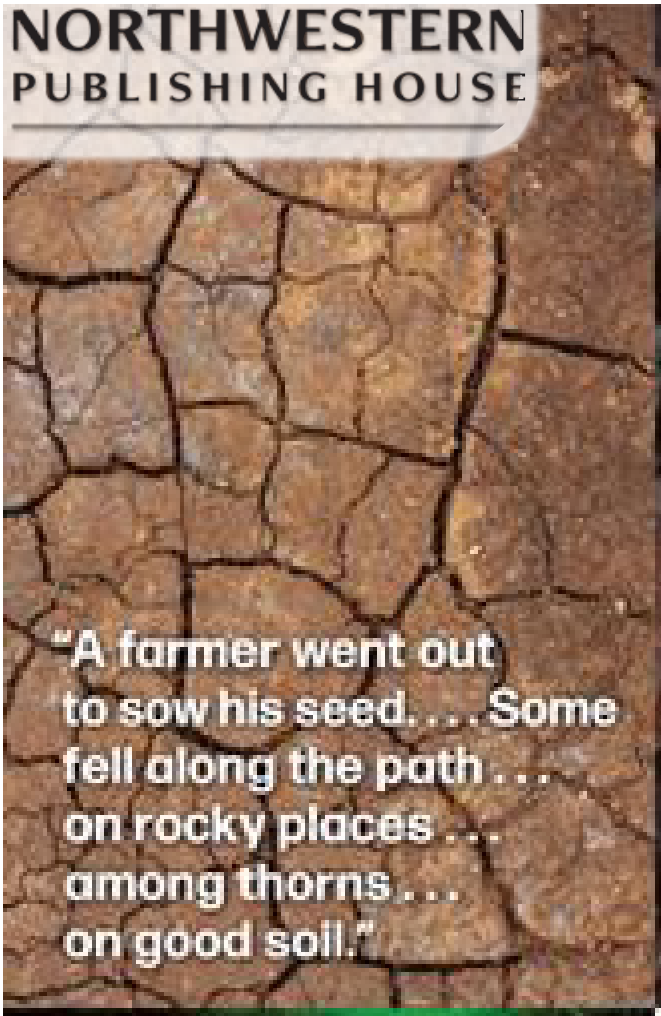
NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE



NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE

Star of Bethlehem Lutheran Church

4465 South Blosser Road
Santa Maria, CA 93455
Office: 805-937-0339
www.starlutheran.org
Pastor Michael Foley

Worship Service

Sunday, July 19th, 2026 10:00 a.m.

Eighth Sunday after PENTECOST

Theme of the day: By means of his holy Word, God sows faith in our hearts and strengthens it. May we always gladly listen to this saving Word!

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: # 633 **"Speak, O Lord"**

♫ **Speak, O Lord, as we come to you**
to receive the food of your holy Word;
take your truth, plant it deep in us,
shape and fashion us in your likeness,
that the light of Christ might be seen today
in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us
all your purposes for your glory.

Teach us, Lord, full obedience, holy reverence, true humility;
test our thoughts and our attitudes
in the radiance of your purity.
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see
your majestic love and authority.
Words of pow'r that can never fail,
let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Please stand for last verse:

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds,
help us grasp the heights of your plans for us,
truths unchanged from the dawn of time,
that will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we'll stand on your promises,
and by faith we'll walk as you walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, till your Church is built,
and the earth is filled with your glory.

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**:** God invites us to come into his presence to worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

M: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: ♫ Lord, have mercy.

M: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: ♫ Christ, have mercy.

M: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: ♫ Lord, have mercy.

M: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:

C: ♫ Amen.

M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

♫ O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.
Almighty God, merciful Father,
you crown our life with your love.
You take away our sin; you comfort our spirit;
you make us pure and holy in your sight.
You did not spare your only Son, but gave him up for us all.
O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.
O Son of God, eternal Word of the Father,
you came to live with us;
you made your Father known;
you washed us from our sins in your own blood.

You are the King of glory; you are the Lord!
O Lord, our Lord,
how glorious is your name in all the earth.

