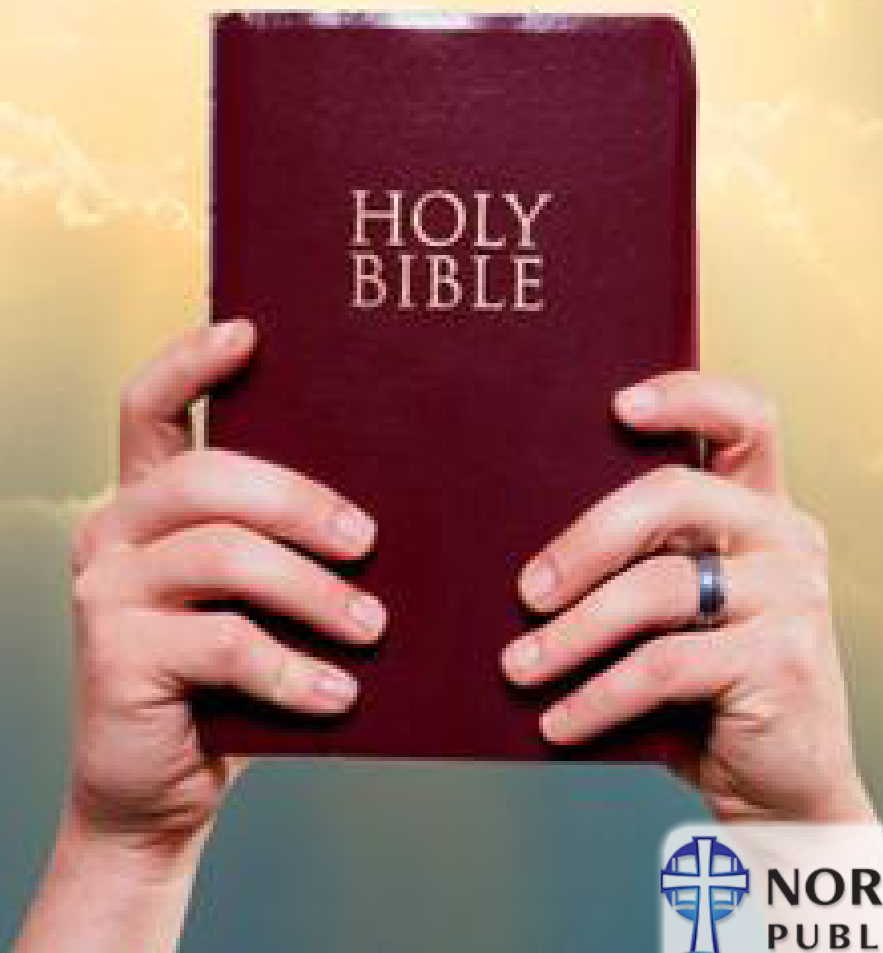




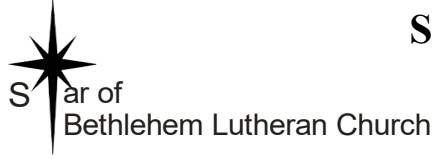
**NORTHWESTERN  
PUBLISHING HOUSE**

**“Whoever  
eats my flesh  
and drinks my blood  
has eternal life, and  
I will raise them up  
at the last day.”**

John 6:54



**NORTHWESTERN  
PUBLISHING HOUSE**



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Pastor Michael Foley

## Worship Service

*Sunday, August 25, 2024 10:00 a.m.*

### Fourteenth Sunday after PENTECOST

**Theme of the day: It is not only the outsider who turns aside from the Wisdom which is Christ. Many who have heard the Word with us also go away when some part of it conflicts with their own thinking. God, keep us always from the ignorant arrogance that thinks our wisdom is greater than yours!**



## WELCOME

A warm welcome to our friends and visitors! Star of Bethlehem Lutheran Church is eager to share with you the blessings of its Christ-centered ministry. If you are a new or long-time resident of the Central Coast looking for a church home, we invite you to meet with us at the close of this worship service or at your convenience. All are welcome to stay for refreshments in the fellowship hall.

**Families** are encouraged to worship together. If you need to step out with your children, the service can be seen and heard in the fellowship hall or narthex area. Feel free to enter and return at any time.

## OUR MISSION

Our congregation exists for the purpose of "HOLDING OUT THE WORD OF LIFE." This is accomplished by faithfully preserving and proclaiming all of God's inerrant word, and administering the Sacraments as they were instituted by Christ.

