

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 21, 2023
Ascension Sunday

Stefan Swanson, Interim Vicar
Jan Smith, Accompanist

GATHERING

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

Prelude

Gathering Songs Green Binder #59 "Be Thou My Vision"
 Green Binder #115 "You Are My All In All"
 Green Binder #48 "The Sweetest Name of All"

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.

Entrance Song Green Binder #14 "I Love You, Lord"

Prayer of the Day

**Almighty God, your blessed Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, ascended far above
all heavens that he might fill all things. Mercifully give us faith to trust that, as
he promised, he abides with us on earth to the end of time, who lives and
reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Choir Anthem "We Believe"

Words and music by Travis Ryan, Matthew and Richie Fike, Arr. By Heather Sorenson

WORD

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

First Reading Acts 1:1-11

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 47 (read responsively)

Second Reading Ephesians 1:15-23 The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**
Children's Sermon
Gospel Song Green Binder #67 "He is Lord"
Gospel Reading Luke 24:44-53 The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**
Sermon
Song of the Day ELW #393 "A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!
Apostles Creed (p. 105)
Prayers of the People 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
Offertory Song Green Binder #99 "We Give Them to You"
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.

Communion
 Words of Institution
 Lord's Prayer (p. 145)
 Communion Song Green Binder #63 "Pass Me Not"
 Prayer after Communion

SENDING

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

Benediction Song Green Binder #85 "Peace Be Yours"
Blessing Green Binder #46 "Awesome God"
Sending Song
Sending Words Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.
 Thanks be to God.

Postlude

WELCOME

Bethel Lutheran Church—May 21, 2023, Ascension Sunday

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

- Hearing assist devices are available: Speak to an usher for assistance.
- Last day Sunday school & 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.

MONDAY 5/22

- Coffee hour: 8:30 am-9:30 am
- Unhinged! Pizza fundraiser in Glencoe: 4:00-8:00 pm

WEDNESDAY 5/24

- Quilting: 1:00-4:00 pm

THURSDAY 5/25

- MEFS Mobile Outreach: 1:30-3:00 pm

SUNDAY 5/28 (Pentecost)

- Worship: 9:00 am

Worship in the country: On Sunday, June 4, we will worship at the old Bergen Lutheran Church site beginning at 10:00 am, followed by a potluck picnic. Please bring your lawn chair or blanket, a dish to share, and yard games if you have them. We will provide a beverage and tableware. Directions to the site are on the poster in the Narthex. *(Thrivent Action Team grant event)*

Per our constitution, C13.05, a CALL COMMITTEE will consist of (8) members: (3) from the council, (3) from the congregation, (1) youth member, (1) WELCA member. Pastor Naomi Mahler, Synod Representative, will help us navigate the calling of a new pastor process. The Congregational Mission Assessment report, presented on May 21, 2023, will be our template. Please prayerfully consider this important function and role of a Call Committee member. Contact Ron Foust, Council President, for questions or interest in serving on the Call Committee.

Wanted: Cookies for Fellowship Hour: A sign-up sheet asking volunteers to bring cookies/treats for Sunday morning coffee hour is in the Narthex. Please leave the goodies on the table or kitchenette. (Store-bought items 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.

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.

First Reading: Acts 1:1-11

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 47

Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with a joyful sound.

For the LORD Most High is to be feared: a great king over all the earth,

who subdues the peoples under us, and the nations under our feet;

who choses our inheritance for us, the pride of Jacob, whom God loves.

God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of the ram's horn.

Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our king, sing praises.

For God is king of all the earth; sing praises with a song.

God is king over the nations; God is enthroned on high.

The nobles of the peoples have gathered as the people of the God of Abraham.

The rulers of the earth belong to God, who is highly exalted.

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: Luke 24:44-53

Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.