

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, November 12, 2023

Rev. Dr. William Nelsen, Supply Pastor

24th Sunday after Pentecost, Setting 8

Jan Smith, Accompanist

GATHERING

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

Prelude *Prelude on "Land of Rest" arr. by David Lasky*

Let All Things Now Living arr. by Robert A. Hobby

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved.

Amen.

Holy One, **we confess that we are not awake for you. We are not faithful in using your gifts. We forget the least of our siblings. We do not see your beautiful image in one another. We are infected by sin that divides your beloved community. Open our hearts to your coming, open our eyes to see you in our neighbor, open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.**

Beloved, we are God's children, and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us. Through ☩ Jesus you are forgiven, by Jesus you are welcome, in Jesus you are called to rejoice! Let us live in the promises prepared for us from the foundation of the world.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn "My Lord, What a Morning" ELW #438

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 of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Choir Anthem "The Heart of Worship with Take My Life" Choral setting by J. Schrader

WORD

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

First Reading

Amos 5:18-24

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 70

(read responsively)

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 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 twenty-fifth chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel Reading Matthew 25: 1-13 The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon "Worship and Justice-We Need Both"

Hymn of the Day "What Is the World Like" ACS #1047

Apostles Creed (p. 105)

Prayers of Intercession Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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

Chime Choir "Give Thanks" Setting by Patricia Sanders Cota

Offering Prayer

God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant. 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 "Blessed Assurance" ELW #638

Prayer after Communion

SENDING

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

Blessing

May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God, Sovereign, ☩ Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always.

Amen.

Sending Hymn "Soon and Very Soon" ELW #439

Dismissal Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude *Blessed Assurance arr. by John Carter*

WELCOME

Bethel Lutheran Church—November 12, 2023—24th 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.
- Sunday School & Adult Education: following worship, No confirmation class
- The Chosen-Season 3: 6:00-7:30 pm, join us in the narthex, refreshments served

MONDAY

- Bible Study: 9:00 am
- Council meeting: 6:30 pm

WEDNESDAY

- Quilting: 1:00 pm-4:30 pm (Quilters will meet every Wednesday in November.)
- Worship & Music Committee meeting: 4:00 pm
- Choir practice: 6:30 pm
- Book Club discussion: 7:30 pm

SUNDAY-Christ the King

- Praise Worship: 9:00 am
- Sunday School/Confirmation class/Adult Education: following worship
- Fellowship hour: following worship
- Thanksgiving worship service: 6:30 pm
- Pie Social: following worship

During the month of November WELCA will collect a cash offering for the McLeod Emergency Food Shelf. Special envelopes are available from an usher. Please put your offering in the envelope and place it in the offering plate any Sunday during November. Thank you for your generosity!

The Chosen Bible study group will NOT meet on November 19. We will view the final Episode 8 of Season 3 on November 26. Because it is a longer episode, we will meet at 5:30 pm instead of 6:00 pm. Attendees are invited to bring a potluck dish to share together that evening.

WELCA is offering the Holiday Secret Pal experience to women within the congregation again this year. It is a simple and inexpensive way to build community by remembering your assigned Secret Pal with cards, notes, and small gifts throughout the Advent Season, then revealing your identity at Christmas or before the new year. A sign-up sheet will be available until November 19. Assignments will be made by November 26.

You're invited to the WELCA's upcoming Advent project: "A Birthday Party for Jesus"! Bethel will be sponsoring three families through the Lester Prairie School Outreach Program. We will have a Giving Tree in the narthex with various items to purchase for our families by the 19th of November. Go shopping and bring your items back for the **"Birthday Party for Jesus" on Sunday, December 17,** where we will wrap the gifts, play some games, enjoy treats and make some crafts.

Advent Worship service: Wednesday, November 29, 6:30 pm. The choir will practice at 5:45 pm during Advent. (Advent services continue on Dec. 6, 13, and 20)

Endowment Fund grants: We will accept Endowment Grant application forms through Thursday, November 30. Application forms are on the wall in the narthex. Please place completed applications in the Endowment Committee mailbox.

Next WELCA meeting: Tuesday, December 5, 6:30 pm at church. This is a change from the normal schedule. Meetings are always open to any women who wish to attend.

Adult Education: Join us for a time of education and conversation during coffee hour! We will have education every Sunday except for the last Sunday of the month. Speak to Cathy H. or Mitch O. if you have questions.

Join us for Monday Bible Study at 9:00 am: We will review the sermon from the day before and look at the Gospel for the coming week. Looking forward to seeing you there!