

# The Bethlehem Star

**Empowered by Jesus to be His hands and feet, Bethlehem is a caring Community called to be His compassionate presence in this world and to build community by reaching out with the life-giving Word to those in our neighborhoods who are wearied and burdened by life's demands and changing Circumstances.**

**BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
201 E. Watauga Avenue  
Johnson City, TN 37601  
Rev. Steven Harmon, Pastor  
Church: 423-926-5261

*October 2020, Volume XX, No. 10*  
**Reach Up, Reach In, Reach Out**

October is Pastor Appreciation Month. Let us pray together for all our LCMS pastors.

**Father of our Lord Jesus,**

**YOUR SON HAS ASSURED US** that it is Your delight to give the Holy Spirit to Your children.

Remember in Your infinite love all who work tirelessly in His Church, proclaiming in so many ways the salvation of Christ.

Pour Your Spirit upon them that their witness to Your divine love may ring with truth and joy in the hearts of all who hear them or are served by them.

In the difficult moments of loneliness in their task, comfort them with the certainty that they are inviting people into an everlasting home.

In the moments of danger in their service, be to them a shield and fortress.

In the moments of discouragement, fill them with the assurance that Your Word will never return to you empty.

lcms.org

## ESTHER-MARY CIRCLE PROJECT FOR THE FALL

We will be collecting men's t-shirts with pockets in sizes large, x-large and 2x to be given to residents at the VA. These can be purchased at various stores including Wal-Mart in packages for a nominal cost. There will be container in the Fellowship Hall for your donations. This project will continue through November.

## Board Briefs

Your Board of Directors met on September 9th and the congregational meeting was held on September 13th. The following is a summary of those meetings:

- We obtained 4 quotes to replace the 29 year old heating and air conditioning unit in the Fellowship Hall. Through a wonderful generosity of a family, the cost of a new gas furnace and air conditioning unit has been paid for. Our heartfelt thanks to this family.
- We have received 3 quotes to replace the roof on the Fellowship Hall. This expense will be covered with the Lutheran Church Extension Fund loan. This work is expected to be done in October.
- The copper roofing company came to Bethlehem and looked again at the work that needs to be done. We expect the roof work on the Sanctuary to start in Oct and finish up in November, 2020. Due to the water leakage, we are encountering falling plaster from the walls.
- We continue to investigate the possibility of purchasing the building next to our office annex. This 100 year old structure needs some work but appears to be in better shape than our current office facility. Please pray for guidance on what direction our church should take concerning this property.
- We continue to look at the security of our buildings, including a camera monitoring system and improved outdoor lighting.
- Through August our financial situation remains stable. We appreciate everyone staying current with their contributions.



## Notes from the Pastor's Desk

*We are Jesus' hands and feet.*

We are in October now. I want to say, "Where has the time gone." Like always, time flies whether you're having fun or not. The leaves are beginning to change. The landscape will be beautiful – but only for a short time. Then we'll be heading for winter and Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Having said that, in some ways, this year has seemed to last forever. COVID-19 continues to hang on with no light at the end of the tunnel. Or if there is light, it's a very long tunnel.

There's a part of me that just wants to be done with this – to move on – to be left alone. And I know that's not going to happen. So I continue to struggle with my response to the pandemic.

That said, I can't help but think that there is a reason for all of this. There is a purpose that we, as the Church, are to fulfill.

There is a lot of anxiety and frustration concerning the pandemic as schools and businesses continue to navigate through it. There is a lot of tension and lines being drawn because of issues like Black Lives Matter. Lines are being drawn and divisions are being fostered.

What can the Church say to such things? We can certainly agree with the need for social justice, but we don't have to agree with every method to achieve that justice. We can continue to be careful and respectful of others as we deal with the pandemic.

There is a lot that can be done and should be done. The details are, for the most part, a matter of conscience. We each have choices and God will direct us in those choices. But we have to realize that God doesn't call us all to participate in demonstrations. He doesn't call us all to work through the system to effect change.

In whatever way He calls you to serve, do it faithfully and in accordance with God's Word. Let God's Word guide you. Don't get involved because it seemed like a good idea at the time. Do it because you are firmly convinced that God has placed you there – that He has given you a passion for whatever the issue might be – so that you can be His hands and feet to bring change in society and in the lives of those you touch.

There is a hope that we possess – a hope that needs to be shared in the struggles that we face in these uncertain times – that is our privilege to share. It is a hope that is certain and sure. It is a hope that will not disappoint. That hope is the life and salvation that is ours in Christ.

We can work for social justice, we can minister to folks who are anxious and frustrated with the effects of the pandemic. We can even effect real change. But if we don't look for and seize the opportunities to share the hope that is ours in Jesus and the resurrection that He shares, then we haven't done enough.

