



# Bethlehem Lutheran Church

September 14, 2025 – Setting 8

Pastor Calvin Konop, Presiding

Karina Roth, Musical Director

218-387-2227 | blc@boreal.org | sharingchrist.org



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

---

## Introduction— The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The grumbling of the religious leaders in today's gospel is actually our holy hope: This Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. That our God seeks and saves the lost is not only a holy hope, it is our only hope. As the writer of 1 Timothy reminds us, "The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." Thanks be to God.

## Prelude

**Karina Roth**

## Welcome & Announcements

## Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✚ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**Gathering Hymn    Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing    ELW 807**

## 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

**ELW page 184**

## Canticle of Praise

*Glory to God*

**ELW page 185**

## Prayer of the Day

**O God, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## Children's Time

On the way up the aisles, the children will be collecting coins for the "Holy Cow" fund, which will support ELCA World Hunger. *Find that loose change and hand it to a kiddo!*



## First Reading

**Exodus 32:7-14**

<sup>7</sup> The LORD said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; <sup>8</sup> they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!' " <sup>9</sup> The LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. <sup>10</sup> Now let me alone so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, and of you I will make a great nation."

<sup>11</sup> But Moses implored the LORD his God and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? <sup>12</sup> Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. <sup>13</sup> Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.' " <sup>14</sup> And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

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

**Psalm:****Psalm 51:1-10**

- <sup>1</sup> Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;  
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
- <sup>2</sup> **Wash me through and through from my wickedness,  
and cleanse me from my sin.**
- <sup>3</sup> For I know my offenses,  
and my sin is ever before me.
- <sup>4</sup> **Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;  
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**
- <sup>5</sup> Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,  
a sinner from my mother's womb.
- <sup>6</sup> **Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,  
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**
- <sup>7</sup> Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.
- <sup>8</sup> **Let me hear joy and gladness;  
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**
- <sup>9</sup> Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my wickedness.
- <sup>10</sup> **Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.**

**Second Reading:****1 Timothy 1:12-17**

<sup>12</sup> I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he considered me faithful and appointed me to his service, <sup>13</sup> even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, <sup>14</sup> and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup> The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. <sup>16</sup> But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience as an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. <sup>17</sup> To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

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

**Gospel Acclamation*****Alleluia*****ELW page 188****Gospel:****Luke 15:1-10**

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

<sup>1</sup> Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] <sup>2</sup> And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

<sup>3</sup> So he told them this parable: <sup>4</sup> “Which one of you, having a hundred

sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? <sup>5</sup> And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. <sup>6</sup> And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.' <sup>7</sup> Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

<sup>8</sup> "Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? <sup>9</sup> And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' <sup>10</sup> Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

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

**Sermon**

**Pastor Calvin Konop**

**Hymn of the Day**

*Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us*

**ELW 789**

**Apostles' Creed**

**ELW page 105**

**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 God's People**

Merciful God, pour out your grace upon your church. Forgive us for the times when we have been unfaithful, and renew our commitment to your gospel of love. Empower us to live as a community of mercy. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, we ask forgiveness for the ways we have neglected and harmed this earth and its creatures. Confirm our commitment to care for all you have made, and grant us wisdom and strength to take action toward restoring your creation to its fullness. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, govern all who hold positions of power and authority. Instruct them to make just decisions that serve the common good. Make them instruments of your mercy in the world, working to heal divisions and promote peace. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, we lift up all who suffer. Bring healing, comfort, and peace to those who are sick, grieving, or in pain *especially Sarah, Lois, Joan, Bruce, Lynn, Gene & Barbara, Katrina, Pastor Dale and the community of Evergreen Colorado*. We pray now for those we name aloud, or in the silence of our hearts. (*A time of silence*). Give us compassionate hearts to accompany those who are hurting and courage to work for justice and mercy. God of grace, **hear our prayer**.

Merciful God, bind us together as a community of forgiveness and love. Supply us with humility to seek forgiveness when we have wronged one another and generosity to extend mercy when we have been wronged. God of grace, **hear our prayer**.

Merciful God, we remember in love those who have departed this life *especially Linda McIntire and Charlie Kirk*. Console those who mourn, and give them the hope of resurrection. God of grace, **hear our prayer**.

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend. **Amen**.

## **Sharing the Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

## **Offering**

**Karina Roth**

## **Offering Prayer**

Lord of the harvest, **we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **Great Thanksgiving**

**ELW page 190**

## **Preface and Holy, Holy, Holy**

**ELW page 190**

## **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**

Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy. 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.*

## **Communion Music**

*Lamb of God*

**ELW page 191**

*Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling*

**ELW 608**

## **Post Communion Blessing**

### **Prayer After Communion**

**O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

### **Blessing**

The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, ✚ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

**Sending Hymn    *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*    ELW 779**

### **Dismissal**

**Go in peace. Live by the Spirit. Thanks be to God.**

### **Postlude**

**Karina Roth**



**Your prayers are requested for healing:** Sarah Coe, Lynn Schulte, Annalisa Winje, Katrina Crouse, Lois Johnson, Joan Bieber, Bill Lyght, Gene and Barbara Erickson, Bruce & Stacey Johnson, Paulina Backstrom, Shae Lindholm, Rhonda Schulte, Char Anderson, Betty Jones, Stacey Schulte, Hank Ferland, Ramiro Acero, Margaret Dahl, Pastor Dale McIntire and Tom Christensen.

**This week we lift up these members:** *Dave & Linda Prinsen; Mark & Robin Johnson; Mike, Sue, Abby, Josh Prom & Nicole Banitt; Lois Eyinck; and Erik, Stephanie, Eli & Elizabeth Anderson.* May God walk with these faithful friends in their journey of peace.

