

Welcome to Bethlehem Lutheran Church!

Sunday, September 27 at 8:00 & 10:45; Monday, September 28 at 7 PM

18th Sunday after Pentecost / 17th Sunday after Trinity – 2015

Sermon: SPACE ALIENS; HUMAN HYBRIDS; SPIRITUAL STRANGERS:

Do They Exist? Are They Living Among Us? Are They Just ETs or Really DTs and also the Ones Sent by the Great ETT?

Genesis 6:1-8, Job 1:6; Ephesians 2:1, 2, 12

Learn About Us: Visitors – Please see the block on the back of this folder!

Benefit from this Service:

- + Use this folder to guide you; please participate and benefit: L = Leader ♦ C = Congregation ♦ A = All
- + You may need one of these hymnals: TLH = The Lutheran Hymnal (red); LSB = Lutheran Service Book (maroon)
- + Use this folder during the week to benefit again from the Scripture readings!
- + Today's service is Divine Service, Setting Four (Adapted from Lutheran Service Book, 203-212).

SERVICE BEGINNING:

- ⇒ **Bell** (7:55-7:58 / 10:40-10:43): Candle lighting. Please be seated.
- ⇒ **Worship Area Doors** (7:58/10:43): Closed.
- ⇒ **Welcome:** Let's prepare to receive God's blessings; see the LSB inside the front cover.
- ⇒ **Available on Your Smartphone or Tablet:**
 - Today's Service Folder:
www.BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com/ServiceFolder
 - Today's Faith in Action sheet:
www.BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com/FaithInAction
- ⇒ **Prelude**
- ⇒ **Late Arrivals:** Enter ♦during the Entrance Hymn or ♦after the Collect of the Day.

↑ CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION:

- L: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C: Amen.**
- L: Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- C: who made heaven and earth.**
- L: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord who could stand?
- C: But with You there is forgiveness; therefore, You are feared.**

- L: Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness, and confess before God and one another that *we have sinned in thought, word, and deed*, and that *we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition*. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, *our heavenly Father*, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying:
God, be merciful to me a sinner.
- C: Almighty God, →have mercy upon us, →forgive us our sins, and →lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**
- L: Almighty God, *merciful Father*, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C: Amen.**

As the leader goes to the entrance: Please ♦face the entrance, ♦prepare to sing the hymn, and ♦focus on Jesus!

 **Service of the Word** 

Christ is present to teach us the Word for our nourishment, instruction, and guidance!

ENTRANCE HYMN: "God Himself Is Present"

1. God Himself is present:
Let us now adore Him
And with awe appear before Him.
God is in His temple--
All within keep silence,
Prostrate lie with deepest reverence.
Him alone God we own,
Him, our God and Savior;
Praise His name forever.
2. God Himself is present:
Hear the harps resounding;
See the hosts the throne surrounding!
"Holy, holy, holy"--
Hear the hymn ascending,
Songs of saints and angels blending.
Bow Thine ear To us here:
Hear, O Christ, the praises
That Thy Church now raises.
3. O Thou Fount of blessing,
Purify my spirit,
Trusting only in Thy merit.
Like the holy angels,
Who behold Thy glory,
May I ceaselessly adore Thee.
Let Thy will Ever still
Rule Thy Church terrestrial
As the hosts celestial.

KYRIE / LORD, HAVE MERCY:

- L: Let us pray: O Lord,
C: have mercy upon us.
L: O Christ,
C: have mercy upon us.
L: O Lord,
C: have mercy upon us.

