WELCOME!

5th Sunday after Pentecost | Sunday, June 28, 2026
Bethel's Annual Bergen Church Worship Service
David Gohl, Worship Leader & Lector | Emily Koehler, Song Leader

GATHERING

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

(Congregational response in bold print)

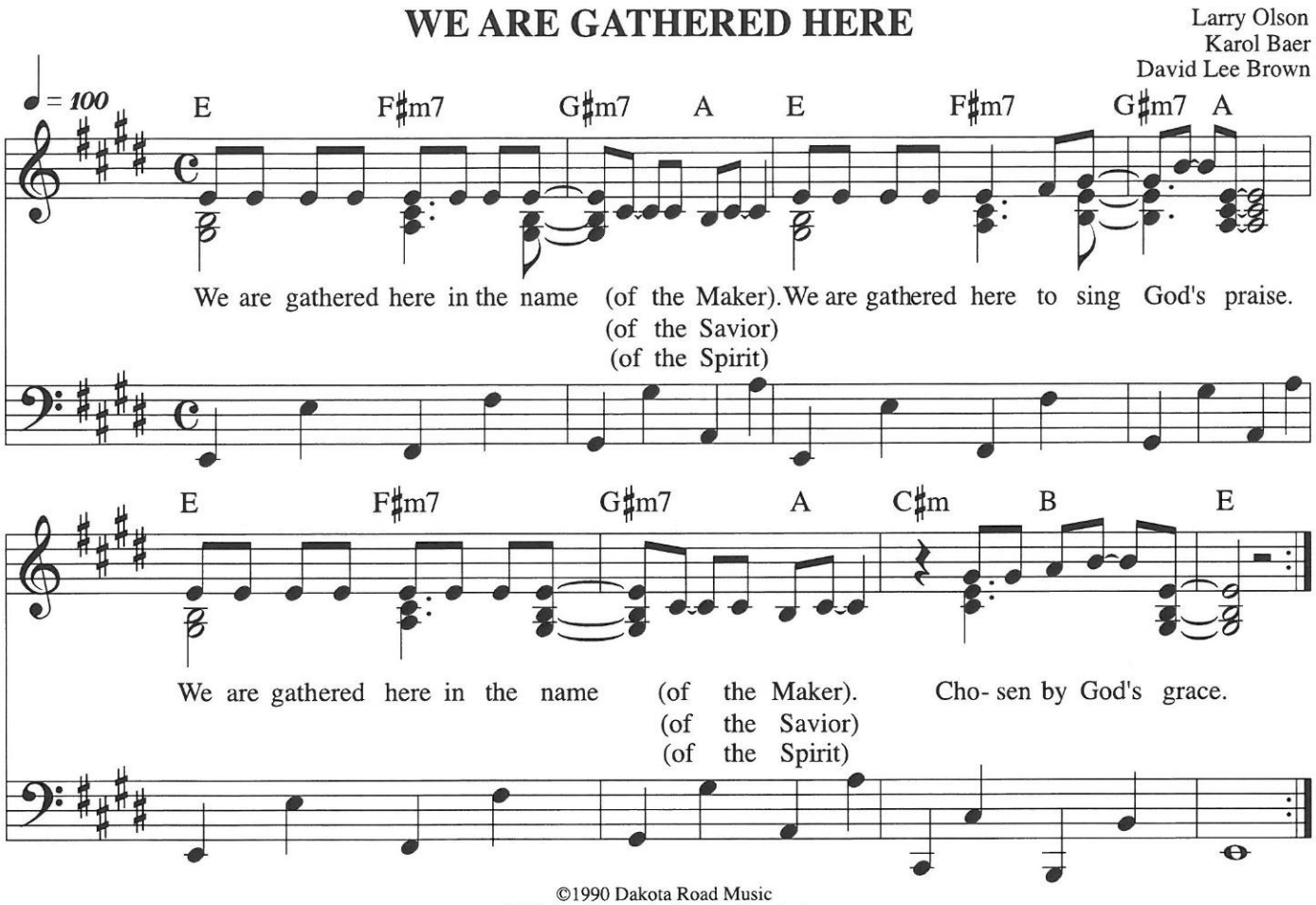
MEDITATION TIME

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETING

We gather today to worship God and to give thanks for the roots of our Bethel church in Lester Prairie. We'll sit in the memories of yesterday and see the hope of tomorrow in one another as we commune together. Let's begin our worship in 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.**

