



January 26, 2025

National Lutheran Schools Week

PRELUDE

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN: "Sing Praise to God the Highest Good" LSB 819



1 Sing praise to God, the high - est good, The au - thor of cre -  
2 What God's al - might - y pow'r has made, In mer - cy He is  
3 We sought the Lord in our dis - tress; O God, in mer - cy  
5 All who con - fess Christ's ho - ly name, Give God the praise and



a - tion, The God of love who un - der - stood  
keep - ing. By morn - ing glow or eve - ning shade  
hear us. Our Sav - ior saw our help - less - ness  
glo - ry. Let all who know His pow'r pro - claim



Our need for His sal - va - tion. With heal - ing balm our  
His eye is nev - er sleep - ing. With - in the king - dom  
And came with peace to cheer us. For this we thank and  
A - loud the won - drous sto - ry. Cast ev - 'ry i - dol



souls He fills And ev - 'ry faith - less mur - mur stills:  
of His might All things are just and good and right:  
praise the Lord, Who is by one and all a - dored:  
from its throne, For God is God, and He a - lone:



To God all praise and glo - ry!  
To God all praise and glo - ry!  
To God all praise and glo - ry!  
To God all praise and glo - ry!

**CALL TO WORSHIP: *(based on I Corinthians 1:3)***

**L:** Grace and peace to you from God our Father, the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Spirit who proceeds from them.

**P:** Amen.

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS: *(based on I Cor 15:22 and 6:11)***

**L:** In Adam all have died. Only in Christ will all be made alive. Therefore, Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we confess to You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You in thought, word and deed. Therefore, we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**P:** **O most merciful God, who has given Your only begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

**L:** You have been washed, sanctified and justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God! To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. Those who believe and are baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

**P:** Amen.

**RESPONSIVE HYMN: "Chief of Sinners Though I Be"**

LSB 611



1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed His  
 2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love, High - er than the  
 4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in  
 5 O my Sav - ior, help af - ford By Your Spir - it



blood for me, Died that I might live on high,  
 heav'ns a - bove, Deep - er than the depths of sea,  
 all to me; All my wants to Him are known,  
 and Your Word! When my way - ward heart would stray,



Lives that I might nev - er die. As the branch is  
 Last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty! Love that found me—  
 All my sor - rows are His own. He sus - tains the  
 Keep me in the nar - row way; Grace in time of



to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.  
 won - drous thought! Found me when I sought Him not.  
 hid - den life Safe with Him from earth - ly strife.  
 need sup - ply While I live and when I die.

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: *Nehemiah 8:1-3; 5-6; 8-10***

When the seventh month came, all the people gathered together in the courtyard in front of Water Gate. They told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of Moses' Teachings, which the Lord had commanded Israel to follow. Then Ezra the priest brought the Teachings in front of the assembly. This included men, women, and any children who could understand what they heard. This took place on the first day of the seventh month. From daybreak until noon, he read from it in the courtyard in front of Water Gate to the men, women, and children who could understand it. All the people listened to the Book of Moses' Teachings.

Ezra, standing higher than all the other people, opened the book in front of all the people. As he opened it, all the people stood up. Ezra thanked the Lord, the great God. All the people responded, "Amen! Amen!" as they raised their hands and then bowed with their faces to the ground and worshiped the LORD.

The priests read the Book of God's Teachings clearly and explained the meaning so that the people could understand what was read.

Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people told them, "This is a holy day for the LORD your God. Don't mourn or cry." All the people were crying as they listened to the reading of God's Teachings. Then he told them, "Go, eat rich foods, drink sweet drinks, and send portions to those who cannot provide for themselves. Today is a holy day for the Lord. Don't be sad because the joy you have in the LORD is your strength." – GW®

### **NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: 1 Corinthians 12:14-27**

As you know, the human body is not made up of only one part, but of many parts. Suppose a foot says, "I'm not a hand, so I'm not part of the body!" Would that mean it's no longer part of the body? Or suppose an ear says, "I'm not an eye, so I'm not a part of the body!" Would that mean it's no longer part of the body? If the whole body were an eye, how could it hear? If the whole body were an ear, how could it smell? So God put each and every part of the body together as He wanted it. How could it be a body if it only had one part? So there are many parts but one body.

An eye can't say to a hand, "I don't need you!" Or again, the head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you!" The opposite is true. The parts of the body that we think are weaker are the ones we really need. The parts of the body that we think are less honorable are the ones we give special honor. So our unpresentable parts are made more presentable. However, our presentable parts don't need this kind of treatment. God has put the body together and given special honor to the part that doesn't have it. God's purpose was that the body should not be divided but rather that all of its parts should feel the same concern for each other. If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts share its suffering. If one part is praised, all the others share in its happiness.