**Fall Planning has started!** There are many opportunities for you to get involved..... **Sunday School** teachers, **Wednesday Worship:** Meals (team meal servers); **Music** (musicians: instrumentalists and vocalists); **Confirmation** helpers; **Hospitality Teams** (team coordinator, team members); **Technical Services** (live stream and sound technicians); etc. **Bethlehem has so many opportunities for you to be involved and we look forward to the upcoming school year.** *Please talk to Pastor Calvin, Jess or Denise to get more information.*

**Fall Programming begins October 1st** with Wednesday activities: meals, worship, Confirmation; and on **October 5th Sunday School** begins. (We need more SS teachers before classes can begin!!)



The Mission of the Month for September is **Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR)**. LDR shares God's hope, healing and renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, LDR stays to provide ongoing assistance to those in need.

We are a church that is a catalyst, convener and bridge builder. Lutheran Disaster Response collaborates with other disaster response organizations and religious entities in the United States and around the world. This enables the greatest stewardship of resources and maximum impact of response. The organization is a welcome partner because they respect the perspectives and strengths of others.

“We recognize that every disaster is local. Because of this, we believe every response needs to be rooted in the community; we work to accompany that community from immediate relief through long-term recovery. In our international work we partner closely with companion churches and other Lutheran and ecumenical relief agencies to make sure local needs are being addressed and met. In the United States, we work through our extensive affiliate network and other partners to address these same concerns.” – taken from LDR’s website.

Lutheran Disaster Response strives to help the church continue to be church in the midst of disaster — following Christ's call to share hope and healing with our neighbor in need. Some key areas of work include:

- Providing emotional and spiritual care for people who have been affected by a disaster and for leaders who respond to a disaster
- Coordinating volunteers through our local affiliates
- Assisting refugees in a holistic way by meeting the varied needs of the community
- Promoting disaster risk-reduction by helping communities build their assets thereby reducing the effects of likely disasters
- Providing long-term recovery efforts by addressing the unmet needs months or even years after a disaster strikes

Internationally, LDR is found at disasters in: Eastern Europe Crisis Response; Horn of Africa Drought; Middle East Crisis; South Sudan Relief; and Migrants and Refugees (AMMPARO). Domestically, they are found in disasters dealing with Flooding; Hurricanes; Severe Storms; Tornadoes, and Wildfires. Donations for the Mission of the Month in September will be directed to Lutheran Disaster Response.



## MEMBER CHALLENGE: SEPTEMBER

Ukrainians are in need of **wool socks** for the winter. All sizes welcome. They will also accept **GOOD QUALITY men’s winter clothing** (good condition only!). Winter boots and shoes in good shape. **NO ORANGE HUNTING CLOTHES!** Please drop off your donations by Friday September 19th. Box will be located in front of Denise’s office. Thank you!



## Bethlehem Lutheran Church

417 First Avenue West, PO Box 638

Grand Marais, MN 55604

218-387-2227

[www.sharingchrist.org](http://www.sharingchrist.org) | [blc@boreal.org](mailto:blc@boreal.org)

On-line giving is encouraged using this QR Code  
or through automatic transfer.  
(Forms are available online & the office.)



### **This Week at Bethlehem:**

- Sun Sept 14 8:40 AM Choir practice  
10:00AM Worship Service
- Mon Sept 15 3:30 PM Girl Scouts  
6:30 PM Church Council
- Tues Sep 16 8:30 AM Staff meeting  
10:00 AM ISD166 Drill  
6:30 PM Worship Team
- Wed Sep 17 12:30PM Text Study
- Thur Sep 18 8:00AM Bible Study  
9:00AM Quilting  
9:30AM RIC Committee
- Fri Sept 19 - - - - - Clarity Hearing
- Sun Sept 21 8:40AM Choir practice  
10:00AM Worship Service  
2:00 PM Care Center  
Worship Service

**Traveler Cards** and **Local Grocery Cards** are available from BLC to members of the community that need help. Please contact the office.

***Quilters are seeking more helpers!*** Every Thursday morning at 9 to 11:30am. Come as you are able.

**Wednesday Text Study:** Join us at 12:30 pm on Wednesdays for a study of the scripture lessons for the next Sunday.

**Men's Bible Study:** Every Thursday morning, beginning at 8:00 to 9:15 am. Contact Mike Chmelik for information, 218-387-1790

**Sign up to help with Sunday Services:** Look for the **blue clipboard** in the Narthex to sign up to help with worship & coffee time. All are qualified and help is much appreciated.

### **Confirmation Information:**

#### **Parent and Student Meeting**

**Sunday Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> following worship.** All persons should attend who are planning on participating in classes this year. Grades 6 through 9.

#### **Bethlehem's Homecoming:**

**October 5<sup>th</sup>.** Worship at 10am, followed by food, games, fellowship, crafts, inflatable bounce house, give aways (including Bibles for every age), and lots more. Invite your friends and neighbors, invite past members and families. Come one, come all for a festive good time! The Men of Bethlehem will be serving Walking Tacos.

#### **Adult Education Opportunity:**

Study on Romans. Beginning October 8 through December 10, 8-week session. 6:30pm 1-hour study/week, plus a celebration on last week. (We are working on a day-time schedule and will advise.)

#### **Jess will be on vacation**

September 16—21. We wish her a beautiful and relaxing vacation with her family. God's blessings on a safe & fun-filled vacation!

Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS005993. New Revised Standard Version Bible. Copyright © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.