



Welcome to Worship!

Sunday, September 13, 2026 ~ 8:30 AM

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

1620 Milwaukee Ave NE, Aberdeen, SD

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GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

PRELUDE *Thy Strong Word* - Settings by John A. Behnke, Paul Manz, Michael Burkhardt

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

All Are Welcome



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and
5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and
heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give, Built of hopes and dreams and -
live the Word they've known, Here the out - cast and the
words with - in the Word, Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an
laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -



Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
end to fear and dan - ger: All are wel - come,
claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: TWO OAKS, Marty Haugen

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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

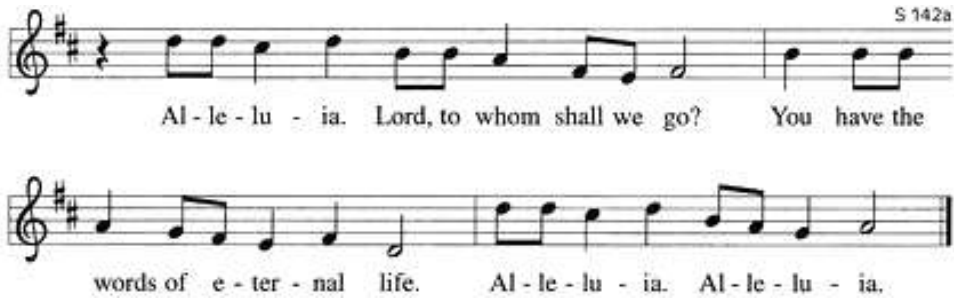
WORD

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

CHILDREN'S GOOD NEWS TIME

SCRIPTURE ACCLAMATION

Alleluia



SCRIPTURE

Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-25

Red: page 2 **Story Bible:** pages 8-13

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

**O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home.**

**Before the hills in order stood
or earth received its frame,
from everlasting you are God,
to endless years the same.**

**A thousand ages in your sight
are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.**

**O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home.**

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.

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 all blessing, **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

O God, Our Help in Ages Past - Setting by Ronald Arnatt

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.**

Text: Psalm 51:10-12

OFFERING PRAYER

God of creation, **you send rain and sunshine and the earth responds. All blessings and abundance come from you; help us to be generous with what we have. Use our gifts, abilities, and hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN

Shine, Jesus, Shine

**Shine Jesus shine;
Fill this land with the Father's glory
Blaze Spirit blaze
Set our hearts on fire
Flow river flow
Flood the nations with grace and mercy
Send forth your word Lord
And let there be light**

**Lord the light of your love is shining
In the midst of the darkness shining
Jesus Light of the world shine upon us
Set us free by the truth you now bring us
Shine on me; shine on me**

**Shine Jesus shine;
Fill this land with the Father's glory
Blaze Spirit blaze
Set our hearts on fire
Flow river flow**

**Flood the nations with grace and mercy
Send forth your word Lord
And let there be light**

**As we gaze on your kingly brightness
So our faces display your likeness
Ever changing from glory to glory
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story
Shine on me; shine on me**

**Shine Jesus shine;
Fill this land with the Father's glory
Blaze Spirit blaze
Set our hearts on fire
Flow river flow
Flood the nations with grace and mercy
Send forth your word Lord
And let there be light**

Text: Graham Kendrick, b. 1950
Music: Graham Kendrick
Text and music © 1987 Make Way Music, admin.

SENDING WORDS

Go in peace and be the blessing that you are!
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Lift High the Cross - Setting by Michael Burkhardt

Today's Ministers

Preaching..... Pastor Jeff Whillock
Presiding Pastor Matt Spoden & Pastor Amber Wichmann
Assisting Minister Vicci Stange
Musicians Darlyne Johnson & Rebecca Christiansen
Visual Communications Tech Sue Helling
Livestream Camera Tech Dan Richardt
Sound Tech Hugh Dahme & Sophia Christiansen

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.

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

The Globe Offering will go to the Brother Deng Foundation. William Deng is a South Sudanese American humanitarian, author, and founder of the Brother Deng Foundation. Born in Aweil, South Sudan, he journeyed on foot for nine days to pursue his dream of education—eventually earning two degrees from Northern State University. Through his foundation, he expands access to education, healthcare, and clean water for South Sudanese communities. William is the author of *Chasing Your Dreams* and a recipient of the South Sudan Humanitarian Award and Northern State University's Distinguished Alumni Gold Award.

GRIEFSHARE

TUESDAYS beginning
at
5:30 PM in
The HUB

Starting
SEPTEMBER 15th

If you or someone you know has recently gone through the loss of a loved one, GriefShare offers a safe & confidential place to connect with others. Please contact the church office or email arasmussen@BethlehemAberdeen.org

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.



SCAN ME

SHARE YOUR SENIOR PICTURE

We are going *Back to (Old) School* and asking for the Congregation to provide their SENIOR PICTURE and we will be displaying these in the Narthex during the *Back to (Old) School* Sermon Series.

You can drop off your Senior picture at the church office or email Teri at tjohnson@bethlehemaberdeen.org

CURIOUS ABOUT BETHLEHEM



CURIOUS is a time to meet with a member of the Welcome Team who will assist with answering questions about BLC & give a tour of the church

SUN., Sept. 13th

**9:30 a.m. &
11:00 a.m.
at Welcome Desk**

WED. Sept. 16th

**After the
6:15 pm service
at the
Welcome Desk**

FALL KICKOFF PICNIC

Walking Tacos

**Sunday, September 13th
11:00 a.m.
Fellowship Hall**



YOUNG MEN'S GROUP



**Ages 15 - 51
Monday, September 14th
6pm - 8pm in the Youth Center**

SPECIAL CONGREGATION MEETING

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20th @ 9:30AM
Fellowship Hall

This Special Congregation Meeting will include:

- an update, and **possible vote, on the transition of the former New Beginnings Center building and land,**
- an update on the *Caring for God's House* appeal,
- **vote to authorize moving forward with the projects,** and
- important updates on the 2026 ministry initiatives.

BOARD GAME NIGHT

Come for food, fun, fellowship and BOARD GAMES on **Thursday, September 24th** in the **Fellowship Hall** from **5:30 – 8:00PM.**

PIECEMAKERS QUILT SALE

September 26th, 27th and 30th
in the NARTHEX

SCHOOL KITS & PERSONAL KITS NEEDED

Bethlehem Piecemakers Quilters are once again asking for donations for school kits and personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief through the end of September. Drop off your donations at the church office.

The following items are needed to fulfill the kits:

SCHOOL KITS

Blunt scissors Pencil sharpeners Rulers
70-80 sheet spiral notebooks wide or college ruled
(NO loose-leaf paper)

PERSONAL KITS

20" x 40" or 52" or 57" bath size towel (dark color only)
Large sturdy comb (NO Picks or fine teeth comb)
Large toe nail clippers