

# Welcome to Worship!

## Sunday, May 31, 2026 ~ 8:30 AM

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church**  
1620 Milwaukee Ave NE, Aberdeen, SD  
(605) 225-9740 † [www.bethlehemaberdeen.org](http://www.bethlehemaberdeen.org)  
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### GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God*

PRELUDE                      *Holy, Holy, Holy* - Settings by John Eggert, John B. Dykes, John Ferguson

WELCOME & INVITATIONS

CENTERING TIME

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **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.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.**

**We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.**

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will  
and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. 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

*Holy, Holy, Holy*



1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God Al - might - y!  
 2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore thee,  
 3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though the dark - ness hide thee,  
 4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!



Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.  
 cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;  
 though the eye of sin - ful - ness thy glo - ry may not see,  
 All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!  
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,  
 on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,  
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!



God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!  
 which wert and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.  
 per - fect in pow'r, in love and pu - ri - ty.  
 God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, alt.  
 Music: NICAEA, John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

APOSTOLIC 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

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

*Glory to God*

**Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,**

**You take away the sin of the world;  
Have mercy on us;**

**You are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
Receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,  
You alone are the Lord,**

**You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
In the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

**WORD**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song*

CHILDREN’S GOOD NEWS TIME

SCRIPTURE ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia*

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of eternal life.  
Alleluia. Alleluia.**

SCRIPTURE & SERMON

Genesis 1

HYMN OF THE DAY

*Love Divine All Loves Excelling*



1 Love di-vine, all loves ex-cel-ling, Joy of heav'n, to  
 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov-ing Spir-it in-to ev-'ry  
 3 Come, Al-might-y, to de-liv-er; let us all thy  
 4 Fin-ish then thy new cre-a-tion, pure and spot-less



earth come down! Fix in us thy hum-ble dwell-ing, all thy  
 trou-bled breast; let us all in thee in-her-it; let us  
 life re-ceive; sud-den-ly re-turn, and nev-er, nev-er -  
 let us be; let us see thy great sal-va-tion per-fect -



faith-ful mer-cies crown. Je-sus, thou art all com-pas-sion,  
 find thy prom-ised rest. Take a-way the love of sin-ning;  
 more thy tem-ples leave. Thee we would be al-ways bless-ing,  
 ly re-stored in thee! Changed from glo-ry in-to glo-ry,



pure, un-bound-ed love thou art; vis-it us with  
 Al-pha and O-me-ga be; end of faith, as  
 serve thee as thy hosts a-bove, pray, and praise thee  
 till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal-va-tion, en-ter ev-'ry trem-bling heart.  
 its be-gin-ning, set our hearts at lib-er-ty.  
 with-out ceas-ing, glo-ry in thy per-fect love.  
 crowns be-fore thee, lost in won-der, love, and praise!

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*Apostles' Creed*

**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**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(Use QR code to access prayer list.)



*Congregation Response:* God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

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.**

PEACE

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

*Please take a moment to echo Jesus as you share a greeting of peace with your neighbors:*

**Peace be with you.**

OFFERING

OFFERING MUSIC

*Holy God, We Praise Thy Name* - Setting by Paul Manz

OFFERTORY

*Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God*

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore unto me the joy of your salvation,  
and uphold me with your free Spirit.**

OFFERING PRAYER

Holy God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, **we thank you for your abundant blessing in all of creation and for all that you have entrusted to us. Use all that we offer to care for your creation and share your love. Inspire us with your Holy Spirit so that we may shine forth your generosity and be a blessing to others. Amen.**

**SENDING**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world*

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

*Beautiful Savior*

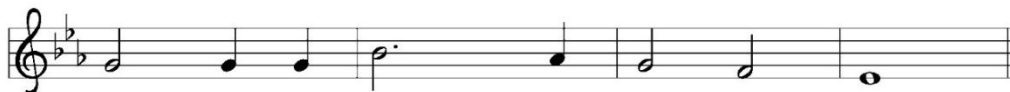
1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,  
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,  
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,  
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,



Son of God and Son of Man!  
 robed in flow'rs of bloom - ing spring;  
 bright the spar - kling stars on high;  
 Son of God and Son of Man!



Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,  
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,  
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er  
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,



light of my soul, my joy, my crown.  
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.  
 than all the an - gels in the sky.  
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823–1904  
 Music: SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU, Silesian folk tune, 19th cent.

