

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 23, 2023
8th 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 "We Plow the Fields and Scatter" ELW #681

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

Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

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

First Reading Isaiah 44:6-8 The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms Psalm 86:11-17 (read responsively)

Second Reading Romans 8:12-25 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 13:24-30, 36-43

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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" ELW #693

New Member Welcome (p. 232) "Welcome to Baptism"

Acknowledgement of Mission Assessment Team

Installation of Call Committee (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 Music

Nicole Weisenburger, Trombone

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 "As the Grains of Wheat" ELW #465

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 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" ELW #631

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

Postlude

WELCOME

Bethel Lutheran Church—July 23, 2023, 8th 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.

TODAY

- Welcome New Members: Katie Fosdick, Dave Gohl, Jan Gohl, Katie Radtke, John Staub, & Alayna Staub
- Thank you Mission Assessment Team: Jean Hallberg, Jeff Hanson, Emily Koehler, Connor Meyer, Carl Overbye, Jan Smith, Mary Lou Teubert, & Lloyd Wortz (CH)
- Call Committee Installation: Jean Hallberg (CH), Julie Hanson, Cathy Houg, Connor Meyer, Stacy Meyer, Max Petersen, Jan Smith, LuAnn Weisenburger, & Peggy Wick
- Hearing assist devices are available: Speak to an usher for assistance.

MONDAY 7/24

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

WEDNESDAY 7/26

- Quilting: 1:00-4:30 pm
- Fellowship Around the Fire: 6:30 pm

THURSDAY 7/27

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

SUNDAY 7/30 (Pentecost 9)

- Outdoor Worship: 9:00 am w/ blessing of the garden & Vicar Stefan's last day

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 on July 26. Last Fellowship Around the Fire: August 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. Next WELCA Meeting: 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. Discussion date: Wednesday, August 16, 7:30 pm at church

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.

With Joy and Thanks to God, You are Invited to the Ordination of Stefan Swanson
to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 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 Southwestern Minnesota Synod to serve as a Hospice Chaplain with the CentraCare Health Care System.

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!