



21st Sunday after Pentecost

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Pastor Calvin Konop, Presiding

Jessica Christenson, CYF Director

Karina Roth, Musical Director

10:00 AM | October 18, 2026 | Setting 8

Belonging to Christ, Sharing Christ on the North Shore & Beyond!

Welcome to all who have gathered to praise God today. May we worship with grateful hearts and reach out to one another in the love and fellowship of Christ.

INTRODUCTION

In today's first reading God uses the Gentile ruler Cyrus to accomplish divine purposes. When the Pharisees try to trap Jesus, he tells them to give the emperor what belongs to him and to God what belongs to God. To gather for worship reminds us that our ultimate allegiance is to God rather than to any earthly authority. Created in the image of God, we offer our entire selves in the service of God and for the sake of the world.

PRELUDE

Karina Roth

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth. **Amen.**

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin. *(Silence is kept for reflection.)*

Compassionate God, **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. **Amen.**

Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ✝ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG:

God Is Here

ELW 526

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE ELEISON

(verses 1 & 2)

ELW page 184

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Glory to God

ELW page 185

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Sovereign God, **raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S TIME

Jess Christenson

On the way up the aisles, the children will be collecting "Noisy Change" for the "Holy Cow" fund, which will support ELCA World Hunger.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 45:1-7

¹ Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped—to subdue nations before him and to strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him—and the gates shall not be closed:

² I will go before you and level the mountains; I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron; ³ I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. ⁴ For the sake of my servant Jacob and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name; I give you a title, though you do not know me.

⁵ I am the LORD, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, ⁶ so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the LORD, and there is no other. ⁷ I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the LORD do all these things.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 96:1-9

¹ Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.

² **Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD;
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**

³ Declare God's glory among the nations

and God's wonders among all peoples.

**⁴ For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised,
more to be feared than all gods.**

⁵ As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.

**⁶ Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**

⁷ Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

**⁸ Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.**

⁹ Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

SECOND READING:

1st Thessalonians 1:1-10

¹ Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord
Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

² We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our
prayers, constantly ³ remembering before our God and Father your work
of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus
Christ. ⁴ For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has
chosen you, ⁵ because our message of the gospel came to you not in
word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full
conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be
among you for your sake. ⁶ And you became imitators of us and of the
Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the
Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you became an example to all the believers in
Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸ For the word of the Lord has sounded forth
from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith
in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹
For they report about us what kind of welcome we had among you and
how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God ¹⁰ and
to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus,
who rescues us from the coming wrath.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia

ELW page 188

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL

Matthew 22:15-22

¹⁵ The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. ¹⁶ So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ Then he said to them, "Whose head is this and whose title?" ²¹ They answered, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." ²² When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Calvin Konop

HYMN OF THE DAY

We Are An Offering

ELW 692

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world. (*A brief silence.*)

Living and true God, you inspire us to share the message of the gospel. Give your spirit of love to seminarians and those beginning their lives in ordained ministry. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We give you thanks for the majesty of our lakes and oceans. Protect the abundant life within them and sustain all those who work to preserve them, especially our local specialists working against invasive species.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We seek your wisdom in all things. Direct all who hold positions of authority around the world, that they act with compassion, seeking the good of all. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all people who work in dangerous or degrading environments. Grant them safety and courage, and heal all those who are injured, sick, or suffering. We pray especially these we name before you now *for Gene, Mary, Ed, Bonnie, Milly, Luke, Sarah, & Katrina*. We pray now for those we name aloud, or in the silence of our hearts. (*A time of silence*). We lift to You all those dealing with issues of mental health or addiction. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We ask your blessing on those who do the quiet, unseen work of the church especially our *Office Manager Denise Murray, the BLCW, the Church in Society Committee, our Custodian Kent Peterson, Jed Smith who plows our snow, and our Altar Guild*. Encourage them in their work of faith and labor of love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We thank you for our ancestors who have been called home to you, especially Lynn Schulte and Barb Youngquist. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

OFFERING "By the Waters of Babylon" Bethlehem Choir
Arr. Peter Amidon

OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. **Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come! All are welcome!

Bethlehem Lutheran Church believes in the real presence of Christ in Holy Communion, and we practice eucharistic hospitality. All persons, whether visiting or a member, are welcomed to Communion. (Offered in these sacraments are wine or apple juice; and regular or gluten-free wafers.)