Having said that, don't force your hope on people. Don't stand on a street corner and bang a drum. Let those opportunities come to you. Keep your eyes and ears open to the many opportunities that God brings every day for you to share with someone else the hope that is yours in Jesus Christ.

Share that hope and let God work through that sharing to bring peace and restoration – to break down walls and gather rather than divide. Share Jesus and His resurrection and let the Light of the world shine in this darkness as He works to bring us all home.

We are fortunate that the call for distancing does not prevent us from worshipping together. As we answer God's invitation, here is the schedule of worship times. See you there!

God comes and invites us to join Him in His house and at His table on a regular basis.

During this time of restrictions, we will be *live streaming our worship service at 10:45 am each Sunday.*

October 4 . . . 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**8:00 am**

SERMON TEXT: Matthew 21:33-46

SERMON THEME: "Let's Take His Inheritance"

LITURGY: **Divine Service 1 w/ Communion**

**10:45 am**

SERMON TEXT: Matthew 21:33-46

SERMON THEME: "Let's Take His Inheritance"

LITURGY: **Divine Service 1 w/ Communion**

October 18 . . . 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**8:00 am**

SERMON TEXT: Matthew 22:15-22

SERMON THEME: "Paying Taxes"

LITURGY: **Divine Service 4 w/ Communion**

**10:45 am**

SERMON TEXT: Matthew 22:15-22

SERMON THEME: "Paying Taxes"

LITURGY: **Divine Service 4 w/ Communion**

October 11 . . . 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**8:00 am**

SERMON TEXT: Matthew 22:1-14

SERMON THEME: "Wedding Clothes"

LITURGY: **Divine Service 3 w/ Communion**

**10:45 am**

SERMON TEXT: Matthew 22:1-14

SERMON THEME: "Wedding Clothes"

LITURGY: **Divine Service 3 w/ Communion**

October 25 . . . 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**8:00 am**

SERMON TEXT: Matthew 22:34-46

SERMON THEME: "Whose Son is He?"

LITURGY: **Blended w/ Communion**

**10:30 am**

SERMON TEXT: Matthew 22:34-46

SERMON THEME: "Whose Son is He?"

LITURGY: **Blended w/ Communion**

## Sew Crazy



Autumn is in the air at the Sew Crazy meeting on Saturday, October 17. The group will be meeting from 10 am to noon with the emphasis on

gathering supplies & ideas for the next project. It's a creative and fun project - Thanksgiving cards (made from card stock and bits of fabric) to be donated to the veterans at our local VA during the month of November. October is also turn in month for two outstanding projects the group has been working on. Bed jackets for hospice patients and mastectomy aprons (to correspond with National Breast Cancer awareness month). Sew Crazy will also be welcoming a guest speaker at the October meeting - Christy Whyche from Amedisys (the recipient of the bed jackets) who will share how their business operates. Mastectomy aprons will be donated to the Cancer Center at Holston Valley Hospital. Sew Crazy is free and open to anyone who sews or who would like to help.

<http://www.sew-crazy.org>  
and we are also active on Facebook.  
Search Sew Crazy.



The Church office is open

Monday - Friday  
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Saturday:  
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Susan is off on Thursdays  
Pastor is off on Fridays  
Voice mail and e-mails  
are checked regularly.

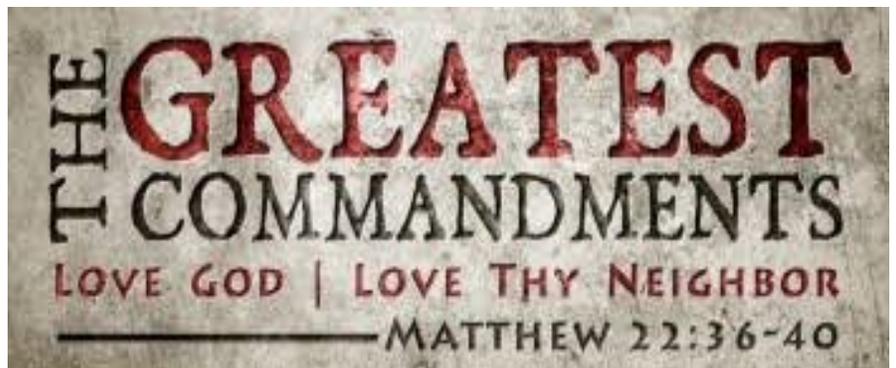
## Statistical Report for September

<u>Attendance</u>	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:45 a.m.</u>	<u>Offerings</u>	
September 6	25	44	General Fund	\$10,795.00
			Federwitz Mission	\$ 50.00
			Family Promise	\$ 150.00
			Melting Pot	\$ 75.00
September 13	26	50	General Fund	\$ 3,105.00
			Federwitz Mission	\$ 50.00
			Youth Ministry	\$ 20.00
September 20	36	52	General Fund	\$ 3,610.00
			Federwitz Mission	\$ 50.00
			Melting Pot	\$ 100.00
			Roof Repair	\$ 200.00
			HVAC	\$ 6,000.00
September 27 - Outdoor Worship & Picnic	56		General Fund	\$ 2,965.00
			Federwitz Mission	\$ 50.00
			Melting Pot	\$ 50.00
On-line Giving in September				\$ 1,080.00
Spending Guidelines approved for 2020				\$272,805.04
Offerings needed each week in 2020				\$ 5,246.25