You are Christ's body and each of you is an individual part of it. – GW®

**MINISTRY OF MUSIC: "Bwana Asifiwe"**

*~Mark Burrows*

Troubadour Choir **8:00 am**

**"Lift High Every Voice"**

*~ J.S. Bach, arr. Hal Hopson*

Trinity Choir **9:30 am**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### GOSPEL READING: *Luke 4:16-30*

Then Jesus came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. As usual He went into the synagogue on the day of rest—a holy day. He stood up to read the lesson. The attendant gave Him the book of the prophet Isaiah. He opened it and found the place where it read:

“The Spirit of the Lord is with Me.  
He has anointed me  
to tell the Good News to the poor.  
He has sent Me  
to announce forgiveness to the prisoners of sin  
and the restoring of sight to the blind,  
to forgive those who have been shattered by sin,  
to announce the year of the Lord’s favor.”

Jesus closed the book, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. Everyone in the synagogue watched Him closely. Then He said to them, “This passage came true today when you heard Me read it.”

All the people spoke well of Him. They were amazed to hear the gracious words flowing from His lips. They said, “Isn’t this Joseph’s son?”

So He said to them, “You’ll probably quote this proverb to Me, ‘Doctor, cure yourself!’ and then say to Me, ‘Do all the things in your hometown that we’ve heard you’ve done in Capernaum.’” Then Jesus added, “I can guarantee this truth: A prophet isn’t accepted in his hometown.

“I can guarantee this truth: There were many widows in Israel in Elijah’s time. It had not rained for three-and-a-half years, and the famine was severe everywhere in the country. But God didn’t send Elijah to anyone except a widow at Zarephath in the territory of Sidon. There were also many people with skin diseases in Israel in the prophet Elisha’s time. But God cured no one except Naaman from Syria.”

Everyone in the synagogue became furious when they heard this. Their city was built on a hill with a cliff. So they got up, forced Jesus out of the city, and led Him to the cliff. They intended to throw Him off of it. But Jesus walked right by them and went away. — GW®

## **SERMON SONG: “In Christ Alone”**

### **Verse 1**

In Christ alone my hope is found  
He is my light my strength my song  
This Cornerstone this solid Ground  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm  
What heights of love what depths of peace  
When fears are stilled when strivings cease  
My Comforter my All in All  
Here in the love of Christ I stand

### **Verse 2**

In Christ alone who took on flesh  
Fullness of God in helpless babe  
This gift of love and righteousness  
Scorned by the ones He came to save  
Till on that cross as Jesus died  
The wrath of God was satisfied  
For every sin on Him was laid  
Here in the death of Christ I live

### **Verse 3**

There in the ground His body lay  
Light of the world by darkness slain  
Then bursting forth in glorious Day  
Up from the grave He rose again  
And as He stands in victory  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me  
For I am His and He is mine  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

### **Verse 4**

No guilt in life no fear in death  
This is the power of Christ in me  
From life's first cry to final breath  
Jesus commands my destiny  
No power of hell no scheme of man  
Can ever pluck me from His hand  
Till He returns or calls me home  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

**SERMON: “All Together”    1 Corinthians 12:14-27**

## **HYMN OF THE DAY: “Great Are You, Lord”**

### **Verse**

You give life You are love  
You bring light to the darkness  
You give hope You restore ev'ry heart that is broken  
And great are You Lord

### **Chorus**

It's Your breath in our lungs  
So we pour out our praise  
We pour out our praise  
It's Your breath in our lungs  
So we pour out our praise to You only

### **Bridge**

And all the earth will shout Your praise  
Our hearts will cry these bones will sing  
Great are You Lord

**OFFERING:** *The Offering Box is located in the center aisle. If you so desire,  
Text Giving is now available by texting GIVE to 562-210-0463.  
For On-line Giving information, contact Maraley at [mshaeffer@bethanylutheran.org](mailto:mshaeffer@bethanylutheran.org)  
or call 562-421-4711, ext. 21. Thank you!*

## **PRAYER OF THANKS:**

**L**: Dear Lord, You are the source of all true knowledge and we praise You for the gift of education. We pray Lord that through Your Word You would enlighten the minds and sanctify the hearts of all who teach and learn at the schools of Bethany Lutheran Church. Send Your Spirit to teachers and students, administrators and parents alike moving us all to focus on You the author of our faith and every good gift. Amen.

