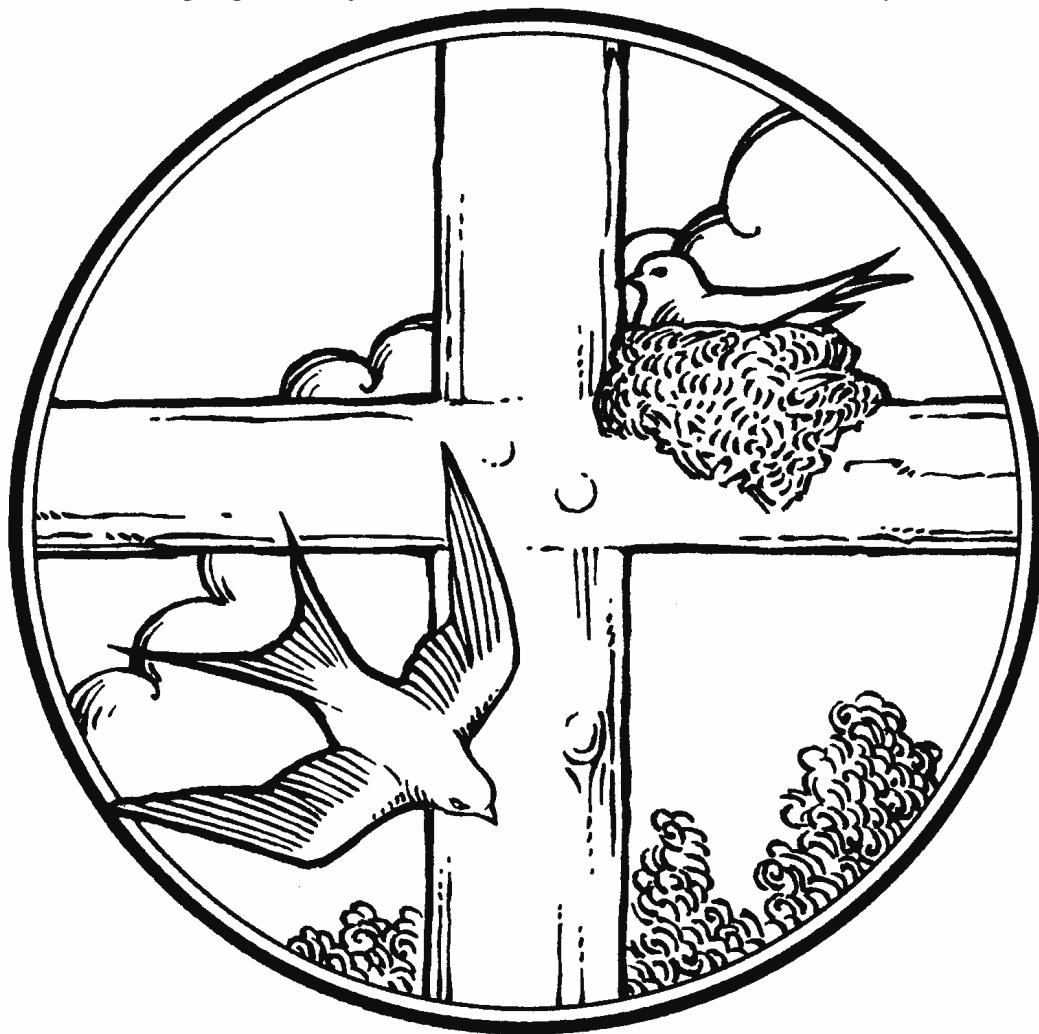


# Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church

6514 E 750 N Ossian, IN 46777

*A congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod*



*Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity*

*Divine Service One*

*September 17, 2023*

*Vol. 125-42*

## Invocation (Please stand)

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## Service of the Word pg. 151

## Introit (sung responsively)



Incline your ear, O LORD, and | answer me,\*  
save your servant, who trusts in you—you | are my God.