## Happy October Birthdays to

**Jordyan Oxendine (6),  
Kara Beth Weishaar (8),  
Jonathan Federwitz (14th),  
Linda Kassem &  
Sommer Scruggs (17th),  
Jerry Paulsen (20th), Robb Whaley (24),  
Johnny Neal (26th),  
Kylene Scruggs (28th),  
Logan Carey & Kathy Port (29th)**





Happy October, everyone!!!!!! Our youth have had a lot of really good youth meetings along with some great Sunday school classes. We are currently one quarter of the way through our apologetics course/study. We have grown so much together as a group. We look forward to what October has to offer. Many of our youth will be traveling over fall break. We still plan to meet on Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup>. If you're not able to make it to the meeting, or any other meeting listed below, please let David Nutter know. We plan on hosting our annual Fall Festival for our local families in our community towards the end of this month on Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup> from 12-2. This is a time of fun, fellowship, and food for all. If you would like to help set-up, be present during the festival, and/or help take down and clean up after the festival, please let David Nutter know. Our youth always love this time of year. This is a great opportunity to invite families in the area to attend worship with us on Sunday mornings. The more the merrier. The following is what we have on the calendar for our youth group for this month.

Month of October at a Glance:

- Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> ..... Fall Break (No Youth Meeting)
- Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup> ..... Sunday School Class from 9:15-10:30 Sunday
- Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup> ..... Youth Group Meeting at Bethlehem from 6:30-9
- Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup> ..... Sunday School Class from 9:15-10:30 Sunday
- Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup> ..... Youth Group Meeting at Bethlehem from 6:30-9
- Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup> ..... Sunday School Class from 9:15-10:30 Sunday
- Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup> ..... Fall Festival 12-2pm
- Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup> ..... Sunday School Class from 9:15-10:30 Sunday

## Serving This Month

8:00 a.m.		10:45 a.m.	
ELDER OF THE MONTH: Ted Wilson & Larry Larson		ELDER OF THE MONTH: Scott Pruitt & Frank de Nobriga	
USHERS		USHERS	
10/4	Marilyn Abbott Ann Larson Jan Turner		Susan Burkey April Tester Wanda Burrow
10/11	Robert Woody Larry Larson Ann Larson		John Port Ben Wohlford Nicholas Leone
10/18	Ted Wilson Adam DeMello Tom Watson		Cary Allen Tim Treece Dylan Treece
10/25	Larry Larson Ann Larson Robert Woody		Robb Whaley Silas Whaley Andy Tester

Altar Guild for October: Jan Turner & Linda Kassem



***Make Known His Deeds***  
**November 4-6, 2020**

Featured speakers include: Dr. David Scaer,  
Dr. William Weinrich, and Dr. Dean Wenthe



For more information, go to  
[www.ctsfw.edu/LutherHostel](http://www.ctsfw.edu/LutherHostel),  
phone (260) 452-2204, or email  
[Retreats@ctsfw.edu](mailto:Retreats@ctsfw.edu). *OR KATHY PORT*  
423-636-0188

**ONLINE SHOPPING THROUGH  
AMAZON SMILE**

REMEMBER IF YOU MAKE ON-LINE PURCHASES, go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and Bethlehem can receive a rebate for a portion of what you spend.

It's a WIN-WIN for everyone!!!



