

Bethel Lutheran Church

Rev. Molly Wills, Pastor | Jan Smith, Accompanist

Transfiguration | Sunday, February 15, 2026

ACS Holy Communion Setting 12

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.**



Gathering

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

MEDITATION TIME

“Give Me Jesus” arr. by Mark Hayes

“Here I Am Lord and Siyahamba” arr. by John Carter

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING SONG “Go, Make Disciples” (green binder #82)

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters. **Amen.**

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely. Mighty God, lover of justice, **you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ and forgives your sin in + Jesus’ name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace. **Amen.**

SONG OF PRAISE

“Right by the Water” by Hans Peterson

RIGHT BY THE WATER

Hans Peterson

With a gospel feel (swing 8th notes)
♩ = 105

Refrain

C/E F G C

You are a tree right by the wa-ter with

Dm7 G C C/E

roots that came from a small seed. Drink deep from the

F G C A7 G/B A/C#

source, sons and daugh- ters. Bear

Dm7 C/E F G7 C F C/E Dm7 C *Last time Fine*

fruit, reach for who you can be.

G7 Verse Dm7 G C

Come one and all, lost, lone - ly,
 Christ stands be - side, calls out your
 The riv - er brings a proph - et's

F E Am

poor. name: dream:
 Blest are you; God's realm is yours.
 "I am with you in your pain."
 "Let jus - tice flow like a stream."

Am/G F G C

All hun - gry souls you will be
 May liv - ing wa - ters so make you
 Love has come so all may

A7 Dm7 C/E F G C to Refrain

fed. whole. live. All you who weep will laugh in - stead.
 May you find peace for your soul.
 In - spir - ed we joy - ful - ly give.

GREETING (purple ACS p. 30)

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 God, in the transfiguration of your Son you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice from the bright cloud declaring Jesus your beloved Son, you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us heirs with Christ of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE "Shine, Jesus Shine" (green binder #30)

Word

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

FIRST READING: Exodus 24:12-18

¹² The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain and wait there; I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." ¹³ So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up onto the mountain of God. ¹⁴ To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come back to you. Look, Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them." ¹⁵ Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. ¹⁶ The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. ¹⁷ Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the Israelites. ¹⁸ Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 2(responsive reading)

¹ Why are the nations in an uproar? Why do the peoples mutter empty threats?

² **Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt, and the princes plot together, against the LORD and against the LORD's anointed?**

³ "Let us break their yoke," they say; "let us cast off their bonds from us."

⁴ **God whose throne is in heaven is laughing; the LORD holds them in derision.**

⁵ Then in wrath God speaks to them, and in rage fills them with terror.

⁶ **"As for me, I have anointed my king upon Zion, my holy mountain."**

⁷ Let me announce the decree of the LORD, who said to me, "You are my son; this day have I begotten you." ⁸ **Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance and the ends anointed of the earth for your possession.**

⁹ You shall crush them with an iron rod and shatter them like a piece of pottery."

¹⁰ **And now, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth.**

¹¹ Submit to the LORD with fear, and with trembling bow in worship;

¹² **lest the LORD be angry, and you perish in a sudden blaze of wrath. Happy are all who take refuge in God!**

SECOND READING: 2 Peter 1:16-21

¹⁶ We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷ For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

¹⁸ We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain. ¹⁹ So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. ²⁰ First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, ²¹ because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION “Help us, O Lord” (repeat 2x)

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: Matthew 17:1-9 The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. ² And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became bright as light. ³ Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴ Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will set up three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” ⁵ While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!” ⁶ When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. ⁷ But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.” ⁸ And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

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

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

SONG OF THE DAY “I Saw the Light” (green binder #131)

APOSTLES’ CREED (purple ACS p. 17-18)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Merciful God, **receive 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.