**Be gracious to me, | O Lord,\***  
**for to you do I cry | all the day.**

Gladden the soul of your | servant,\*  
for to you, O Lord, do I lift | up my soul.

**Give ear, O LORD, | to my prayer;\***  
**listen to my | plea for grace.**

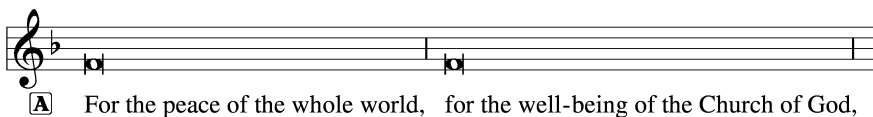
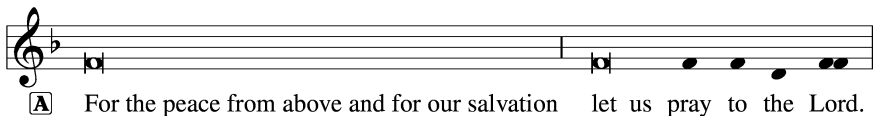
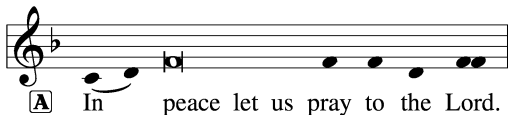
But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and | gracious;\*,  
turn to me and be gra- | cious to me;

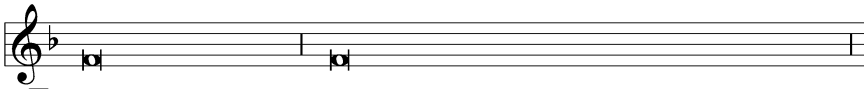
**give your strength to your | servant,\***  
**and save the son of your maid- | servant.**

*Glory be to the Father and / to the Son\**

*and to the Holy / Spirit;  
as it was in the be- / ginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. / Amen.*  
Incline your ear, O LORD, and | answer me,\*  
save your servant, who trusts in you—you | are my God.  
**Be gracious to me, | O Lord,\***  
**for to you do I cry | all the day.**

## Kyrie





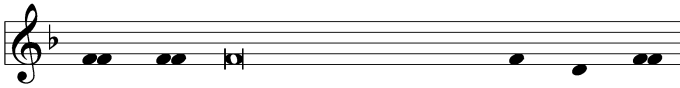
**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



**C** A - men.

## Gloria in Excelsis



**A** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His peo - ple on earth.



**C** Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:



We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.



For You a-lone are the Ho-ly One, You a-lone are the Lord,



You a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men.

### Salutation and Collect of the Day



**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And al - so with you.

**P** Let us pray.

O Lord, we implore You, let Your continual pity cleanse and defend Your Church; and because she cannot continue in safety without Your aid, preserve her evermore by Your help and goodness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

### Old Testament Reading

*1 Kings 17:8–16*

<sup>8</sup>Then the word of the LORD came to [Elijah], <sup>9</sup>“Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. Behold, I have commanded a widow there to feed you.” <sup>10</sup>So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, “Bring me a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.” <sup>11</sup>And as she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, “Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.”

<sup>12</sup>And she said, “As the LORD your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of flour in a jar

and a little oil in a jug. And now I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it and die.” <sup>13</sup>And Elijah said to her, “Do not fear; go and do as you have said. But first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterward make something for yourself and your son. <sup>14</sup>For thus says the LORD the God of Israel, ‘The jar of flour shall not be spent, and the jug of oil shall not be empty, until the day that the LORD sends rain upon the earth.’” <sup>15</sup>And she went and did as Elijah said. And she and he and her household ate for many days. <sup>16</sup>The jar of flour was not spent, neither did the jug of oil become empty, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by Elijah.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Gradual

It is better to take refuge | in the LORD\*  
than to | trust in man.

It is better to take refuge | in the LORD\*  
than to trust in | princes.

