

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

November 14th and 15th, 2020

Service of Holy Communion *Please see the communion statement in the back of this bulletin*

> Bethany Lutheran Church 222 Church Street Kohler, WI 53044

Pastor: Rev. Robert Steele Church Office: 920-457-4681

ENTER INTO THE JOY OF YOUR MASTER

AS WE GATHER - We read today about three servants. Two were good and faithful. One was evil and faithless. Two enter into the joy of their master. One does not. Our Lord has entrusted us with many good and gracious gifts and sends us into the world to make disciples and multiply the gifts we have received. Yet, it is not our own work that leads us into the joy of our Master; rather, it is our Master's work on our behalf. Jesus 'saving work of death and resurrection brings us into the joy of our Master.

Refrain Thy Word is a lamp un-to my feet And a light un-to my path. 1 When Ι feel a - fraid. I've lost my think wav. 2 I will My not for - get Your love for me, and yet Still right be - side You're there And me. for der - ing. heart ev er is wan noth - ing will You are Ι fear long as as near. Je - sus. be my guide and hold me to Your side: And Refrain Please be near me to the end. will love I You to the end.

973 THY WORD IS A LAMP

INVOCATION

Pastor In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations.

- People You have been our good and faithful Master.
- Pastor You have poured out blessings upon us.
- People You have given us all we need to support this body and life.
- Pastor We meditate on all that You have done.
- People We ponder the work of Your hands.
- Pastor On account of Your name, O Lord, preserve our lives.
- People In Your righteousness, bring us out of trouble.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- Pastor Indeed, our heavenly Father has done wonderful things for us. He has given us more than we could ever ask for or imagine. Yet, there have been times when we have been ungrateful for God's gifts, times when we have been lazy and selfish with what He has given us, times when we have been unfaithful servants. Yet, our heavenly Father invites us to return to Him and ask for His forgiveness...Heavenly Father,
- People we confess that we have not been faithful with all of the good gifts You have given us. We have sinned in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have failed by our inactivity. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, O Lord, that we might be restored as Your servants.
- Pastor God hears your confession and has promised to be with you always. Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son, Jesus Christ, to die and rise for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- People Amen. We are forgiven. We are restored in Jesus.

†WORD†

INTROIT Psalm 143

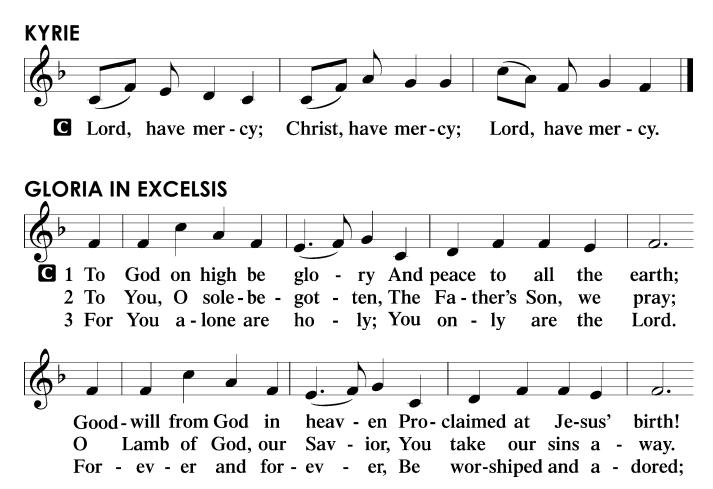
Pastor Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy! In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!

People Enter not into judgment with your servant, for no one living is righteous before you.

Pastor I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that you have done; I ponder the work of your hands.

People I stretch out my hands to you; my soul thirsts for you like a parched land.

- Pastor Teach me to do your will, for you are my God! Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground!
- People For your name's sake, O LORD, preserve my life! In your righteousness bring my soul out of trouble! Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
- Pastor Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy! In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!





