**BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Rev. Molly Wills, Pastor | Jan Smith, Accompanist

Fifth Sunday of Easter | Sunday, May 18, 2025 | ELW Holy Communion Setting 3

**WELCOME, WE’RE GLAD YOU’RE HERE!**

***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.*

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**SPIRIT ART**

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

**John 13:31-35**

**GATHERING**

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

Meditation time Lord of the Dance (Shaker Melody) arr. by Mark Hayes

Jesus Loves Me setting by Glenn Wonacott

Now the Green Blade Rises arr. by Michael Larkin

Welcome & Announcements

Call to worship song Glory to the Love by Larry Olson and Hans Peterson (insert)

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…

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

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism…

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

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism…

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

Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that our everyday is shaped by these waters that give us our very lives in you. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One. **Amen.**

SONG of praise 10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord) (green binder #133)

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.**

Prayer of the Day

**O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

choir A New Jerusalem Arise by Kyle Pederson

**WORD**

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

FIRST READING: Acts 11:1-18

1 Now the apostles and the brothers and sisters who were in Judea heard that the gentiles had also accepted the word of God. 2 So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, 3 saying, “Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?” 4 Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, 5 “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners, and it came close to me. 6 As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. 7 I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter; kill and eat.’ 8 But I replied, ‘By no means, Lord, for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ 9 But a second time the voice answered from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, you must not call profane.’ 10 This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. 11 At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. 12 The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. 13 He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; 14 he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.’ 15 And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. 16 And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ 17 If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?” 18 When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, “Then God has given even to the gentiles the repentance that leads to life.”

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 148

1 Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise God in the heights.  
2 **Praise the Lord, all you angels;** **sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**  
3 Praise the Lord, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.  
4 **Praise the Lord, heaven of heavens,** **and you waters above the heavens.**  
5 Let them praise the name of the Lord, who commanded, and they were created,  
6 **who made them stand fast forever and ever,** **giving them a law that shall not pass away.**   
7 Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;  
8 **fire and hail, snow and fog,** **tempestuous wind, doing God’s will;**  
9 mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;  
10 **wild beasts and all cattle,** **creeping things and flying birds;**  
11 sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;  
12 **young men and maidens,** **old and young, together.**   
13 Let them praise the name of the Lord, whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.  
14 **The Lord has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants,** **the children of Israel, a people who are near the Lord. Hallelujah!**

SECOND READING: Revelation 21:1-6

1 I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. 2 And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them and be their God; 4 he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.” 5 And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” 6 Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.”

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Help Us O Lord*

**Help us, O Lord, to hear your word. Open our hearts to feel your word.**

**Give us the strength to live your word each day.**

Gospel:  John 13:31-35 The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

31 When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. 32 If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. 33 Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ 34 I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

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

**CHILDREN’S SERMON**

**SPIRITUAL PRACTICE**

Hymn of the Day *Where Charity and Love Prevail*(red hymnal #359)

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 We Give Them to You (green binder #99)

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.**

Thanksgiving at the Table (red ELW p. 145)

lord’s prayer (red ELW p. 145)

COMMUNION

SONG during communion *Renew Me* (green binder #77)

Prayer after Communion

**SENDING**

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

BENEDICTION SONG Blessing

**May God bless you and keep you. May God's face shine upon you. May God look upon you with favor and give you peace, and give you peace, and give you peace. Amen.**

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 Your Love is Everlasting by Hans Peterson and Larry Olson (insert)

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

God in peace. In Christ, you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Postlude Love Divine, All Loves Excelling arr. by Craig Curry

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NEXT SUNDAY’S READINGS: Acts 16:9-15; Ps 67; Rev 21:1-10, 22—22:5; Jn 14:23-29

**THIS WEEK AT BETHEL**

**Today**

* Last day of Sunday school and New Member class: following worship

**Monday, May 19**

* Worship & Music meeting: 5:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, May 21**

* Bible study: 11:30 a.m.
* Quilting: 1:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m.
* Choir: 6:30 p.m.
* Book club discussion: 7:30 p.m.

**Sunday, May 25:**

* 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)

**A qr code with a few black squares

Description automatically generatedWEBSITE**: [www.lpbethel.org](http://www.lpbethel.org)

**FACEBOOK:** 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**

**VANCO** 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!
* **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.
* **CAN YOU PROVIDE A RIDE TO CHURCH?**Iris Rognli, who lives at Grand Meadows in Glencoe, would like to attend the church service at Bethel occasionally. If you are willing and able to give her a ride, please contact Diane Horsman.
* **LECTORS ARE NEEDED FOR JUNE, JULY, AND SEPTEMBER:** Please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex. There are other opportunities, too! Check it out!
* **CELEBRATION BANK:** We’re excited to announce the Celebration Bank will be back for the summer months starting Sunday, June 1! 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!
* **WHAT IS ORDINARY TIME?** Ordinary Time is a restful, reflective, and beautiful experience taking place this summer at Camp House. It provides an opportunity to step away from the noise of everyday life and embrace the quiet. This program is designed for individuals, couples, families, and groups, including youth, men, women, and shared interest clubs-anyone seeking a slower pace and a deeper connection with God, nature, and one another. For more information, visit GLLM.org/Ordinary-Time.

**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.

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