**SALUTATION / GREETING and COLLECT /
PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

- L: The Lord be with you.
C: And also with you.
L: *Let us pray.* Everlasting Father, source of every blessing, mercifully direct and govern us by Your Holy Spirit that we may complete the works You have prepared for us to do; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C: Amen. ↓

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 22:14, 19-28

¹⁴ "As the LORD lives," Micaiah answered, "I will say what the LORD tells me." ...
¹⁹ He added, "Then hear what the LORD says. I saw the LORD sitting on his throne, and all the army of heaven was standing near Him on His right and on His left. ²⁰ 'Who will persuade Ahab,' the LORD asked, 'So he will attack and fall at Ramoth in Gilead?' One said one thing, and another said another.
²¹ "Then a spirit stepped forward and stood before the LORD. 'I will persuade him,' he said.
²² "'How?' the LORD asked him." 'I will go out,' he answered, 'and be a lying spirit in the mouth of all the prophets.' "You will succeed in persuading him,' He said, 'Go and do it.'
²³ "So you see, the LORD has put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these prophets of yours, but the LORD has spoken evil about you."
²⁴ Then Zedekiah, Chenaanah's son, went up to Micaiah and struck him on the cheek. "How did the Lord's Spirit leave me to talk to you?" he asked.
²⁵ "You will see," Micaiah answered, "on the day you go and hide yourself in an inner room."
²⁶ "Take Micaiah," the king of Israel said, "and bring him back to Amon, the governor of the city, and to Joash, the king's son, ²⁷ and say: The king says this: 'Put this fellow in prison and

feed him the scantiest bread and water until I come home safely.”

²⁸ “If you come back safely,” Micaiah said, “the LORD has not spoken by me.”

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

SECOND READING: Ephesians 6:10-13

¹⁰ Finally, let the Lord and His mighty power make you strong. ¹¹ Put on God's whole armor, so that you may be able to stand against the tricky ways of the devil, ¹² because we are not fighting against flesh and blood but against the powers, against the authorities, against the rulers of this dark world, against the evil spirits that are in the heavens. ¹³ For this reason take up God's whole armor so that you may be able to resist when things are at their worst and, after you have done everything, to hold your ground.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

THIRD READING: Revelation 12:13-18

¹³ And when the dragon saw that he had been hurled to the earth, he persecuted the woman who had given birth to the Boy.

¹⁴ And the woman was given two wings of the great eagle to fly to her place in the wilderness away from the serpent, where she would be fed for a *time and times and half a time*.

¹⁵ And from his mouth the serpent poured out a stream of water after the woman in order to sweep her away like a river.

¹⁶ And the earth helped the woman. And the earth opened its mouth and swallowed the stream that the dragon poured from his mouth.

¹⁷ And the dragon was angry with the woman and went away to fight with her other children, those who keep what God has

commanded and who hold on to the testimony of Jesus.

¹⁸ And he stood on the sandy shore of the sea.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

↑ APOSTLE'S CREED, THIRD ARTICLE –

SANCTIFICATION (with Martin Luther's explanation):

L: What is the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed?

C: 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.

L: Do you have the ability to believe in Jesus Christ?

C: I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him.

L: How have you become a Christian?

C: The Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.

L: What is the Holy Spirit doing to bless all Christians?

C: He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

L: How is God, through Jesus, blessing all Christians every day?

C: He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.

L: What will happen when Jesus returns?

C: On the Last Day Jesus will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

A: This is most certainly true. ↓

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Lord God, We All to Thee Give Praise"
TLH 254, vv. 1-4

1. Lord God, we all to Thee give praise,
Thanksgivings meet to Thee we raise,
That angel hosts Thou didst create
Around Thy glorious throne to wait.
2. They shine with light and heavenly grace
And constantly behold Thy face;
They heed Thy voice, they know it well,
In godly wisdom they excel.
3. They never rest nor sleep as we;
Their whole delight is but to be
With Thee, Lord Jesus, and to keep
Thy little flock, Thy lambs and sheep.
4. The ancient Dragon is their foe;
His envy and his wrath they know.
It always is his aim and pride
Thy Christian people to divide.

**SERMON: SPACE ALIENS;
HUMAN HYBRIDS;
SPIRITUAL STRANGERS:**
Do They Exist? Are They Living Among Us?
Are they Just ETs or Really DTs
and also the Ones Sent by the Great ETT?
Genesis 6:1-8; Job 1:6; Ephesians 2:1, 2, 12

Genesis 6:1 When the people on earth were getting numerous and they had daughters,
² the sons of God saw how beautiful the daughters of men were, and they married the women they liked best. (Cp. Mat. 22:30.)