CALL TO WORSHIP SONG *We Are Gathered Here*



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FIRST READING: Jeremiah 28:5-9

A reading from Jeremiah. [5] The prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the LORD, [6] and the prophet Jeremiah said, "Amen! May the LORD do so; may the LORD fulfill the words that you have prophesied and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the LORD and all the exiles. [7] But listen now to this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. [8] The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. [9] As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes true, then it will be known that the LORD has truly sent the prophet." The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

MEMORIES OF BERGEN Lois Severson, read by Jan Smith

SONG OF PRAISE *Beautiful Savior*

[1] **Beautiful Savior, King of creation, Son of God and Son of Man!**
Truly I'd love thee, truly I'd serve thee, light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

[2] **Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands, robed in flow'rs of blooming spring; Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, he makes our sorrowing spirit sing.**

[3]**Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight, bright the sparkling stars on high; Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer than all the angels in the sky.**

[4]**Beautiful Savior, King of creation, Son of God and Son of Man! Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forevermore be thine!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, you direct our lives by your grace, and your words of justice and mercy reshape the world. Mold us into a people who welcome your word and serve one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

PSALM: Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18 (responsive reading)

[1] Your love, O LORD, forever will I sing; from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.
[2] **For I am persuaded that your steadfast love is established forever; you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.**
[3] "I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn an oath to David my servant:
[4] **'I will establish your line forever, and preserve your throne for all generations.' "**
[15] Happy are the people who know the festal shout! They walk, O LORD, in the light of your presence.
[16] **They rejoice daily in your name; they are jubilant in your righteousness.**

[17] For you are the glory of their strength, and by your favor our might is exalted.
[18] **Truly, our shield belongs to the LORD; our king to the Holy One of Israel.**

MEMORIES OF BERGEN Dorothy Eide, read by Evie Koehler

SONG OF PRAISE *Here I Am, Lord*

[1] **"I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry. All who dwell in dark and sin, my hand will save. I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright. Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"**

Refrain **Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.**

[2] **"I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain. I have wept for love of them. They turn away. I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone. I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"** *Refrain*

[3] **"I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame. I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied. I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"** *Refrain*

SECOND READING: Romans 6:12-23

A reading from Romans. [12] Do not let sin reign in your mortal bodies, so that you obey their desires. [13] No longer present your members to sin as instruments of unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. [14] For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. [15] What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! [16] Do you not know that, if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? [17] But thanks be to God that you who were slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted [18] and that you, having been set free from sin, have become enslaved to righteousness. [19] I am speaking in human terms because of your limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and lawlessness, leading to even more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, leading to sanctification. [20] When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. [21] So what fruit did you then gain from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. [22] But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the fruit you have leads to sanctification, and the end is eternal life. [23] For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

MEMORIES OF BERGEN Mary Lou Teubert, read by Jill Duncan

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 10: 40-42

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

[Jesus said to the twelve:] 40 "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. 41 Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous, 42 and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."

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

MEMORIES OF BERGEN Roger Martin, read by Lachlynn Sawatzke

SONG OF THE DAY *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*

1 **Amazing grace!—how sweet the sound—that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.**

2 **'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved; how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!**

3 **Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come; 'tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.**

4 **The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures; he will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.**

5 **When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun, we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

PEACE The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING SONG *Father I Adore You*

1 **Father, I adore You, Lay my life before You, How I love_____You.**

2 **Jesus, I adore You, Lay my life before You, How I love_____You.**

3 **Spirit, I adore You, Lay my life before You, How I love_____You.**

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.

MEMORIES OF BERGEN Lowell Eide

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

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

SENDING SONG *I Love to Tell the Story*

[1] I love to tell the story of unseen things above, of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love. I love to tell the story, because I know it's true; it satisfies my longings as nothing else would do.

Refrain

I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

[2] I love to tell the story: how pleasant to repeat what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet! I love to tell the story, for some have never heard the message of salvation from God's own holy word. *Refrain*

[3] I love to tell the story, for those who know it best seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest. And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song, I'll sing the old, old story that I have loved so long. *Refrain*

PRAYER FOR LUNCH AND DISMISSAL

Lord, thank you for gathering us at your table. Bless the food we are about to eat that it may nourish our bodies. Bless all those here, that we may experience your loving presence through one another, and then go out and share your love with the world. Amen.

