



Bethlehem Lutheran Church & Early Childhood Center



Season After Pentecost

September 14, 2025

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

"Chain Breaker" - Jonathan Smith, Mia Fieldes, Zach Williams, ©2015 Anthems of Hope (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC). **"Sweet Jesus"** - Matthew West, Todd Smith, Tony Wood, ©2003 Todd Smith Publishing (Admin. by BMG Rights Management (US) LLC). **"This Is Amazing Grace"** - Jeremy Riddle, Josh Farro, Phil Wickham, ©2012 Phil Wickham Music (Admin. by BMG Rights Management [c/o Music Services, Inc.]). For all songs listed above, all rights reserved. Reprints authorized under CCLI License #1085183. **"Shepherd Me, O God"** - Marty Haugen, ©1986 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net License No. A-706214. Other songs are in the Public Domain. Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from One License with license #A-706214.
Photo Credit: <https://seekingjesusfirst.com/sjf-20240310/>

GATHERING

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: We live fractured lives, and God does not seek to punish us for those fault lines, but to reconcile and restore us. Trusting in God's grace and mercy, let us make our confession together in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: Loving God, help us ...

C: Search for us, when we have run away.

Call us to repent, when we have turned our backs on love.

Grant us grace for times when we have sought immediate satisfaction and not long-term health – for ourselves, our neighbors, and for the world around us.

Forgive us for the times when we have been selfish, when we have been mean, and when we have closed our ears to the cries of others.

Heal us when we are so broken we cannot move, and when we are too ashamed to seek the help and comfort you provide in the midst of community.

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.

Chorus:

Do Lord, O, Do Lord, O do remember me.
Do Lord, O, Do Lord, O do remember me.
Do Lord, O, Do Lord, O do remember me.
Way beyond the blue.

I've got a home in glory land that out-shines the sun.
I've got a home in glory land that out-shines the sun.
I've got a home in glory land that out-shines the sun.
Way beyond the blue.

Repeat Chorus.

I took Jesus as my Savior, You take Him too.
I took Jesus as my Savior, You take Him too.
I took Jesus as my Savior, You take Him too.
Way beyond the blue.

Repeat Chorus.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray ...

C: Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME (10:30 AM)

WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Numbers 21:4b-9

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.

Refrain

GOSPEL READING

John 3:13-17

R: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Sam Nelson

SONG OF THE DAY

“My Jesus I Love Thee” – William R. Featherson

**My Jesus I love Thee, I know Thou art mine.
For Thee all the follies of sin I resign.
My gracious Redeemer my Savior art Thou.
If ever I loved Thee my Jesus 'tis now.**

**I love Thee because Thou hast first loved me,
And purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree.
I love Thee for wearing the thorns on Thy brow.
If ever I loved Thee my Jesus 'tis now.**

**In mansions of glory and endless delight,
I'll ever adore Thee in heaven so bright.
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow,
If ever I loved Thee my Jesus 'tis now.**

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

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.

**Sweet Jesus my Savior You are my faithful Friend.
You made me You know me You've seen my ev'ry sin.
My soul is amazed by the gift of Your grace,
And the arms that take me in.
Sweet Jesus my Savior You are my faithful Friend.**

**Sweet Jesus my shelter You are my faithful Friend.
The refuge I run to when the world comes closing in.
Why should I be afraid when I know I am saved,
By the arms that take me in.
Sweet Jesus my shelter You are my faithful Friend.**

**Sweet Jesus my Shepherd You are my faithful Friend.
You hold me You lead me I'll follow to the end.
And once more I will say on that beautiful day,
When Your arms take me in.**

**Sweet Jesus my Shepherd, You are my faithful Friend.
Sweet Jesus my Shepherd, You are my faithful Friend.**

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

SENDING SONG

“This Is Amazing Grace” – Phil Wickham

**Who breaks the power of sin and darkness?
Whose love is mighty and so much stronger?
The King of Glory the King above all kings
Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder?
And leaves us breathless in awe and wonder?
The King of Glory the King above all kings.**

**This is amazing grace. This is unfailing love.
That You would take my place. That You would bear my cross.
You laid down Your life. That I would be set free.
Oh Jesus I sing for all that You've done for me.**

**Who brings our chaos back into order?
Who makes the orphan a son and daughter?
The King of Glory the King of Glory.
Who rules the nations with truth and justice?
Shines like the sun in all of its brilliance?
The King of Glory the King above all kings.**

**This is amazing grace. This is unfailing love.
That You would take my place. That You would bear my cross.
You laid down Your life. That I would be set free.
Oh Jesus I sing for all that You've done for me.**

**Worthy is the Lamb who was slain.
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave. (Repeat x3)
Worthy, worthy, Oh!**

**This is amazing grace. This is unfailing love.
That You would take my place. That You would bear my cross.
You laid down Your life. That I would be set free.
Oh Jesus I sing for all that You've done for me.**

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace, live by the Spirit!

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!**



Bethlehem_Lutheran_Encinitas



Facebook.com/BethlehemLutheranEncinitas/

Follow us on
social media!