³ Then the LORD said: "My spirit will not forever struggle with people for what is right, because they are flesh (Jn. 2:24, 25). But they will still have a hundred and twenty years."

⁴ In those days, as well as later, there were tyrants/giants ("to fall upon, to attack"=violent men) on the earth, when the sons of God had intercourse with the daughters of men and they had children. (Cp. Gen. 1:12.) These were the heroes who were famous in the old days.

⁵ The LORD saw that the people on earth were very wicked and in their hearts were always thinking only evil. ⁶ Then the LORD was sorry He made people on the earth, and He felt sick at heart. ⁷ "I will wipe off the ground the people I created," the LORD said, "people, cattle, creeping things, and birds of the air, because I'm sorry I made them."

⁸ But the LORD was gracious to Noah.

Job 1:6 There was a day when the sons of God came to stand before the LORD, and Satan also came and was among them.

Ephesians 2:1, 2, 12 ¹You also were once dead in your trespasses and sins. ²You led your life in those sins, following the ways of this present world and the ruler who governs the air,....

¹² <Remember> that at that time you were without Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and aliens/strangers to the covenants of the promise. You had no hope and were *without God* in the world [in this terrestrial sphere]. (Cp. Rev. 12:7.)

Benefit from the Sermon: Go to our website; subscribe to our podcast; or request a cd copy; then (1) read / listen; (2) think about it; (3) apply it; and (4) share it!

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Lord God, We All to Thee Give Praise"
TLH 254, vv. 5-8

5. As he of old deceived the world
And into sin and death has hurled,
So he now subtly lies in wait
To ruin school and Church and State.
6. A roaring lion, round he goes,
No halt nor rest he ever knows;
He seeks the Christians to devour
And slay them in his dreadful power.
7. But watchful is the angel band
That follows Christ on every hand

To guard His people where they go
And break the counsel of the Foe.

8. For this, now and in days to be,
Our praise shall rise, O Lord, to Thee,
Whom all the angel hosts adore
With grateful songs forevermore.

↑ PRAYER OF THE CHURCH:

After each petition: L: Lord, in Your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

See our “Faith in Action” sheet.

During the Week: Please pray, read, and participate!

PRAYER CONCLUSION:

L: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all
for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy,
through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen. ↓

OUR GIVING SHOWS OUR TRUST AND THANKS:

This passage is both illogical and true: ^{ESV} Proverbs 11:24

“One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another
withholds what he should give, and only suffers want.”

⇒ ""

⇒ Record Your Attendance – on the **yellow slip**

† Service of the Sacrament †

*Christ is present to feed us His body and blood to forgive,
strengthen, and preserve us!*

LORD’S SUPPER PREPARATION:

Self-Examination Questions:

1. Am I sorry for my sins, so I desire – *with God’s strength* – to turn from my sins (2 Cor. 7:10-11)?
2. Do I believe in Jesus as my Savior (John 3:16)?
3. Do I believe Jesus’ words of institution: bread-*body*, wine-*blood*, for my forgiveness (1 Co. 10:16; Mt. 26:26-28; Mk. 14:22-24; Lk. 22:19-20; 1 Co. 11:23-25)?

Who Should Receive the Supper?

- ⇒ LCMS Members who answered “yes” to the self-examination questions.
- ⇒ Non-Members who have completed our Lord’s Supper Preparation packet (*which is available on*

the wall by our main entrance) and answered “yes” to the self-exam questions.

Receive at Your Pew: Please notify an usher.

Everyone Not Receiving the Supper: All ages are invited to come forward for a *spoken* blessing!

↑ SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR (Martin Luther’s Third and Fourth Questions and Answers):

- L: How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?
- C: **Certainly not just eating and drinking do these things, but the words written here: “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.”** These words, along with the bodily eating and drinking, are the main thing in the Sacrament. **Whoever believes these words has exactly what they say: “forgiveness of sins.”**
- L: Who receives this sacrament worthily?
- C: **Fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine outward training. But that person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.”** But anyone who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared, for the words “for you” require all hearts to believe.

