



The STAR of Bethlehem



Bethlehem Lutheran Church
An LCMS Congregation

902 Hitchcock Drive SW, Aiken SC 29803

Pastor John Engwall, 803-649-6417, blcaikensc@gmail.com

<https://sites.google.com/view/blcaikensc/home>

https://www.facebook.com/BLCAikenSC/?ref=nf_target

Redacted Website Edition

September 2025

PASTOR'S MESSAGE:

*And they continued steadfastly in the
apostles' doctrine and fellowship,
in the breaking of bread, and in prayers*
-Acts 2:42

The subject of our Wednesday evening Bible study is currently the liturgy; what it is, its history, and why we follow the liturgical pattern of worship. The word "liturgy" is derived from Greek, and its most basic meaning is "service" i.e., something done for someone else. Over time, liturgy has come to specifically mean the form of worship in the Christian church. Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Anglican, and Episcopalian services will look and sound very much alike, because they are all liturgical churches; they all follow the ancient pattern of worship; the liturgy. The difference in the confessional Lutheran church is that we understand properly that the liturgy is not centered on us coming to God and serving him; it is centered on God coming to us, and serving us with the gifts of forgiveness and eternal life. In other words, the liturgy is all about the Gospel. When we understand and contemplate what is actually happening in worship, then we naturally tend toward those church traditions and styles that express the fact that, wherever Christians gather around Word and Sacrament, there, God is in the midst of them; there, heaven and earth meet. Many books have been written on this subject. I highly recommend *Heaven on Earth, The Gifts of Christ in The Divine Service* by Rev. Dr. Arthur A. Just, Jr. He was one of my seminary professors, and he is one of the finest presenters on the subject of the liturgy.

Blessings,
-Pastor



Matthew 9:13

[13] Go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners." (ESV)

From Sept. 21 alternate Gospel reading (St. Matthew)

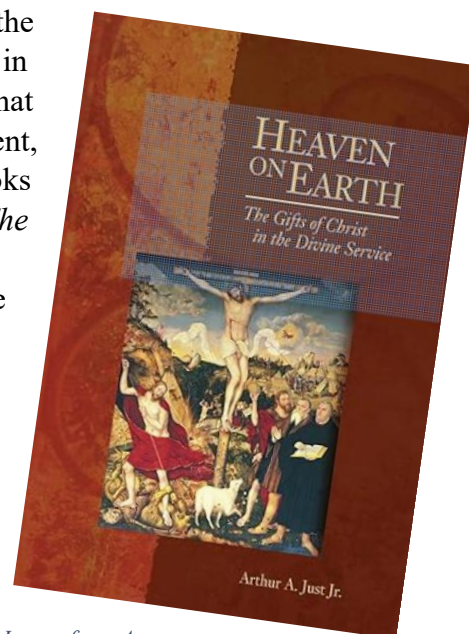


Image from Amazon.com

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Debbie C., Recording Secretary

All items for the newsletter are to be submitted to Debbie C., editor, no later than the 23rd of the month and, upon approval, may be edited for space or clarity.

Early submissions are appreciated.

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Lutheran Resources

LCMS- Free to be Faithful
www.lcms.org/socialissues/freetobe-faithful

Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty
www.LCRLFreedom.org

Lutheran Hour Ministries
<https://www.lhm.org/>

The Lutheran Witness
<https://witness.lcms.org/>

Southeastern District, LCMS
<https://se.lcms.org/>

Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
www.lcms.org/

Concordia Publishing House
www.cph.org/

International Lutheran Council
www.ILCouncil.org

We didn't have an August meeting. Our next meeting is Sept. 7 after the service. Remember, we'll be appointing a nominating committee... Please pray about how God is calling you to serve Him at BLC. Help is needed.

Psalm 40:8

[8] I delight to do your will, O my God;
your law is within my heart.” (ESV)

From Sept 14 alternate Psalm for Holy Cross Day



MUSICAL NOTES

Rebecca W.

Join us on Wednesday evenings for discussions of the Biblical significance of The Divine Liturgy, hymns, and other supporting music. Presented by Jonathan H., Pastor Engwall, and Rebecca W.



Ezekiel 34:15–16

[15] I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD. [16] I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice. (ESV)

From Sept 14 OT reading

"Minding Your Own Business"

Romans 12:1, 4-8 - I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ... For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

There's a phrase you've heard, "Mind your own business." It means different things to different people, but it has a useful meaning for us Christians as we think about a world where there are so many needs, so many screaming disasters that we can't figure out what to do first. Do we send money to Ukraine? Feed and house the homeless? Work against natural disasters? Educate children? Care for a single elderly person who is lonely and shut-in? Type up the church bulletin? What first? We can be so overwhelmed we do nothing at all!