## Epistle

*Galatians 5:25—6:10*

<sup>25</sup>If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. <sup>26</sup>Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

<sup>1</sup>Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. <sup>2</sup>Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. <sup>3</sup>For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. <sup>4</sup>But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. <sup>5</sup>For each will have to bear his own load.

<sup>6</sup>One who is taught the word must share all good things with the one who teaches. <sup>7</sup>Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. <sup>8</sup>For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. <sup>9</sup>And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. <sup>10</sup>So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Alleluia and Verse



**C** Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## Holy Gospel

Matthew 6:24–34

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.



**C** Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

<sup>24</sup>[Jesus said:] “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money. <sup>25</sup>“Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? <sup>26</sup>Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? <sup>27</sup>And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? <sup>28</sup>And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, <sup>29</sup>yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. <sup>30</sup>But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? <sup>31</sup>Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ <sup>32</sup>For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. <sup>33</sup>But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. <sup>34</sup>“Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## Nicene Creed

**C** I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;

who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn of the Day

#760 What God Ordains Is Always Good

Sermon

Prayer of the Church

**We remember all those in need of continued strength and healing:**

*Sandra Flum (Susan Graft's sister)*

*Barbara Murphy (Melissa Price's grandmother)*

*Margaret Whitesel*

*Joellen Meyer*

*Norwin Bauermeister*

*Lee Braselton*

*Brandon Tomlinson and Vicki Tomlinson*

*David Nahrwold (in hospice)*

**We pray for our members shut-in:**

*Jackie Werling, Ruth Witte (Ossian Healthcare)*

*Imogene Bultemeier, (Woodcrest)*

*Marilyn Franke (Christian Care)*

*Gloria Siela (home)*

*Charlotte Bultemeier (StoryPoint West)*

**We pray for our schools**

*We pray for our Church and all her workers*  
*We pray for all military personnel*

Offering

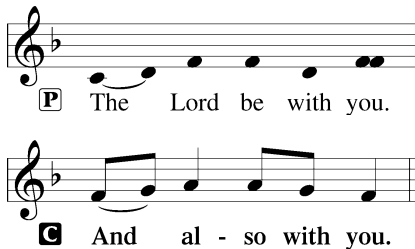
Offertory



**C** What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to  
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will  
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-  
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my  
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the  
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

Service of the Sacrament pg. 160

Preface



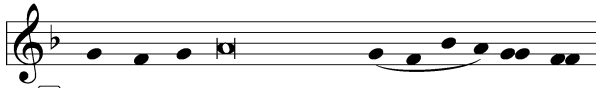
**P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** And al - so with you.



**P** Lift up your hearts.



**C** We lift them to the Lord.



**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

### Proper Preface (Abbreviated)

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:

### Sanctus



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

**P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.


**C** Amen.


## Lord's Prayer

**P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

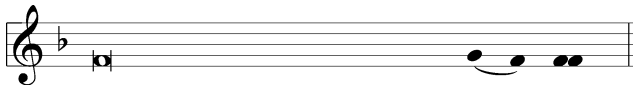
**C** Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth  
as it is in heaven;  
give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.

## The Words of Our Lord

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## Pax Domini



**P** The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



A - men.

## Agnus Dei



Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the



world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace.

## Distribution

**Today we celebrate the Lord's Supper** in our worship. Bethlehem Lutheran Church administers this Holy Supper in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions. It is celebrated in the confidence that we receive, along with the Bread and Wine, the very Body and Blood of Jesus through which we receive the forgiveness of sins. Furthermore, the communicants as a body of believers make a confession of the unity of their faith. Those desiring to receive the Sacrament with us, who are not communicant members of Bethlehem or of a sister congregation of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, are asked to please speak with the Pastor before the service.

## Distribution Hymns

**#617 O Lord, We Praise Thee**

**#618 I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table**

**#750 If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee**

**#735 Have No Fear, Little Flock**

**#712 Seek Ye First**

**#754 Entrust Your Days and Burdens**

## Nunc Dimittis (Please stand)



Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va-tion which You have prepared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to reveal You to the na-tions and the glo-ry of Your peo-ple Is - ra - el. Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it; as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.