We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing— Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry, You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King. Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high— In God the Fa-ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

- Pastor The Lord be with you.
- People And also with you.
- Pastor Let us pray...Almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Dispel from us the works of darkness and grant us to live in the light of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that our faith may never be found wanting; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- People Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING Zephaniah 1:7–16

⁷Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is near; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice and consecrated his guests. ⁸And on the day of the LORD's sacrifice—I will punish the officials and the king's sons and all who array themselves in foreign attire. ⁹On that day I will punish everyone who leaps over the threshold, and those who fill their master's house with violence and fraud. ¹⁰"On that day," declares the LORD, "a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate, a wail from the Second Quarter, a loud crash from the hills. ¹¹Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar! For all the traders are no more; all who weigh out silver are cut off. ¹²At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the men who are complacent, those who say in their hearts, 'The LORD will not do good, nor will he do ill. '¹³Their goods shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them.'' ¹⁴The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter; the mighty man cries aloud there. ¹⁵A day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, ¹⁶a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

Reader This is the Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. ⁴But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. ⁵For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. 6So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. ⁷For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

Reader This is the Word of the Lord. **People Thanks be to God.**

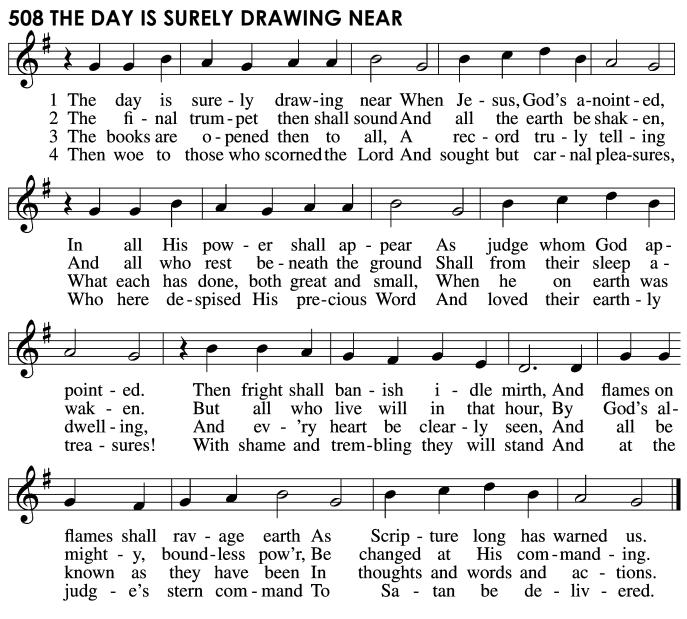
HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 25:14–30

Pastor The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 25th chapter. People Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁴[Jesus said:] "For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. ¹⁵To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. ¹⁷So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. ¹⁸But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more. ²¹His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master. ²²And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more. ²³His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master. ²⁴He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours. '26But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed and gather where I scattered no seed? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. ²⁹For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. ³⁰And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.""

Pastor This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to You, O Christ.



5 My Savior paid the debt I owe And for my sin was smitten;
Within the Book of Life I know My name has now been written.
I will not doubt, for I am free,
And Satan cannot threaten me; There is no condemnation!

6 May Christ our intercessor be And through His blood and merit Read from His book that we are free With all who life inherit.
Then we shall see Him face to face, With all His saints in that blest place Which He has purchased for us. 7 O Jesus Christ, do not delay, But hasten our salvation;
We often tremble on our way In fear and tribulation.
O hear and grant our fervent plea:
Come, mighty judge, and set us free From death and ev'ry evil.
Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds,

God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,

begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made;

who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried.

And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of the Father.

And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,

I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,

and I look for the resurrection of the dead

and the life † of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor Dear heavenly Father, You have placed us in various vocations for the sake of Your people. Strengthen us when we face challenges and trials that would tempt us to abandon Your Church. Forgive us when we go astray. Bring back all those who have wandered from the faith. Hear our prayer, O Lord.

People Give ear to our pleas for mercy.

Pastor Lord, raise up good and faithful servants in Your Church, that we work together for the common good and spread the good news of Your kingdom to all nations. Hear our prayer, O Lord.

People Give ear to our pleas for mercy.

