Bethlehem Lutheran Church
A Member Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
and its Northern Great Lakes Synod
900 Central Ave.
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Website: www.bethlehemlutheranflorence.org

Ministers ..... All the People of Bethlehem
Musicians ..... Jackie and Ben Lehto

Third Sunday After Pentecost

June 14, 2026
9:15 a.m.

In the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, welcome to this worship celebration. May you feel the presence of the Holy Spirit and experience the Love of God.

Bethlehem practices open communion which means if you are a baptized Christian and are accustomed to sharing the sacrament where you usually worship, please share in the Eucharistic feast this morning. Directions for sharing the meal are printed on page 7 of this worship folder.

Offering plates will be passed during the service. We thank you for your gifts that support our ministry.

The restrooms are located to the front and right of our worship space.

Children's activity bags are available at the back of the church.

Masks are available on the table by the entrance. Hand sanitizer is available at various areas in the church.

We Prepare to Worship

WELCOME AND PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

We Praise Our God

Worshipers stand as they are able.

CALL TO WORSHIP ..... (from Psalm 100)

P: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.

C: Know that the Lord is God. It is God that made us, and we are his; we are God's people, and the sheep of his pasture.

P: Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name.

C: For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever.

HYMN #559 (all vv.) (Green) ..... "Oh, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

GREETING

P: The grace of our risen Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God, who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbor. Holy and merciful God,

C: In your presence we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings, and our offenses against you. You alone know how often we have sinned: in

wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we are ashamed and sorry for all we have done to displease you. Forgive our sins, and help us to live in your light, and walk in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. May the God of mercy, who forgives us all our sins, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray: God of compassion, you have opened the way for us and brought us to yourself. Pour your love into our hearts, that, overflowing with joy, we may freely share the blessings of your realm and faithfully proclaim the good news of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Worshipers are seated.

We Receive God's Word

FIRST READING .....Exodus 19:2-8a
(OT pages 66-7)

L: The word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING .....Romans 5:1-8
(NT page 147)

L: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

P: The holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 9th and 10th chapters.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL .....Matthew 9:35-10:8
(NT page 9)

P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Worshipers are seated.

SERMON .....Pr. Rell Spickerman

MOMENT FOR SILENT PRAYER AND REFLECTION

HYMN #390 (all vv.) (Green).....“I Love to Tell the Story”

We Respond to God's Love

STATEMENT OF FAITH

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition will end: “God of Grace,”
Response: “Our trust is in you.”

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

Worshipers stand as they are able for the Offertory Response

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him all creatures, here below.
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Let us pray:

C: O Lord our God, maker of all things, through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE ALTAR IS PREPARED

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

P: 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:

All: 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.

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus 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.

P: Again, after the supper, he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: is 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.

P: For as often as we eat this bread and drink of this cup, we proclaim our Lord's death and resurrection until he comes again.

C: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Let us pray as our Lord has taught us:

C: 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.

Worshipers are seated.

THE SHARING OF THE MEAL

The meal will be served in a continuous fashion at the front of the church. We begin with the right side of the church, then the center section and then the left side. Come forward down the aisle to where the Pastor and Assistants are standing. Receive the bread in your hand and eat. Gluten free wafers are available by asking the pastor. Then take either wine (dark color) or grape juice (golden color) and drink. After you have received both bread and cup you may return to your pew back down the aisle. Children not sharing in the sacrament are invited to come forward for a blessing.

Following the sharing of the meal worshipers stand as they are able and the Post-Communion prayer is offered by the minister.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Let us pray: Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.

C: Amen

BENEDICTION

P: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always.

C: Amen

HYMN #383 (all vv.) (Green)..... "Rise Up, O Saints of God"

DISMISSAL

P: Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

C: Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

The Third Sunday After Pentecost

We thank Pastor Rell Spickerman for leading our worship today.

Our worship assistant this morning is Leanne Wilcox.

Today's bulletins are provided by Jan Schaal to the Glory of God.

On The Calendar This Week

Sunday	10:30 am	Dwelling in the Word—B
Tuesday	6:00 pm	Council Meeting - B
Sunday	8:00 am	Worship at First
	9:15 am	Worship at Bethlehem

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dwelling in the Word - Our Dwelling in the Word study is today at Bethlehem following worship around 10:30 am. Bill Fleming will lead us in an exploration of 1st Samuel 3:1-10.

St. Vincent Food Drive - St. Vincent de Paul of Florence will have a food drive to restock the food pantry. We will be handing out bags today for you to take home and fill with non-perishable items. Please return filled bags to

church Saturday, June 21st, or you may drop them off directly to the St. Vincent thrift store on Central Avenue. Please help feed the hungry in our community.

Home Communion - There are members of our congregation who have been trained to administer communion to homebound members or others who would like to receive it. Please let the office know if you or someone you know about could use this service.

Prayer Cards - If you would like to include anyone in the intercessory prayers, please fill out the card provided for that purpose on the table at the back of the Sanctuary and give it to the Pastor.

Prayer List - Your prayers matter! Please offer continued prayer for the following people:

From First: Marion W, now at Maryhill Nursing Home in Niagara.

From Bethlehem: Bill and Anita N. (nursing home), Brad Y. better but prayers for continued healing). Carla L. (health issues). Gail V. (continued healing). Ashlee, daughter of Bill and Deb F. (better but prayers for continued healing) Deb F.'s sister Rhoda (health issues).

Community: Kelly (friend of Lori F.) cancer. Donna S. (heart issues). Amber (eye surgery).

Our Parish Office - The Parish office is in the new wing of the First Presbyterian Church at 409 Lake Avenue. The office phone number is (715) 528-4851 and our email address is orpar@borderlandnet.net.

Barb Marden, our administrative assistant, is normally in the office the following hours:

Wednesday - 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Thursday - 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Friday - 1:00 pm- 5:00 pm

If you need to reach her outside of office hours, her cell phone number is 847-970-0941.

Upcoming Parish Events

Monday, June 22	5:00 pm	Come to Supper - F
Tuesday, June 30	6:00 pm	Parish Board Meeting - F
Wednesday, July 15	3:30 pm	Session Meeting - F
July 26 - 30		Vacation Bible School