## **CONFESSION OF FAITH:**

**L**: No one can say Jesus is Lord, except by the Holy Spirit. (*1 Cor. 12:3*) Called, sealed and enabled by the Spirit we join Christians around the world confessing our faith in the Lord Jesus through the words of the Nicene Creed:



**CONFESSION OF FAITH: NICENE CREED:** (*\*catholic means the universal Christian Church*)

**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;  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.**

**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.**

**With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.**

**He has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy \*catholic 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.**

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH: (*Divine Service, Setting Five*)**

**L:** Friends in Christ, I urge you all to lift up your hearts to God and pray with me as Christ our Lord has taught us and freely promised to hear us.

God, our Father in heaven, look with mercy on us, Your needy children on earth, and grant us grace that Your holy name be hallowed by us and all the world through the pure and true teaching of Your Word and the fervent love shown forth in our lives. Graciously turn from us all false doctrine and evil living whereby Your precious name is blasphemed and profaned. Lord, in Your mercy,

**P:** hear our prayer.

**L:** May Your kingdom come to us and expand. Bring all transgressors and those who are blinded and bound in the devil's kingdom to know Jesus Christ, Your Son, by faith that the number of Christians may be increased. Lord, in Your mercy,

**P:** **hear our prayer.**

**L:** Strengthen us by Your Spirit according to Your will, both in life and in death, in the midst of both good and evil things, that our own wills may be crucified daily and sacrificed to Your good and gracious will. Into Your merciful hands we commend [name(s)] and all who are in need, praying for them at all times: Thy will be done. Lord, in Your mercy,

**P:** **hear our prayer.**

**L:** Grant us our daily bread, preserve us from greed and selfish cares, and help us trust in You to provide for all our needs. Lord, in Your mercy,

**P:** **hear our prayer.**

**L:** Forgive us our sins as we also forgive those who sin against us so that our hearts may be at peace and may rejoice in a good conscience before You, and that no sin may ever frighten or alarm us. Lord, in Your mercy,

**P:** **hear our prayer.**

**L:** Lead us not into temptation, O Lord, but help us by Your Spirit to subdue our flesh, to turn from the world and its ways, and to overcome the devil with all his wiles. Lord, in Your mercy,

**P:** **hear our prayer.**

**L:** And lastly, O heavenly Father, deliver us from all evil of both body and soul, now and forever. Lord, in Your mercy,

**P:** **hear our prayer.**

**L:** We trust, O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**P:** **Amen.**

**\*\*\* For our 8:00 a.m. worshippers, the service continues on the bottom of page 10 with Announcements.**

**\*\*\* For our 9:30 a.m. worshippers, the service continues with the Celebration of Holy Communion:**

## **✠ Holy Communion ✠**

***The Lord's Supper is celebrated at Bethany in the joyful confession that our Lord gives us His very Body and Blood for the forgiveness of sins in this sacrament. God intends this gift for His children who recognize their sin, trust in Christ as their Savior, desire to live for Him alone and join in this joyful confession.***

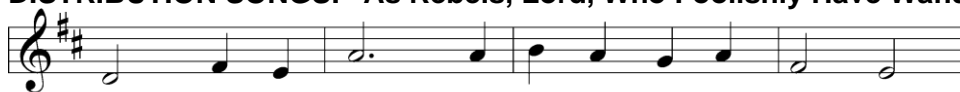
To help you prepare for communion we invite you to take a few moments of quiet prayer. For aid there are prayers on the front page of the hymnal for both before and after the reception of communion. Or simply pray, "Dear Lord Jesus, at Your gracious invitation You invite me to come to You, to eat and drink Your holy body and blood and You Yourself have promised to give in this sacrament of Your altar. Forgive me of my sin, through this Your meal of Forgiveness. Let me experience the fullness of Your love, through this Your meal of love. Strengthen my faith, through this meal of Yours that calls for and bestows faith. Empower me to live for You, through this Your meal that promises life everlasting and equips me for daily living as one who has received You and Your gifts."

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

*For those communing, who so desire, the center cups in each tray are **alcohol free**. The wafers on the stand next to the pillar pulpit side (when kneeling for communion) or on the stand in front of the baptismal font (when processing for communion) are **gluten free**.*

*In our 9:30 a.m. service we will practice the Easter tradition of continuous communion. We will not kneel at the altar, rather we will join the procession of saints and come forward and remain standing as we receive the bread and wine. After receiving the elements, you are invited to return to your seat and continue in meditation, prayer and song.*

**DISTRIBUTION SONGS: "As Rebels, Lord, Who Foolishly Have Wandered" LSB 612**



1 As reb - els, Lord, who fool - ish - ly have wan - dered  
 2 Still we re - turn, our con - trite words re - hears - ing,  
 3 A feast of love for us You are pre - par - ing;



Far from Your love— un - fed, un - clean, un - clothed—  
 Speech, that with - in Your warm em - brace soon dies;  
 We who were lost, You give an hon - ored place!



