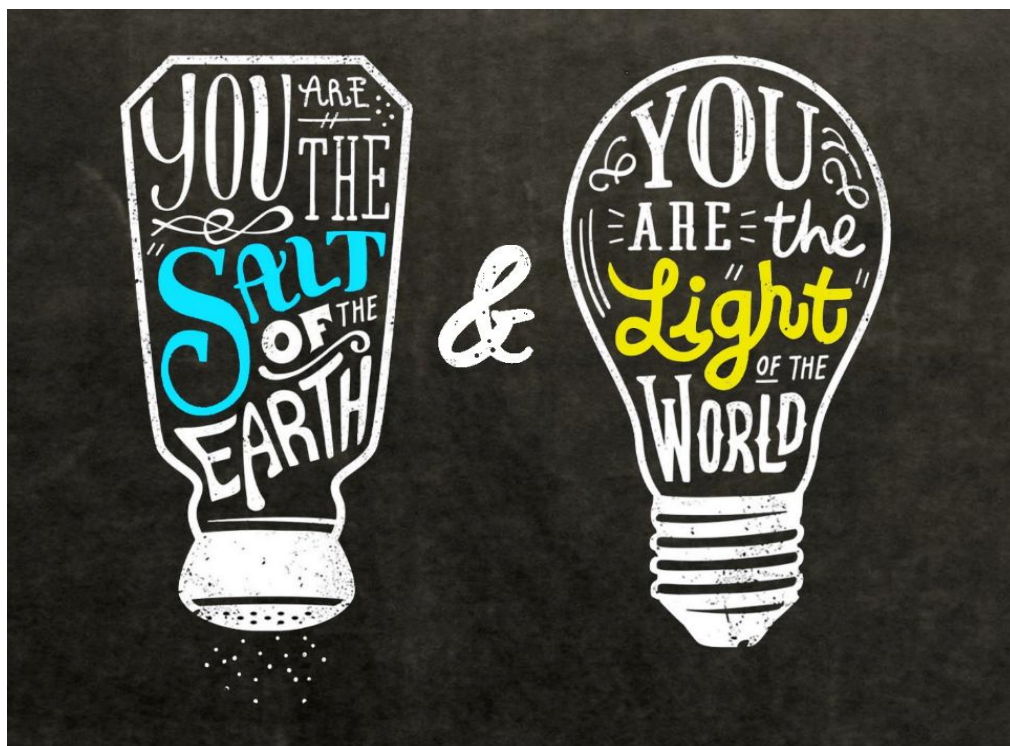




Bethlehem Lutheran Church & Early Childhood Center



Season After Epiphany

February 8, 2026

Worship Services

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 are available in the narthex. After Children's Time at our **10:30 AM** service children ages 3 years – 6th grade may either attend our Learning Circle program or remain with you.

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

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GATHERING

WELCOME

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

L: We give you all thanks and praise, O God, for when your voice first thundered over the seas you created the heavens and spread out the earth. You breathed the Spirit of life into us and called your people to be a light to the nations.

C: When the time came to declare new things among us, you gave us your servant, Jesus the Christ, your chosen one in whom you are well pleased.

L: You anointed him with Holy Spirit and with power, and sent him to open eyes long blind and to release those imprisoned in darkness.

C: In our baptisms, you make us one with you, and gift us with your Spirit.

L: As Jesus stretched his hand over the storming sea and said "Peace. Be Still," we ask your calming Spirit to still the waters of our anxious hearts. We thank you for the waters of baptism that bring us closer to your grace, hope, and unending love.

C: Therefore, with our hearts lifted high, we offer you thanks and praise at all times through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

GATHERING SONG

“He’s Got the Whole World In His Hands”

**He's got the whole world in His hands (repeat x2)
He's got the whole world in His hands**

**He's got the little tiny baby in His hands (repeat x2)
He's got the whole world in His hands**

**He's got you and me brother in His hands (repeat x2)
He's got the whole world in His hands**

**He's got you and me sister in His hands (repeat x2)
He's got the whole world in His hands**

**He's got ev'rybody here in His hands (repeat x2)
He's got the whole world in His hands
He's got the whole world in His hands**

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray ...

C: Amen.

WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 58:1-12

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

"Thy Word" – Grant

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.

**I will not forget Your love for me and yet my heart forever is wandering
Jesus be my guide, and hold me to Your side – I will love You 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.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 5:13-20

R: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Laura Ziehl

SONG OF THE DAY

"This Little Light of Mine" – Dixon

**This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

**Hide it under a bushel no! I'm gonna let it shine.
Hide it under a bushel no! I'm gonna let it shine.
Hide it under a bushel no! I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

**Don't let Satan blow it out. I'm gonna let it shine.
Don't let Satan blow it out. I'm gonna let it shine.
Don't let Satan blow it out. I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

**Let it shine till Jesus comes. I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine till Jesus comes. I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine till Jesus comes. I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

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!

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Eye of the Storm” – Fowler

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

THE LORD’S PRAYER FROM THE NEW ZEALAND PRAYER BOOK

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and testing, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever.
Amen.

Lord of all creation, of water earth and sky,
The heavens are Your tabernacle. Glory to the Lord on high.

God of wonders beyond our galaxy,
You are holy, holy.
The universe declares Your majesty,
You are holy, holy.
Lord of heaven and earth.
Lord of heaven and earth.

Early in the morning, I will celebrate the light.
When I stumble in the darkness, I will call Your name by night.

God of wonders beyond our galaxy,
You are holy, holy.
The universe declares Your majesty,
You are holy, holy.
Lord of heaven and earth.
Lord of heaven and earth.

Repeat chorus

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

SENDING SONG

“Go Light Your World” – Rice

There is a candle in ev'ry soul. Some brightly burning some dark and cold.
There is a Spirit who brings a fire. Ignites a candle and makes His home.

So, carry your candle, run to the darkness,
Seek out the hopeless, confused, and torn.

Hold out your candle for all to see it.

Take your candle, and go light your world. (repeat 1x)

Frustrated brother see how he's tried to light his own candle some other way.

See now your sister she's been robbed and lied to,
Still holds a candle without a flame.

So, carry your candle, run to the darkness,
Seek out the hopeless, confused, and torn.

Hold out your candle for all to see it.

Take your candle, and go light your world. (repeat 1x)

We are a fam'ly whose hearts are blazing.

So let's raise our candles and light up the sky.

Praying to our Father in the name of Jesus – make us a beacon in darkest times.

So carry your candle, run to the darkness.

Seek out the helpless, deceived, and poor.

Hold out your candle for all to see it.

Take your candle, and go light your world.

Carry your candle, run to the darkness.

Seek out the hopeless, confused, and torn.

Hold out your candle for all to see it.

Take your candle and go light your world. (Repeat x2)

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace, follow the Lord!

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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