



# Bethlehem Lutheran Church

## Thankoffering Sunday

### November 19, 2023

### Reverend Calvin Konop, Presiding

*Belonging to Christ. Sharing Christ on the North Shore and Beyond!*

## Welcome!

PRELUDE

Karina Roth



ANNOUNCEMENTS Pastor Calvin Konop

INTRODUCTION

Theresa Oberg

Thankofferings are a long-standing custom among Lutheran women. “We give in thanksgiving for blessings received because we are so grateful.” Thankofferings are to support the ongoing ministries of the churchwide women’s organization. Many women set aside small amounts at home throughout the year and then bring together their gifts with those of the other women at the end of the year. This annual service is only one way to take part in this age-old practice among women of faith. It has been shown time and again that **gratitude is good for us** - spiritually, mentally, and even physically. Making a Thankoffering is gratitude in action. And Women of the ELCA is grateful to you for taking that action. Thank you.

TEMPLE TALK

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Kris Hedstrom

Blessed be the Triune + God, who pours out love, justice, and mercy in abundance. **Amen.**

Joined by water to Christ and to creation, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

For all gifts of water,

**We give you thanks, O God.**

For rivers and lakes, for streams and oceans, for Lake Superior and all the lakes, rivers and streams of Cook County, for healing rains and clean water to drink:

**We give you thanks, O God.**

For Miriam’s song of liberation on the far bank of the sea; For Isaiah’s invitation to “come and drink, without money and without price;”; For Jesus’s baptism and commissioning in the waters of the Jordan; For the Samaritan woman, revived by living water; For your holy river that waters the tree of life:

**We give you thanks, O God.**

For the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, For baptismal waters, For the cleansing of our hearts, For the refreshment of our spirits, For waves of mercy, For justice, rolling like rivers:

**We give you thanks, O God.**

Blessing, honor, and glory be to you, O God, and eternal gratitude for all your good gifts.

**Amen.**

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## GATHERING HYMN

ACS 979

### *Making Their Way*



meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail, according to the word of the Lord that he spoke by Elijah.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GREETING:

**Janet Simonen**

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.



## CHILDREN'S TIME

### SCRIPTURE READINGS

**Ashley Konop**

#### FIRST READING:

**1 Kings 17:8-16**

<sup>8</sup> Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, <sup>9</sup> "Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there, for I have commanded a widow there to feed you." <sup>10</sup> So he set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; he called to her and said, "Bring me a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink." <sup>11</sup> 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> But she said, "As the Lord your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar and a little oil in a jug; I am now gathering a couple of sticks so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it and die." <sup>13</sup> Elijah said to her, "Do not be afraid; 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 meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the Lord sends rain on the earth." <sup>15</sup> She went and did as Elijah said, so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days. <sup>16</sup> The jar of

## PSALM

**Psalm 107:1-9, 43**

- 1 O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.
- 2 **Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, those he redeemed from trouble**
- 3 and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west from the north and from the south.
- 4 **Some wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to an inhabited town;**
- 5 Hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them.
- 6 **Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress;**
- 7 He led them by a straight way, until they reached an inhabited town.
- 8 **Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind.**
- 9 For he satisfies the thirsty, and the hungry he fills with good things.
- 43 **Let those who are wise pay attention to these things and consider the steadfast love of the Lord.**

## SECOND READING:

**Philippians 1:3-11**

<sup>3</sup> I thank my God for every remembrance of you, <sup>4</sup> always in every one of my prayers for all of you, praying with joy <sup>5</sup> for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup> I am confident

of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because I hold you in my heart, for all of you are my partners in God's grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup> For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the tender affection of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup> And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight <sup>10</sup> to help you to determine what really matters, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, "having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.



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GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ACS page 33

GOSPEL: Rev. Marion Rova

**Matthew 26:6-13**

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

<sup>6</sup> Now while Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, <sup>7</sup> a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment, and she poured it on his head as he sat at the table. <sup>8</sup> But when the disciples saw it, they were angry and said, "Why this waste? <sup>9</sup> For this ointment could have been sold for a large sum and the money given to the poor." <sup>10</sup> But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, "Why do you trouble the woman? She has performed a good service for me. <sup>11</sup> For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. <sup>12</sup> By pouring this ointment on my body she has prepared me for burial. <sup>13</sup> Truly I tell you, wherever this good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her."

The Gospel of the Lord.  
Praise to you, O Christ.