OFFERTORY “Create in Me a Clean Heart” (green binder #22)

OFFERING PRAYER

God of majesty, we return to you a portion of what you have entrusted 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 Savior and Lord. Amen.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

LORD'S PRAYER (purple ACS p. 39) **Our Father, who art in heaven...**

COMMUNION

SONG DURING COMMUNION "O Beauty Ever Ancient" (purple hymnal #1100)

O Beauty Ever Ancient

1100



1 O beau-ty ev - er an - cient, O beau - ty ev - er new,
2 O beau-ty in cre - a - tion, in world of sound and sight,
3 O beau-ty that is move - ment in liq - uid line of grace,
4 O beau-ty of the Spir - it where love is shin - ing through,



di - vine and Ho - ly Pres - ence, my be - ing sings to you,
O beau - ty in the si - lence, in dark-ness as in light,
O beau - ty that is still - ness in love - ly form or face,
O beau - ty ev - er an - cient, O beau - ty ev - er new,



in grat - i-tude, in wor - ship my be - ing sings to you!

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

May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise + bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG "We Are Marching in the Light: Siyahamba" (red hymnal #866)

DISMISSAL Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy. **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE "Fairest Lord Jesus" arr. by Carol Tornquist

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NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS: Gen. 2:15-17, 3:1-7; Ps 32; Rom 5:12-19; Matt 4:1-11

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, February 15 (Transfiguration)

- Praise Worship: 9:00 a.m. (Thank you, Pastor Margo, for leading us in worship today!)
- Sunday school: following worship

Ash Wednesday, February 18

- Quilting: 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
- Lenten meal: 5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.
- Ash Wednesday worship service: 6:30 p.m.
- Choir practice: following the worship service
- Book Club discussion: following choir practice

Sunday, February 22 (Lent 1)

- Worship: 9:00 a.m.
- Sunday school: following worship
- Intergenerational Sunday school with Pastor Molly: following worship
- Bethel Breakfast: 10:30 a.m., Longhorn's Burger House, LP

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 | **FACEBOOK:** www.facebook.com/lpbethel

BULLETIN SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Wednesday at noon

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: 25th of the month

VANCO GIVING: Scan the QR code or visit 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**



Thank you to those serving today!

GREETER: Mia S. and Evie K.

ALTAR GUILD: Judy A.

CANDLELIGHTER:

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Dave G.

USHER:

LECTOR: Dave G.

COFFEE:

TREATS:

Serving next Sunday, February 22

GREETER:

ALTAR GUILD:

CANDLELIGHTER:

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Dave G.

USHER:

LECTOR: Dave G.

COFFEE:

TREATS:

Announcements and Upcoming Events

HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER: Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m., February 25, March 4, 11, 18, & 25.

LENTEN FAITH STORIES: Please listen to the Holy Spirit and consider signing up on the narthex board to share your faith story/journey. This year, our Wednesday night readings will focus on food and how it connects us to God. As written in *Food and Faith: A Theology of Eating*: “Created life is God’s love made tastable and given for the good of another. The mundane act of eating is thus a daily invitation to move responsibly and gratefully within this given life. It is a summons to commune with the divine Life that is presupposed and made manifest in every bite”. Some questions are new to connect with the readings, but you do not need to follow them or even talk about food. It is simply another way to think about your relationship with God. For more information, please check the sign-up sheet. For questions, talk to Pastor Molly or send her an email (pastor@lpbethel.org).

LENTEN MEALS: Serving Wednesdays from 5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. Feb. 18 to Mar. 25. A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex for anyone who wants to help organize, prepare, and serve a meal for 35-40 people. A Thrivent Action Team grant will purchase all food ingredients for the meals. You will be provided with a card to buy your groceries. Contact Diane Horsman for the card or if you have questions. If you prefer, you can sign up to bring a pan of bars or help clean up. A free-will offering will be taken every week to support WELCA’s yearly projects.

LENTEN PROJECT – DIAPER DRIVE: During the Lenten season, WELCA will be collecting diapers for Common Cup, the McLeod Emergency Food Shelf, and DAV (Disabled American Veterans), all in McLeod County. The greatest need is baby size 4-6 and adult diapers. Watch for a collection container in the Narthex. Thank you in advance for your support!

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS: If you believe your child is ready for a First Communion class, please email Pastor Molly at pastor@lpbethel.org. We will have the class on Sunday, March 29th, after the worship service, and celebrate First Communion during the worship service on Sunday, April 26.

BETHEL BOOK CLUB – MARCH: *Tigers Between Empires* by Jonathan C. Slaght Discussion date: Wed., Mar. 18, following choir practice. A copy of each book for the 2026 Bethel Book Club is available on our library shelf, along with a schedule of discussion dates. We invite you to join us on the third Wednesday evening of each month as we learn and grow together. Special thanks to Thrivent and Sara J. for writing the grant that allowed us to purchase the titles!

