

## 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, July 16, 2023  
7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Stefan Swanson, Interim Vicar  
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 "Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty" ELW #533

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

**Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

### WORD

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

First Reading Isaiah 55:10-13 The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13 (read responsively)

Second Reading    Romans 8:1-11    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 thirteenth chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel Reading    Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day    "O God, Whose Word Well-Planted" ACS 975

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

Lord's Prayer (p. 191)

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

Communion Hymn    "Build Us Up, Lord" ELW #670

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    "Sent Forth by God's Blessing" ELW #547

Dismissal    Go in peace. Share the harvest.

**Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

# WELCOME

Bethel Lutheran Church—July 16, 2023, 7th 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) 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. **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.

## TODAY

- Hearing assist devices are available: Speak to an usher for assistance.
- Parents of little ones: You're welcome to use the non-staffed toy room as needed.
- Fellowship Hour: following worship

## MONDAY 7/17

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

## WEDNESDAY 7/19

- Worship & Music Committee meeting: 4:00 pm
- Book Club discussion: 7:30 pm, The Measure by Nikki Erlick

## SUNDAY 7/23 (Pentecost 8)

Worship: 9:00 am w/ New Member Welcome, Acknowledgement of Mission Assessment

**Next Fellowship Around the Fire:** Wednesday, July 26 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 chairs. 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 Aug. 23.)

**Registration for the Bethel Women's Retreat is now open!** Join the fellowship and fun the weekend of September 8-10 at Green Lake Bible Camp! Information and forms are on a pub 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. The next WELCA meeting will be Wednesday, August 9 at 6:30 pm.

**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.

**Lectors are needed!** Please consider signing up to read in August! (sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board.) If you need a fill-in for one Sunday, contact Cathy Houg at [cathy.houg@gmail.com](mailto:cathy.houg@gmail.com) or 320-282-2152 or another substitute listed on the sheet. Thank you Koehler/Jepsen families for signing up for July (and Carolyn)!

**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. The quilts 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!