SERMON

Rev. Marion Rova

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HYMN OF THE DAY: ACS 1001  
Holy Woman, Graceful Giver

APOSTLES' CREED Kathy Bolstad

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

With gratitude to God, we remember in prayer our church, our neighbors, and our world.

*A brief silence.*

O God, we remember your church across the world. Let your good news be known through many and diverse forms of worship and service. Encourage your faithful people to generosity in all things. God of grace, receive our prayer.

We remember the bounty of creation. In this harvest season, grant us and all creatures sufficient food and water. Heal the earth where it faces drought, flood, fire, and storms. Bless us with the gifts and inclination necessary to participate in the healing of the earth. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We remember the nations of the world and their leaders. Transform the hearts of governments and authorities that compassion and grace overflow from their leadership. Empower us toward acts of charity and advocacy for those who are poor, neglected, threatened by violence, or forced from their homelands. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We remember the struggles of our neighbors. Grant hope and healing to all who are sick, afraid, in pain, or facing transitions. *We pray especially for Joyce, Emily, Linda, Bruce, Lynn, Greg, Vera, Lois, Barbara, Char, Rhonda, Paulina, Les, Carly, and Betty.* We pray now for those we name aloud, or in the silence of our hearts. Bless and protect all who serve as caregivers, health care providers, and social workers. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We remember all ministries of this church, and especially Women of the ELCA. Through these organizations, inspire faith, equip leaders, and accomplish works of service and justice. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We remember those who have died. May the memory of the saints encourage us to follow their example of thankfulness and generosity. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all that for which we pray, trusting in your mercy, given for us and for all, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

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## OFFERING

Bethlehem Choir

*"A Universal Blessing"*

by Alice Parker



## OFFERING PRAYER

Kelly Swearingen

Gracious God, **We give thanks each time we remember you and your blessings. Receive what we have offered now: our gifts, our time, and our whole selves. Bless our thankofferings and the work of Women of the ELCA that these offerings make possible. Make us good and faithful stewards of your gifts, that all people know the bounty of your love. We pray in the name of Christ, Amen.**

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## GREAT THANKSGIVING

Rev. Barbara  
Johnson

## DIALOGUE

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.**

## PREFACE



It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the  
Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE



All praise to you, glorious God of grace. Throughout the ages you have blessed us with foremothers of the faith. With Sarah, we bless you for your gift of life. With Ruth, we praise you for family and food. With Miriam, we celebrate our escape from the foe. Remembering Deborah, we honor the words of your prophets. Remembering the woman at the well, we laud you for living water. Remembering Junia, we thank you for those who minister among your people. One with the daughter of Jairus, we wake to life in you.

With Mary, we magnify your name: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, **my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.**

Remembering Martha and Mary, we join Jesus at this meal. Living, he healed the bleeding woman; dying, he cared for his mother; risen, he sent Mary Magdalene in mission.

On the night before he died, he took bread, and gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

With Mary, again we magnify your name: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, **my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.**

Mighty God of mercy, as you heard the prayers of Hannah, so now hear us. Send your Spirit on this bread and wine, that sharing the body and blood of Christ we become his body in the world. Send your Spirit on this assembly, that like Phoebe, we serve one another with zeal.

Send your Spirit on the church, that like Anna, we tell others of your mercy. Send your Spirit into our hearts, that like Dorcas, we care for the poor and needy.

With Mary, once more we magnify your name: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, **my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.**

All praise to you, powerful God of peace. We adore you, our God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you who mother and feed and comfort us, today, tomorrow, and forever. **Amen.**

## 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

The table overflows with Christ's gifts of bread and wine. Come and join in the feast of mercy. All are welcome.

## COMMUNION MUSIC:

**Be Known to Us** ACS page 40

**Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken** ACS 966

## POST COMMUNION BLESSING



At last, Lord, your word of promise fulfilling, you let your servant go forth in freedom and peace. With my own eyes I have seen the salvation you have prepared in the sight of all the peoples: a light that will reveal you to the nations, and the glory of your people Israel.

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**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION** Sue Anderson

Holy God, You have provided for us a feast of life. We are nourished and we are grateful. Strengthen us through this meal and send us out to provide for others, following the example of Jesus Christ, our savior and Lord. Amen.

## THE BLESSING

God has filled the hungry and thirsty with good things:

**Let us give thanks to God, for God's mercy endures forever!**

God has done wonderful works for all people:

**Let us rejoice in God's steadfast love!**

God has looked upon us with grace and favor:

**Let us remember God's mercy!**

God has put into our hearts a song of thanksgiving and freedom:

**Let us join our voices in singing our praise!**

The God of abundance, Creator, **†** Redeemer, and Spirit, bless you and keep you, now and forever.

