

## 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 17, 2023

Rev. Dr. William Nelsen, Supply Pastor

16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Jan Smith, Accompanist

### GATHERING

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

Prelude      *All Are Welcome (by Hans Peterson and Larry Olson)*

*Seek Ye First (arr. by Laura E. Wilson)*

*Word of God, Word of Life (by Larry Olson)*

Gathering Songs      Green Binder #40 "It is Well with My Soul"

Green Binder #107 "Forever"

Green Binder #44 "He is Exalted"

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.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

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 and Lord. 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.**

Entrance Song      GB #110 "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High"

Prayer of the Day

**O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## WORD

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

First Reading      Genesis 50:15-21      The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**  
Psalm 103: 8-13      *(read responsively)*  
Second Reading      Romans 14:1-12      The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**  
Children's Sermon  
Gospel Song      GB #67 "He Is Lord"  
Gospel Reading      Matthew 18:21-35      The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**  
Sermon      "The Power of Forgiveness—and the Difficulty"  
Song of the Day      GB #32 "They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love"  
Apostles Creed  
Prayers of the People      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  
Offertory Song      GB #99 "We Give Them to You"  
Offertory 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.**

Communion  
    Words of Institution  
    Lord's Prayer  
    Communion Song      ACS #969 "Welcome Table"  
Prayer after Communion

## SENDING

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

Benediction Song      GB #85 "Peace Be Yours"  
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 Song      GB #27 "Soon and Very Soon"  
Sending Words      Go in peace. God is at work in you. **Thanks be to God.**  
Postlude      *What a Friend We Have in Jesus (setting by John Carter)*

# WELCOME

Bethel Lutheran Church—September 17, 2023, 16th 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). For emergency pastoral care needs, please call the church office first, and if nobody answers, call Interim Pastor Susan Engholm 320-293-1811. 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, at [finsec@lpbethel.org](mailto:finsec@lpbethel.org).

## TODAY

- **Welcome Pastor Bill Nelsen!** Thank you for leading us in worship today!
- **Hearing assist devices are available:** Speak to an usher for assistance.
- **Sunday School:** 10:15 am, Hey Kids! Please join us downstairs!
- **Assembly of school kits:** following worship
- **CR Conference WELCA Fall Gathering deadline:** \$10 to Diane Horsman

## WEDNESDAY 9/20

- **Worship & Music Committee meeting:** 4:00 pm
- **Choir practice:** 6:30 pm
- **Book club discussion:** 7:30 pm

## SUNDAY 9/24 (Pentecost 17)

- **Worship:** 9:00 am
- **Sunday school:** 10:15 am
- **First day of Confirmation class:** 10:15 am
- **Breakfast with Bethel:** 10:30 am, Longhorn's Burger House, LP
- **The Chosen-season 3:** 6:00-7:30 pm, narthex



**Crow River Conference WELCA Fall Gathering:** Saturday, September 30, First Lutheran Church, Litchfield. Sign up by **TODAY**, September 17 if you would like to attend. Reservation fee: \$10 payable to Diane Horsman.

**Thanks for your school kit donations!** We will work on assembling the kits after worship today. Please join us in the narthex. Workers of all ages are welcome!

**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!

**Season 3 of The Chosen** will begin next Sunday, September 24, 6:00-7:30 pm. Join us upstairs in the narthex for viewing and discussion of Episode 1. Refreshments will be served.

**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.

**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.

**Grandparent & Grandchild Retreat at Green Lake Bible Camp,** Saturday, November 4-Sunday, November 5. This one night retreat will offer you a unique chance to spend time together doing camp activities, while also learning more about your faith together! With intergenerational Bible studies, worship, activities, and more! If you have any questions talk to Judy Angvall, Pete and Jean Hallberg, or Diane Horsman, as they are planning to go with their grandchildren. Their grandchildren are between the ages of 6 and 10. The cost is \$85 for adults and \$35 for each youth. Plan to register soon at [GLLM.org!](http://GLLM.org!)