

By Profession of Faith: People who are currently communicant members of other Lutheran Churches of which we *are not currently in fellowship* may be able to join by profession of faith. People desiring to do so should obtain an application from the pastor or church office. Once the application has been completed and returned, the Church Council and/or Voters Assembly will respond to that request in a subsequent meeting.

1. **Prior to being accepted into membership by transfer, all must attend Worship a minimum of six (6) times over a period of three (3) months.** *(Some possible exceptions include shut-ins, prolonged illness, military, and attending college out of our area. Other exception requests will be considered.)*
2. An orientation workshop may also be required for those who desire to become communicant members by profession of faith.

Youth Confirmation Classes

- † For those in sixth grade and older, who have not yet been confirmed.
- † Evenings, September through April.
- † We study the Bible and Luther's Small Catechism.
- † The requirements include class attendance, sermon notes, and more. To be confirmed, youth must pass two years of academic requirements.
- † Contact the church office to register.

Self-Study Course Toward Confirmation For Adults and Older Teens

- † *What is it?* Lutheran Basics
- † *How does it work?* Receive the course information and resources, work through them as instructed, and discuss your progress with Pastor.
- † *What is included in the study?* Bible and Catechism introductions, the Catechism itself, our church and other, and our worship / Divine Service.
- † *Am I obligated to join?* No, for those who complete the course and desire to join, they will be welcomed to do so by adult confirmation.
- † *How do I begin?* Contact the church office or talk to the pastor.

Your Worship and Participation at Bethlehem

Members and *non-members* are always welcome to join us for Worship, Bible Class, Sunday School, and Various Activities. As questions arise, *please ask!* If you have special prayer requests or needs, *please let us know!*

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
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(Last Update: 6-10)

Membership



We Welcome You To:

- † Learn more about what we believe.
- † Compare our teachings with the Bible.
- † Get acquainted with our church family.
- † Receive God's eternal blessings through Word and Sacrament.
- † Grow in your knowledge and faith.
- † Become a member of our church family.
- † Serve with us in God's kingdom.

Our Church and Synod

Bethlehem Lutheran Church is a member of the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod, which is the *oldest* and *second largest* body of Lutherans in the United States. The Synod was established in 1847, Bethlehem in 1904.

The Missouri Synod has approximately 2.5 million members in 6,000 churches across the United States. Bethlehem has about 300 members. Though we encourage all people to be active members of a Bible-believing church, *our most important membership is in God's kingdom* which is received by grace through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ!

Our Country

It has a vast multitude of church bodies, each one believing something a little different than the next. For more information on that topic, see the brochure entitled: *Different is Good!*

If you are searching for a church home, we hope you will prayerfully consider our church as you go over the checklist below.

Church Search Checklist

Please check what you have found to be true about Bethlehem Lutheran Church:

- Bases all it believes, teaches, and confesses on a careful interpretation of the Bible.
- Is concerned about the spiritual well being of all its members.
- Offers Christian education for all ages.
- Is friendly.
- Provides for the spiritual needs of children, youth, and adults.
- Offers various fellowship opportunities.
- Has a desire to reach out to those who do not know Jesus Christ!
- Offers various opportunities to serve in God's kingdom.
- Has an adequate facility.

Two Types of Membership

- † **Baptized** – all members who have not yet been confirmed.
- † **Communicant** – all members who have been confirmed as Lutherans.
(Confirmation takes place after a period of instruction in the basic teachings of the Bible and the Lutheran Church.)

Becoming a Baptized Member

† **By Baptism**

† **By Transfer**

By Baptism: Those baptized at this church *automatically* become baptized members of this Congregation. *(Except in cases of emergency, parents and sponsors will complete the brochure entitled: Baptism, Study the Topic, then meet with the pastor to discuss the study and schedule the baptism.)*

Those who are interested in baptism should pick up a *Holy Baptism Information* packet from our brochure rack.

By Transfer: Those who †are the children of confirmed adults who are transferring their membership to this church, †are eighteen (18) years and *younger*, and †have been baptized in the name of the Triune God shall be accepted into the *baptized membership* of this Congregation. **Prior to being accepted into membership by transfer, all must attend worship a minimum of six (6) times over a period of three (3) months.** *(A possible exception is prolonged illness. Other exception requests will be considered.)*

Becoming a Communicant Member

† **By Confirmation**

† **By Transfer**

† **By Profession of Faith**

By Confirmation: Those youth and adults who complete a confirmation course and are confirmed in this church *automatically* become communicant members of this Congregation.

By Transfer: People who are currently communicant members of other Lutheran Churches of which we *are currently in fellowship* may join by transfer. People desiring to do so should †inform the pastor of this church and †request their current church to transfer their membership to this church. Upon receiving the transfer information, the Church Council and/or Voters Assembly will respond to that request in a subsequent meeting.

1. **Prior to being accepted into membership by transfer, all must attend worship a minimum of six (6) times over a period of three (3) months.** *(Some possible exceptions include shut-ins, prolonged illness, military, and attending college out of our area. Other exception requests will be considered.)*
2. An orientation workshop may also be required for those who desire to become communicant members by transfer.