**WELCOME, WE’RE GLAD YOU’RE HERE!**

**BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Rev. Molly Wills, Pastor | Jan Smith, Accompanist

Seventh Sunday of Easter | Sunday, June 1, 2025

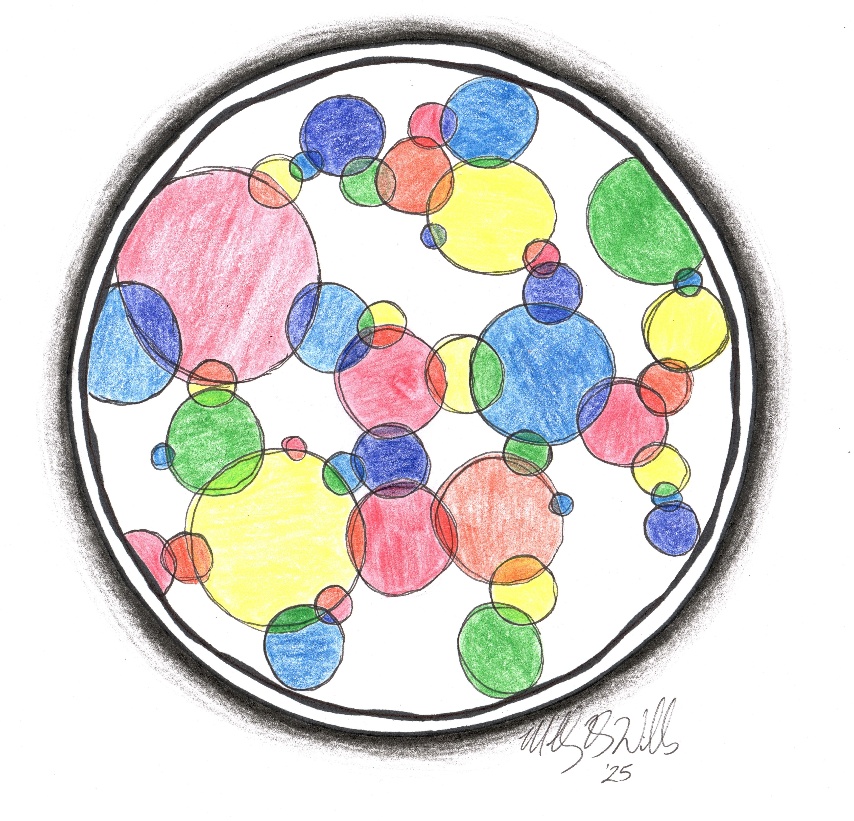
ELW Holy Communion Setting 3

***If you are new to Bethel, here is some helpful worship information****: We use the ELW (red hymnal) and the supplement ACS (purple hymnal), which contain liturgy and hymns. Liturgy pages are at the front of each hymnal, with the page numbers at the bottom and in the bulletin as (red ELW p.) or (purple ACS p.) Hymn pages are in the back two-thirds of the hymnals, with the page numbers at the top and in the bulletin as (red hymnal #) or (purple hymnal #). The songs from the Green Book are in the bulletin as (green binder #).* ***Hearing assistive devices are available;*** *speak to an usher for assistance.*

**SPIRIT ART**

**A meditative study of scripture through art.**

**John 17:20-26**

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**GATHERING**

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

Meditation time Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain arr. by Kenneth T. Kosche

With High Delight arr. by Kenneth T. Kosche

Welcome & Announcements

welcome to worship song God Welcomes All (purple hymnal # 978)

thanksgiving for baptism

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

In the name of + the One who was, who is, and who is to come. **Amen.**

Baptized into Christ’s death and resurrection and called to live the baptized…

Baptized into you, O Living One, **make us one as you are one.**

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that strengthen believers…

Baptized into you, O Living One, **make us one as you are one.**

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that open the hearts …

Baptized into you, O Living One, **make us one as you are one.**

Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that our every day is shaped by these…

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One. **Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG** *Crown Him with Many Crowns*(red hymnal #855)

Greeting (red ELW p. 138)

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 (red ELW p. 138) In peace, let us pray to the Lord…**

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE (red ELW p. 139) This is the feast of victory…**

Prayer of the Day

**O God, form the minds of your faithful people into your one will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**WORD**