M: Blessed Lord, since you have caused all the Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

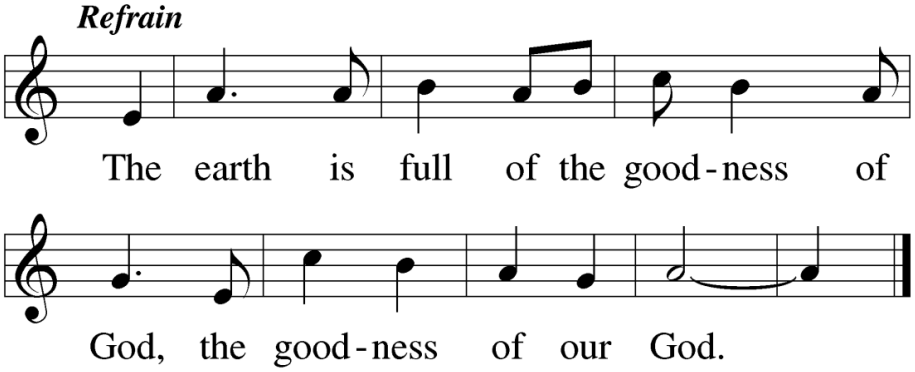
C: ♫ Amen.

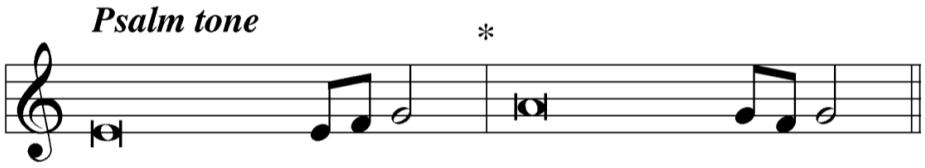
Please be seated.

FIRST LESSON: 1 Corinthians 3:5-11

[5]What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? They are ministers through whom you believed, and each served as the Lord gave him his role. [6]I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. [7]So then, neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but it is God who causes the growth. [8]The one who plants and the one who waters are united, and each will receive his own reward according to his own labor. [9]For God is the one whom we serve as coworkers, and you are God's field, God's building.
[10]In keeping with the grace of God given to me, as a wise master builder, I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. But let each person be careful how he builds on it. [11]In fact, no one can lay any other foundation than the one that has been laid, which is Jesus Christ.

PSALM of the Day: Psalm 65





Praise awaits you, O God,*
you call forth songs of joy.

You care for the land and water it;*
you soften it with showers and bless its crops.

The streams of God are filled with water*
to provide the people with grain.

Refrain

You crown the year with your bounty,*
and your carts overflow with abundance.

The grasslands of the desert overflow;*
the hills are clothed with gladness.

The meadows are covered with flocks
and the valleys are mantled with grain;*
they shout for joy and sing.

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***

M: Alleluia. My word will not return to me empty. Rather, it will accomplish whatever I please, and it will succeed in the purpose for which I sent it. Alleluia. *(Isaiah 55:11)*

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

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

That same day Jesus left the house and was sitting by the sea. [2]A large crowd gathered around him. So he stepped into a boat and sat down, while all the people stood on the shore. [3]He told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen, a sower went out to sow. [4]As he sowed, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it. [5]Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil. Immediately the seed sprang up, because the soil was not deep. [6]But when the sun rose, the seed was scorched. Because it had no root, it withered away. [7]Other seed fell among thorns. The thorns grew up and choked it. [8]But some seed fell on good ground and produced grain: some one hundred times, some sixty, and some thirty times more than was sown. [9]Whoever has ears to hear, let him hear."

[18]"So listen carefully to the parable of the sower. [19]When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the Evil One comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the seed that was sown along the path. [20]The seed that was sown on rocky ground is the person who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, [21]yet he is not deeply rooted and does not endure. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he immediately falls away. [22]The seed that was sown among the thorns is the one who hears the word, but the worry of this world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it produces no fruit. [23]But the seed that was sown on the good ground is the one who continues to hear and understand the word. Indeed he continues to produce fruit: some a hundred, some sixty, and some thirty times more than was sown."

HYMN: # 644 **"Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast"**

♫ **Almighty God, your Word is cast**
like seed into the ground;
now let the dew of heav'n descend
and righteous fruits abound.

Let not the foe of Christ and man
this holy seed remove,
but give it root in ev'ry heart
to bring forth fruits of love.

Let not the world's deceitful cares
the rising plant destroy,
but let it yield a hundredfold
the fruits of peace and joy.