## SENDING WORDS

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

## POSTLUDE

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* - Setting by Michael Burkhardt

## Today's Ministers

Preaching.....	Pastor Jeff Whillock
Presiding .....	Pastor Matt Spoden
Assisting Minister .....	Charlie Hemke
Musicians .....	Darlyne Johnson & Sheree Hogan
Visual Communications Tech.....	Sue Helling
Livestream Camera Tech .....	Teri Johnson
Sound Techs.....	Tom Leidholt & Gabe Harmel

*The Sanctuary & Chapel have a Hearing Loop to assist those with hearing loss. Activate the T-coil feature on your hearing aid or use a Loop Listening device (available from the usher). If you have questions, we'll be happy to connect you with another Hearing Loop user.*

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**Radio Broadcast** - Our Sunday 8:30 a.m. service is **broadcast** each Sunday morning at **10:45 on KGIM 1420 AM/98.5 FM.**

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**The Globe Offering will go to the Community Alliance Group in McLaughlin.** The globe offering will help with purchasing items for their food pantry. The VBS Drive is collecting non-perishables for the Community Alliance Group. All VBS students and congregation are invited to participate in this food drive.

### Giving to Bethlehem

Scan the QR code for our simple, online giving portal. It's the easiest and most convenient way to consistently support the ministries of Bethlehem. As always, thank you for your generosity.

Questions about your giving? Contact Jeannie,  
Director of Administration at [jhaaland@bethlehemaberdeen.org](mailto:jhaaland@bethlehemaberdeen.org).



SCAN ME

## Prayer Partners for Mission Trip Participants



We are looking for individuals that are interested in being Prayer Partners for our summer mission trip participants. No experience necessary; if you have said a prayer sometime in your life, you qualify! You will be provided with a packet that includes our daily activities, scripture verses and helpful ideas. **We have 33 people journeying to Niagara Falls, NY from June 6-14 and 14 people journeying to Duluth, MN from June 21-26.**

Please connect with Stan for more information or to volunteer.

### INVITATION FOR 8<sup>TH</sup> & 9<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS

As the school year wraps up, the High School Youth Group would like to extend a special invitation for current 8th and 9th grade students to come join us on **June 3rd starting at 7pm.**

The High School students are delighted to welcome their younger peers to join them and experience the Youth Group rhythm. We'll gather for fellowship, followed by a Bible study, and a time for fun and games. You are invited to bring a friend, and if you have to come late or leave early, that's okay!

Please reach out to Pastor Matt at [mspoden@bethlehemaberdeen.org](mailto:mspoden@bethlehemaberdeen.org) or Stan at [sjung@bethlehemaberdeen.org](mailto:sjung@bethlehemaberdeen.org) if you'd like additional information.



## First Communion Class

**Wednesday, June 17**  
**5:15 - 6:30 p.m. in the Chapel**

Register with the church office  
by June 4th

*First Communion will be received  
on Sunday, June 21 at 8:30 a.m.  
and 10:10 a.m. OR on  
Wednesday, June 24 at 6:15 p.m.*



Presenters will be  
**Ashley Geist-Cusick**  
& **Rebecca Christiansen**

# SPARK JOY

*Overcome Burnout & Reclaim Summer Fun*

**Friday, June 12th**  
**12:10 - 12:50 PM**  
**East Fellowship Hall**

## 2026-2027 Bethlehem Pre-K Registration is Open



For more information or to register visit  
[www.bethlehemaberdeen.org/teach/pre-k](http://www.bethlehemaberdeen.org/teach/pre-k)

# ***STAFFING UPDATES at BETHLEHEM***

## **Jodi Schwan**

To the People of Bethlehem Lutheran Church,

As many of you know, Doug Eisenbeisz, our Director of Welcoming and Serving, is retiring at the end of August. A search team was put together to find our next Director of Welcoming and Serving with the hope and intention that the new director and Doug would overlap for a period of time so that Doug could train the new director.

***The search team is delighted to share that Jodi Schwan has accepted the position as Bethlehem's next Director of Welcoming and Serving.*** Jodi served in this role prior to Doug, and we are grateful that she is returning to share her gifts with us. We are also incredibly grateful to Doug for his 8 years of excellent work, and for his willingness to assist the new director during this transition. As Jodi prepares to begin her work as Bethlehem's Director of Welcoming and Serving, here is a message she'd like to share with the congregation,



*My name is Jodi Schwan. I am married to Joe and a busy mom to two boys, Jayden and Jordan. Jayden will be a freshman at the University of Jamestown, and Jordan will be a sophomore at Groton Area High School. Whether I'm traveling to my boys' sports or music events, reading a good book, or working on a quilting project, I enjoy staying active and connected with family and community. I look forward to rejoining the BLC team in August as Director of Welcoming and Serving.*

The search team asks that you hold Doug in prayer as he prepares for retirement, and to hold Jodi in prayer as she steps into the role of Director of Welcoming and Serving at Bethlehem.

Additional details about celebrating Doug's retirement and when Jodi will begin will be available later this summer.

God's Blessings,

Members of Director of Welcoming and Serving Search Team

Rev. Matthew Spoden (Point Pastor for Welcoming and Serving)

Jeannie Haaland (Director of Administration)

Bruce Pokarney (Human Resources)

Alison Kiesz (Serving Ministry Team)

Travis Struss (Welcome Ministry Team)

