The Joy of Generosity

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Pastor Anne Swallow Gillis, Presiding
Jessica Christenson, CYF Director
Karina Roth, Musical Director
10:00 AM | November 15, 2026 | Setting 4

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

We gather with gratitude for the extravagant goodness of Almighty God.
As members of the family of God, let us rejoice and reach out in love toward one another. *May your Spirit speak to our spirits, O God.*
Give us the grace and strength to obey your guidance.

INTRODUCTION

This week, our stewardship emphasis is "**The Joy of Doing God's Work Together**." Our denomination, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, regularly uses the phrase "**God's work. Our hands**." At Bethlehem, we strive to do God's work. When our hands do this work together, more of it gets done and we are sustained by each other.

Our congregation is doing God's work in our community. We give to the local food shelf at the Congregational Church; we join with Care Partners and do seasonal projects for the elderly; we are the emergency evacuation location for the school; we lead a monthly service at the Care Center; and we've spread woodchips on the trails behind the school.

Our congregation is also doing God's work across the country and around the world. Our Church in Society Committee lead us in the Mission of the Month; we've given clothes and blankets to shelters in Duluth; and weekly our children collect the noisy offering to support ELCA Global Hunger.

Think of your own involvement in doing God's work. *How have you joined with others in our congregation to do God's work in our community? How have you joined with others to do God's work farther from home?*

PRELUDE — Karina Roth

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

TEMPLE TALK: STEWARDSHIP — Jacob Muus

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: *How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord* ELW 580

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 147

CANTICLE OF PRAISE *This Is The Feast* ELW page 149

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Righteous God, **our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, 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 DEUTERONOMY 30:1-14

30 "When all these things have happened to you, the blessings and the
curses that I have set before you, if you call them to mind among all the
nations where the Lord your God has driven you 2 and return to the Lord
your God, and you and your children obey him with all your heart and with
all your soul, just as I am commanding you today, 3 then the Lord your God
will return you from your captivity and have compassion on you, gathering
you again from all the peoples among whom the Lord your God has
scattered you. 4 Even if you are exiled to the ends of the world, from there
the Lord your God will gather you, and from there he will take you back.
5 The Lord your God will bring you into the land that your ancestors
possessed, and you will possess it; he will make you more prosperous and
numerous than your ancestors.

6 "Moreover, the Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of
your descendants, so that you will love the Lord your God with all your
heart and with all your soul, in order that you may live. 7 The Lord your God
will put all these curses on your enemies and on the adversaries who took
advantage of you. 8 Then you shall again obey the Lord, observing all his
commandments that I am commanding you today, 9 and the Lord your
God will make you abundantly prosperous in all your undertakings, in the
fruit of your body, in the fruit of your livestock, and in the fruit of your soil.
For the Lord will again take delight in prospering you, just as he delighted
in prospering your ancestors, 10 when you obey the Lord your God by
observing his commandments and decrees that are written in this book of
the law, because you turn to the Lord your God with all your heart and with
all your soul.

11 "Surely, this commandment that I am commanding you today is not too
hard for you, nor is it too far away. 12 It is not in heaven, that you should say,
'Who will go up to heaven for us and get it for us so that we may hear it
and observe it?' 13 Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who
will cross to the other side of the sea for us and get it for us so that we may
hear it and observe it?' 14 No, the word is very near to you; it is in your
mouth and in your heart for you to observe.

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

PSALM — PSALM 25:1-9

1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
2 O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.
3 Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.
4 Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.
5 Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long.
6 Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.
7 Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O Lord!
8 Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.
9 He leads the humble in what is right
and teaches the humble his way

SECOND READING: — COLOSSIANS 1:1-14

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, 2 To the saints and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus
Christ, 4 for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that
you have for all the saints, 5 because of the hope laid up for you in heaven.
You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel
6 that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole
world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you
heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God. 7 This you learned
from Epaphras, our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of
Christ on our behalf, 8 and he has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

9 For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for
you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in
all spiritual wisdom and understanding, 10 so that you may walk worthy of
the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as
you grow in the knowledge of God. 11 May you be made strong with all the
strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all
endurance and patience, joyfully 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has
enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. 13 He has
rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the
kingdom of his beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the
forgiveness of sins.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Alleluia* ELW page 151

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

GOSPEL LUKE 10:25-37

25 An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what
must I do to inherit eternal life?" 26 He said to him, "What is written in the
law? What do you read there?" 27 He answered, "You shall love the Lord
your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your
strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself." 28 And he
said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