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

FIRST Reading: Acts 16:16-34

16 One day as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a female slave who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. 17 While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, “These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation.” 18 She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, “I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And it came out that very hour. 19 But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. 20 When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, “These men, these Jews, are disturbing our city 21 and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us, being Romans, to adopt or observe.” 22 The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. 23 After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. 24 Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. 25 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. 26 Suddenly there was an earthquake so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken, and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were unfastened. 27 When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. 28 But Paul shouted in a loud voice, “Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.” 29 The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. 30 Then he brought them outside and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” 31 They answered, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.” 32 They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. 33 At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. 34 He brought them up into the house and set food before them, and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

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

Psalm 97 (read responsively)

1 The Lord reigns; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of the isles be glad.  
2 **Clouds and darkness the Lord,** **righteousness and justice are the foundations | of God’s throne.**  
3 Fire goes before the Lord, burning up enemies on every side.  
4 **Lightnings light up the world;** **the earth sees and trembles.**  
5 The mountains melt like wax before the Lord of all the earth.  
6 **The heavens declare your righteousness, O Lord,** **and all the peoples see your glory.**   
7 Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight in false gods! Bow down before the Lord, all you gods.  
8 **Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice,** **because of your judgments, O Lord.**  
9 For you are the Lord, most high over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods.  
10 **You who love the Lord, hate evil!** **God guards the lives of the saints and rescues them from the hand of the wicked.**  
11 Light dawns for the righteous, and joy for the honest of heart.  
12 **Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous,** **and give thanks to God’s holy name.**

SECOND READING: Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21

12 “See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone’s work. 13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.” 14 Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates. 16 “It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.” 17 The Spirit and the bride say, “Come. And let everyone who hears say, “Come.”And let everyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift. 20 The one who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! 21 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation (red ELW p. 142) **Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go?…**

Gospel: John 17:20-26 The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus prayed:] 20 “I ask not only on behalf of these but also on behalf of those who believe in me through their word, 21 that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, 23 I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. 24 Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. 25 “Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you, and these know that you have sent me. 26 I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them and I in them.” The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**CHILDREN’S SERMON**

**SERMON**

Hymn of the Day *One Bread, One Body* (red hymnal #496) apostles’ Creed (red ELW p. 105) Prayers of intercession Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.** Peace The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

**MEAL**

**God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.**

offering song Thine the Amen (red hymnal #826)

OfferING Prayer

**Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. Amen.**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING (red ELW p. 144)**

**PREFACE**

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (**red ELW **p. 144)**

Thanksgiving at the Table (red ELW p. 145)

HYMN *The Lord’s Prayer* (green binder #134))

COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONG (red ELW p. 146) **Lamb of God…**

SONG during communion *Now the Heavens Start to Whisper*(purple hymnal # 901)

Prayer after Communion

**SENDING**

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

Blessing

The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, + Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always. **Amen.**

Sending SONG *On What Has Now Been Sown* (red hymnal #550)

Dismissal Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Postlude Now All the Vault of Heaven Resound arr. by Michael Larkin

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**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.

**THIS WEEK AT BETHEL**

**Today**

* Fellowship hour: following worship

**Wednesday, June 4**

* Bible study: 11:30 a.m.
* Quilting: 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

**Sunday, June 8 (Day of Pentecost)**

* Worship: 9:00 a.m.
* Fellowship hour: following worship

**QUESTIONS OR REQUESTS?** Contact the church office at 320-395-2125 or

bethellutheranlp@gmail.com. If you need emergency pastoral care, please call Pastor Molly Wills at 320-339-8169 or email her at pastor@lpbethel.org.

**ADDRESS:** 77 Lincoln AVE N, Lester Prairie, MN 55354, (Mailing USPS: PO Box 207)

**WEBSITE**: [www.lpbethel.org](http://www.lpbethel.org)

**A qr code with a few black squares

Description automatically generatedFACEBOOK:** www.facebook.com/lpbethel

**BULLETIN SUBMISSION DEADLINE:** Wednesdays at noon

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:** 25th of the month

**ONLINE GIVING:** Scan the QR code or go to [www.lpbethel.org](http://www.lpbethel.org) under Give

**TEXT GIVING:** To give, text dollar amount to **866-298-7547**

**ELECTRONIC GIVING** offers convenience for you and much-needed consistency for Bethel! For more information, contact Stacy Meyer, Financial Secretary, at finsec@lpbethel.org.

