

## **BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Rev. Molly Wills, Pastor | Jan Smith, Accompanist

1 Advent | Sunday, November 30, 2025

ACS Holy Communion Setting 11

### **WELCOME, WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!**

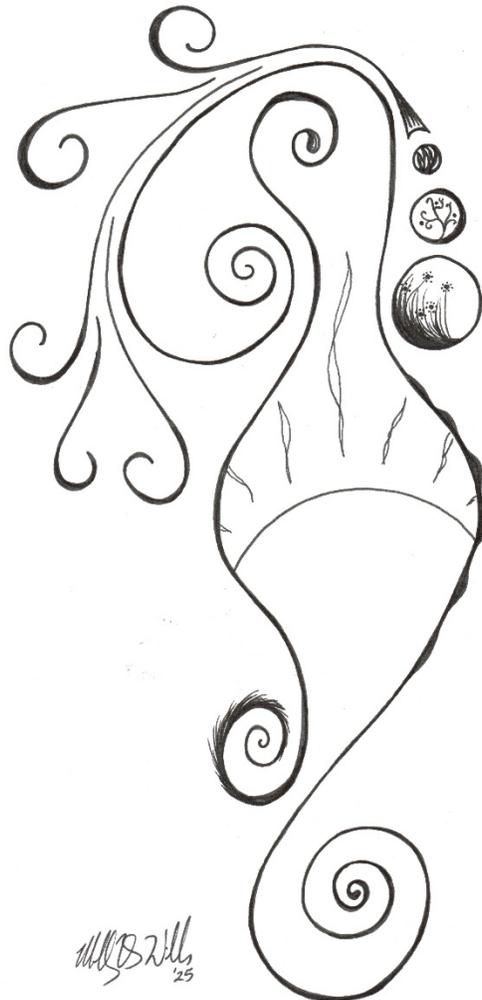
**If you are new to Bethel, here is some helpful information about worship services.**

*We use the Evangelical Lutheran Worship (red hymnal) and the supplement All Creation Sings (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 hymnal, 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.**

**Matthew 24:36-44**



## GATHERING

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

MEDITATION TIME “Creator of the Stars of Night”; “Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending”; “Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding” (all arranged by Edwin T. Childs)

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Long-expected God, **we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God’s timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.**

God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God’s own righteousness. + We are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG “My Lord, What a Morning” (red hymnal #438)

GREETING (purple ACS p. 12)

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 (purple ACS p. 12)

CANTICLE OF PRAISE (purple ACS p. 12)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

**This morning, we light the first candle, a reminder to us that we are called to wait. We are an impatient creation, losing our way in the wilderness as we go in search of a light, any light, to guide our way. In our longing, Lord, remind us to have patience in the waiting, to stay awake and still until your light of truth shines upon us to guide our way, and to have hope in the knowledge that you will come to us when we least expect it. Awaken our souls and shine within our hearts this day and always. Amen.**

SONG AFTER THE CANDLE LIGHTING “Christ Be Our Light” (red hymnal #715 vs. 1)

## WORD

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

FIRST READING: Isaiah 2:1-5

<sup>1</sup> The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup> In days to come the mountain of the LORD’s house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. <sup>3</sup> Many peoples shall come and say, “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.” For out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of the LORD from

Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup> He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war anymore. <sup>5</sup> O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

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

PSALM: Psalm 122 (responsive reading)

<sup>1</sup> I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD."

<sup>2</sup> **Now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

<sup>3</sup> Jerusalem is built as a city that is at unity with itself;

<sup>4</sup> **to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD.**

<sup>5</sup> For there are the thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David.

<sup>6</sup> **Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you.**

<sup>7</sup> Peace be within your walls and quietness within your towers.

<sup>8</sup> **For the sake of my kindred and companions, I pray for your prosperity.**

<sup>9</sup> Because of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek to do you good."

SECOND READING: Romans 13:11-14

<sup>11</sup> Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup> the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup> let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup> Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (purple ACS p. 14)

GOSPEL: Matthew 24:36-44 The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples,] <sup>36</sup> "About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>37</sup> For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup> For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup> and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup> Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. <sup>41</sup> Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. <sup>42</sup> Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup> But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup> Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect." The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY "Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning" (purple hymnal #949)

NICENE CREED (purple ACS p. 16)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION      God of grace, **hear our prayer.**  
PEACE      The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

### **MEAL**

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

OFFERING

BLT CHIMERS “Adoro te devote” (“Thee We Adore, O Savior”) setting by Anne Krentz Organ  
OFFERING PRAYER

**Lord of abundance, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING (purple ACS p. 20)

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (purple ACS p. 20)

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (purple ACS p. 21)

LORD’S PRAYER (purple ACS p. 24)

COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONG (purple ACS p. 25)

SONG DURING COMMUNION      “Each Winter As the Year Grows Older” (red hymnal #252)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

### **SENDING**

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

BLESSING

May God who comes among us, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG      “Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers” (red hymnal #244)

DISMISSAL      Go in peace. Keep awake. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE      “Rejoice, Rejoice Believers” arr. by Paul Manz

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**NEXT SUNDAY’S READINGS:** Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-7, 18-19; Rom 15:4-13; Matt 3:1-12

### **THANK YOU TO THOSE SERVING TODAY!**

**GREETER:**

**USHER:** Weisenburger family

**LECTOR:** Cathy Houg

**COFFEE:**

**TREATS:** Mona Dobrava

**ALTAR:** : Weisenburger family

**COMMUNION ASSISTANT:** Cathy Houg

### **SERVING NEXT SUNDAY, DEC. 7**

**GREETER:**

**USHER:**

**LECTOR:** Bryon Weisenburger

**COFFEE:**

**TREATS:** Jan Gohl

**ALTAR:**

**COMMUNION ASSISTANT:** David Gohl

## **BETHEL'S 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**

### **Sunday, November 30 (1 Advent)**

- Worship: 9:00 a.m.
- Sunday school Christmas program practice: following worship
- Christmas Tree Decorating: Join us in the narthex following worship!
- Bethel Breakfast: 10:20 a.m., Longhorn's Burger House, Lester Prairie

### **Monday, December 1** (pastor on vacation)

### **Tuesday, December 2**

- WELCA meeting: 6:30 p.m.

### **Wednesday, December 3**

- Quilting: 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
- Choir practice: 5:45 p.m.
- *Way of the Manger/Light of the World*-Advent worship service: 6:30 p.m.

### **Sunday, December 7 (2 Advent)**

- Worship: 9:00 a.m.
- Sunday school Christmas program practice: following worship
- Intergenerational Sunday school: following worship

**QUESTIONS OR REQUESTS?** Contact the church office at 320-395-2125 or [bethellutheranlp@gmail.com](mailto:bethellutheranlp@gmail.com). If you need emergency pastoral care, please call Pastor Molly Willis at 320-339-8169 or email her at [pastor@lpbethel.org](mailto:pastor@lpbethel.org).

**\*\*EMERGENCY PASTOR\*\***: During Pastor Molly's vacation in November and December, contact Pastor Cathy Jones at 763-528-1784, House of Grace in Montrose.

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

**WEBSITE**: [www.lpbethel.org](http://www.lpbethel.org) | **FACEBOOK**: [www.facebook.com/lpbethel](http://www.facebook.com/lpbethel)

**BULLETIN SUBMISSION DEADLINE**: Wednesday at noon

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**: 25<sup>th</sup> of the month

**VANCO GIVING**: Scan the QR code or visit [www.lpbethel.org](http://www.lpbethel.org)

under the "Give" section, or complete an application and submit it to the church office.

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



#### **MID NOVEMBER 2025**

\$ Contributions:	6,043.00
\$ To Meet Budget:	10,262.01
<b>\$ Difference:</b>	<b>-4,219.01</b>
Weekly Average Attendance:	56

#### **FOR THE YEAR 2025**

YTD \$ Contributions:	94,598.19
YTD \$ To Meet Budget:	112,882.11
<b>YTD \$ Difference:</b>	<b>-18,283.92</b>

### **CHURCH COUNCIL EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**President:** (2 yr. term) David Gohl  
952-358-0201; [david.g.m.gohl@gmail.com](mailto:david.g.m.gohl@gmail.com)  
**Vice-President:** (1 yr. term) Peggy Wick  
612-499-0186; [sully72828@gmail.com](mailto:sully72828@gmail.com)  
**Council Secretary:** (2 yr. term) Julie Hanson  
320-485-7870 or 612-396-8038; [j3hanson@tds.net](mailto:j3hanson@tds.net)  
**Treasurer:** (1 yr. term) Jill Duncan  
320-420-6284; [treasurer@lpbethel.org](mailto:treasurer@lpbethel.org)  
**Financial Secretary:** (2 yr. term) Stacy Meyer  
320-620-1040; [finsec@lpbethel.org](mailto:finsec@lpbethel.org)

