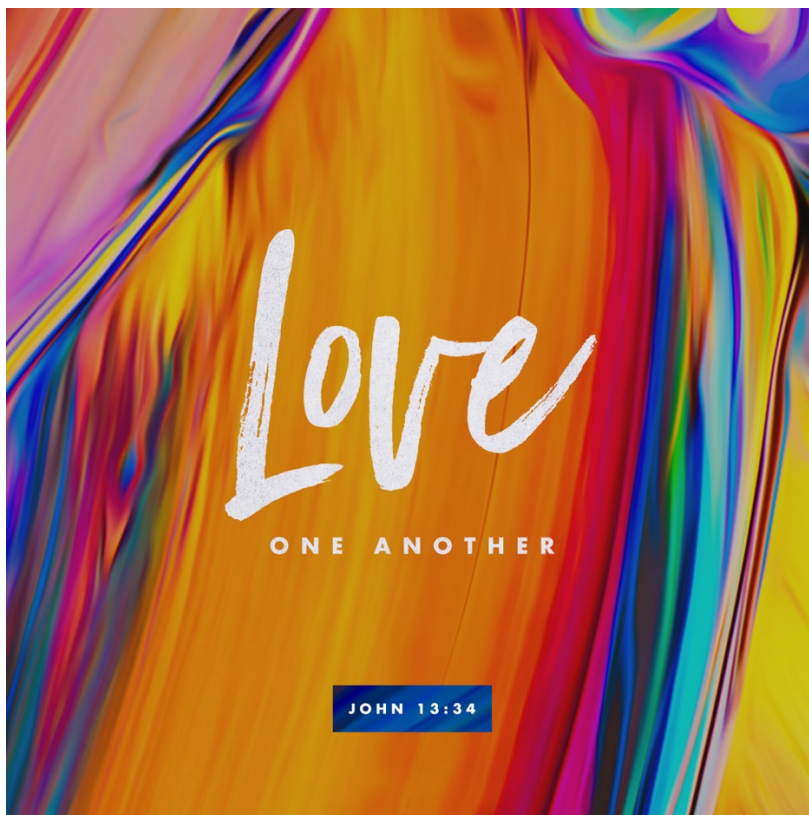




Bethlehem Lutheran Church & Early Childhood Center



Season of Easter

May 18, 2025

Worship Service

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: Holy God, we give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that make us your own, that restore us to wholeness and empower us to be witnesses in your name.

C: We give you thanks for the waters of baptism that strengthen believers, and give new life to the beloved servants of your church; waters that extend your boundless love and cross barriers of our own making.

L: We give you thanks for baptismal waters that open the hearts of believers and give a voice in the night to those in captivity; waters that set your people on a new path, rejoicing in the Spirit's power.

C: Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that our every day is shaped by our baptism and our life in you. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One. Amen

GATHERING SONG

“Beautiful One” – Hughes

Beautiful One I love You. Beautiful One I adore
Beautiful One my soul must sing
Beautiful One I love You. Beautiful One I adore
Beautiful One my soul must sing

Powerful so powerful Your glory fills the skies
Your mighty works displayed for all to see
The beauty of Your majesty awakes my heart to sing
How marvelous how wonderful You are

Beautiful One I love You. Beautiful One I adore
Beautiful One my soul must sing
Beautiful One I love You. Beautiful One I adore
Beautiful One my soul must sing
Beautiful One I love You. Beautiful One I adore
Beautiful One my soul must sing

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.

CHILDREN'S TIME (10:30 AM)

WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 11:1-18

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Shepherd Me, O God – ELW 780

Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be - yond my fears, from

death in - to life. life.

2 Gent - ly you raise me and heal my wea - ry soul, you

lead me by path - ways of righ - teous - ness and truth, my

spir - it shall sing the mu - sic of your name.

GOSPEL READING

John 13:31-35

R: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Bishop Dave Nagler

SONG OF THE DAY “They’ll Know We Are Christians By Our Love” – Scholtes

We are one in the Spirit We are one in the Lord
We are one in the Spirit We are one in the Lord
And we pray that all unity May one day be restored

**And they’ll know we are Christians By our love by our love
Yes, they’ll know we are Christians By our love**

We will walk with each other We will walk hand in hand
We will walk with each other We will walk hand in hand
And together we’ll spread the news That God is in our land

**And they’ll know we are Christians By our love by our love
Yes, they’ll know we are Christians By our love**

We will work with each other We will work side by side
We will work with each other We will work side by side
And we’ll guard each man’s dignity And save each man’s pride

**And they’ll know we are Christians By our love by our love
Yes, they’ll know we are Christians By our love**

All praise to the Father From whom all things come
And all praise to Christ Jesus His only Son
And all praise to the Spirit Who makes us one

**And they’ll know we are Christians By our love by our love
Yes, they’ll know we are Christians By Our love**

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

“Holy Water” – Cash

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 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.**

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

“Let Us Break Bread Together” - Smith

Let us break bread together on our knees
Let us break bread together on our knees
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun
O Lord have mercy on me

Let us drink wine together on our knees
Let us drink wine together on our knees
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun
O Lord have mercy on me

Let us praise God together on our knees
Let us praise God together on our knees
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun
O Lord have mercy on me

Let us praise God together on our knees
Let us praise God together on our knees
When I fall on my knees With my face to the rising sun
O Lord have mercy if You please

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

SENDING SONG

“Go Light Your World” – Rice

There is a candle in every soul Some brightly burning, and dark and cold
There is a spirit who brings a fire Ignites a candle and makes his home

Carry your candle Run to the darkness
Seek out the helpless, confused and torn
Hold out your candle for all for to see it
Take your candle and go light your world
Take your candle and go light your world

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 lonely, the tired and worn
Hold out your candle for all for to see it Take your candle and go light your world
Take your candle and go light your world

We are a family 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

Carry your candle. Run to the darkness Seek out the hopeless, deceived and worn
Hold out your candle for all for to see it Take your candle and go light your world
Take your candle and go light your world

Carry your candle Run to the darkness
Seek out the hopeless, deceived and worn
Hold out your candle for all for to see it
Take your candle and go light your world
Take your candle and go light your world
Take your candle and go light your world

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace, live in the light!

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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