PRAYER FOR RIGHT RECEPTION OF THE LORD’S SUPPER (LSB Service Builder – adapted):

- L: Lord Jesus, You invite all who are burdened with sin to come to You for rest.
- C: **We now come at Your invitation to the heavenly feast, which You have provided for all who trust in You.**
- L: Keep us from impenitence [*sinning without godly sorrow*] and unbelief, cleanse us from all unrighteousness, and clothe us with Your blood-bought righteousness.
- C: **Strengthen our faith, increase our love toward You and others, and assure us a**

place at Your heavenly table through Your finished work.

A: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER:

L: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

A: **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.**

JESUS' WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

L: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI / THE PEACE OF THE LORD:

L: The peace of the Lord be with you always!

C: Amen.

HYMN: "Lamb of God" LSB 550, st. 1

Your only Son, no sin to hide,
But You have sent Him from Your side
To walk upon this guilty sod,
And to become the Lamb of God.
O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,
I love the holy Lamb of God!
O wash me in His precious blood,
My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God. ↓

10:45 Staffed Nursery – Please pick-up your children and bring them forward for a spoken blessing!

LORD'S SUPPER DISTRIBUTION and DISMISSAL:

- ⇒ Before Receiving: **Remember** the source of Jesus' body and blood (make the sign of the cross).
- ⇒ Receive the Supper: **Bread**—unleavened; Jesus—without sin. **Wine**—chalice or individual cups (center cups are alcohol removed wine). **Benefit**—we are forgiven through Jesus!
- ⇒ After the Dismissal: **Say** "Amen" to receive the blessing! **Return** with forgiveness—joy!

HYMN DURING DISTRIBUTION: "Let Me Be Thine Forever" TLH 334

1. Let me be Thine forever,
Thou faithful God and Lord;
Let me forsake Thee never
Nor wander from Thy Word.
Lord, do not let me waver,
But give me steadfastness,
And for such grace forever
Thy holy name I'll bless.
2. Lord Jesus, my Salvation,
My Light, my Life divine,
My only Consolation,
Oh, make me wholly Thine!
For Thou hast dearly bought me
With blood and bitter pain.
Let me, since Thou hast sought me,
Eternal life obtain.
3. And Thou, O 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 Thy constant blessing
And grant a Christian death.

↑ POST-COMMUNION COLLECT / PRAYER:

L: Gracious God, *our heavenly Father*, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, *on the day of His coming*, we may, *together with all Your saints*, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN: "Around the Throne of God a Band" TLH 256

1. Around the throne of God a band
Of glorious angels ever stand;
Bright things they see sweet harps they hold,
And on their heads are crowns of gold.
2. Some wait around Him, ready still
To sing His praise and do His will;
And some, when He commands them, go
To guard His servants here below.
3. Lord, give Thy angels every day
Command to guide us on our way
And bid them every evening keep
Their watch around us while we sleep.
4. So shall no wicked thing draw near
To do us harm or cause us fear;
And we shall dwell, when life is past,
With angels round Thy throne at last.

PRAISE THE LORD, GIVE HIM THANKS, and RECEIVE HIS BLESSING:

L: Let us praise the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

L: The Lord bless us, defend us from the Evil One, and bring us to everlasting life.

C: **Amen.** ↓

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

⇒ **Check In on Facebook:** Every time you are at Bethlehem, please ♦Check In **and** ♦write something positive about your experience!



⇒ **During the Postlude:** Please remain seated. Use your time to think and pray about the contents of today's service; how will it make a positive difference in your life? Consider these thoughts:

1. Did you learn anything new today?
Y N If yes, what? _____

2. How will you apply today's message to your life? _____

⇒ **Let's Pray:** Gather up front *after the Postlude*. Today's Prayer Partners: Millie Sluka (8:00); Brian Zeleznikar (10:45).