**Amen.**

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**SENDING HYMN:** ELW 840

**Now Thank We All Our God**

**SENDING** Pastor Calvin Konop

Go in peace. Live with gratitude.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** Karina Roth

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*On-line giving is encouraged using this QR Code or through automatic transfer.*

*(Forms are available in the office.)*



## Thankoffering Sunday

We receive so many blessings, don't we? And we are so grateful. That's why we give Thankofferings. Thankofferings are to support the ongoing ministries of the churchwide women's organization. Ongoing ministries include many online and printed communications channels, justice and advocacy work, training and development for elected leaders throughout the women's organization, constant work in support of congregational and synodical women's organizations, the administration of grants and scholarship programs. . . all that goes into our triennial business meeting/convention and so much more.

Thankoffering envelopes were included in your

copy of the November Bethlehem Star Newsletter and extras can be found in the Narthex on the Greeters table. These envelopes will be collected with the offering today.



## Happy Birthday Ed!

Join us for Coffee An' following the service today as we celebrate **Ed Bolstad's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday** this week!

### Prayer Requests:

**Your prayers are** requested for healing: Joyce Heiskari, Emily Ulhorn, Linda Zenk, Bruce Johnson, Lynn Schulte, Greg Keebaugh, Lois Johnson, Barbara Erickson, Vera Finn, Char Anderson, Rhonda Schulte, Paulina Backstrom, Les Donek, Carly Hawkinson-Sohm, Elsa Sorenson, Kristi (Speck) Perales, Emi Heikkinen, Betty Jones, Eric Tofte, Stanley Markusen. *If you have any updates on these prayer requests, or any new requests, please call the office at 218-387-2227. Thank you.*

**This week we lift up these member families and friends:** Daryl & Laura Popkes; Will, Anna, Isaac, Wyatt, Brennan & Cullen Sandstrom; Doug & Kathy Finn; Rich, Virginia & Carrie Palmer; and Wally & Sandy Everson. May God walk with them in their faith journey.

**We lift up Libby Larson and family** as they mourn the loss of her grandmother, Louise Larson. Please keep them close in prayer.

### NO Wednesday Contemporary Service

**and Meal this week:** Due to Thanksgiving, there will not be any meal, service or Confirmation on Wed. Nov. 15th. All will resume next week.

**Mission of the Month for November: ELCA Good Gifts.** Catalogs are in the Narthex. Contributions can be made directly to ELCA or (preferred) through Bethlehem's Mission of the Month. Drop an order form with your donation in the offering plate or to the church office. General donations will go to

the ELCA fund and will be used where most needed. To make your financial contribution through our Mission of the Month, note "ELCA Good Gifts" on your check and drop it in the offering plate. You may also attach an order form to your check to Bethlehem and we will make sure the order will go with our November donations. Thank you for your continued support of our Mission of the Month. In peace, the Church in Society Team.

**Choir rehearsals:** Sundays at 8:40 am.. All singers are very welcome to join us. The choir generally sings on the first and third Sundays of the month.

**Borealis rehearsals:** Sunday afternoons: 2:30 Orchestra & 4:00 Choral. Contact Karina Roth for information: 218-370-2599

## This Week at Bethlehem

Mon. Nov. 20	3:30 PM	Girl Scouts
	6:30 PM	Church Council
Tues. Nov. 21	- - - -	
Wed. Nov. 22	NO	Text Study
	NO	Meal or Service
	NO	Confirmation
Thurs Nov. 23	- - - -	Thanksgiving Day
Fri. Nov. 24	- - - - -	Clarity Hearing
	- - - - -	ELCA Holiday - Office is Closed
Sun. Nov. 26	8:40 AM	Choir Practice
	10:00 AM	Contemporary Worship with Rev. Carol Mork, Presiding & Sunday School
	2:30 PM	Borealis Orchestra
	4:00 PM	Borealis Chorale practice
Mon. Nov. 27	6:30 PM	Church Council Mtg

**Pastor Calvin will be on vacation from Tuesday Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> for the holiday week.** He will be back on Tues. Nov. 28<sup>th</sup> for normal office hours: Mondays through Thursdays, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. (Off Fridays) Email: blcpastor@boreal.org. If the situation is emergent, you may call or text him at: 763-226-5425.