Dare we re - call Your wealth so rash - ly squan - dered,  
 All of our guilt, our shame, our pain re - vers - ing  
 "Come, eat; come, drink, and be no more de - spair - ing—



Dare hope to glean that boun - ty which we loathed?  
 As tears of joy and wel - come fill Your eyes.  
 Here taste a - gain the trea - sures of My grace."

**"Faith and Truth and Life Bestowing"**

LSB 584



1 Faith and truth and life be - stow - ing, O - pen now the  
 2 May the Spir - it's pow'r un - ceas - ing Bring to life the



Scrip - tures, Lord, Seed to life e - ter - nal sow - ing,  
 hid - den grain, Dai - ly in our hearts in - creas - ing,



Scat - tered on the wind a - broad. Let not hearts, Your  
 Bear - ing fruit that shall re - main. So in Scrip - ture,



Word re - ceiv - ing, Like a bar - ren field be found, Choked with  
 song, and sto - ry, Sav - ior, may Your voice be heard. Till our



thorns and un - be - liev - ing, Shal - low earth or ston - y ground.  
 eyes be - hold Your glo - ry Give us ears to hear Your Word.

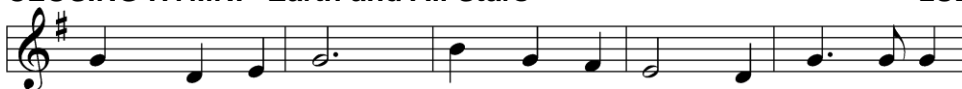
# POST COMMUNION PRAYER

## THE BLESSING:

**L**: Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be people of courage; be strong. Do everything in love!

## CLOSING HYMN: "Earth and All Stars"

LSB 817



1 Earth and all stars! Loud rush - ing plan - ets! Sing to the  
3 Trum - pet and pipes! Loud clash - ing cym - bals! Sing to the  
5 Class - rooms and labs! Loud boil - ing test tubes! Sing to the  
6 Knowl - edge and truth! Loud sound - ing wis - dom! Sing to the  
7 Chil - dren of God, Dy - ing and ris - ing, Sing to the



Lord a new song! Oh, vic - to - ry! Loud shout - ing  
Lord a new song! Harp, lute, and lyre! Loud hum - ming  
Lord a new song! Ath - lete and band! Loud cheer - ing  
Lord a new song! Daugh - ter and son! Loud pray - ing  
Lord a new song! Heav - en and earth, Hosts ev - er -



ar - my! Sing to the Lord a new song!  
cel - los! Sing to the Lord a new song!  
peo - ple! Sing to the Lord a new song!  
mem - bers! Sing to the Lord a new song!  
last - ing, Sing to the Lord a new song!

### *Refrain*



He has done mar - vel - ous things.



I too will praise Him with a new song!

## POSTLUDE

+ + + + +

**COPYRIGHT PERMISSIONS:**

Liturgy from *Lutheran Service Book*, © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission, LSBHymnLicense.net #000012696

“Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good” LSB 819

Text: Johann Jacob Schütz, 1640-90; tr. Frances E. Cox, 1812-97, adapt., sts. 1-3, 5; tr. Catherine Winkworth. 1827-78; adapt. St. 4; Tune: Melchoir Vulpius, c. 1570-1615; setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941. Text and music: Public domain

“Chief of Sinners Though I Be” LSB 611

Text: William McComb, 1793-1873, alt. Tune: Richard Redhead, 1820-1901; setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941. Text and music: Public domain.

“In Christ Alone”

CCLI Song No. 3350395

© 2001 Thankyou Music (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing)

Keith Getty | Stuart Townend

For use solely with the SongSelect Terms of Use. All rights Reserved. [www.ccli.com](http://www.ccli.com) CCLI License No. 345836

“Great Are You Lord”

CCLI Song #6460220

David Leonard, Jason Ingram, Leslie Jordan

©2012 Open Hands Music; So Essential Tunes; Integrity’s Praise!Music; Little Way Creative. Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC, Integrity Music. For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. [www.ccli.com](http://www.ccli.com)

CCLI License #396555

“As Rebels, Lord, Who Foolishly Have Wandered” LSB 612

Text: Stephen P. Starke, b. 1955. Tune: Jeffrey N. Blersch, b. 1967.