**OPENING HYMN: # 760 “Oh, Blest the House”**

♪ **Oh, blest the house, whate’er befall,  
where Jesus Christ is all in all!  
A home that is not wholly his—  
how sad and poor and dark it is!**

**Oh, blest that house where faith is found  
and all in hope and love abound;  
they trust their God and serve him still  
and do in all his holy will.**

**Oh, blest the parents who give heed  
unto their children’s foremost need  
and weary not of care or cost.  
May none to them and heav’n be lost!**

**Blest such a house, it prospers well;  
in peace and joy the parents dwell,  
and in their children’s lives is shown  
how richly God can bless his own.**

*Please stand for last verse:*

**Then here will I and mine today  
a solemn promise make and say:  
though all the world forsake his Word,  
I and my house will serve the Lord!**

Minister: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Congregation: **And also with you.** (*spoken*)

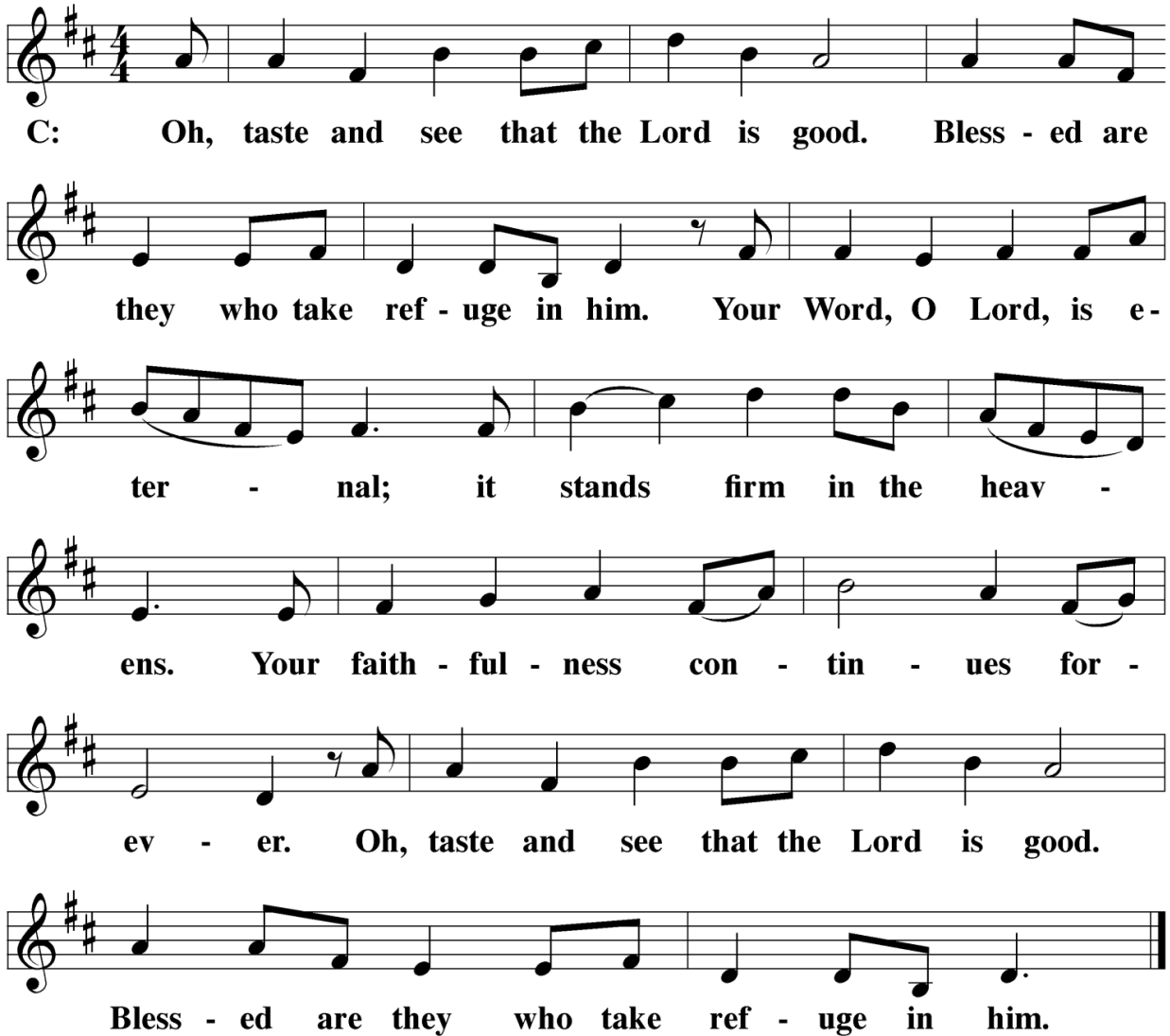
**M**: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