Pastor Lord, raise up good and faithful servants in the governments of the world, that citizens of all nations might be treated with fairness and justice. Hear our prayer, O Lord.

People Give ear to our pleas for mercy.

Pastor Lord, the day of Jesus' return is drawing near. Give us patience and faith as we await His return. Embolden us to serve our neighbors and never grow weary of doing good. Hear our prayer, O Lord.

People Give ear to our pleas for mercy.

Pastor Lord, disease and devastation have infected so much of Your creation, but we know Your healing is always close at hand. Be with all those who suffer now through abuse, illness, and injustice, [especially...] Heal them according to Your will, and send justice for the oppressed. Hear our prayer, O Lord.

People Give ear to our pleas for mercy.

- Pastor Lord, by the resurrection of Your Son, death has been destroyed. Yet each human being still faces earthly death. We bring before You all those who are mourning the death of loved ones. Comfort them with the hope of the resurrection to eternal life. Hear our prayer, O Lord.
- People Give ear to our pleas for mercy.

- Pastor Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.
- People Amen.

+SACRAMENT+

PREFACE

Pastor The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

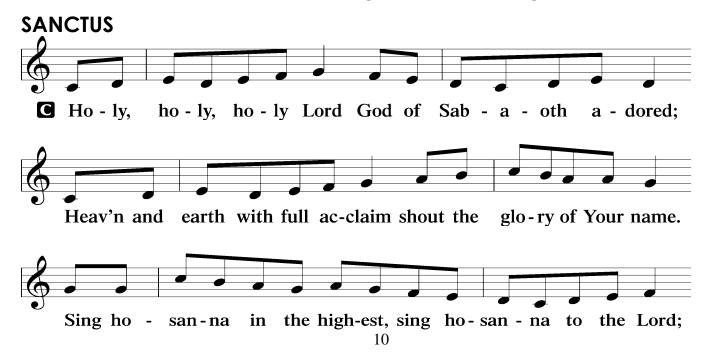
Pastor Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

- Pastor Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- People It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:





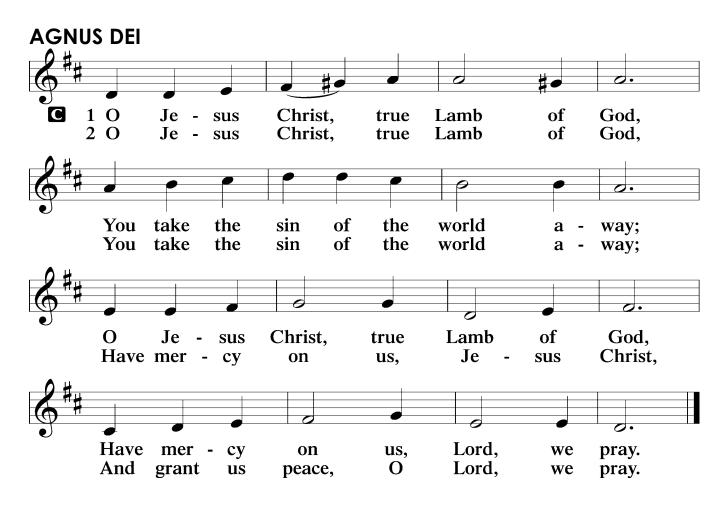
LORD'S PRAYER

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

Pastor The peace of the Lord be with you always.

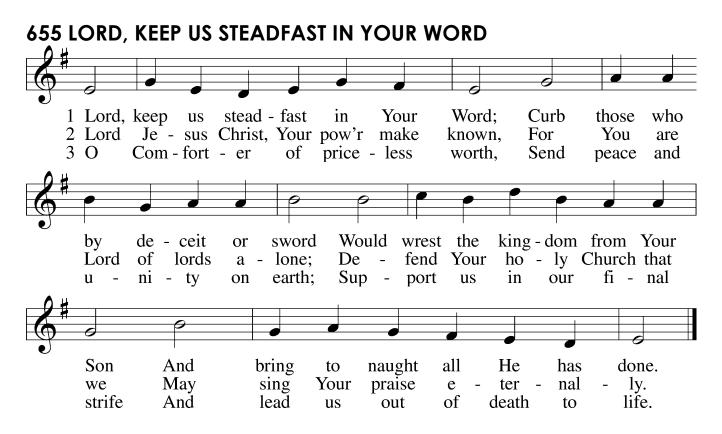
People Amen.



