

ANNOUNCEMENTS
WEEK OF AUGUST 23, 2020

IN OUR PRAYERS: Ed Clifford (cancer); Ashlyn (rehab); Bea Myers (recovering from surgery)

CONFIRMATION will begin Sunday, September 20, at 11:30am. This is not restricted to 7th and 8th grade. Parents of younger students who believe their son/daughter is ready to begin instruction are encouraged to send them! **Parents—please plan to attend the first meeting with your student(s)!**

SIGN UP FOR PASTOR’S RETIREMENT PARTY! There are TWO sign-ups: one for a headcount for the meat, and others to sign up to bring a side dish, salad, or dessert. We hope you can join us!

DROP BOXES FOR PHOTOS AND CARDS for Pastor Burgland’s retirement party are located in the fellowship hall.

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS: Psalms of Comfort and Hope

THURSDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS: Angels and Demons

WHILE PASTOR MULLET IS ON VACATION he will be reachable by phone. For emergencies requiring pastoral care, call Pastor Bill Mueller of Suburban Bethlehem Lutheran Church: 260-484-7873.

CALENDAR

Aug. 20-27	Pastor & Megan on Vacation
Sun. Aug. 23	8:00 & 10:00am Worship 9:00am Bible Study (Psalms of Comfort)
Wed. Aug. 26	7:30pm Worship
Thu. Aug. 27	7:30pm Bible Study (Angels and Demons)
Sun. Aug. 30	8:00 & 10:00am Holy Communion 9:00am Bible Study (Psalms of Comfort)
Wed. Sept. 2	7:30pm Holy Communion
Sun. Sept. 13	Picnic / Sunday School / Retirement party
Sun. Sept. 20	11:30am Confirmation begins (parents please attend)

INDIVIDUAL / FAMILY DEVOTIONS

These suggestions can help you and your family stay connected to the church year and focus on what we hear, sing, and pray together on Sunday. Each week looks forward to the next Sunday. Pick three days this week to do a short devotion. Each day you might do this:

1. Read one reading and the “Thinking About.” How do the readings fit together? What themes do you see?
2. Sing or read the hymn. Ask Pr. Mullet to borrow a hymnal. You should be able to find it on YouTube if it’s unfamiliar!
3. Pray the Collect of the Day and the Lord’s Prayer.

THIS COMING SUNDAY IS: August 30 / Trinity 12

OT: Isaiah 29:17-24

GOSPEL: Mark 7:31-37

EPISTLE: Romans 10:9-17

HYMN: LSB 545

COLLECT OF THE DAY: Almighty and merciful God, by Your gift alone Your faithful people render true and laudable service. Help us steadfastly to live in this life according to Your promises and finally attain Your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

THINKING ABOUT THE READINGS

A man who was deaf and therefore also had an impediment in his speech was brought to Jesus (Mark 7:31–37). In the same way, all are by nature deaf toward God and therefore also unable to confess the faith rightly. For “*faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ*” (Rom. 10:9–17). Jesus put His fingers into the man’s ears, and He spat and touched His tongue. Even so in Holy Baptism, water sanctified by the words of Jesus’ mouth is applied to us; and the finger of God, that is, the life–giving Holy Spirit is put into our ears in the hearing of the baptismal Gospel. Jesus’ sighing “*Ephphatha*” opened the man’s ears, and his tongue was loosed to speak plainly as Isaiah prophesied of the Messiah, “*In that day the deaf shall hear the words of a book*” (Is. 29:18–24) So also, He who sighed and breathed His last on the cross for us has given us to hear and believe in Him and has opened our lips that our mouths may declare His praise.