The Joy of Generosity

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Pastor Calvin Konop, Presiding
Jessica Christenson, CYF Director
Karina Roth & The Average Worship Band
10:00 AM | November 22, 2026



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

As Thanksgiving approaches, we pause to thank God for every blessing.
Let us worship with grateful hearts and remember his goodness in every season.
A warm welcome to all!

INTRODUCTION

In the last month at Bethlehem, we've explored the joy of generosity, of living in Christian community, and of doing God's Work with Our Hands. Your generous giving to Bethlehem, combined with the generous giving of others, fuels God's work here and helps to fulfill our mission of *Belong to Christ, Sharing Christ on the North Shore and Beyond*. We invite you to consider how, next year, you can continue to make a difference for good in your own life, in the life of our congregation and in the life of the world.

Your giving, in any amount, makes a difference. **We ask that you prayerfully consider growing your giving to Bethlehem by 1% of your household income.** For most people, this is a reasonable goal. When many of us take this step, it will lead to significant results for our congregation and its ministry.

Please refer to the table on page 7 which makes it easy to calculate a 1% increase, with instructions included. Your past gifts of time and money have made possible all the important ministries of our congregation. We thank you for your prayerful consideration of this request to grow your generous support so that, together, we can do even more in Jesus' name.

PRELUDE *Lovely Needy People* Average Worship Band

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

TEMPLE TALK STEWARDSHIP Eric Anderson

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. *(Silence is kept for reflection.)*

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.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG *Gather Us In*

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.**

SONG OF PRAISE *Jesus Name Above All Name*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God of power and might, **your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S TIME Pastor Calvin

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 Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

11 For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep and will sort
them out. 12 As shepherds sort out their flocks when they are among
scattered sheep, so I will sort out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the
places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick
darkness. 13 I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from
the countries and bring them into their own land, and I will feed them on
the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts
of the land. 14 I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights
of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing
land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. 15 I
myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down,
says the Lord God. 16 I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strays, and
I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the
strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

20 Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between
the fat sheep and the lean sheep. 21 Because you pushed with flank and
shoulder and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you
scattered them far and wide, 22 I will save my flock, and they shall no longer
be ravaged, and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

23 I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall
feed them; he shall feed them and be their shepherd. 24 And I the Lord will
be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I the
Lord have spoken.

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

PSALM — Psalm 95:1-7a

1 O come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
2 **Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;**
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!
3 For the Lord is a great God
and a great King above all gods.
4 **In his hand are the depths of the earth;**
the heights of the mountains are his also.
5 The sea is his, for he made it,
and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

6 **O come, let us worship and bow down;**
let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!
7 For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture
and the sheep of his hand.

SECOND READING: — Ephesians 1:15-23

15 I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the
saints, and for this reason 16 I do not cease to give thanks for you as I
remember you in my prayers, 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the
Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you
come to know him, 18 so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you
may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the
riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, 19 and what is the
immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the
working of his great power. 20 God put this power to work in Christ when
he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the
heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and
dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but
also in the age to come. 22 And he has put all things under his feet and has

made him the head over all things for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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

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

GOSPEL — Matthew 25:31-46

31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him,
then he will sit on the throne of his glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered
before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd
separates the sheep from the goats, 33 and he will put the sheep at his right
hand and the goats at the left. 34 Then the king will say to those at his right
hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom
prepared for you from the foundation of the world, 35 for I was hungry and
you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was
a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you gave me
clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited
me.' 37 Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw
you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink?
38 And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked
and gave you clothing? 39 And when was it that we saw you sick or in
prison and visited you?'

40 And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of
the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.' 41 Then he
will say to those at his left hand, 'You who are accursed, depart from me
into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, 42 for I was
hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing
to drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you
did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.'
44 Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or
thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of
you?' 45 Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it
to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' 46 And these will go
away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life."

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

SERMON — Pastor Calvin Konop

Our Generosity to our Church & our Neighbor
is Inspired by the Generosity of Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY — *No Matter Who*

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

United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation. *(A brief silence.)*

Prepare your people for your reign to come among us. Where the church is wary, make us bold; where we are complacent, stir us to action; where we are anxious, assure us of your never-ending care. God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

All the heights, depths, and expanses of the earth belong to you. Deliver every corner of your creation from disaster. Restore lands ravaged by floods, fires, drought, or contamination. God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Gather all the nations at your side and teach them the ways of your kingdom of wholeness and abundant life. Empower judges, juries, and legal advocates to create and uphold pathways toward transformative justice. God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Bind up the wounds of all your people. Give courage to all who experience uncertainty, guide all people facing difficult decisions, and lift the spirits of any who are in need. We pray especially these we name before you now for *Patty, Bonnie, Gene, 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. God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Accompany communities struggling with conflict. Help us to listen deeply to one another, that we might know one another more fully and release any hurt or anger. Create ways of healing and reconciliation among us. God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Fill us with the spirit of wisdom and perseverance that you grant to all the saints, and bring us, at the last, into the hope of your promised new day. God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved. Amen.

