

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 6, 2023
10th Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Donna Olsen, Supply Pastor
Jan Smith, Accompanist

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, 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 "Together In Christ" (insert)

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

Glorious God, your generosity waters the world with goodness, and you cover creation with abundance. Awaken in us a hunger for the food that satisfies both body and spirit, and with this food fill all the starving world, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

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

First Reading Isaiah 55:1-5 The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21 (read responsively)

Second Reading Romans 9:1-5

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

Children's Sermon

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

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

Gospel Reading Matthew 14:13-21

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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day "Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken" ACS #966

Apostles Creed (p. 105)

Prayers of Intercession God, in your mercy, **hear 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 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

Hymn "The Lord's Prayer" Green Binder #134

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

Communion Hymn "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" ELW #773

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 "My Life Flows On in Endless Song" ELW #763

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

Postlude

WELCOME

Bethel Lutheran Church—August 6, 10th 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 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**

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.

TODAY (Welcome and thank you Pastor Donna Olsen for leading us in worship today!)

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

WEDNESDAY 8/9

- Quilting: 1:00-4:30 pm
- WELCA meeting: 6:30 pm

THURSDAY 8/10

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

SUNDAY 8/13 (Pentecost II)

- Worship: 9:00 am (Supply Pastor Bill Nelsen)
- Fellowship Hour: following worship

All Ages Vacation Bible School: August 14-17 we will gather for a meal from 5:30-6:00 pm, then lessons, activities, games, and crafts will focus on the theme "Blossoming in Faith" until 8:00 pm. We invite all ages to participate! If anyone is interested in volunteering to help with activities or preparing part of the meal contact Emily Koehler, Pete Hallberg, or Stacy Meyer. To register for VBS, go to <https://tinyurl.com/blcvbs2023> or pick up a paper form in the narthex.

Last Fellowship Around the Fire: Wednesday, August 23, 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 and bring your own lawn chairs.

August Book Club: United States of Grace by Lenny Duncan

Lenny Duncan brings us a deeply personal story about growing up black and queer in the U.S. He recounts an intimate portrayal of his life's struggles and joys. A love story about America, revealing the joy and resilience of places many call "the margins" but Lenny has called home. This book makes a bold claim that God is present with us in the most difficult of circumstances, bringing life out of death. Discussion date: Wednesday, August 16, 7:30 pm at church

You are Invited to the Ordination of Stefan Swanson to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament in the ELCA, Saturday, August 19, 2023, 2:00 pm Worship Service, Bethel Lutheran Church, punch and treats to follow. Service will livestream at: <https://www.facebook.com/lpbethel>. Stefan has been called by the SW MN Synod to serve as a Hospice Chaplain with the CentraCare Health Care System.

Prepare for the Back-to-School Kits Collection: The collected school supplies will be put into backpacks and given to Lutheran World Relief to distribute to children around the world. Often, the ability to have school supplies is what makes it possible for some children to attend school. Thank you in advance for your generosity that helps provide basic education for children! Please donate *only* high-quality, name-brand supplies requested from the list. You may donate all the items for one or more kits or some items from the list. Watch for the donation drop-off area in the Narthex. Monetary donations are welcome, and 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

Registration for the Bethel Women's Retreat is open! Join the fellowship and fun September 8-10 at Green Lake Bible Camp! Information and forms are on a table in the narthex. Give your registration form plus the fee to Diane Horsman or mail it to the church office. The registration deadline is September 1.

Noisy Offering (4th Sunday of the month) 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!