

## 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, August 27, 2023  
Pentecost 13, Setting 8

Rev. Dr. William Nelsen, Supply Pastor  
Jan Smith, Accompanist

### GATHERING

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

Prelude "Saints Bound for Heaven" Arr. by Lloyd Larson

"Jesus Love of My Soul" (It's All About You) Arr. by Carol Tornquist

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, + one God, whose steadfast love endures forever.  
**Amen.**

Merciful God, **we confess that we have not followed your path but have chosen our own way. Instead of putting others before ourselves, we long to take the best seats at the table. When met by those in need, we have too often passed by on the other side. Set us again on the path of life. Save us from ourselves and free us to love our neighbors. Amen.**

Hear the good news! God does not deal with us according to our sins but delights in granting pardon and mercy. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are free to love as God loves. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn "Making Their Way" ACS #979

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. 184)

Canticle of Praise (ELW p. 185) **Glory to God in the highest...**

Prayer of the Day

**O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

### WORD

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

First Reading Isaiah 51:1-6 The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms            Psalm 138    O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever. (Ps. 138:8)

Second Reading    Romans 12:1-8

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

Children's Sermon            "Blessing of the Backpacks"

Gospel Acclamation (ELW p. 188) **Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go?...**

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

Gospel Reading    Matthew 16:13-20

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

Sermon            "Called to be Different"

Hymn of the Day    "The Church's One Foundation" ELW #654

Apostles Creed (p. 105)

Prayers of Intercession    Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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    "All Thanks to You" by Hans Peterson

Offertory Prayer

**God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving (ELW p. 190)

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer (p. 191)

Communion (ELW p. 191) **Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world...**

Communion Hymn "Faith of Our Fathers" ELW #812

Prayer after Communion

### SENDING

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

Blessing

The God of peace, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you, comfort you, and show you the path of life this day and always.

**Amen.**

Sending Hymn    "O Savior, Precious Savior" ELW #820

Dismissal    Go in peace. Share the harvest. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude    "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" Arr. by Jonathan Reuss

# WELCOME

Bethel Lutheran Church—August 27, 13th Sunday after Pentecost

**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). For emergency pastoral care needs, please contact the church office first, and if nobody answers, call Pastor Jeff Engholm at 320-212-0976. Bulletin submissions due: Wednesdays at noon.

Newsletter deadline: 25<sup>th</sup> of the month. **GivePlus Text 866-298-7547**

SIMPLY GIVING offers convenience for you and much needed consistency for Bethel! Try it this summer! If you have questions contact Stacy Meyer, Financial Secretary, at [finsec@lpbethel.org](mailto:finsec@lpbethel.org).

## TODAY

- Welcome and thank you Pastor Bill Nelsen for leading us in worship today!
- Hearing assist devices are available: Speak to an usher for assistance.
- 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!
- Fellowship Hour: following worship

## SUNDAY 9/3 (Pentecost 14)

- Worship 9:00 am (Interim Pastor Susan Engholm)
- Fellowship Hour: following worship

A HUGE thank you to all who signed up for food for VBS. We are so grateful! Katie Anderson, Judy Angvall, Carolyn Barr, Ed and Kathy Ekdahl, Tamie and Ron Foust, Jean and Pete Hallberg, Diane Horsman, Cathy Houg, Nancy Krull, Dana Smith, Jan Smith, Shirley Weisenburger, Carol and Lloyd Wortz.

**The deadline for Bethel Women's Retreat is fast approaching!** Let us know if you have questions! Get your registration form and payment to Diane Horsman ASAP or by Friday, September 1 at the latest.

**Deadline for donating school supplies for LWR school kits: Sunday, September 10.**

Kits will be assembled later in September and brought to the Crow River Conference Fall Gathering on Saturday, September 30, and will continue on their way to the LWR warehouse in St. Paul. Monetary donations will purchase additional supplies to complete the school kits. Earmark your monetary donation "school kits" for the weekly offering plate.

**School Kit List:**

Four 70-sheet notebooks, wide or college ruled, 8 X 10 1/2" (no loose-leaf paper)  
One 30 cm ruler (or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other)  
One pencil sharpener  
One 2 1/2" pink eraser  
One blunt point scissors (Fiskars brand)  
Five ballpoint pens, blue or black ink (no gel ink)  
One box of 24 crayons (Crayola brand)  
Five unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers

**Crow River Conference WELCA Fall Gathering:** Saturday, September 30, First Lutheran Church, Litchfield. Sign up by Sunday, September 17 if you would like to attend. Reservation fee: \$10 payable to Diane Horsman.

**The Chosen Season 3:** We will meet weekly again on Sundays at 6:00 pm later in September. If you haven't yet viewed Seasons 1 and 2, you can do so online, or you are welcome to borrow Bethel's DVDs. Contact Jill Duncan with questions.

**Family Game Night** is on the calendar for Sunday, October 15, from 5-8 pm at church. Please bring a hotdish or salad to share, your own beverage, and your favorite game to play.

**Pumpkin Festival** is also on the calendar for Sunday, October 15-more *information to come!*

