Bethlehem Lutheran Church
& Early Childhood Center



Season After Pentecost

November 15, 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 and activity baskets 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.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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GATHERING

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

C: Amen.

L: Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin …

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: Compassionate God …

C: We confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ.

L: Gracious God, give us the courage, the strength, the hope to accept your grace and hear your call in Christ Jesus, through whom you forgive and redeem us, raising us to abundant and everlasting life.

C: Amen.

GATHERING SONG "Blessed Be Your Name" – Redman

Blessed be your Name, in the land that is plentiful
Where your streams are of abundance flow – Blessed be your Name.

Blessed be your Name, when I'm found in the desert place
Though I walk thru the wilderness – Blessed be your Name.

<u>Chorus</u>
Every blessing you pour out I turn back to praise.
And when the darkness closes in, Lord, still I will say:
Blessed be the Name of the Lord. Blessed be your Name.
Blessed be the Name of the Lord. Blessed be your glorious Name.

Blessed be your Name, when the sun is shining down on me
When the world's all as it should be – Blessed be your Name.

Blessed be your Name, on the road marked with suffering
Though there's pain in the offering – Blessed be your Name.

Repeat Chorus

You give and take away. You give and take away.
My heart will choose to say, Lord, blessed be Your Name.

Repeat Chorus

Blessed be the Name of the Lord. Blessed be your Name.
Blessed be the Name of the Lord. Blessed be your glorious Name.

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 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

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 25:14-30

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 "They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love" – Scholtes

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.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION "Table of Grace" – Hutto & Rae

Hear the good news, you've been invited.
No matter what others may say,
Your darkest sins will be forgiven.
You will always have a place.

<u>Chorus:</u>
At the table of grace, the cup's never empty,
The plate's always full, and it's never too late,
To come and be filled with love never ending.
You're always welcome at the table of grace.

So come you weak, and heavy hearted, and heavy hearted.
Don't try to hide your earthly scars.
For in His eyes, we all are equal, yes, we are.
Don't be afraid, come as you are.

Repeat Chorus

So let the first become the last.
Let the poor put kings to shame.
Their willing hearts will be their treasure.
By the power of Jesus' name.

Repeat Chorus x2

Everyone's welcome at the table of grace.

<u>SENDING</u>

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, serve 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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