# OCTOBER

Live Streaming of the 10:45 Sunday service and the 7:30 Wednesday Catechism Class will continue each week.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4 <b>Worship, 8:00 a.m.</b> Bible Study, Sunday School & Confirmation, 9:15 a.m. <b>Choir Rehearsal, 10:20 a.m.</b>	5	6	7 <b>Hand Bell Practice, 6:00 p.m.</b> <b>Ensemble Practice, 6:30 p.m.</b> Catechism Class, 7:30 p.m.	8	9	10 Youth Group, 6:30 - 9 p.m.
11 <b>Worship, 8:00 a.m.</b> Bible Study, Sunday School & Confirmation, 9:15 a.m. <b>Choir Practice, 10:20 a.m.</b> <b>Worship, 10:45 a.m.</b>	12 <b>Hand Up Board, 4:00 p.m.</b>  <b>COLUMBUS DAY</b>	13 Ladies Bible Study, 10:00 a.m.	14 <b>Hand Bell Practice, 5:30 p.m.</b> <b>Board of Directors, 6:00 p.m.</b> <b>Ensemble Practice, 6:30 p.m.</b> Catechism Class, 7:30	15	16	17 Sew Crazy, 10:00 a.m. - Noon Youth Group, 6:30 - 9 p.m.
18 <b>Worship, 8:00 a.m.</b> Bible Study, Sunday School & Confirmation, 9:15 a.m. <b>Choir Practice, 10:20 a.m.</b> <b>Worship, 10:45 a.m.</b>	19 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Pastor's Conference in Memphis</div>	20	21 <b>Hand Bell Practice, 6:00 p.m.</b> <b>Ensemble Practice, 6:30 p.m.</b>	22	23 Prepare bag lunches for Melting Pot, 9:00 a.m.	24
25 <b>Worship, 8:00 a.m.</b> Bible Study, Sunday School & Confirmation, 9:00 a.m. <b>Choir Practice, 10:20 a.m.</b> <b>Worship, 10:45 a.m.</b>	26	27 Ladies Bible Study, 10:00 a.m.	28 <b>Hand Bell Practice, 6:00 p.m.</b> <b>Ensemble Practice, 6:30 p.m.</b> Catechism Class, 7:30 p.m.	29	30	31 Men's Bible Study & Breakfast 9:00 a.m. 

# Who is Jesus?

September 25, 2020 By [Gene Edward Veith](#) from Lutheran Witness

Jesus asked, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” (Matt. 16:13).

That is a very important question. Most non-Christians today are as clueless as those who thought He was John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah or one of the prophets. Today, many of Jesus’ followers do not realize who He is.

According to the biennial [State of Theology](#) survey from Ligonier Ministries conducted with LifeWay Research, [the majority of Americans, 52%, believe that Jesus was a great teacher but not that He is God.](#)

Surprisingly, almost one out of three *evangelicals*, 30%, agree with that statement, thereby rejecting the divinity of Christ. The study defines “evangelicals” as agreeing strongly with these four positions: “The Bible is the highest authority for what I believe; it is very important for me personally to encourage non-Christians to trust Jesus Christ as their Savior; Jesus Christ’s death on the cross is the only sacrifice that could remove the penalty of my sin; and only those who trust in Jesus Christ alone as their Savior receive God’s free gift of eternal salvation.”

Of evangelicals who do believe in the divinity of Christ, a large number are heretics. In fact, two out of three evangelicals, 65%, agree with the statement, “Jesus is the first and greatest being created by God.”

The ancient heresy of Arianism said the same. It taught that Christ is a created being, not the eternally existent second person of the Trinity. Against Arianism, the Nicene Creed confesses that the Son of God is “begotten, not made.”

That is an important distinction. An artist might make or create a portrait of a human being. He might even love that portrait. But it still consists of canvas and paint. If the artist and his wife have “begotten” a child, however, that child shares their being, their essence.

God created the universe, including all of us. Whatever God has created, while utterly dependent on Him, is *not* God. We are a different kind of thing completely.

But, in the words of the Nicene Creed, the “Lord Jesus Christ” is “the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds.” Therefore, He is “God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father.”

In the same way, your son is a human being of a human being, a true human of a true human, being of one substance with you, his parents.

Jesus is God’s “only-begotten Son.” By virtue of adoption, we, too, are children of God. He is our Father too (Rom. 8:14–17). St. Paul explains:

*But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God. (Gal. 4:4–7)*

By faith in the Gospel through the Holy Spirit, by the Baptism that unites us to the Son of God, His Father is our Father. His creatures become His children.

The most popular modern Bible translations leave out the creedal “begotten” language in their renderings of John 1:18, John 3:16 and John 3:18. The NIV says “one and only Son;” the ESV says, “only Son.” They focus on the first half of the Greek word *μονογενῆ* — “mono” meaning “alone, only.” They neglect the latter half of the word, “genos” which means “birth, offspring, family or kind” (the source of our word “gene”).

The distinction between begotten and made is particularly important in our era of designer babies, artificial intelligence and other issues involving medical ethics and technology.

That so many “Christians” believe that Jesus is just another creature and not God in the flesh may be a symptom of evangelicals’ lack of interest in creeds, theology and catechesis. It may also be connected to the fact that [41% of evangelicals believe they are saved by their good works rather than by Christ.](#)

Only a man who is also God could bear our sins and die for them. Only the second person of the Trinity could reconcile us to God. Only the Son of God could make us sons and fellow heirs with Him.

Gene Edward Veith

Dr. Gene Edward Veith is the author of over 20 books on different facets of Christianity and culture, including, most recently, *Authentic Christianity* (CPH), with A. Trevor Sutton. A retired English professor and college administrator, he also directs the Cranach Institute at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, and blogs regularly at [patheos.com/blogs/geneveith](http://patheos.com/blogs/geneveith).