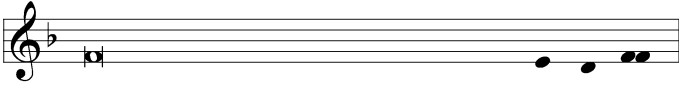
## Post-Communion Collect

**A** Let us pray.  
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

## Benediction



**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you  
and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and  $\text{✠}$  give you peace.



**C** A - men.

## Closing Hymn

## #726 Evening and Morning

### IN HIS SERVICE

**Preaching**

**Celebrant**

**Fieldworker**

**Deaconess**

**Head Elder**

**Elders on Duty**

**Kantor**

**Organist**

**Acolyte**

**Altar Guild Chairman**

**Ushers**

Rev. Anthony Dodgers

Rev. Samuel Wirgau

Sem. Morgan Phillips

Wendy Boehm

Glen Werling

Glen Werling and Bruce Werling

Richard Brinkley

Sem. Morgan Phillips

Jude Wirgau and Jacob Bultemeier

Tisha Laley and Cheryl Louison

Travis Avey, Jeff Gresley, Cole Louison

Peyton Laley, Jared Meyer, Kyle Patrick, Dean Scheumann

Pastor: Rev. Samuel Wirgau

([Samuel.wirgau@gmail.com](mailto:Samuel.wirgau@gmail.com))

260-273-7595

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Office

260-597-7121

Bethlehem Lutheran School

260-597-7366

Assoc. Pastor, Headmaster: Rev. Anthony Dodgers

616-648-6489

Kantor: Mr. Richard Brinkley

260-705-4105

Deaconess: Wendy Boehm

260-415-8526

Website for Church and School: [www.BethlehemOssian.org](http://www.BethlehemOssian.org)

<b>TODAY</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Divine Service with Holy Communion</b>
	10:15 a.m.	Adult Bible Class and Sunday School
	11:30 a.m.	Voice of Bethlehem (WZBD 92.7)
<b>MONDAY</b>	7:00 p.m.	Handbell Choir Practice
<b>TUESDAY</b>	7:00 p.m.	Women's Bible Study
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Chapel Service</b>
	5:30 p.m.	Catechesis Class
	6:30 p.m.	Ladies Night Out
	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Spoken Divine Service</b>
	7:30 p.m.	Adult Choir Practice
<b>THURSDAY</b>	12:00 p.m.	Blanket Sewing
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Divine Service with Holy Communion</b>
	10:15 a.m.	Adult Bible Class and Sunday School
	11:15 a.m.	Board of Elders Meeting
	11:30 a.m.	Voice of Bethlehem (WZBD 92.7)

*Announcements can be emailed to the church secretary at [bethlehemossiansec@gmail.com](mailto:bethlehemossiansec@gmail.com) or by calling the church office at 597-7121.*  
<https://www.youtube.com/bethlehemlutheranchossian> 9:00 a.m. Livestream

**WE WELCOME ALL OUR VISITORS this morning** to our church and worship service in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We ask that you please complete a green visitor's card from the pew and place it in the offering plate. Also, please be sure to introduce yourself to the Pastor and to others in attendance and feel free to worship with us again.

**THANK YOU** all so much for the gifts you have showered our family with the last few weeks. We feel extremely blessed to have such a wonderful church family to be a part of. We are so appreciative of all the gifts, kind words and prayers you have given us the past few weeks as we prepare to welcome our third child. Thank you from the Streeks family!

**NEW CATECHESIS CLASS** - Pastor Wirgau is offering a class on Christian Doctrine from the Small Catechism (bring your own if you have one) for anyone who is interested on Wednesday evenings at 5:30-6:30. This class will serve as a refresher for current members who would like to continue their catechesis as well as an introductory class to the Christian faith and the teaching of our Church for all who are not members of Bethlehem. All are invited and encouraged to attend and to bring family and friends who may be interested. If you have questions or need more details, please contact Pastor Wirgau.

