

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.*

Sunday, May 14, 2023
Sixth Sunday of Easter

Stefan Swanson, Interim Vicar
Jan Smith, Accompanist

GATHERING

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

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Blessed be the holy Trinity, +one God, by whose hand we are given new birth,
by whose speaking we are given new life.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism...of the Spirit of the new creation.

**Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you. Empower our witness to
your resurrection. Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.**

Satisfy the world's need through the living water...and the Spirit reigns forever.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" ELW #631

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. 138)

Canticle of Praise (ELW p. 140) **This is the feast...**

Prayer of the Day

**Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and
earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to
all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior
and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and
forever. Amen.**

Choir Anthem "I Sing Because I'm Happy" Arr. by Kenneth Paden

WORD

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

First Reading Acts 17:22-31 The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 66:8-20 (read responsively)

Second Reading 1 Peter 3:13-22 The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Children's Sermon

Gospel Acclamation (ELW p. 142) **Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go?...**

The Gospel according to John the fourteenth chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel Reading John 14:15-21

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day "Come Holy Spirit" Green Binder #49

Blessing of the Quilts

Apostles Creed (p. 105)

Prayers of Intercession Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

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

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering

Flute Solo "How Firm a Foundation"

Ari Shields

Offertory Prayer

God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Jesus Christ, the wellspring of eternal life. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving (ELW p. 144)

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer (p. 145)

Communion (ELW p. 146) **O Lamb of God...**

Communion Hymn "Thy Holy Wings" ELW #613

Prayer after Communion

SENDING

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

Blessing

Sending Hymn "Now Thank We All Our God" ELW #840

Dismissal Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

WELCOME

Bethel Lutheran Church—May 14, 2023, Sixth Sunday of Easter

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 or 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: 25th of the month. **GivePlus Text 866-298-7547**

TODAY-Happy Mother's Day!

- Blessing of the Quilts:

Lois Severson and her son, Chuck, and the Deo Gloria Guild (Bethel's quilters) have been working hard putting together quilts for those in need of warmth and love. The quilts will be given to Mary's Place/Sharing and Caring Hands and the Marie Sandvik Ctr. in Minneapolis.

- Hearing assist devices are available: Speak to an usher for assistance.

- Sunday school & Confirmation class: 10:15 am

MONDAY 5/15

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

WEDNESDAY 5/17

- Worship & Music Committee meeting: 4:00 pm

- Choir practice: 6:30 pm

- Book club discussion: 7:30 pm, *Remember* by Lisa Genova

SUNDAY 5/21 (Ascension Sunday)

- Praise Worship: 9:00 am

- Last day of Sunday school and Confirmation class: 10:15 am

- Mission Assessment Coffee Hour: 10:15 am

Join us for a presentation from Vicar Stefan about the results of the Mission Assessment process. We'll hear about the information gathered during interviews and focus groups, discuss next steps in Bethel's process, and have some time for questions.

Wanted: Cookies for Fellowship Hour: Watch for a sign-up sheet asking volunteers to bring cookies/treats for Sunday morning coffee hour. Please leave the goodies in the Narthex on the table or kitchenette. (Store-bought items gladly accepted.) Thanks for your generosity!

Bethel Lutheran Church to host Unhinged! Pizza tip night fundraiser: Monday, May 22, from 4:00-8:00 pm, at the Glencoe location. A percentage of buffet sales and all tips will support Bethel Youth Camperships. We hope you'll join us for a pizza party! Those interested in volunteering to help clear the tables, please contact Emily Koehler (emily.e.koehler@gmail.com or 605-661-5717).

Many Hands Make Light Work! The spring cleaning job list is up! If you are willing and able, please sign up in the Narthex to complete a job on the list at your convenience. Thank you!

Community Garden: We are forming a committee to help plan and start a community garden in the empty lot by the church. If you are interested in joining the committee or have ideas to share, please contact Emily Koehler at emily.e.koehler@gmail.com or 605-661-5717.

Worship in the country: On Sunday, June 4, 2023, our worship service will take place at the old Bergen Lutheran Church site. The service will begin at 10:00 am followed by a potluck picnic. Bring your own lawn chairs, and a dish to share. Tableware and a beverage will be provided. Check the poster, in the Narthex, for directions to the site. (*Thrivent Action Team grant event*)

Bethel's Women's Retreat: There will be a retreat planning meeting at church on Tuesday, June 6, at 6:30 pm. If you have ideas and interest in helping with the planning process, we welcome your presence!

Fellowship Around the Fire: Wednesday, June 28, beginning at 6:30 pm. Join us around our beautiful fire pit for hot dogs, chips, and beverages. You are welcome to bring a side dish to share. Vicar Stefan will provide a brief devotion. Is anyone willing to accompany some singing out of the contemporary song binder with your guitar? If so, contact the office! (Also, plan for July 26 and Aug. 23.)

Seeking Burger Stand Volunteers: Mark your calendars for Prairie Days 2023 on Friday, July 14 & Saturday, July 15. Bethel Lutheran Church has signed up to cover a shift at the Burger Stand from 1:00-3:00 pm on Saturday, July 15. If you are willing and able to volunteer please contact Ron Foust at 612-245-3005.