⇒ **Refreshments** (9:10-9:30): Join us down the hall for coffee, juice, bakery, and more!

⇒ **Bible Class, Sunday School, Nursery** (9:30-10:30): *Be blessed through God's Word!*

POSTLUDE and CANDLE EXTINGUISHING

READ AHEAD FOR NEXT SUNDAY:

PS: Psalm 128; **OT:** Genesis 2:18-25;

EP: Hebrews 2:1-13; **GOS:** Mark 10:2-16

Thanks for Serving on September 27

Leader: Dr. Phillip Giessler
Pastoral Assts.: Todd Booth, Alan Carlson, Ray Dmytriw,
Matt Hlavacek, Jerry Huttner, Mike
Martinez, Brian Zeleznikar
Organist: Gayle Powers
Altar Guild: Helga Bartel, Nancy Huttner
Candles: Paul Martens, Lynda Tomasch
Financial Team: Natalia Ford, Jerry Huttner

8:00 Service

Ushers: Matthias Moyer, Mike Kaderle

Lord's Supper: Jim Schabel
Prayer Partner: Millie Sluka

9:10 Refreshments

Miriam Engleman, Doris Chmielewski

10:45 Service

Ushers: John Haller, Klaus Kitzler, Leo Bartel
Nursery: Angie Zeleznikar
Lord's Supper: Ray Dmytriw
Prayer Partner: Brian Zeleznikar

Thanks for Serving on October 4

Leader: Pastor Robert Green
Pastoral Assts.: Todd Booth, Alan Carlson, Ray Dmytriw,
Matt Hlavacek, Jerry Huttner, Mike
Martinez, Brian Zeleznikar
Organist: Gayle Powers
Altar Guild: Kathy Green, Angie Rohman
Candles: Paul Martens, Lynda Tomasch
Financial Team: Natalia Ford, Janet Chilton

8:00 Service

Ushers: Matt Kussmaul, Mel Bucholtz,
Bonnie Moyer

Lord's Supper: Alan Carlson
Prayer Partner: Alan Carlsion

9:10 Refreshments

Miriam Engleman, Doris Chmielewski

10:45 Service

Ushers: Jerry Huttner, Ray Dmytriw, Bart Pendley
Nursery: Lindsey Cheatham
Lord's Supper: Jerry Huttner
Prayer Partner: Matt Hlavacek

ABOUT US:

- + **Beliefs:** We believe the Bible is true and trust in Jesus as our only Savior!
- + **Assurance:** We want everyone to be certain of God's forgiveness through Jesus!
- + **Growth:** We want everyone to understand the Bible and live according to it!
- + **Children:** Bibles (center pew racks); Bags (worship entrance); Nursery (sometimes staffed).
- + **Special Needs:** Large print and hearing assistance are available in the narthex.
- + **Lord's Supper:** Learn our practice by seeing our explanation in this folder.
- + **Congregation:** Find out more by taking a Visitor Information packet.
- + **Podcast:** Listen to our sermons on your phone or tablet: "Benefit from the Bible"
- + **Schedule:** **Sundays** – Service 8:00; Refreshments 9:10; Classes 9:30; Service 10:45
Mondays – Service 7 PM (except *Advent and Lent*, see the "Join Us" brochure for the details)
- + **Join Us:** Keep attending and tell the pastor of your interest to join.

How can we help you?
Let us know.
See the block below or talk to the Pastor or an Elder after today's service.

CONNECT WITH US:

Website: BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com **Podcast:** "Benefit from the Bible"
Facebook: "Bethlehem Lutheran Church Parma" **Address:** 7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134
Church Office: Monday – Thursday, 9:00 to 3:00 **Kathy Green:** Secretary@blc7500.com; 440-845-2230
Childcare Center: Monday – Friday, 6:45-6:00 **Tricia Wise:** ChildcareDirector@blc7500.com; 440-884-0430
Pastor Green: Pastor@blc7500.com; 440-292-5915 **Church Body:** lcms.org **District:** oh.lcms.org