COMMUNION MUSIC

Lamb of God

ELW page 191

Take My Life, That I May Be

ELW 685

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in grace unto everlasting life. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Sustaining God, **with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

BLESSING

The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus. The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit. The God of grace ✚ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

O God of Every Nation

ELW 713

DISMISSAL

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Karina Roth



We pray for healing for these members & friends: Gene Erickson, Mary Sanders, Ed Hedstrom, Milly Gestel, Bonnie, Linda Zenk, Stacey Johnson, Clayton & Nancy Koss, Lois Johnson, Butch & Rhonda Schulte, Luke Gulstrand, Sarah Coe, Char Anderson, Phyllis Olson, Paulina Backstrom, Shae Lindholm, Stacey Schulte, Hank Ferland, Margaret Dahl, Katrina Crouse, Karen Shannon, Tom Christiansen, & Loretta Bloomquist

This week we lift up these members: Lorelei Livingston; Tom, Lynnea & Runa Morse; Jes Rodne; Martha Rosbacka; and Ryan, Krista & Jake Mixdorf. May God walk with these friends in their journey of peace.

Next Sunday is Reformation Sunday and we will **Celebrate the Affirmation of Faith** our 9th graders will profess. Please keep this youth in your prayers as they make this milestone in their faith life: Tommy Kerntz, Eli Monson, Leim Gillespie, Lucy Kartes, and Ellen Lessard.



Women in the Life of Jesus

4-week Bible Study - 2 Study Groups:

8:30am Tuesday mornings or
Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm

Open to all adults

The study will focus on a different woman from Jesus' life in each of the 4 Gospels. By studying how Jesus and these women interacted, we can learn how to challenge practices of oppression and exclusion in our world today, and help us to see the expansive love and grace of God through Jesus. Sign-ups are in the Narthex, or email Pastor Calvin at blcpastor@boreal.org



*On-line giving is encouraged
using this QR Code*

A graphic for Reformation Sunday on a yellow background. At the top, the text 'REFORMATION SUNDAY' is written in a blue, slightly curved font. Below it is a circular emblem with a blue border, containing a red heart with a white cross, surrounded by white and blue floral patterns. Under the emblem, the text 'Sola Gratia' is written in a large, red, cursive font, followed by 'Grace Alone' in a smaller, green, sans-serif font. Below that, 'Sola Fide' is written in the same red cursive font, followed by 'Faith Alone' in the same green sans-serif font. Then, 'Sola Scriptura' is written in the red cursive font, followed by 'Scripture Alone' in the green sans-serif font. At the bottom, the text 'Wear Red next Sunday' is written in a black, sans-serif font.

This Week at Bethlehem:

- Sun Oct 18** 8:40 AM Choir Practice
10:00 AM **Worship Service
& Sunday School**
2:00 PM Care Center Worship Service
3:30 PM Borealis Orchestra practice
5:00 PM Borealis Chorale practice
- Mon Oct 19** 6:30 PM Church Council meeting
- Tues Oct 20** 8:30 AM Adult Bible Study
9:30 AM Staff meeting
7:00 PM Stewardship meeting
- Wed Oct 21** 12:30 PM Text Study
5:30 PM Community Meal
6:00 PM Worship Service
6:30 PM Confirmation Class
6:30 PM Adult Bible Study
- Thur Oct 22** 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study
9:00 AM Quilting
- Sun Oct 25** 8:40 AM AWB Practice
10:00 AM **Worship Service
& Sunday School**
Affirmation of Faith - 9th graders
3:30 PM Borealis Orchestra practice
5:00 PM Borealis Chorale practice

Upcoming Events:

**October 25: Reformation Sunday and
Affirmation of Faith** for our 9th grade students

October 28: Lefse Making - Intergenerational
Project, 6:00 pm

**October 31: Barb Youngquist's Memorial
Service** 11:00 am (Joy Oberg's Hospitality Team)

October 31: Trunk or Treat 5:00-6:30pm at
Community Center (Jess is organizing event—
contact her to help &/or to donate candy.)

**November 1: All Saints' Sunday and
Daylight Saving Time ends** (Fall back!) 

November 13: Rye Bread Making Day

**November 14: Lutefisk Dinner, 4:00 & 6:00 pm
seatings**

December 5: Hanging of the Greens (Time to be
determined)



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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Remember: Bethlehem has
**medical gas cards and grocery
cards for people in need.** Please
see Pastor or Denise.

Upcoming Commemorations **Luke, Evangelist—Sunday, October 18, 2026**

Identified as the author of both
Luke and Acts, Luke was careful to
place the events of Jesus' life in
their social and religious contexts.
His gospel gives us some of the
most beloved parables, as well as
the songs of Zechariah, Mary, the
angels, and Simeon.

James of Jerusalem, martyr, died around 62. Friday, October 23, 2026

One of three early-church leaders
named James, this man is
identified in the New Testament
and by a historian of the time as a
brother of Jesus. Scholars are
uncertain whether this means a
blood brother. He was a leader of
the church in Jerusalem.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

Sunday Morning Volunteers We
are seeking more help with Sunday
morning worship. specifically we
would like a larger pool of ushers,
communion servers, greeters and
lectors.

Sign up online
using this **QR
Code**, or on the
clipboard on the
Narthex table.



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