BENEDICTION

Pastor 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.

People Amen.



HOLY BAPTISM – FIRST

- Pastor What is Baptism?
- People Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God's command and combined with God's word.
- Pastor Which is that word of God?
- People Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (Matthew 28:19)

HOLY BAPTISM – SECOND

- Pastor What benefits does Baptism give?
- People It works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.
- Pastor Which are these words and promises of God?
- People Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark: "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned." (Mark 16:16)

HOLY BAPTISM – THIRD

- Pastor How can water do such great things?
- People Certainly not just water, but the word of God in and with the water does these things, along with the faith which trusts this word of God in the water. For without God's word the water is plain water and no Baptism. But with the word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a life-giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit, as St. Paul says in Titus, chapter three: "He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying." (Titus 3:5–8)

HOLY BAPTISM – FOURTH

- Pastor What does such baptizing with water indicate?
- People It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.
- Pastor Where is this written?
- People St. Paul writes in Romans, chapter six: "We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." (Romans 6:4)

†DISTRIBUTION†

(following distribution, you may be seated for the Annual Voter's Meeting)

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BETHANY MISSION STATEMENT BETHANY'S PURPOSE AS A LOVING & CARING CHRISTIAN CONGREGATION IS TO: + GLORIFY THE TRIUNE GOD + STRENGTHEN THE SAVED + OFFER THE HAND OF CHRIST TO ALL

MEMBERS AND GUESTS are asked to fill out a Family Worship Register card (found in the hymnal racks.) Guests, please fill in the reverse side of the card as well. Ushers will collect them after the offering.

<u>SIT OR STAND?</u> – For those caring for young children or who have difficulty standing for the Prayers or other parts of the service, please know that you are most welcome to sit as you find need or comfort.

<u>CHARITY OF THE MONTH</u> – The November/December Charity of the Month is **Lutheran World Relief.**

NEAT REPEATS SALE THIS WEEK – 11/17 - 11/21: Kitchen Items 50% off.

VOTER'S MEETING TODAY – Please plan to attend the Annual Voter's meeting following the church service today (both Saturday and Sunday). We will be discussing a number of important issues including the 2021 Budget, Election of new officers, and Constitution and Bylaw changes in regards to Bethany's Endowment Fund.

BRAT FRY – Saturday, Nov. 21st from 11:00 am – 1:30 pm at Mentink's Piggly Wiggly in Oostburg. Teens for Life is hosting this brat fry to benefit the Anchor of Hope Health Center. Come and get your brats and burgers while supporting a worthy cause at the same time!

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE – Please have all information for the December newsletter to Gina by Tuesday, November 17. Thank you!

<u>CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS</u> – If you'd like to purchase a plant to help decorate our Altar area during Christmas, please fill out the order form found in the back of this bulletin and return it by **Sunday**, **November 29**.

"A LUTHERAN HIGH CHRISTMAS" TICKETS - Tickets for "A Lutheran High Christmas", the first concert in our brand-new Worship and Fine Arts Center, will be available to the general public on the Lutheran High School website beginning Monday, November 23rd at 8am. Seating will be reserved, limited, and socially distanced for each concert. Please try to limit your ticket reservations to a maximum of 4 if possible. Due to increased demand and social distancing guidelines, three performances of the concert will be offered this year: Saturday, December 19th @ 7pm and Sunday, December 20th at 2pm and 6:30pm. Please note that you cannot attend the concert without a ticket. If you are unable to attend, or feel uncomfortable attending, a live stream will be offered for all three concerts on the LHS Website.