REMINDER TO THRIVENT MEMBERS: **The annual deadline for directing Thrivent Choice Dollars is coming up on March 31, 2026.** Please consider directing these dollars to Bethel Lutheran Church. If you do not direct these dollars to an organization of your choice by the deadline, they will be directed elsewhere. If you have any questions or need help, contact the church office. Thank you!

THANK YOU FROM PUAN PRIMARY SCHOOL IN KENYA: Thank you from the bottom of our hearts! Your donation will greatly help the kids of Puan School continue their education. You are making a huge difference in their lives! -Jennifer Bauer and Puan Primary School

HEY CAMPERS, SUMMER REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN - LIVING STORIES AT THE WATER’S EDGE 2026: Early Bird pricing ends February 19, and spots are filling quickly! Contact the office at 320-796-2181 or email camp@gllm.org if you have questions.

PICK UP YOUR CHURCH DIRECTORY: 2026 Directories are available in the narthex. If you would like a copy and we are out, contact Tamie for one. Your directory is a helpful resource to keep in touch with Bethel members, Council members, Committees, Staff, and Volunteer Chairpersons.

BETHEL MEMBERS: The Council has compiled a list of items for our church and congregation. Some items are wishes, while others are urgent needs. By no means do we want to take away from your regular giving, which keeps our budget in balance. Therefore, any donations toward these items would be considered above and beyond your regular giving. If you would like to donate specifically for these items, it would be greatly appreciated. You can make your financial gifts anonymously. For more information, feel free to contact any member of the Council Executive Board. (item list below)

Riding lawn mower: pre-owned-\$2,000 to \$4,000; new-\$13,000 to \$18,000 (urgent need)

Battery-operated weed whip: \$299.00

Paper shredder: \$35.00 to 485.00

Security camera system: \$1,200.00 to 5,000.00

Doorbell for the [locked] front door: \$600.00 to \$1,000.00

Paper towel dispensers [for two downstairs restrooms]: (Donation received, thank you!)

Thank you for considering a donation!

COUNCIL SEEKING TO FILL ONE EDUCATION BOARD POSITION: The council is looking to add a member to the Education Board. This role involves acting as a liaison with the Sunday school teachers, working with the current Education Board, and attending monthly meetings. If you have questions or would like a complete job description, feel free to reach out to any council member. Thank you!

CHURCH COUNCIL EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: (1 yr. term) David Gohl

952-358-0201; david.g.m.gohl@gmail.com

Vice-President: (2 yr. term) Jean Hallberg

507-430-2671; jhallberg59@icloud.com

Council Secretary: (1 yr. term) Julie Hanson

320-485-7870 or 612-396-8038; j3hanson@tds.net

Treasurer: (2 yr. term) Jill Duncan

320-420-6284; treasurer@lpbethel.org

Financial Secretary: (1 yr. term) Stacy Meyer

320-620-1040; finsec@lpbethel.org

CHURCH COUNCIL BOARD MEMBERS

Trustee Board: (1 yr. term) Bryon Weisenburger

320-282-4747; bryonw@usa.com

Trustee Board: (2 yr. term) Jeff Hanson

320-485-7870 or 612-396-8374;

j3hanson@tds.net

Finance Board: (1 yr. term) Sara Jepsen

605-760-0685; candsjepsen@gmail.com

Finance Board: (2 yr. term) Peggy Wick

612-499-0186; sully72828@gmail.com

Education Board: (1 yr. term) Katie Radtke

952-215-6878; gemini.radtke@gmail.com

Education Board: (2 yr. term)

Ways to Participate in Sunday Morning Worship

A **Greeter** welcomes every member and guest at the front door. 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 to **Light the Altar Candles** before the worship service. During the Advent season, there are opportunities to light candles for the Advent wreath each week. For questions, please call Pastor Molly at 320-339-8169.

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.

*All sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board in the narthex, outside the sanctuary.
You can serve with family, friends, or on your own—no experience is necessary!
We welcome volunteers of all ages and look forward to your involvement!
Together, we can fulfill our mission and ministry!*