OFFERING *If Today* Average Worship Band

On-line giving is encouraged using this QR Code

OFFERING PRAYER

Eternal God, **our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until hungry no more, all the world is fed, through 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.**

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.

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

In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in. Come, receive what Christ has prepared. 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

Come to the Table ELW 481

All Belong Here

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

Holy God, we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal. You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus. The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. The God of all grace ☩ bless you now and forever. Amen.

SENDING SONG *The Lord Now Sends Us Forth*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Encourage one another. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Naomi Tracy-Hegg, organ



THANK YOU FOR CONSIDERING THIS REQUEST TO INCREASE YOUR GIVING BY 1% OF YOUR INCOME.

TO USE THIS TABLE:

1. Look down the left column to find your approximate household income.
2. Look across the row to find the column that matches your giving pattern — weekly, monthly or annually. The number in this column is the amount you are asked to consider for your increase for next year.
3. Add this increase to your current level of giving to arrive at next year's requested amount.

HOUSEHOLD INCOME	WEEKLY GIVERS	MONTHLY GIVERS	ANNUAL GIVERS
$25,000	$5	$20	$250
$50,000	$10	$42	$500
$75,000	$14	$62	$750
$100,000	$19	$83	$1,000
$125,000	$24	$104	$1,250
$150,000	$29	$125	$1,500
$175,000	$34	$146	$1,750
$200,000	$38	$167	$2,000
$225,000	$43	$187	$2,250
$250,000	$48	$208	$2,500
$275,000	$53	$229	$2,750
$300,000	$58	$250	$3,000

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This Week at Bethlehem:

Sun Nov. 22	8:40 AM	AWB Practice
	10:00 AM	**Worship Service & Sunday School**
	3:30 PM	Borealis Orchestra practice
	5:00 PM	Borealis Chorale practice
Mon Nov 23	3:30 PM	Girl Scouts
	6:30 PM	Church Council meeting
Tues Nov 24	8:30 AM	Staff meeting
Wed Nov 25	12:30 PM	Text Study
Thur Nov 26	**Closed**	Thanksgiving Day
Fri Nov 27	**Closed**	for Holiday
Sun Nov 29	8:40 AM	Choir Practice
	10:00 AM	**Worship Service & Sunday School**
	3:30 PM	Borealis Orchestra practice
	5:00 PM	Borealis Chorale practice

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

This week we lift up these members: Ed Hedstrom; Char Anderson; Janet Elmquist; Gene Erickson; Linda Johnson and Lois Johnson. May God walk with these friends in their journey of peace.

Mission of the Month for November: **Empty Bowls - Cook County.** Empty Bowls supports 39 different food distribution organizations in this county. (Envelopes are in the Narthex) We also want to encourage the people of Bethlehem to bring **food shelf donations** to church this month. Particularly, they could use food for Thanksgiving such as: *canned meats, chili, stews, coffee, (some of the more expensive items for the holidays).*

Advent begins next Sunday, November 29!

Denise will be out of the office starting November 30th for a few weeks.

Upcoming Events:

1st Week of December: Christmas Tree set up and decorating. Date to be determined by Kent Anderson. We'd like to get adults to help with this. Check in with Pastor or Jess.

December 5: Hanging of the Greens at 1:00 pm (For information talk to Janet Simonen/Hilja Iverson)

December 11 & 12: Borealis Concerts, 7:00 pm. (Hospitality Teams: Dec. 11th Gwen Lenz & Kris Hedstrom, and Dec. 12th: Joy Oberg)

December 13: No Rehearsal Christmas Program, 10:00am during worship. All are invited to participate.

Help with Sunday Services: sign up to help with worship using this QR Code.

Order a poinsettia for our Christmas Eve Services. Order forms are in the narthex. Plants can be picked up after the 5pm service on Christmas Eve.

December is a busy month! Please submit your newsletter articles by tomorrow, Nov. 23.

