

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, October 15, 2023
20th Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Susan Engholm, Interim Pastor
Jan Smith, Accompanist

GATHERING

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

Prelude

Gathering Songs Green Binder #4 "Praise the Name of Jesus"
 Green Binder #2 "Prayer of St. Francis"
 Green Binder #123 "Days of Elijah"
 Green Binder #19 "There's a River of Life"

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.**

Song of Praise GB #70 "Grace Alone"

Prayer of the Day

**Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured
out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by
what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of
righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Choir Anthem "Grace Alone" by S.W. Brown and J. Nelson, arr. by T. Fettke

WORD

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

First Reading Isaiah 25:1-9 The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 23 *(read responsively)*

Second Reading Philippians 4:1-9 The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Children's Sermon

Gospel Song GB #98 "Lord, Add Your Blessing to This Word"

Gospel Reading Matthew 22:1-4 The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**

Sermon

Song of the Day GB #58 "Come Just As You Are"

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 #22 "Create in Me a Clean Heart"

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 #75 "My Life Is in You, Lord"

Sending Words Go in peace. God is at work in you. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

WELCOME

Bethel Lutheran Church—October 15, 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. 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: 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.
- **Pumpkin Festival**: 10:00 am-2:00 pm—Elephant Joe's coffee truck will be here, and we'll have activities for the kids! We will not have confirmation class or Sunday school, so we can all join the activities!
- **Game Night**: 5:00 pm-8:00 pm—We will begin our evening around the fire pit, roasting hot dogs and enjoying potluck dishes, then move in to play games. Bring a camp chair, your beverage and a favorite dish to share. And don't forget a game to play! We'll end the evening with bingo and prizes!

WEDNESDAY

- **Worship and Music Committee meeting**: 4:00 pm
- **Choir practice**: 6:30 pm
- **Book club discussion**: 7:30 pm—Greenlights by Matthew McConaughey

SUNDAY

- **Worship**: 9:00 am, Noisy offering (supports GL Bible Camp Youth Camperships)
- **Confirmation class and Sunday school**: 10:15 am
- **Fellowship hour**: following worship

Confirmation Sunday: Olivia Radtke, Ashlyn Rosenau, Bryce Shields, and Mallorie Torry will affirm the promises of baptism and confess their faith in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit during worship on Sunday, October 29. You are invited to join them for refreshments following worship.

Thank you to all who donated school supplies for the Lutheran World Relief school kits! We assembled 56 kits on September 17 and delivered them to the WELCA Fall Gathering on September 30. At the fall gathering they collected 395 school kits, 56 personal care kits, 21 baby kits, and 119 quilts to be delivered to the LWR warehouse in St. Paul. Thank you, Bethel, for your generosity!

GLLM Dinner Theater: Celebrate the Christmas season on Sunday, December 10, with a group from Bethel attending the performance of "The Last Resort" at Green Lake Bible Camp. The whole experience is top notch! The program will leave you entertained and inspired and the wonderful food will leave you satisfied. The cost is \$80 per ticket with funds going to support the needs of the camp. We will order tickets **TOMORROW MORNING**, October 16, so speak to Diane Horsman **TODAY** if you have questions or would like to attend!

HELP WANTED: The Cemetery Committee is seeking someone to take over lawn care work for our two cemeteries and the old church site, beginning in the spring of 2024. Must provide your own lawn care equipment. Duties include mowing, trimming, weed-whipping and keeping headstones free of grass clippings. Please reach out to Mary Lou Teubert or Nicole Weisenburger for more details and compensation information. Thanks!

Bethel has some things that are no longer needed. The items are two speakers used with the old organ, two gas burners (\$10 each), an L-shaped black computer desk with a hutch and a book shelf (\$30), and two gold office chairs. If you are interested speak to Byron Weisenburger.

Grandparent & Grandchild Retreat, 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!

Save the Date: The 2024 Bethel Women's Retreat has been scheduled for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, September 13-15. Can't wait!