### **CHURCH COUNCIL BOARD MEMBERS**

**Trustee Board:** (1 yr. term) Jeff Hanson  
320-485-7870 or 612-396-8374; [j3hanson@tds.net](mailto:j3hanson@tds.net)  
**Trustee Board:** (2 yr. term) Bryon Weisenburger  
320-282-4747; [bryonw@usa.com](mailto:bryonw@usa.com)  
**Finance Board:** (1 yr. term) Mitch Overbye  
952-237-3320; [moverbye8@yahoo.com](mailto:moverbye8@yahoo.com)  
**Finance Board:** (2 yr. term) Sara Jepsen  
605-760-0685; [candsjepsen@gmail.com](mailto:candsjepsen@gmail.com)  
**Education Board:** (1 yr. term) Pete Hallberg  
507-430-8609; [phallberg58@icloud.com](mailto:phallberg58@icloud.com)  
**Education Board:** (2 yr. term) Katie Radtke  
952-215-6878; [gemini.radtke@gmail.com](mailto:gemini.radtke@gmail.com)

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS**

- **ADVENT 2025:** Please look for Bethel's Facebook posts about our upcoming mid-week Advent worship services on December 3, 10, and 17 at 6:30 p.m., as well as our Candlelight Christmas Eve service at 4:00 p.m. Please share these posts so that others know they are invited and welcome to join us. You can also share them on your community pages, such as New Life in Lester Prairie. If you need help, ask a Bethel Lutheran Teen. Additionally, the Sunday School Christmas program is on December 21, during worship.
- **WELCA ADVENT MISSION PROJECT:** Bethel WELCA has partnered with the Lester Prairie School Outreach Program to sponsor three local families this year. During Advent, a Christmas Giving Tree will have wish lists/tags hung on it to take and purchase items.
- **POINSETTIA SIGN-UP:** It is time to order poinsettias to adorn our sanctuary. A sign-up sheet with more information is on the bulletin board. Thank you so much for your participation!
- **LAST DAY TO APPLY FOR ENDOWMENT GRANTS:** Endowment grant applications will be accepted through November 30. The yellow Endowment Grant applications are on the wall in the narthex, to the right of the church mailboxes. Place the completed applications in the Endowment Committee mailbox. The grants will be announced at the annual meeting.
- **FOOD BAG ITEM COLLECTION:** We are collecting **granola bars and protein bars** to donate to Common Cup Ministry's Weekend Food Program for school children in need. Donations may be left in the Common Cup Corner in the narthex.
- **ANNUAL REPORT REMINDER:** Email your Annual Reports to [bethellutheranlp@gmail.com](mailto:bethellutheranlp@gmail.com) by **December 10**. (*Pastor, Council President, Education Board, Finance Board, Trustee Board, WELCA President, Committees: Cemetery, Endowment, and Worship.*) Email your Financial Annual Reports by **January 10**. (*Council Treasurer, 2026 Budget, and WELCA Treasurer.*)
- **NOMINATION COMMITTEE SEEKING CANDIDATES FOR 2026:** Open positions include **Congregation Council:** Vice-President, Treasurer, Finance Board, and Education Board (all 2-year terms). *The Finance and Education Board members partner with another board member, and only one person from the board needs to attend the monthly council meeting.* **Congregation Committees:** Cemetery 2-year term/*need one*; Endowment Committee 3-year terms/*need two*; Audit 3-year term/*need one*; Nominations Committee 1-year terms/*need four*; Representatives for ELCA Synod Assembly in June/*need one male and one female*. Contact Peggy Wick, Ron Foust, Cathy Houg, Emily Koehler, or Tamie Foust with questions or if you're interested in volunteering.



## **WAYS TO PARTICIPATE IN SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP**

***You can serve with family, friends, or on your own—no experience is necessary.***

A **Greeter** welcomes every member and guest as they enter the church. This role involves making introductions, assisting those with full hands, providing directions, extending invitations, and sharing a warm smile. For questions, please call Ron Foust at 612-201-2351.

An **Usher** greets people at the sanctuary door, lights the candles before the service, distributes bulletins, informs parents about our nursery, collects offerings, guides individuals to communion, answers questions as they arise, and provides a welcoming and helpful presence for both members and guests! For questions, please call the office at 320-395-2125.

A **Lector** is responsible for reading scripture lessons during worship services. Occasionally, you may also be asked to assist with other parts of the service, such as reading prayers or liturgy. For questions, please call Cathy Houg at 320-282-2152.

A **Worship Assistant** helps the pastor during the service, primarily assisting with communion and baptisms. For questions, please call Pastor Molly at 320-339-8169.

**The Altar Guild** prepares the sanctuary for worship by arranging the sacraments, filling candles, and changing altar cloths. For questions, please call Judy Angvall at 612-501-3233.

***Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board in the narthex.***

**Other ways to participate:** You could provide special music, offer flowers to decorate the sanctuary, deliver a children's message, or join the Worship & Music Committee. Contact the office if you need more information.

***We welcome volunteers of all ages and look forward to your involvement!  
Together, we can fulfill our mission and ministry!***