

WELCOME TO BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH!

10th Sunday after Pentecost | Sunday, August 2, 2026

ELW Holy Communion Setting Eight

Rev. Molly Wills, Pastor | Jan Smith, Accompanist



GATHERING

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

(Congregational response in bold print)

MEDITATION TIME *Come, Share the Lord arr. by Mark Hayes*

Morning Has Broken arr. by Michael Larkin

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP SONG *Open My Heart to Your Love (verse 1 only)*

OPEN MY HEART TO YOUR LOVE

Hans Peterson

Swing eighth notes

♩ = 95

System 1: Chords: C, F, G7, C. Lyrics: O - pen my heart to your love, oh God. Hea - ler of na - tions and your love, - ken hearts, O - pen my heart to your love, oh God.

System 2: Chords: F/C, C, G, C. Lyrics: O - pen my eyes to your grace. you are the path - way to your peace. O - pen my eyes to your grace. Sing - er of O - pen my

System 3: Chords: D#dim, C/E, Am, C/G, Dm7, C/E, F. Lyrics: life to re - ceive your word. Send wis - dom and cour - age to life in the face of your death, may we be your ves - sels so life to re - ceive your word. Send wis - dom and cour - age to

System 4: Chords: C/G, G, C, C7, F/C, Fm/C, 1.2 C, G7, 3 C. Lyrics: fol - low your way. love will in - crease. fol - low your way.

*Consider singing verse one by itself as a refrain between scripture readings.

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CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, whose compassion endures forever. Amen. Let us confess our sin to God. Compassionate God, **we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy, and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.** Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. **Rest in God's love. Amen.**

GATHERING SONG *Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness* (ELW 843)

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of our Creator, 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...**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Glorious God, your generosity waters the world with goodness, and you cover creation with abundance. Awaken in us a hunger for the food that satisfies both body and spirit, and with this food fill all the starving world; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:1-5

A reading from Isaiah. ¹ Hear, everyone who thirsts; come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread and your earnings for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. ³ Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. ⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. ⁵ Now you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21 (responsive reading)

⁸ The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

⁹ **LORD, you are good to all, and your compassion is over all your works.**

¹⁴ The Lord upholds all those who fall and lifts up those who are bowed down.

¹⁵ **The eyes of all wait upon you, O LORD, and you give them their food in due season.**

¹⁶ You open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

¹⁷ **You are righteous in all your ways and loving in all your works.**

¹⁸ You are near to all who call upon you, to all who call upon you faithfully.

¹⁹ **You fulfill the desire of those who fear you; you hear their cry and save them.**

²⁰ You watch over all those who love you, but all the wicked you shall destroy.

²¹ **My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD; let all flesh bless God's holy name forever and ever.**

SECOND READING: Romans 9:1-5

A reading from Romans. ¹ I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit—² I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. ³ For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own brothers and sisters, my own flesh and blood. ⁴ They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; ⁵ to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Christ, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 188) **Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go...**

GOSPEL: Matthew 14:13-21

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹³ Now when Jesus heard [about the beheading of John the Baptist,] he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴ When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. ¹⁵ When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." ¹⁶ Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." ¹⁷ They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." ¹⁸ And he said, "Bring them here to me." ¹⁹ Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰ And all ate and were filled, and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. ²¹ And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children. The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service* (ELW 712)

APOSTLES' CREED (ELW p. 105)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *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.

OFFERING SONG *Now the Feast of Celebration* (ELW 167)

OFFERING PRAYER

Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts you first gave to us. Loosen the bonds these material things have wrapped around us. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your gifts and love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING (ELW p. 190)

DIALOGUE

PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 190)

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

HYMN *The Lord's Prayer* (GB 134)

COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONG (ELW p. 191)

SONG DURING COMMUNION *Come to the Water of Life* (ACS 955)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING

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

BLESSING

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, + one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ* (ELW 674)

DISMISSAL Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news! **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE *All Who Are Thirsty* arr. by Carol Tornquist

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NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS: 1 Kings 19:9-18; Ps 85:8-13; Rom 10:5-15; Matt 14:22-33

THANK YOU TO THOSE SERVING TODAY!

QUESTIONS OR REQUESTS

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.

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BULLETIN SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Wednesday at noon

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: 25th of the month

THIS WEEK AT BETHEL...

Sunday, August 2

- Worship: 9 a.m.
- Inter-Gen Vacation Bible School: 10:00-12:30 p.m.

Monday, August 3 (office hours)

Tuesday, August 4

- *(National Night Out-Bethel members handing out frozen treats at Central Square Park)*

Wednesday, August 5 (office hours)

- Bible study: 11:30 a.m.
- Quilting: 1:00 p.m.
- MEFS Outreach bus: 2:30 p.m., Bethel parking lot
- WELCA meeting: 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, August 9

- Worship: 9 a.m.
- Inter-Gen Vacation Bible School: 10:00-12:30 p.m.

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.



WAYS TO GIVE

- **TEXT GIVING:** Text the dollar amount to **866-298-7547**

- **VANCO GIVING:** Scan QR code



- **VISIT www.lpbethel.org:**
Click under the "Give" section
- **COMPLETE AN APPLICATION FORM**
[found on the narthex wall] and submit it to the church office.



Every one of us walked in here today with something to offer — a skill, a passion, a gift that this congregation needs. Stewardship means asking honestly, 'What has God given me, and am I putting it to use?'

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

BETHEL QUILT AUCTION DONATION: Bethel's floral quilt in gray and yellow, donated to Water's Edge Ministries at Green Lake Bible Camp, was sold for \$300 at the live auction on Saturday, July 25. The auction raised over \$144,000.

COMMON CUP DONATIONS: Please bring in your donations of applesauce cups and fruit cups for the food program at Common Cup Ministries. You can leave them in the basket in the "Common Cup Corner" of the narthex. Thank you!

JOIN US FOR OUTDOOR WORSHIP—Sunday, August 16, 9:00 a.m.

Remember to bring a blanket or lawn chairs. Worship will be held indoors if the weather is bad. (Stay for Intergenerational Vacation Bible School-everyone is welcome to join in the fun!)

POOLSIDE PLATES—Wednesday, August 19, serving Noon-1:00 p.m. (or until the food is gone) Free meals for any Lester Prairie kids under age 16 at the 2nd Ave. Park Picnic Shelter. If you have questions, contact Terri Helland at terrihelland@gmail.com. Sponsored by Bethel Lutheran Church Endowment grant, Lester Prairie Youth Task Force, Lester Prairie Lions Club, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, and St. Paul's Sandwich Ministry, Lester Prairie.

BETHEL'S WISH LIST: If you're looking for more ways to support our church community, please check out **Bethel's Wish List: riding lawn mower and Security camera system.** Please let a council member know if you would like to donate! Thank you to those who have already donated!

SAVE THE DATE: Women's Retreat at Water's Edge, Medayto Lodge, September 11-13

NEW ALTAR CHAIRPERSON NEEDED: We are seeking a volunteer to serve as the Altar Chairperson. The role involves preparing the sanctuary for worship, including arranging the sacraments, filling the oil altar candles, changing altar cloths, preparing for baptisms, and ordering supplies or coordinating with others for assistance. If you are interested in this position, contact Judy Angvall at 612-501-3233 as soon as possible so she can guide you through the process. *Additionally, a sign-up sheet is available on the bulletin board for families or individuals who would like to volunteer for any Sunday. A sign-up rotation helps ensure that no one person is solely responsible every week, allowing us to continue having weekly communion.*