Against this, Paul tells us to focus on the gifts and functions God has given each one of us. We should consider our stations in life. Are we married or parents? Then we must care for our spouses and children well. Are we students, workers, retired? In each of those areas of life, we have responsibilities and opportunities that God has given us, and we can ask the Holy Spirit to guide us as we figure out what to do next.

I say this because it's incredibly easy to soak up all the guilt and despair of the world, especially if you read or watch a great deal of news media. No one could cope with it all, not even for a single day. And God doesn't expect us to. We are not the Messiah, after all. We are not the Savior of the world—but we are His body.

Jesus met the needs of the whole world, completely and finally, when He lay down His life on the cross for all of us. His resurrection means everyone who trusts in Him has eternal life starting now. This is the work of Jesus as the head of the body, and we can never match it—nor should we try to. Our jobs are smaller but very important—to meet the needs God has put before us individually, to carry out whatever responsibilities He has placed in our hands right now. One may be called to politics, while another is called to serving the poor. The Holy Spirit will coordinate everything. It is a thing to be happy about, that Jesus gives us so many different assignments as the members of His body—and He Himself is at work in all of us. What an honor! And what a relief, to have the weight of the world where it belongs—not on us, but on Jesus.

WE PRAY: Dear Jesus, show me what You have for me to do—and help me to rely on You as I do it. Amen.



This Daily Devotion was written by Dr. Kari Vo.
Daily Devotions from Lutheran Hour Ministries
Rec'd August 23, 2023 via email

CALLED HOME TO CHRIST

BLC CELEBRATES!

CHARLOTTE COLLINS

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Sandy A
Hannah G
Teffie E
Jack N
Joy K
Wade S
Chad B
Joyce C



CONSTITUTION DAY ★
SEPTEMBER 17TH

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Dana & Tammy A
Steve & Marie W
Carl & Colette B
Mark & Louise Z

Let us know your special events
to include: baptism, retirement,
promotion, graduation...



Picture from BLC farewell Aug. 7, 2022

January 31, 1945 – July 30, 2025

Joined BLC circa 2007

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/charleston/name/charlotte-collins-obituary?id=59103196>

John 12:21

[21] So these came to Philip, who was from
Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, “Sir, we
wish to see Jesus.” (ESV)

From Sept. 14 Alternate Gospel Reading for Holy Cross Day

DINING OUT
Aug. 14 at Good Girl Brewery



See pp. 10-11 for upcoming fellowship opportunities.

*please
join us*

Don't forget to check out (and utilize) our classifieds page, p.12.

HONORING SERVICE, GIVING BACK



Many of us know Tom Tilghman, a longtime member of our community who served in the Air Force during Vietnam, Cold War, Persian Gulf, and Desert Storm. His courage and service are an inspiration to us all. On Saturday, Sept 13, Woodside Country Club will host a Tunnel to Towers Charity Tennis & Pickleball Day — an event supporting the Tunnel to Towers Foundation, which provides mortgage-free homes to families of fallen first responders and helps severely injured veterans live with dignity and independence. This event is a chance for us as a church family to honor not only heroes like Tom, but all who have served.



- 📍 Woodside Country Club Tennis Courts
- 🕒 10 AM – 2 PM
- 💰 \$20 Registration Donation (Checks payable to Tunnel to Towers)



For more details or to support this cause, contact:
Steve Watson | 347-279-7930 | Steve.watson@kw.com



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The Parable of the Lost Sheep Coloring Page (Luke 15:1-7)

Biblical Weights and Measures

Find the words in the grid. When you are done, the unused letters in the grid will spell out a hidden message. Pick them out from left to right, top line to bottom line. Words can go horizontally, vertically and diagonally in all eight directions.

M	L	S	H	E	K	E	L	E	D	A	S	U
S	E	R	K	E	H	T	W	E	I	C	O	R
C	T	E	H	A	C	A	N	U	N	T	H	H
O	H	A	N	C	B	A	R	I	E	R	T	T
M	E	R	D	R	R	X	H	E	W	Z	A	D
S	C	L	E	I	C	C	T	S	G	W	B	A
M	H	R	U	M	O	H	A	H	P	E	R	E
N	T	S	F	D	O	N	K	K	R	A	A	R
W	A	G	M	A	L	C	J	R	D	K	N	B
G	L	M	I	R	M	J	U	M	E	F	B	D
K	E	K	P	I	F	L	L	B	W	Z	L	N
Y	N	Z	Y	C	A	N	I	M	I	O	P	A
Y	T	T	H	H	O	M	E	R	G	T	F	H

Copyright © 2025 DeborahC. Made using 1-2-3 Word Search Maker™

bath	handbreadth	pim
beka	hin	seah
cor	homer	shekel
cubit	kab	span
daric	lethech	stadion
denarius	log	talent
ephah	mina	
gerah	omer	

Table of Weights and Measures

and Monetary Units

The following table is based on the best generally accepted information available for biblical weights, measures, and monetary units. All equivalents are approximate. Weights and measures varied somewhat in different times and places in the ancient world. Most weights, measures, and monetary units are also explained in footnotes on the pages where they occur in the ESV text.