**C**: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.



C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e - ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav - ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for - ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

M: Almighty God, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us to know your Son, Jesus, to be the way, the truth, and the life that we may boldly confess him to be the Christ and steadfastly walk in the way that leads to life eternal; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C:  Amen.

*Please be seated.*

## FIRST LESSON: Joshua 24:1-2,14-18

Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel at Shechem, and he summoned the elders of Israel, its heads, its judges, and its officers, and they presented themselves before God.

<sup>2</sup>Then Joshua told all the people, “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, has said.”

<sup>14</sup>Joshua said, “Now, therefore, fear the LORD and serve him wholeheartedly and faithfully. Remove the gods that your fathers served in the region across the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. <sup>15</sup>But if you see no benefit in serving the LORD, then choose for yourselves today whomever you will serve—whether the gods that your fathers served beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household—we will serve the LORD!”

<sup>16</sup>The people responded by saying, “Far be it from us to forsake the LORD in order to serve other gods! <sup>17</sup>For the LORD our God, he is the one who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, where we were slaves. He is the one who performed these great signs right before our eyes and protected us on the whole journey that we made and among all the peoples through whom we passed. <sup>18</sup>The LORD drove out of our presence all the peoples and the Amorites who were living in the land. We too will serve the LORD, because he is our God!”

## PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 119c

### *Refrain*



Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

### *Psalm tone*



Oh, how I love your law!\*

I meditate on it all day long.

**I have more insight than all my teachers,\*  
for I meditate on your statutes.**

**I have more understanding than the elders,\*  
for I obey your precepts.**

***Refrain***

**I have kept my feet from every evil path\*  
so that I might obey your Word.**

**I have not departed from your laws,\*  
for you yourself have taught me.**

**How sweet are your words to my taste,\*  
sweeter than honey to my mouth!**

**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.**

***Refrain***

**VERSE OF THE DAY:**

**M: Alleluia. Lord to whom will we go? You have the words of eternal  
life. Alleluia. (John 6:68)**

**C: ♪ Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
These words are written that we may believe  
that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## **SECOND LESSON: Hebrews 11:24-28**

**<sup>24</sup>By faith Moses refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter when he grew up. <sup>25</sup>He chose to be mistreated with God's people rather than enjoy sin for a little while. <sup>26</sup>He considered disgrace for the sake of Christ as greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.**

**<sup>27</sup>By faith he left Egypt without fearing the king's wrath, because he persevered as one who sees him who is invisible.**

**<sup>28</sup>By faith he celebrated the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not strike them down.**

## **HYMN: # 631 "Speak, O Savior, I Am Listening"**

**♪ Speak, O Savior, I am list'ning, as a servant to his lord.  
Let me show respect and honor to your holy, precious Word,  
that each day, my whole life through,  
I may serve and follow you.  
Let your Word e'er be my pleasure  
and my heart's most precious treasure.**

**Oh, what blessing to be near you and to listen to your voice;  
let me ever love and fear you, let your Word still be my choice!  
Many hardened sinners, Lord, flee in terror at your Word;  
but to all who feel sin's burden  
you give peace and words of pardon.**

**Lord, your words are waters living  
where I quench my thirsty needs.  
Lord, your words are bread life-giving;  
on your words my spirit feeds.  
Lord, your words will be my light  
thro' death's cold and dreary night;  
yes, they are my sword prevailing and my cup of joy unfailing.**

**As I pray, dear Jesus, hear me; let your words in me take root.  
May your Spirit e'er be near me that I bear abundant fruit.  
May I daily sing your praise,  
from my heart glad anthems raise,  
till my highest praise is given in the endless joy of heaven.**

## **SERMON: John 6:51-69**

**<sup>51</sup>I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats this bread, he will live forever. The bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”**

