

## BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Vibrantly open to the spirit, Bethel Lutheran Church seeks to serve God  
and its neighbors by joyfully living into the good news of Jesus Christ.*

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

February 12, 2023

Setting 7

Stefan Swanson, Interim Vicar

Jan Smith, Accompanist

GivePlus Text 866-298-7547

### GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, +one God,  
who makes all things new,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection*

Holy One, source of our renewal,

**We confess that we are wrapped up in sin, and cannot free ourselves.**

**We have not practiced your righteousness. Our hearts have turned away from  
you. For the sake of the world you so love, forgive us, that we may be  
reconciled to one another for the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

Thus says our God:

"The former things have come to pass and new things I now declare."

God's mercy makes us new. We are forgiven in the name of +Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

Gathering Hymn "Spirit, Open My Heart" ACS #1043

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion  
of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Kyrie (ELW p. 175)

Canticle of Praise (ELW p. 176) **Gloria, gloria, gloria...**

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray,

**O God, the strength of all who hope in you, because we are weak mortals we  
accomplish nothing good without you. Help us to see and understand the  
things we ought to do, and give us grace and power to do them, through  
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Choir Anthem "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" Arr. by Benjamin Harlan

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

First Reading Deuteronomy 30:15-20 The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**  
Psalm 119:1-8 (read responsively)

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 3:1-9 The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Children's Sermon

Gospel Acclamation (ELW p. 179) **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!...**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the fifth chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel Matthew 5:21-37 The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day "If You Trust in God to Guide You" ELW #769

Installation of New Council Members

Apostles Creed

Prayers of Intercession God of grace. **Hear our prayer.**

Peace The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

Offering

Offertory Prayer

**Liberating God, you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior. Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving (ELW p. 180)

Words of Institution

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God....until he comes.

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Remembering, therefore,...holy church, now and forever. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Communion

Communion Hymns (ELW p. 182) **O Lamb of God...**

"One Bread, One Body" ELW #496

Prayer after Communion

## SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

Blessing

The God who faithfully brings justice and breaks the oppressor's rod +bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today, and always. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn "O Christ, Our Hope" ELW #604

Dismissal

Go in peace. Follow in the way of Jesus.

**Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

# WELCOME

Bethel Lutheran Church—February 12, 2023, Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

**OUR MISSION STATEMENT**—Vibrantly open to the Spirit, Bethel Lutheran Church seeks to serve God and its neighbors by joyfully living into the good news of Jesus Christ.

**QUESTIONS OR REQUESTS?** Please contact the church office at 320-395-2125 at [bethellutheranlp@gmail.com](mailto:bethellutheranlp@gmail.com) or [pastor@lpbethel.org](mailto:pastor@lpbethel.org). For emergency pastoral care needs, please call the church office first, and if nobody answers, call Vicar Stefan at 320-434-7113. Bulletin submissions due: Wednesdays at noon. Newsletter deadline: 25<sup>th</sup> of the month.

## TODAY

- **Hearing assist devices are available**: Speak to an usher for assistance.
- **The Chosen video series-Season 2**: 6:00 pm-7:30 pm (Everyone is welcome to join! Stream the episodes you missed or view them on your phone app.)

## MONDAY

- **Coffee hour**: 8:30 am-9:30 am

## TUESDAY

- **Happy Valentine's Day!**

## WEDNESDAY

- **Worship & Music meeting**: 4:00 pm
- **Choir practice**: 6:30 pm during Lent
- **Book club discussion**: 7:30 pm

## THURSDAY

- **MEFS Mobile Outreach**: 1:30 pm-3:00 pm, Bethel parking lot

## SUNDAY (Transfiguration)

- **Worship** at 9:00 am
- **The Chosen video series-Season 2**: 6:00 pm-7:30 pm

**Ash Wednesday—Lent Begins February 22**—Ash Wednesday service: 6:30 pm  
Ash Wednesday supper: 5:15 pm-6 pm, serving chili and hotdogs-free will offering

**March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29**—Lenten worship services: 6:30 pm

Lenten suppers: 5:15 pm-6 pm, free will offering (We are looking for people to host suppers on March 1, 15, 22, and 29. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. If you have questions speak to a WELCA member.)

**March Book Club:** *Everything Isn't Terrible: Conquer Your Insecurities, Interrupt Your Anxiety, and Finally Calm Down* by Dr. Kathleen Smith—Licensed therapist and mental health writer Dr. Kathleen Smith offers a smart, practical antidote to our anxiety-ridden times. *Everything Isn't Terrible* is an informative and practical guide—featuring a healthy dose of humor—for people who want to become beacons of calmness in their families, at work, and in our anxious world. *Everything Isn't Terrible* will give anyone suffering from anxiety all the tools they need to finally...calm...down. Ultimately, living a calmer and less anxious life—one that isn't terrible—is possible, and with this book you'll learn how to do it.

**Discussion date:** Wednesday, March 15, 7:30 pm

**WELCA offering:** Envelopes have been placed in church mailboxes ahead of a special offering to be taken on Sunday, February 15, for our Churchwide WELCA organization which provides educational materials, programming support, and more for our local WELCA unit.

**Save the Date!** Bethel Women's Retreat at Green Lake Bible Camp's Medayto Lodge, September 8-10, 2023.

**Next WELCA planning meeting:** Tuesday, March 7, 6:30 pm at church. All women of Bethel are welcome to join in!

**Bethel Quilting:** The group meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of each month in the Fellowship Hall from 1:00 pm-4:30 pm—come and go as you wish. (*If you are interested in evening quilting, call Judy or Roxanne.*) Quilts worked on are for baptized babies, graduates, GLLM Quilt auction, and Don't Cry I'm Here (homeless shelter).

**On the fourth Sunday of the month the “Noisy” offering** supports camperships for Bethel youth attending Green Lake Bible Camp. On your way out of the sanctuary, drop your loose change into the metal can with a clang! Although paper bills and checks won't have the same noisy effect, they will be accepted and appreciated! (2/26)

**Volunteer sign up sheets are posted** on the bulletin board. Please consider how you can serve here at Bethel in 2023! If you have questions contact the chairperson listed at the top of the sign-up sheet. *Experience is not necessary—you will have help!*

**Church Directory:** The sign-up sheet is in the narthex if you want a hard copy.