Text: © 1992 Stephen P. Starke; admin. Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONELICENSE #A-706149. Tune: © 2003 Jeffrey N. Blersch. Reprinted with permission of Jeffrey N. Blersch. Used by permission.

“Faith and Truth and Life Bestowing” LSB 584

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926. ©1997 Hope Publishing Co. All rights reserved.

Tune: *Columbian Harmony*, Cincinnati, 1825; setting: Margaret W. Mealey, b. 1922. Tune: Public Domain;

Setting: ©1984 Margaret W. Mealey. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONELICENSE #A-706149.

"Earth and All Stars" LSB 817

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926; Tune: David N. Johnson, 1922-87. Text and tune: © 1968 Augsburg Publishing House. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-706149

+ + + + + +

**SERVING GOD’S HOUSE TODAY:**

Acolyte 8:00...Penelope Cleven  
Acolyte 9:30...Audrey Kienitz  
Lector 8:00...Matt Ruiz  
Liturgist...Pastor Kyle Blake  
Director of Music & Worship Arts...Noah Freeman  
Children’s Message...Gina Bertaina

Crucifer 9:30...Connor Cleven  
Crucifer 9:30...  
Lector 9:30...Josette & John Utke  
Preacher...Pastor Kevin Kritzer  
Accompanist...Kevin Bowers  
Sound...Felix Rivera, Jon Widmann

+ + + + + +

**If You’re a Visitor**, WELCOME! We are so glad you have joined us for worship today. If you would like more information about Bethany and its ministries, please scan the QR code to the right. You will be directed to Bethany’s fillable information form.



+ + + + + +

+ + + + + +

Please visit our websites to find out more about our Church, School and Preschool. Get weekly updates by signing up for the **Bethany Bullet**—our weekly capsule of worship highlights and campus-wide information.

**Bethany Lutheran Church** and its Ministries are found at: [www.bethanylutheran.org](http://www.bethanylutheran.org)

**Bethany Lutheran School** information can be found by visiting their website at:  
[www.bethanylutheran.org/school/](http://www.bethanylutheran.org/school/)

**Bethany Preschool's** website: [www.bethanylutheran.org/preschool/](http://www.bethanylutheran.org/preschool/)

To sign up for the weekly **Bethany Bullet**: <https://bit.ly/BethanyBulletSignUp>

+ + + + + +

### **DONATE TO BETHANY'S FLOWER FUND!**

Flowers are used to decorate the altar every Sunday, for special seasons such as Christmas and Easter, as well as other important dates during the church calendar. You are able to make two types of donations to the Altar Flower Fund: a general donation and a special request with recognition.



- **A SPECIAL REQUEST WITH RECOGNITION\*** is a special type of Altar Flower donation. This request will be printed in the bulletin. For example, it could be given in memory of a person who has gone before us, for a wedding anniversary, baptismal birthday or a birthday celebration, etc. **This recognition has a suggested donation of \$75.**
- **A GENERAL DONATION TO THE ALTAR FLOWER FUND** enables Bethany to have flowers in worship and for our shut-in and hospitalized members to receive flowers from our flower ministry team, even when no one has ordered flowers for specific purposes on Sunday. **This General Donation is for any amount you wish to give.**

\*If you are making a **Special Request with Recognition**, please use this form to let us know of your donation **for a specific Sunday date** and what the significance of that donation is towards. **IMPORTANT:** Please complete this form at least **2 weeks prior** to that date, so that information regarding your donation can be printed in the Sunday bulletin for the date requested.

Sign up to donate to Bethany's Altar Flower Fund, please use this URL:

<https://bit.ly/BLCAltarFlowers>



Or scan Bethany's Flower Fund QR code to the right:



# IMPORTANT SUNDAY WORSHIP AND BIBLE STUDY SCHEDULE UPDATES!

---

Starting Sunday, February 2nd, our multi-site congregation will temporarily be a singular site for our Sunday schedule. While Bethany's Holy Cross campus is undergoing transformation for future mission and ministry, our Sunday morning schedule will be completely on the main campus of Bethany.

---

## **SERVICE SCHEDULE:**

8 am  
9:30 am  
11 am - **NEW!**

## **COMMUNION SCHEDULE:**

1st Sunday: all services  
2nd Sunday: 9:30 am only  
3rd Sunday: all services  
4th Sunday: 9:30 am only

## **BIBLE STUDY SCHEDULE:**

9:30 am - Lessons of the Day\* in the  
Multi-purpose Room  
(#215 at the top of the south side  
staircase off of the school courtyard /  
Freedom Square)

10:45 am - Women's and Men's studies\*

\* 9:30 am bible study will be led by ministry staff and  
10:45 am will be led by congregational members