²He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;**

Leader: ³he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.

**All: ⁴Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—
they comfort me.**

Leader: ⁵You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

**All: ⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
my whole life long.**

Second Reading: Philippians 4:1-9

NT Page 175

Children's Sermon

***Gospel Acclamation:** "Thy Word"

**Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path.
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path.**

**1. When I feel afraid,
Think I've lost my way,
Still you are there right beside me;
Nothing will I fear
As long as you are near.
Please be near me to the end.**

**Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path.
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path.**

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Leader: The Gospel according to Matthew, the 22nd Chapter

All: Glory to you, O Lord

***Gospel:** Matthew 22:1-14

NT Page 21

Leader: The gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Mark

Esther 3-4 (Excerpts)

King Xerxes honored Haman, giving him a seat of honor higher than that of all the other nobles. All the royal officials at the king's gate knelt down and paid honor to Haman, but Mordecai would not. Haman was enraged. He scorned the idea of killing

only Mordecai. Instead Haman looked for a way to destroy all Mordecai's people, the Jews, throughout the whole kingdom.

Then Haman said to King Xerxes, "There is a certain people dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom who keep themselves separate. Their customs are different from those of all other people, and they do not obey the king's laws; it is not in the king's best interest to tolerate them. If it pleases the king, let a decree be issued to destroy them, and I will give ten thousand talents of silver to the king's administrators for the royal treasury." "Keep the money," the king said to Haman, "and do with the people as you please." The couriers went out, spurred on by the king's command, and the edict was issued. The king and Haman sat down to drink.

When Mordecai learned of it, he sent Esther a copy of the edict, asking her to go into the king's presence to beg for mercy and plead with him for her people. Then she sent word to Mordecai, "Everyone knows that for any person who approaches the king in the inner court without being summoned the king has but one law: that they be put to death unless the king extends the gold scepter to them. But thirty days have passed since I was called to go to the king." Mordecai sent back this answer: "Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape. For if you remain silent at this time, deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"

Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: "I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish."

Hymn of the Day

"Lord Keep Us Steadfast In Your Word"

ELW 517

*Apostles' Creed

pg 105

*Peace

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

Offering "Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart" ELW 800

*Offertory Prayer

Leader: Let us pray. Merciful Father,

All: We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Prayers of the People

Each petition ends: "Lord in your mercy"

Response: "Hear our prayer"

*Lord's Prayer

*Benediction

***Sending Hymn** "Let All Things Now Living"

ELW 881

*Dismissal

Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

October 8th: Attendance: 105 Offering: \$1,464.00

Organist: Sue Brugman

Greeters: Ann Myers & family

Scripture Reader: Ron Behrends

OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM

Today:	9:30	Worship
		Sunday School
	10:30	Fellowship
	11:00	Choir Practice
Monday:	6:30	Bible Study
Wednesday:	9:30	Bible Study
	9:30	Esther Circle at Cafe
	3:30	King's Kamp
	4:00	Confirmation
	7:00	Senior High Youth Group
	7:00	Council Meeting
Thursday:	2:00	Dorcas Circle at BLC
Friday:		Cross Current articles deadline
Sunday:	9:30	Worship
		Sunday School
	10:30	Fellowship
	11:00	Choir Practice



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

Hersom (daughter of Ruth Tewes)--Annabelle Diekmann (mother of Calvin Diekmann)--Roger Struve--Rita Bassett (sister of Paulette Tuton)--Steve Bassett (brother-in-law of Paulette Tuton)--Darla Larson (friend of Mindy Means)--Roger Stough (uncle of Carma Betz)--All those affected by the Las Vegas Tragedy--family of Carly Kreibaum (killed in Las Vegas)
 -Family of Barb McDonough (friend of Mindy Means)--Deanna Goodale Hart (friend of Mindy Means)--Russ Christensen
(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.)

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

Thank you to Russ Christensen for the flowers today that are given in memory of Mary Christensen.

Cherish House Baby Bottles are here!
Baby Bottles are available to help the Cherish Center in Okoboji support their services. Please feel free to take one home, fill with your change (or write a check) and return to the church. King's Kamp Kids and Confirmation students will receive their bottles on Wednesday (October 18th). **The correct date for the return of baby bottles is November 12th.**

Kid's Invited to Wear Halloween Outfits to Church October 29

All of Bethlehem's kids are invited to wear your Halloween costumes to church on Sunday, October 29! It will be fun to see them at the children's sermon, and to learn about how God takes His mask off to show us who He really is in Jesus.

Senior High Youth Group Begins!

Our new youth leader, Kendra Schmidt, will be starting a senior high youth group for any youth in 9th-12th grade. The group will be meeting at the church at 7PM on Wednesday evenings starting October 11th. The night will include a Bible lesson, prayer, a game or activity, and some sort of snack food (of course). If you have any questions you can contact Kendra at knschmidt15@gmail.com

Welcome to Kings Kamp! It is never too late to 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 come to Kings Kamp from 3:30 – 5:00 each Wednesday.