Whene'er the precious seed is sown,
life-giving grace bestow
that all whose souls the truth receive
its saving pow'r may know.

SERMON: Isaiah 55:6-11

6 Seek the LORD while he may be found!
Call on him while he is near!
7 Let the wicked man abandon his way.
Let an evil man abandon his thoughts.
Let him turn to the LORD,
and he will show him mercy.
Let him turn to our God,
because he will abundantly pardon.
8 Certainly my plans are not your plans,
and your ways are not my ways, declares the LORD.
9 Just as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so my ways are higher than your ways,
and my plans are higher than your plans.
10 Just as the rain and the snow come down from the sky
and do not return there unless they first water the earth,
make it give birth, and cause it to sprout,
so that it gives seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
11 in the same way my word that goes out from my mouth
will not return to me empty.
Rather, it will accomplish whatever I please,
and it will succeed in the purpose for which I sent it.

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Lord God, our Maker and Preserver, we praise and thank you for all that you give us day after day.

C: We are not worthy of all the mercies you show us.

M: You have given us your precious Word to nourish our souls and to protect us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature.

C: We thank you for those who teach and preach your saving truth at this place and everywhere. Grant them a rich measure of patience, wisdom, and love.

M: Heavenly Father, we pray that you shield us from every kind of danger: sudden catastrophe, terrors of crime, and the pain of disease. Watch over those who travel by land, sea, and air. Keep our loved ones from whatever perils may threaten them.

C: Heal those who are sick, cheer those who are sad, calm those who are distressed, and comfort all who are old and infirm.

M: Bless our land, our people, and those who hold offices of high trust. Keep our government and schools upright and strong for the advancement of good citizenship and useful vocations, that we may enjoy your gifts of peace, security, and well-being.

C: Grant your blessing to every nation on earth. Where there are wars, may there be peace. Where there is hatred, let it be healed. Where there is poverty, danger, or disaster, come with your almighty power to help and restore.

M: We bring these requests before you in the name of Jesus our Lord, and ask you to hear us. Take all that we have, our bodies and minds, our time and skills, our ministries and offerings, and use them to your glory.

C: We give ourselves to you that we may serve you in whatever way is pleasing in your sight. Amen.

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.

Holy Communion, will be celebrated in today's service. The Bible teaches us that Jesus offers us his body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins in the Lord's Supper. The Bible also instructs us that receiving the Lord's Supper together is a public expression of our complete "oneness," or unity of faith.

Because the Lord's Supper is an expression of our unity in faith, we invite to the Lord's Supper only those who have expressed that unity with us through membership in our congregation or one of our sister congregations in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS), or our sister church body, the ELS.

If you are a guest from another Christian church, we kindly ask that you simply refrain from participation in our celebration of the Lord's Supper today. We don't want to be presumptuous and put you in the position of declaring your agreement with our beliefs before you have had a chance to learn more.

THE HOLY SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.

C: ♫ And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: ♫ We lift them up to the Lord.

M**:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: ♫ It is right to give him thanks and praise.

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! He sends the Holy Spirit to testify that we are his children and to strengthen us when we are weak.

Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory forever and ever.

♫ **Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.**
The whole earth is full of your glory.
You are my God, and I will exalt you.
I will give you thanks, for you have become my salvation.
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.
The whole earth is full of your glory.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: ♫ Amen.

♫ **O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us your peace. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN: # 819 **"If God Himself Be for Me"**

♫ **If God himself be for me, I may a host defy;**
for when I pray, before me my foes, confounded, fly.
If Christ, my head and master, befriend me from above,
what foe or what disaster can drive me from his love?

This I believe, yea rather, of this I make my boast,
that God is my dear Father, the friend who loves me most,
and that, whate'er betide me, my Savior is at hand
thro' stormy seas to guide me and bring me safe to land.

I build on this foundation, that Jesus and his blood
alone are my salvation, my true, eternal good.
Without him all that pleases is valueless on earth;
the gifts I have from Jesus alone have priceless worth.

He canceled my offenses, delivered me from death;
he is the Lord who cleanses my soul from sin through faith.
In him I can be cheerful, courageous on my way;
in him I am not fearful of God's great Judgment Day.

Now no one can condemn me or set my hope aside;
now hell no more can claim me, its fury I deride.
No sentence now reproves me, no guilt destroys my peace,
for Christ, my Savior, loves me and shields me with his grace.