Biblical Unit	Approximate American and Metric Equivalents	Equivalent
bath	A <i>bath</i> was about 6 gallons or 22 liters	1 ephah
beka	A <i>beka</i> was about 1/5 ounce or 5.5 grams	10 gerahs
cor	A <i>cor</i> was about 6 bushels or 220 liters	10 ephahs
cubit	A <i>cubit</i> was about 18 inches or 45 centimeters	6 handbreadths
daric	A <i>daric</i> was a coin of about 1/4 ounce or 8.5 grams	
denarius	A <i>denarius</i> was a day's wage for a laborer	
ephah	An <i>ephah</i> was about 3/5 bushel or 22 liters	10 omers
gerah	A <i>gerah</i> was about 1/50 ounce or 0.6 gram	1/10 beka
handbreadth	A <i>handbreadth</i> was about 3 inches or 7.5 centimeters	1/6 cubit
hin	A <i>hin</i> was about 4 quarts or 3.5 liters	1/6 bath
homer	A <i>homer</i> was about 6 bushels or 220 liters	10 ephahs
kab	A <i>kab</i> was about 1 quart or 1 liter	1/22 ephah
lethech	A <i>lethech</i> was about 3 bushels or 110 liters	5 ephahs
log	A <i>log</i> was about 1/3 quart or 0.3 liter	1/72 bath
mina	A <i>mina</i> was about 1 1/4 pounds or 0.6 kilogram	50 shekels
omer	An <i>omer</i> was about 2 quarts or 2 liters	1/10 ephah
pim	A <i>pim</i> was about 1/3 ounce or 7.5 grams	2/3 shekel
seah	A <i>seah</i> was about 7 quarts or 7.3 liters	1/3 ephah
shekel	A <i>shekel</i> was about 2/5 ounce or 11 grams	2 bekas
span	A <i>span</i> was about 9 inches or 22 centimeters	3 handbreadths
stadion	A <i>stadion</i> was about 607 feet or 185 meters	
talent	A <i>talent</i> was about 75 pounds or 34 kilograms	60 minas

ESV.org © 2001 – 2025. Tables of Weights and Measures.
<https://www.esv.org/resources/esv-global-study-bible/table-of-weights-and-measures/> Crossway

ANNOUNCEMENT

ACTS Collection Item – PB&J (No glass jars, please!)

FELLOWSHIP

Hopefully, you all had an uneventful summer with lots of beach time. Hard to believe that it is already September! Where has the year gone?! The Board of Fellowship Team has been busy planning the activities for the next four months. We hope there is an activity for each of you. If there is something you'd like for us to organize, please do not hesitate to say so. We will try to make it happen. So, that being said...

SAVE THESE DATES:

SEPTEMBER:

Thu 11th - BLC Night Out, 5:30 p.m. at the Sukiya Japanese Restaurant by Publix on Eastgate Rd, off of Whiskey Rd. We will have a sign-up sheet because we would like to try the hibachi grill and will need a headcount.

14th - Ice Cream Social after the Divine Service. Sign-up sheet on board outside Pastor's office. Bring your favorite topping or ice cream. Rum Raisin ice cream was suggested - now off to find it. A special prize to the person who actually finds it and brings it to the event.

OCTOBER:

12th - Pastor Appreciation Day - light refreshments and a cake after the Service to tell Pastor how much we appreciate him and what he means to us.

Thu 16th - BLC Night Out - 5:30 p.m. at SHANE's on Whiskey Rd.

26th - Reformation Day Celebration aka: Oktoberfest after the Service. Dust off your German-ish recipes and prepare to WOW us. Weather permitting, we will celebrate outside.

NOVEMBER:

NO BLC NIGHT OUT

Thu 20th - Friendsgiving - 4:30 p.m. Sign-up sheet will be outside Pastor's office. More info to follow.