**<sup>52</sup>At that, the Jews argued among themselves, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?”**

**<sup>53</sup>So Jesus said to them, “Amen, Amen, I tell you: Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life in yourselves. <sup>54</sup>The one who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the Last Day. <sup>55</sup>For my flesh is real food, and my blood is real drink. <sup>56</sup>The one who eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him. <sup>57</sup>Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. <sup>58</sup>This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like your fathers ate and died. The one who eats this bread will live forever.”**

**<sup>59</sup>He said these things while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum. <sup>60</sup>When they heard it, many of his disciples said, “This is a hard teaching! Who can listen to it?”**

**<sup>61</sup>But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, asked them, “Does this cause you to stumble in your faith? <sup>62</sup>What if you would see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? <sup>63</sup>The Spirit is the one who gives life. The flesh does not help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. <sup>64</sup>But there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the beginning those who would not believe and the one who would betray him. <sup>65</sup>He said, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is given to him by my Father.”**

**<sup>66</sup>After this, many of his disciples turned back and were not walking with him anymore. <sup>67</sup>So Jesus asked the Twelve, “You do not want to leave too, do you?”**

**<sup>68</sup>Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom will we go? You have the words of eternal life. <sup>69</sup>We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”**

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**



**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.  
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit;  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body;  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**HYMN: # 699 “Take the World, but Give Me Jesus”**

**♪ Take the world, but give me Jesus, all its joys are but a name;  
but his love abides forever, through eternal years the same.  
Oh, the height and depth of mercy!  
Oh, the length and breadth of love!  
Oh, the fullness of redemption, pledge of endless life above!**

**Take the world, but give me Jesus, sweetest comfort of my soul;  
with the Savior watching o’er me,  
I can sing, though thunders roll.  
Oh, the height and depth of mercy!  
Oh, the length and breadth of love!  
Oh, the fullness of redemption, pledge of endless life above!**

**Take the world, but give me Jesus; in his cross my trust shall be  
till with clearer, brighter vision face to face my Lord I see.  
Oh, the height and depth of mercy!  
Oh, the length and breadth of love!  
Oh, the fullness of redemption, pledge of endless life above!**

**OFFERING**

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**C: 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.**

**M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace.  
Live in harmony with one another.  
Serve the Lord with gladness.**

**The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.**

**C: ♪ Amen. Amen. Amen.**

### **CLOSING HYMN: # 715 "Let Me Be Yours Forever"**

**♪ Let me be yours forever, my faithful God and Lord;  
let me forsake you never nor wander from your Word.  
Lord, do not let me waver but give me steadfastness,  
and for such grace and favor your holy name I'll bless.**

**Lord Jesus, my salvation, my light, my life divine,  
my only consolation, to you I all resign,  
for you have dearly bought me with blood and bitter pain.  
Let me, since you have sought me, eternal life obtain.**

**O gracious Holy Spirit, my comforter and guide,  
grant that in Jesus' merit I always may confide,  
him to the end confessing whom I have known by faith.  
Give me your constant blessing and grant a Christian death.**

## **WELS CONNECTION**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**FLOWERS** for today's service were given to the glory of God by Dolly and Cal in celebration of their anniversary.

**PRAYERS:** Remember to pray for: Shawn Lozano, John Velasques, little Elias, Dennis Douglas, Bob Ward, George Caravana, Molly Webb (and brother, Jim), Helen Marten, Doug Ward, Kathy Jones, Art Amarillas, Melinda Brown, Alice Taubman, Monica, Louise Perry, Rylan Downs, Jeff Brown, Aaron Taubman, Judy Washburn, Marlene Washburn, Terry's siblings Linda & Carp, Kathryn Pereira, Helen Cummings, and Phil Schaaf.

**LADIES' LUNCHEON:** Wednesday, August 28th, 11:30 at the Olive Garden. Please RSVP to Chris Oberg.

**STAR CHURCH DIRECTORY:** Please update your personal information as it changes (online or blue sheets in narthex).

To view and use the directory online, go to:  
[members.instantchurchdirectory.com](http://members.instantchurchdirectory.com)

Follow the prompts under "Sign In" to "Create a login now."

To view and use the directory on your smartphone:

download the App for "Instant Church Directory"

\*\*\* You will need to use your e-mail address as listed in our directory to create a log-in the first time you use the directory online and via the mobile app.

## **THIS WEEK**

**Thursday Bible Class, 10:00 a.m.**

**Sunday Bible Class and Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.**  
**Worship with Holy Communion, 10:00 a.m.**

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