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.

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

Join us TODAY for Sunday School. We are 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.

Royal Telephone Company will have flu shots available on Tuesday, October 17th, from 1:00-2:00pm. Cost is \$27.99 (regular) & \$54.99 (higher concentration 65+). This is free for medicare recipients. Please wear short sleeves and bring your insurance or medicare card.

HELP AND ENCOURAGEMENT FOR SINGLE PARENTS

It is not too late to attend the support group FOR SINGLE PARENTS with children ages infancy to teens. Some future topics will be "Emotions and Stability," "Parenting Tools and Projects," "Talking and Listening," and "Conflict and Resolution."

Learn practical parenting wisdom, and proven strategies you can apply to your own situation and gain hope filled assurance for the future.

Join us at: Hope Reformed Church, 919 Grand Avenue, Spencer Tuesdays 6:30 – 8:30 pm in the Well Meeting Room Now – December 5, 2017 (attend as many as you can)

Fees: \$17, Includes home study workbook (scholarships are available) Pre-Registration is appreciated. Questions/registration call Joyce 712-262-3391 You are encouraged to attend as many sessions as possible.

The David & Kris Garms Family will be performing at First English Lutheran Church, 1311 E. 18th St., Spencer, Iowa, Thursday, October 19th at 7:00 pm. Formerly of Royal. David is Dick Garms' son.

Little Mav's Halloween Hustle 5K fun, run and walk. On October 28th they will start and finish at CCE High School parking lot in Everly. Check in -8:30am/Start Time: 9:00am. Check bulletin board for all details.

Giving Moment

All villains have one thing in common: they only know how to take. Giving is foreign to them. Maybe it's because they are so insecure that they think they have to walk over others to survive. Jesus says that if we give up our life for Him, we get it back again. Don't cling to survival. Let it go and let God teach you the strength of being a giving person.

***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.**

"Drawn to the Light" 593

1 People who walk in darkness have sought
a light in the heart of the darkest night.
Just when we thought all would be lost,
we were drawn to the light of God.

Refrain

Dawn is in sight! Gone is the night,
drawn to the light and the morning.
Glorious and bright, oh, what a sight
to be drawn to the light of God.

2 How can we tell a heaven from hell
if ev'ryone dwells in the dark of night?
Morning dispels, gently compels,
and we're drawn to the light of God. Refrain

3 Where is the sun? Oh, there will be none!
The Lamb is the one who is shining bright,
bids us to come! Life has begun
when we're drawn to the light of God. Refrain

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“Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word”

ELW #517

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.

Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart (ELW 800)

1. Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;
wean it from earth, through all its pulses move;
stoop to my weakness, strength to me impart,
and make me love you as I ought to love.

2. I ask no dream, no prophet ecstasies,
no sudden rending of the veil of clay,
no angel visitant, no op'ning skies;
but take the dimness of my soul away.

3. Have you not bid me love you, God and King;
all, all your own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?
I see your cross; there teach my heart to cling.
Oh, let me seek you and, oh, let me find!

4. Teach me to love you as your angels love,
one holy passion filling all my frame:
the baptism of the heav'n-descended dove,
my heart an altar, and your love the flame.

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Let All Things Now Living (ELW 881)

1 Let all things now living
a song of thanksgiving
to God the creator triumphantly raise,
who fashioned and made us,
protected and stayed us,
who still guides us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us,
God's light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
till shadows have vanished
and darkness is banished,
as forward we travel from light into light.

2 God rules all the forces:
the stars in their courses
and sun in its orbit obediently shine;
the hills and the mountains,
the rivers and fountains,
the deeps of the ocean proclaim God divine.
We too should be voicing
our love and rejoicing;
with glad adoration a song let us raise
till all things now living
unite in thanksgiving:
"To God in the highest, hosanna and praise!"

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Isaiah 25:1-9

25O LORD, you are my God;
I will exalt you, I will praise your name;
for you have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.
²For you have made the city a heap,
the fortified city a ruin;
the palace of aliens is a city no more,
it will never be rebuilt.
³Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.
⁴For you have been a refuge to the poor,
a refuge to the needy in their distress,
a shelter from the rainstorm and
a shade from the heat.
When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,
⁵the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place,
you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;
the song of the ruthless was stilled.
⁶On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow,
of well-aged wines strained clear.
⁷And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;
he will swallow up death forever.
⁸Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the
earth,
for the LORD has spoken.
⁹It will be said on that day,
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might
save us.
This is the LORD for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Philippians 4:1-9

4Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. ²I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life. ⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Matthew 22:1-14

22Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ²“The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ ⁵But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ ¹⁰Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. ¹¹“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹²and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. ¹³Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴“For many are called, but few are chosen.”