

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 24, 2023
Pentecost 17, Setting 8

Rev. Susan Engholm, Interim Pastor
Jan Smith, Accompanist

GATHERING

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

Prelude *Beach Spring* arr. by Rachel Trelstad Porter
 Blessed Assurance arr. by John Carter

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 "Take My Life, That I May Be" ELW #583

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 and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your
servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful
judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our
Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

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

First Reading Jonah 3:10—4:11 The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 145:1-8 (read responsively)

(The LORD is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Ps. 145:8)

Second Reading Philippians 1:21-30 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 twentieth chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel Reading Matthew 20:1-16

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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day "Lord of All Hopefulness" ELW #765

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 Offertory on "Trust in Jesus" by William J. Kirkpatrick

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 "Give Me Jesus" ELW #770

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 Trumpet Tune on "Ash Grove" arr. by David Lasky

WELCOME

Bethel Lutheran Church—September 24, 17th 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 Interim 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

- Hearing assist devices are available: Speak to an usher for assistance.
- Noisy offering: see details on the other side
- Sunday school & 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

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

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

SUNDAY (Pentecost 18)

- Worship: 9:00 am
- Fellowship hour: following worship
- Sunday school & Confirmation class: 10:15 am
- The Chosen-Season 3: 6:00-7:30 pm, narthex

Season 3 of The Chosen will begin TODAY, 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 TODAY, 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.

Noisy offering supports Green Lake Bible Camp Youth Camperships: 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!

Crow River Conf. event featuring guests from Companion Synod in South Africa. Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Dassel, Saturday, September 30, from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm with Pastor Thabani. You will receive information including a conversation and a video presentation with Pastor Thabani. He will speak about the mission work and activities that are taking place in our Companion Synod, as well as future mission plans. Meet in the fellowship hall and refill your coffee cups and plates with the snacks provided.

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!