No danger, thirst, or hunger, no pain or poverty,
no earthly tyrant's anger shall ever vanquish me.
Though earth should break asunder, you are my Savior true;
no fire or sword or thunder shall sever me from you.

My heart for joy is springing and can no more be sad;
my soul is filled with singing, sees only sunshine glad.
The sun that cheers my spirit is Jesus Christ, my King;
the heav'n I shall inherit makes me rejoice and sing.

THANKSGIVING

Please stand.

♫ **Thank the Lord and sing his praise.**
Tell ev'ryone what he has done.
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice
and proudly bear his name.

He renews his promises and leads
his people forth in joy
With shouts of thanksgiving.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

M: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: ♫ 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: # 925 **"On What Has Now Been Sown"**

♫ On what has now been sown your blessing, Lord, bestow;
the pow'r is yours alone to make it spring and grow.
O Lord, in grace the harvest raise
and you alone shall have the praise!

To you our wants are known; from you are all our pow'rs.
Accept what is your own and pardon what is ours.
Our praises, Lord, and prayers receive
and to your Word a blessing give.

O grant that each of us now met before you here
may meet together thus when you and yours appear
and follow you to heav'n, our home.
E'en so, Amen! Lord Jesus, come!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS: Remember to pray for: little Elias, Dennis Douglas, George Caravana, Molly Webb, Kathy Jones, Art Amarillas, Melinda Brown, Alice Taubman, Monica, Rylan Downs, Jeff Brown, Aaron Taubman, Marlene Washburn, Helen Cummings, Delores Bass, Rick Stovall, Suzy Garvin, Linda Wilkinson, Kathie Stillwater, and Louise Perry.

"Hi, We're Your Neighbors at Star"- Big, fun, promotional, fellowship, outreach day at Waller Park, Saturday, August 22. Start thinking about it now.

THIS WEEK

Tuesday	**ESL** (English as a Second Language), **6:00 p.m.**
Thursday	**Bible Class, 10:00 a.m.**
	ESL, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
Sunday	**Bible Class & Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.**
	Worship, 10:00 a.m.

PERSONAL PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

(cf. page 156 in the front of Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal)

Q: What does God tell me about myself in his holy Word?

A: He says that I am a sinner and deserve only his punishment.

Q: What should I do if I am not aware of my sins or am not troubled by them?

A: I should examine myself according to the Ten Commandments and ask how well I have carried out my responsibilities as a husband or wife or single person, as a parent or child, an employer or employee, a teacher or student. Have I loved God with all my heart, gladly heard his Word, and patiently endured affliction? Have I been disobedient, proud, or unforgiving? Have I been selfish, lazy, envious, or quarrelsome? Have I lied or deceived, taken something not mine, or given anyone a bad name? Have I abused my body or permitted indecent thoughts to linger in my mind? Have I failed to do what is right and good?

Q: When I realize that I have sinned against God and deserve his punishment, what should I do?

A: I will confess before God all my sins, those which I remember as well as those of which I am unaware. I will pray to God for his mercy and forgiveness.

Q: How do I receive his gracious forgiveness?

A: His Word assures me that Jesus led a pure and holy life for me and died on the cross for me to pay the full price for all my sins. Through faith in Jesus, I have been clothed in my Savior's perfect righteousness and holiness.

Q: What further assurance do I have that Jesus is mine and I am his?

A: In Holy Communion he gives me his body and blood together with the bread and wine as a truly life-giving food and drink to unite me with him and my fellow believers. By means of this sacrament, Jesus not only forgives my sins but sweeps away all my doubts about his love for me, gives me his own strength to live a God-pleasing life, and grants me a joyful foretaste of heaven.

Q: How can I be sure that I receive all these blessings in the Lord's Supper?

A: I have his own word spoken as his last will and testament on the night before he died. There he tells me: "Take and eat; this is my body. Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me."

Q: How will I respond to this priceless gift from Jesus?

A: I will daily thank and praise him for his love to me. With his help I will fight temptation, do my best to correct whatever wrongs I have done, and serve him and those around me with love and good works.

Lord Jesus, with joy and gratitude I now come to your table to receive the precious food of your life-giving body and blood. May it strengthen me to remain in you as you remain in me, so that I bear much fruit in devoted service to you and in acts of kindness to others. Amen.