

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 10, 2023
Pentecost 15, Setting 8

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

GATHERING

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

Prelude *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace Arr. by Douglas E. Wagner*
 Be Not Afraid Arr. by Douglas E. Wagner
 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 "As We Gather At Your Table" ELW #522

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 Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy.
Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is
harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus
Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

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

- First Reading Ezekiel 33:7-11 The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**
Psalm 119:33-40 (read responsively)
 I desire the path of your commandments. (Ps. 119:35)
Second Reading Romans 13:8-14 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 eighteenth chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**
Gospel Reading Matthew 18:15-20
 The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**
Sermon "Christian Community: We Need Each Other"
Hymn of the Day "God, When Human Bonds Are Broken" ELW #603
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 Word of God, Word of Life by Larry Olson
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 "I Come with Joy" ELW #482
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 "For All" (insert)
Dismissal Go in peace. God is at work in you. **Thanks be to God.**
Postlude Introduction and Trumpet Tune on "Lyons" by Joseph Martin Kraus

WELCOME

Bethel Lutheran Church—September 10, 15th 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 (Happy Grandparent Day!)

- Welcome back Pastor Bill Nelsen! Thank you for leading worship today!
- Hearing assist devices are available: Speak to an usher for assistance.
- First day of Sunday school: Hey Kids! Please join us following worship!
- Fellowship Hour: following worship

MONDAY 9/11

- Council meeting: 6:30 pm

WEDNESDAY 9/13

- Quilting: 1:00-4:30 pm
- Choir practice: 6:30 pm

THURSDAY 9/14

- MEFS Mobile Outreach: 1:30-3:00 pm, Bethel parking lot

SUNDAY 9/17 (Pentecost 16)

- Contemporary Worship: 9:00 am (Supply Pastor Bill Nelsen)
- Congregational meeting: following worship (new pastor vote)
- CR Conference WELCA Fall Gathering deadline: \$10 to Diane Horsman

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.

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.

Welcome-Meet-n-Greet Open House for Visitors from South Africa, Saturday, September 23, 1:00-4:00 pm, Zion Lutheran Church, Litchfield. Our SWMN Synod and Crow River Conference will meet and welcome four Christian friends from our Companion Synod, the SE Diocese of South Africa. This open house will be the first official gathering with these South African friends who arrive September 21st and depart October 13th. Enjoy snacks and refreshments in Zion's Larson Bistro. Come by, if you can come for just 15 minutes, you'll be glad you did!

Monthly Breakfast with Bethel: Starting on the 24th of September, Dan from Longhorn's Restaurant has agreed to serve breakfast on the last Sunday of every month. On that Sunday, Longhorn's will open at 10:30 am for Bethel. If this is something you can fit into your schedule, please plan on joining some of us for a time of fun and fellowship as we enjoy breakfast together. If you have any questions, talk to Cathy Houg or Carolyn Barr.

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.