

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, September 3, 2023
Pentecost 14, Setting 8

Rev. Susan Engholm, Interim Pastor
Jan Smith, Accompanist

GATHERING

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

Prelude *Great Is the Lord Arr. by Peggy Bettcher*
 Open Our Eyes Arr. by Peggy Bettcher
 God is Here Today Arr. By C. Michael Hawn and Arturo Gonzalez

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be God, the one who forms us, +Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit
who makes our joy complete.

Amen.

Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Steadfast and faithful God,

You have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you.

We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering.

We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others.

For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us.

For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us.

For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us.

Lead us back to you and set us on the right path;

in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's
compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way
for us. In +Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn "Son of God Eternal Savior" ELW #655

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, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake
of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience,
and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior
and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

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

First Reading Jeremiah 15:15-21 The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**
Psalm Psalm 26:1-8
 "Your love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you." (Ps. 26:3)
Second Reading Romans 12:9-21 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 sixteenth chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**
Gospel Reading Matthew 16:21-28 The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**
Sermon
Hymn of the Day "Will You Come and Follow Me?" ELW #798
Apostles' Creed (p. 105)
Prayers of Intercession 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 *We Come Now to Your Table Arr. by Patrick Prescod*
Offering Prayer
 God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior. 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 "Spirit, Open My Heart" ACS #1043
Prayer after Communion

SENDING

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

Blessing
 The God of glory, +Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.
 Amen.
Sending Hymn "Lord Jesus You Shall Be My Song" ELW #808
Dismissal Go in peace. God is at work in you. **Thanks be to God.**
Postlude *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee by Michael Costello*

WELCOME

Bethel Lutheran Church—September 3, 14th 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. For emergency pastoral care needs, please contact the church office first, and if nobody answers, call Pastor Susan Engholm at 320-293-1811. 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

- We welcome Interim Pastor Susan Engholm! Thank you for your leadership!
- Hearing assist devices are available: Speak to an usher for assistance.
- Fellowship Hour: following worship

MONDAY 9/4 (LABOR DAY)

- Office closed

SUNDAY 9/10 (Pentecost 15)

- Worship: 9:00 am (Supply Pastor Bill Nelsen)
- Fellowship Hour: following worship
- First day of Sunday school: Hey Kids! Please join us following worship!
- Last day to drop off school supply donations!

A Call for a Congregational Meeting: Sunday, September 17, immediately following the worship service. Topic: The Call Committee will be recommending Bethel's new pastor. A vote will take place at this congregational meeting. If you have questions, contact Ron Foust, Council President at 612-201-2351.



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



Would you like to be part of the Chimes Choir? We could play for special occasions or it could become a regular thing. Contact Jan Smith if you are interested and share your ideas! **Choir practice** will start on the 13th of September. We'll meet at 6:30 pm every Wednesday. If you have questions contact Emily Koehler, Choir Director.

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 from 10:00 am-2:00 pm. Elephant Joe's coffee truck will be there and we'll have activities for kids. We are looking for people to host a kid's activity— such as face painting, games, etc. Contact Emily Koehler if you can help.

A Lifetime Gift™ Thrivent Event: Sunday, September 10, 1:00 pm, St. Paul Lutheran Church, 300 Croyden St., Stewart, MN-How to prepare for the end of your life. You will walk away with tools and resources to help your family celebrate their life and understand what steps can be taken now to avoid stress later. **RSVP by Sun., September 3 at 320-562-2352.** See Bethel's bulletin board for more information.