WORSHIP & FINE ARTS CENTER PREVIEW EVENT AT LHS - LHS invites our Association Congregation members to a special Preview Day of the STEAM corridor and Fine Arts Center at LHS on Saturday, Dec. 12 from 2 - 4 pm. Take self-guided tours through the Science rooms, Robotics room, new Music Instruction room and the Theatre. Faculty and Building Committee members will be on hand to direct you and answer questions, and refreshments will be available.

OFFERINGS AND ATTENDANCE

Monthly amount needed to mee	t budget \$17,034.59
Budget Offerings (October)	\$12,016.10
Charity of the month (Octob	er) \$155.00
Other (October)	\$1,168.00
Weekly Attendance:	Saturday, November 734

Sunday, November 8...45

THOSE SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS SATURDAY NOVEMBER 14

Elder:
Ushers:
Acolyte:
Altar Guild:
Bulletin Folder:

Shua Yang #1 – B. Marotz, Schnettler, Hazen Zane Willadsen Barb & Lee Gumm Dan Fibiger

THOSE SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS SUNDAY NOVEMBER 15

Elder:
Ushers:
Acolyte:
Scripture Reader:
Door Locker:

David Hasler #8 - Matte Winston Hasler Sharon Werner Ken Thompson

THOSE SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE NEXT SATURDAY NOVEMBER 21

Elder:	Steve Hazen
Ushers:	#2 – Faucher, D. Fibiger, S. Hazen
Acolyte:	Zakary Willadsen
Altar Guild:	Debbie & Steve Perry
Bulletin Folder:	Dan Fibiger

THOSE SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE NEXT SUNDAY NOVEMBER 22

Elder:	Andy Fibiger		
Ushers:	#3 – Luecke, Thompson, Kuehlman,		
	Rademacher		
Acolyte:	Madison Fibiger		
Scripture Reader:	Steve Hazen		
Door Locker:	Dan Fibiger		

OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH, FELLOWSHIP & PRAISE THIS WEEK

Wed	11-18	3:15 pm	Confirmation 5-8 grade
Sat	11-21	4:00 pm	Worship
Sun	11-22	8:45 am	Sunday School & Bible Study
		10:00am	Worship

Communion Statement:

Holy Communion was begun and commanded by Jesus Himself – 1 Corinthians 11:23-25. In, with and under the bread and wine, the Lord offers His Body to strengthen the faith of believing Christians – 1 Corinthians 10:16, 11:27. Those who receive the Sacrament in faith receive what Christ promised, the remission of sins. Please review the following. Individuals who may commune with us are those

- Who are already Baptized Christians; Baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- Who confess Jesus as their Lord and Savior and that He died for their sins and on the 3rd day rose to life.
- Who are able to examine themselves; (1 Corinthians 11:28 "Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup.")
- Who are repentant of their sins and desire, with the help of God, to change the way they think and act.
- Who profess the "real presence" of Christ in the partaking of the bread and wine; Christ is truly present in, with and under the bread and wine. (Christ's body is truly present in, with, and under the bread. Christ's blood is truly present in, with, and under the wine.)

Children are encouraged to come forward to receive a blessing from the pastor, but should not receive the bread and wine unless they have been instructed in the above teachings.

Because those who eat and drink the Lord's Supper unworthily do so to their great harm (1 Corinthians 11), anyone who holds to a confession differing from ours or has questions about the above is asked to refrain from partaking until a further study of Scripture can be provided.

<u>* Typically our children and adults attend special instruction classes</u> taught by the pastor on the worthily manner from which one receive the Lord's Supper.

2020 CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS



If you would like to order a Poinsettia plant to decorate our church for the Christmas season, please fill out the form below and give or mail to Shirley Mueller (1714 Autumnwood Ct. Sheboygan, WI 53081) or place in the Altar Guild box in the Communication Room or give to Gina in the office. You may take your poinsettia home after the Christmas Day church service.

Please make any checks out to: <u>Bethany Lutheran Church</u>

\$10.00 EACH RED OR WHITE

DEADLINE TO ORDER - NOVEMBER 29

POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

Your name_____

_____ Number of plants at \$10.00 each

_____ Red _____ White

Given in memory of _____

Given in honor of _____

Other