DECEMBER:

NO BLC NIGHT OUT

ADVENT Meals on Wednesdays: 3rd, 10th, and 17th - Sign-up sheets outside Pastor's office. More info to follow.

11:00 a.m. Service - light lunch to follow

6:00 p.m. light dinner before the 7:00 p.m. service

14th - Cookie Exchange after the Service

More info to follow

[Cont. next page]

24th - Christmas Eve Service - 7:00 p.m. We will try something new this year and serve hot cider before and after the Candle Light Service

25th - Christmas Day Service – 10:30 a.m. We will have coffee and Christmas cookies before the Service.

31st - New Year's Eve Service - please fill out the green Survey Sheet included on the bulletin. Are you interested in a light meal, followed by a game night or movie night or White Elephant Exchange?

Hope to see you all at the above-listed events. Stay safe and hydrated.

Respectfully, Helga W.



OUR VALUE STATEMENT: Bethlehem Lutheran Church exists under God's grace to save the lost and to strengthen the saved so that they may live bold and courageous lives of Christian witness before a non-believing world.

Therefore, our purpose is:

- to glorify God in Word and deed,
 - to nurture each other in Christian love,
 - to reach out to others with our Savior's Gospel of life and salvation.
- (Rom 5:8, Matt. 28:18-20).

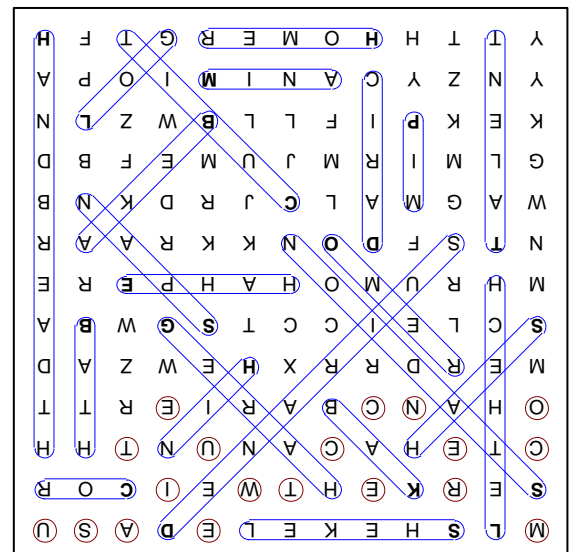
OUR VISION: By the Grace of God, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, is a loving family united in Christ, learning, living, and spreading His Word.

OUR MISSION: Learn the Word. Live the Word. Spread the Word.

Deuteronomy 30:19–20

[19] I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, [20] loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them." (ESV)

From Sept 7 OT reading



BLC CLASSIFIEDS



To place a classified ad in the *Star*, please submit the information to me by the usual monthly deadline- noon on the 23rd day of the month.
Please use your BLC Directory for contact information.

~DC

Don't forget to participate in our classifieds! Help or recommendations wanted, items for sale, products or services offered, etc.

“SILENT AUCTION” TO BENEFIT BLC!

100% to BLC's Building Fund

Ladies 14k gold ruby and diamond ring. Size 6. Appraised for \$799 in 2000. Appraisal available. According to U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics inflation numbers, it is **now valued at \$1119.76.**

(Average inflation of 1.36%/year

<https://www.in2013dollars.com/Jewelry/price-inflation/2000-to-2025?amount=799>)

\$300 minimum bid. Bids will be accepted by Debbie C. through Sept.



FOR SALE:



Excalibur Dehydrator w/recipe book.
Nine 15"x15" square trays. \$40

September 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31	1	2 10am Women's Bible Study	3 7pm Bible Study	4 Pastor Shut-in Visits	5	6 Pastor's Day Off
	Labor Day					
7 9am Bible Study 10:30 Service ACTS Collection TLC Meals	8	9 10am Women's Bible Study	10 7pm Bible Study	11 Pastor Shut-in Visits 5:30pm Dining out*	12	13 Pastor's Day Off
14 9am Bible Study 10:30 Service Ice Cream Social	15	16 10am Women's Bible Study	17 7pm Bible Study	18 Pastor Shut-in Visits	19	20 Pastor's Day Off
	Constitution Day					
21 9am Bible Study 10:30 Service TLC Meals	22	23 10am Women's Bible Study	24 7pm Bible Study	25 Pastor Shut-in Visits	26	27 Pastor's Day Off
28 9am Bible Study 10:30 Service	29	30 No Bible Study*	1	2	3	4
5	6	NOTES Pastor away on Sept 15, 29 & 30 on Circuit Visitors' business ACTS Collection - PB&J (No glass jars, please) 11 - dining out at Sukiya Japanese restaurant				