



August 23, 2026

9:00 am | 10:30 am

Welcome to Bethlehem!

We hope you feel a warm welcome here at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Please visit our website at **www.blcenc.org** for more information about the congregation. If you are visiting with us, please fill out an information card and place it in the offering basket so we can stay connected.

CHILDREN

All children are welcome in the sanctuary for worship at Bethlehem. If you prefer, there is a comfort room at the back of the sanctuary. Busy bags and activity baskets are available in the narthex. Learning circles are on hiatus for the summer months.

COMMUNION

We practice **open communion**, meaning all are welcome to participate. We commune by intinction where the pastor dips the bread into a divided chalice with white wine or red grape juice. There is a gluten-free station on the left side of the sanctuary. We are happy to bring communion to individuals with limited mobility.

PARTICIPATION & ACCESSIBILITY

The different movements that happen during worship (sitting, standing, making the sign of the cross) are all optional; please engage as you are comfortable or able. Hearing assistance devices are located at the back of the sanctuary and large-print bulletins are available in the narthex. If you, or someone you know, identify as neurodivergent and have questions about how to participate in worship or in one of our church ministries, please feel free to ask either the pastors or the church office for help.

PRAYER

In addition to the pastors, our Stephen Ministers are always available to pray with you about whatever is on your heart this day. Please look for the folks wearing a blue name tag with the Stephen Ministry logo. Healing prayer stations are available during communion on the second Sunday of each month.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

“Gospel Acclamation,” and “Lamb of God” from **Evangelical Lutheran Worship Holy Communion, Setting Ten** - copyright permission through Sundays and Seasons subscription. .Permission to podcast/stream the music in the service obtained from One License with License #A-706214. A-706214. Photo Credit: <https://biblia.com/bible/esv/matthew/16/13-20>

GATHERING

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: We are gathered today in the name of the Creator, the Christ, and the Comforter.

C: Amen.

L: Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: Merciful God,

C: You free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and mercy, yet we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life.

L: You belong to Christ Jesus, and you are God's children. In the cross of ✝ Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

C: Amen.

HYMN REQUEST

GREETING

L: 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.

REQUESTED HYMN

9 AM: Cathy Buller – Beautiful Savior – ELW 838

10:30 AM: Ron Hegg – God of Grace and God of Glory – ELW 705

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray ...

C: Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME (10:30 AM)

WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

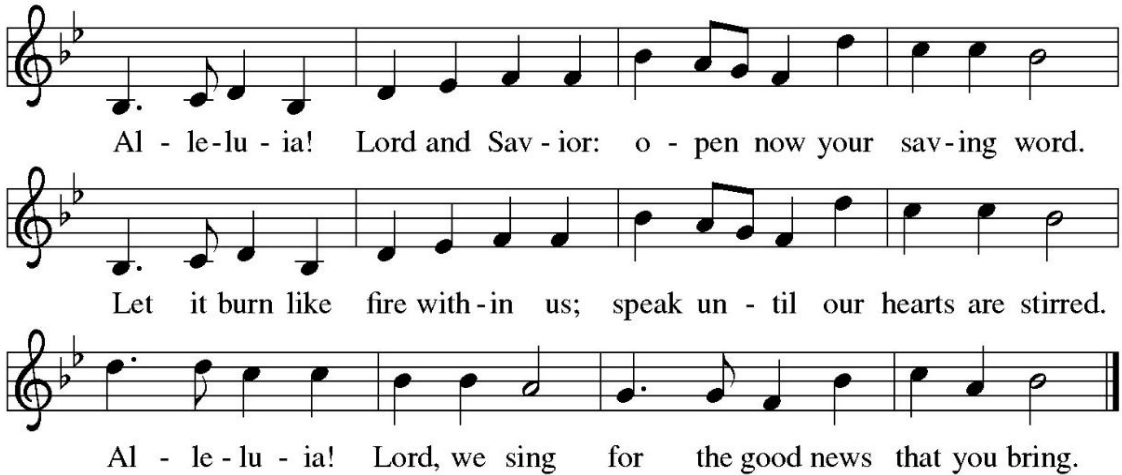
Romans 12:1-8

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW pg. 205



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.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 16:13-20

R: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Sam Nelson

HYMN REQUEST

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

L: Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

L: The peace of the Lord be with you always,

C: And also with you!

REQUESTED HYMN

9 AM: Wayne Yanda – A Mighty Fortress is Our God – ELW 504

10:30 AM: Sivert Family – What a Friend We Have in Jesus – ELW 742

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING

L: The Lord be with you,

C: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts,

C: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

ELW pg. 112

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.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Lamb of God – ELW pg. 208 vs. 1



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.

HYMN REQUEST

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

HYMN REQUEST

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace, share the Good News!

C: Thanks be to God!

All Are Welcome!

We live in a diverse world. We are hurting, broken and heavy hearted. We are loving, joyous, and above all, we are welcoming. Regardless of the color of your skin, or the color of your hair; regardless of your gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, relationship status, or political affiliation, you are welcome here. We honor indigenous people and are committed to the work of anti-racism and the stewardship of the creation.

If you are Buddhist, Roman Catholic, agnostic, Muslim, Jewish, seeking, have never set foot in a church, or are a life long Lutheran; you have a place here. If you own, rent, or have nothing at all; you are welcome here. If you are neurodivergent, fully abled, disabled, or a person of differing abilities; if you have regrets, fears, addictions, or afflictions; you have a place here.

All who are wise and all who are confused, all who have found love and all who have lost it, all who celebrate this welcome statement and all who fear it - are welcome here.

Come as you are and be celebrated for who you are. Your place is here. Bethlehem Lutheran is an All are Welcome church.



Reconciling in Christ



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

Electronic Giving at Bethlehem

Offering gifts can be made electronically on our website **www.blcenc.org** under the contribute tab, or by scanning this QR code. There are options for one-time donations, recurring gifts, and special offerings. **No account is needed to donate on our website.**



You can also use the **Vanco Mobile App**. Simply download it from your app store, and search "Bethlehem Lutheran Church Encinitas" by name (there is no invite code). If you already have an account from our website, the same login information will work. If not, please sign up with a new account. **Thank You for Supporting Bethlehem!**



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