The **Bethlehem Pork Chop Carry-out Fundraiser** will be held on Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup>. Volunteers are needed for this event! Please see the sign-up sheets on the table in the north hallway. Thank you

The Women of Bethlehem group invites you to a **LADIES NIGHT OUT** at Mi Casa Restaurant in Ossian on Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. We have reserved the outdoor patio (weather permitting) which holds about 30 people. If you would like to attend, please contact Jessica Schumm 260-414-6559. Hope to see you there!

**Womens Bible Study** – The Bible Study books have come in and our first meeting will be Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the church Fellowship Hall. Be sure to have the first section read before the meeting.

Plan to join us for the annual **Bethlehem Square Dance** that will be held on Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at Lighted Gardens with Bill Werling's band.

**Cemetery Gravestone Saddles** – Diana Thorpe has her homemade fall colored saddles available for \$49. Contact her at 260-438-7159.

**Zion Lutheran Church, Friedheim** invites congregational members to attend the Installation Service of Rev. Matthew Ulmer as Pastor on Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup> at 2:00 p.m. Light Refreshments will be served following the service in the Dahling Family Life Center.

**WALK STEADY FOR ROCK STEADY** – Walk in support of Rock Steady Boxing in Bluffton and help support the Fight Back Against Parkinson's Disease! Event takes place on September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9-11:00 a.m. Event starts and ends at the Wabash River Pavilion. More information is posted to the bulletin board.

**Help Wanted** – Do you love being with little children and talking to them about God's Word and His love? Then you may be just right for our Wyneken Childcare! We are actively seeking individuals with a heart to serve. Please contact: Jennifer Conrad at 260-909-1118 ([jconrad@wyneken.com](mailto:jconrad@wyneken.com))

**St. Peter Lutheran (Fuelling) Anniversary Church Dinner** – Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup> from 10:00-1:00pm. Choice of Chicken or Swiss Steak, Baked Potato, Green Beans, Dinner Roll, Drink and Dessert. Adults \$10 Children 12 and under \$5.00

## **RECITATION & PRAYER FOR SCHOOL AND HOME**

*The sign of the cross may be made in remembrance of Baptism.*

**In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

What are the Ten Commandments?

**You shall have no other gods.**

**You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.**

**Remember the Sabbath Day by keeping it Holy.**

**Honor your father and your mother.**

**You shall not murder.**

**You shall not commit adultery.**

**You shall not steal.**

**You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.**

**You shall not covet your neighbor's house.**

**You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.**

What is the Apostles' Creed?

**I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

- *Additional Memory Work for the week may be recited.*
- *A hymn may be sung.*
- *Scripture Reading and Devotion Lesson*
- *Prayers and Intercessions*

*The Lord's Prayer*

**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.**

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

**Learn-by-heart all or some of the provided text as age and ability of your household allows.**

*What is the Tenth Commandment?*

**You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.**

*What does this mean?*

**We should fear and love God so that we do not entice or force away our neighbor's wife, workers, or animals, or turn them against him, but urge them to stay and do their duty.**

*What is Philippians 2:4?*

**Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Philippians 2:4**

**Offering Sept. 10, 2023**

<u>Average weekly need \$13,818</u>	
Home Fund Env.	\$6,929.42
Synod	21.83
Loose	221.85
Scholarship Fund	125.00
Improvement Fund	45.85
Endowment Fund	25.00
Music Fund	
Sound System/Video	
Sunday School	
Total	<u>\$7,368.95</u>

**Financial Report**

**Home Fund Balance (\$147.96)**

Next week bills due: \$5,000

Bills due two weeks: \$30,000

**Savings Account Balance \$40,993.34**

Borrowed from Savings: PAID

Operating Loan Debt: \$22,750

**Church/Communion Attendance**

Sunday 198/143

Wednesday 24/13