29 But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my
neighbor?" 30 Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to
Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him,
and took off, leaving him half dead. 31 Now by chance a priest was going
down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side.
32 So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by
on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and
when he saw him he was moved with compassion. 34 He went to him and
bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him
on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. 35 The next
day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take
care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you
spend.' 36 Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man

who fell into the hands of the robbers?" 37 He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

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

SERMON Pastor Anne Swallow Gillis

The Joy of Doing God's Work Together:
Supporting Each Other & Meeting Needs

HYMN OF THE DAY *Will You Let Me Be Your Servant* ELW 659

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.)*

You build up the church as a community of faithful witnesses throughout the generations. Enliven the worship, outreach, and service work of our congregations and ministries with the hope of your good news. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As the nights grow longer in the northern hemisphere, make us mindful of the earth's need for rest. Provide for fallow fields and hibernating animals; show us how to curb human impact on vulnerable lands and species. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Rescue all nations and peoples from violence, displacement, or famine. Disrupt complacency among national and local leaders. Recommit our communities to transforming the systems that divide and oppress into those that empower and unite. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In your embrace, we find refuge from all trials and troubles. Care for families who are separated or estranged, accompany all undergoing medical procedures or mental health treatment, and reassure any who are ill or despairing. We pray especially these we name before you now for *Abby. Virginia, 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.**

Bless all who serve in congregational leadership: Council Members, Stewardship committee, Hospitality coordinators, BLCW, Sunday School & Confirmation teachers, and Property volunteers. Encourage healthy stewardship of time, talents, and resources for the mission of the gospel. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The faithful of every age trust in the hope of your saving grace. In thanksgiving for the ways our ancestors have journeyed before us, we remember all who have entered eternal life in you. 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 — Karina Roth

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. 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 — ELW page 153

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

Lamb of God ELW page 191
Although I Speak with Angel's Tongue ELW 644

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

Gracious God, **in this meal you have drawn us to your heart, and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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 HYMN *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ* ELW 674

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE Karina Roth

Thank you to The Reverend Anne Swallow Gillis for presiding during our service today. A United Church of Christ Pastor for over 40 years, Anne has served congregations and healthcare chaplaincy settings in California, the Washington DC metropolitan area and Minnesota. Most recently, she was the Interim Pastor at First Congregational UCC here in Grand Marais. She is retired from full–time ministry. With her husband Chris Gillis, they now call Grand Marais "home."

Pastor Calvin returns to the office tomorrow

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This Week at Bethlehem:

Sun Nov. 15	8:40 AM	Choir Practice
	10:00 AM	**Worship Service & Sunday School**
	2:00 PM	Worship at the Care Center
	3:30 PM	Borealis Orchestra practice
	5:00 PM	Borealis Chorale practice
Mon Nov 16	1:00 PM	Girl Scouts
	6:30 PM	Church Council meeting
Tues Nov 17	8:30 AM	Staff meeting
	5:00 PM	Girl Scouts
Wed Nov 18	10:30 AM	Meeting in library
	12:30 PM	Text Study
	5:30 PM	Community Meal
	6:00 PM	**Worship Service**
	6:30 PM	Confirmation Class
Thur Nov 19	8:00 AM	Men's Bible Study
	9:00 AM	Quilting
	3:20 PM	Children's Choir practice
	4:30 PM	Swing Band practice
	5:30 PM	Girl Scout Leader meeting
Fri Nov 20	- - - - -	Clarity Hearing Appts.
Sat. Nov 21	*All Youth*	*Gathering at Cragun's*
Sun Nov 22	8:40 AM	Choir Practice
	10:00 AM	**Worship Service & Sunday School**
	3:30 PM	Borealis Orchestra practice
	5:00 PM	Borealis Chorale practice

Upcoming Events:

November 16: Council members monthly reports due.

November 22: December newsletter articles due.

November 29: Advent Begins!

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

December 5: Hanging of the Greens (Time to be determined. Talk to Janet Simonen or 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.

We pray for healing for these members & friends: Abby Spry, Virginia Hahn, 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: Melanie, Matt, Elijah, Jonathan & Solomon Olsen; Mike & Sue Prom; Jack & Joy Oberg; Kirk, Melissa, Adam & Lucas Oberg; and Mary MacDonald & Jeff Morgan. 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. 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).**