**MID MAY 2025**

$ Contributions: 2,338.20

$ To Meet Budget: 10,262.01

$ Difference: -7,923.81

Weekly Average Attendance: 73

**FOR THE YEAR 2025**

YTD $ Contributions: 34,371.39

YTD $ To Meet Budget: 51,310.05

YTD $ Difference: -16,938.66

**SUMMER TRAVELERS, YOUR MUCH-NEEDED SUPPORT MATTERS!**

We understand that summer brings a change of pace, with many members traveling or juggling various commitments. Just like you rely on your income regularly, we want you to know that Bethel truly depends on your consistent support. To make things easier for you during this busy season, we offer convenient electronic giving options. Whether on the road or taking a break, you can contribute anytime and from anywhere. Plus, by setting up recurring donations, you can ensure your support continues even when you can’t make it to service. We offer online giving and text giving through Vanco for your convenience. These options are secure, fast, and easy to use- see more information above. Your generosity keeps our community strong. Thank you for all you do to support our church!

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS**

* **BETHEL CHURCH PARKING LOT FUNDRAISER**: We are raising funds to rebuild the parking lot. Our goal is to raise $30,000, in addition to the $30,000 already allocated from church funds. We aim to complete this project in September. Please consider donating to this much-needed project. You can scan the QR code on the opposite page to access the online Parking Lot Fund, or you may place your donation in the offering plate. If you choose to donate by check or cash, please indicate on the envelope or check that your contribution is for the parking lot. A mock-up of the parking lot is displayed in the narthex to help track our progress. Thank you for your support!
* **WOMEN IN THE BIBLE***-***A LEARNING OPPORTUNITY!** The Bethel WELCA group is sponsoring and welcoming all women to a Bible study on Tuesdays June 10, 17, and 24, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at the church. The sessions will take a personal look into the lives of some of the Bible’s most faithful women. Their struggles and temptations are the same trials faced by all believers at all ages. What can we learn from them? The God to whom they were so committed is the same God who continues to mold and use ordinary people like us today. If you have questions, please ask Jan Smith. (John MacArthur’s book, *Twelve Extraordinary Women: How God Shaped Women of the Bible and What He Wants to Do with You,* will be used as a resource and guide.)
* **A NOTE ABOUT COMMON CUP MINISTRY, INC.** The **Thrift Shop** of Common Cup offers quality, gently used items, and can use your help! When you donate, you’re not just giving items a second life; you’re supporting individuals and families in need right here in McLeod County. Best of all, every dollar from our sales stays local and directly benefits our community. Location: 712 11th ST E, Glencoe, MN; Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
* **CELEBRATION BANK:** The Celebration Bank is back for the summer months! Everyone in our congregation, no matter your age, is invited to share their celebrations, big or small. You can contribute any amount you like, whether it’s coins, bills, or checks. At the end of summer, we will gather all the contributions and donate them to the parking lot fund. In the past, our Celebration Bank collections have also supported ELCA Good Gifts and Green Lake Lutheran Ministries. We can’t wait to celebrate with you!
* **POOLSIDE PLATES:** Free meals for children under the age of 16 will be offered in Lester Prairie this summer. The meals will be provided by Hollywood Catering and will be served from noon to 1:00 p.m. at the Main Park picnic shelter on Second Avenue. Schedule/Menu: June 11- pulled pork, June 25-walking tacos, July 9-BBQs, July 16-TBD, August 6-TBD, August 13-TBD. If you have any questions, contact Terri at [terrihelland@gmail.com](mailto:terrihelland@gmail.com). *Sponsored by: Bethel Lutheran Church of LP (Endowment grant), LP Youth Task Force, LP Lions, St. Paul’s Lutheran Church of LP.*
* **COOKIES FOR BLOOD MOBILE:** Bethel has been asked to provide cookies for the Blood Mobile on Wednesday, June 11. If you would like to donate three dozen cookies, preferably homemade, please contact Diane Horsman.
* **FELLOWSHIP BY THE FIRE***:* Join us on Sunday, June 22, at 6:00 p.m. Hot dogs will be provided. Please bring a dish to share along with your lawn chairs or blankets.

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