Heaven has come near. Go eat your fill, and after, share the good news of God's love! **Thanks be to God!**

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NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS: Zech 9:9-12; Ps 145:8-14; Rom 7:15-25a; Matt 11:16-19, 25-30

Bergen History

1. The church was built in the countryside, but the parsonage was built in Glencoe.
2. The Old School House burned down after an unauthorized New Year's Eve party.
3. The first church was sold at auction and moved a mile down the road. Now, it is an unrecognizable, dilapidated hog shed.
4. In 1968, Bethel Lutheran Church was built in Lester Prairie. Several items were brought over from Bergen Church to the new church: the bell that now hangs in the bell tower, the old organ and the light above it in the narthex, the old baptismal font, the stained glass windows that frame the lighted cross, and the painting of Jesus by the pews in Bethel's lower level.

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.

Bethel's Wish List

If you're looking for more ways to support our church community, please check out Bethel's Wish List on the bulletin boards in the narthex or by the offices. Please let a council member know if you would like to donate!
Thank you to those who have already donated from the list!

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.
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

This week at Bethel

Sunday, June 28

- Worship: 10:00 a.m.
- Potluck 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday, July 1

- No Bible study
- Quilting: 1:00 p.m.
- WELCA meeting: 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, July 4 (Independence Day)
Sunday, July 5

- Worship: 9:00 a.m. (Rev. LaDonna Ekern)

Pastoral Care Coverage June 28—July 6:
Rev. Erik Karlson, 507-766-5870, Pastor of Christ Lutheran Church in Glencoe.

TEXT GIVING

To give, text the dollar amount to 866-298-7547 *or*
VANCO GIVING
Scan the QR code
or visit www.lpbethel.org
Click under the "Give" section, *or* complete an application form [from the narthex] and submit it to the church office.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

IMPORTANT CHANGES IN THE THRIVENT CHOICE PROGRAM: ALL Thrivent members now receive Choice Dollars annually, not just those with certain policies. Those Dollars are available in FULL at the beginning of each year—**2026 Choice Dollars are available to direct NOW!** All Dollars must be directed by the end of the calendar year, December 31, rather than the former March 31 date. We encourage all Thrivent members to visit your online account SOON and consider directing your Thrivent Choice Dollars to Bethel Lutheran Church! Thank you!

NEW ALTAR CHAIRPERSON: We are looking for someone to take the role of Altar Chairperson. If you are interested, please let Judy know asap so she can teach you the process. All are welcome to get involved! Thanks for considering!

BETHEL PRAIRIE DAYS PARADE FLOAT: We are looking for volunteers to help plan and create a float for the upcoming Prairie Days parade on July 18. Nicole K. and Jan S. have already expressed their interest in being involved, but they need additional help to bring this project to life. If you are interested in joining the team, please reach out to them for more information.

BETHEL COMMUNITY GARDEN NEEDS YOU! We are looking for volunteers to help us tend this season's garden—whether you have a green thumb or just a willing spirit, there's a place for you here. We need help with planting, weeding, harvesting, and general maintenance.
Every hour of help makes a difference in what we can grow and share with others.

COMMON CUP FOOD DONATIONS: We are collecting applesauce cups and fruit cups for the food program at Common Cup Ministries. Your donations may be left in the basket in the "Common Cup Corner" in the narthex.

"A FOR ALABASTER" WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: All women are invited and encouraged to attend Bible study on Wednesdays, July 8, 15, & 22, from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the church narthex. The book *A is for Alabaster,* written by Anna Carter Florence, will take us on an engaging tour of the Old and New Testaments with reflections that reveal wisdom from long ago and spark imagination to apply wisdom to our lives today. You are always invited to bring a friend! (If you have questions, please ask Jan Smith.)

POOLSIDE PLATES—Wednesday, July 15, & 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, 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.

JOIN US FOR OUTDOOR WORSHIP—Sunday, July 19 & 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 VBS on the 16th; everyone is welcome to join in the fun!)*

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN—Tuesday, July 21, 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. (Arrive by 4:45 p.m.)
Our church will be serving a shift at Feed My Starving Children, Chanhassen location, 18732 Lake DR E, Chanhassen, MN 55317. Volunteers may meet at the Chanhassen site or carpool from the church. All ages are welcome to join this meaningful, hands-on way to help children around the world. Please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the narthex by Sunday, July 6. Nicole Kleve can answer any questions you may have. Thank you for helping us make a difference!

LUTHERAN MEN IN MISSION: 32nd Annual Best Ball Golf Tournament, Friday, July 24th
Registration-2:30 p.m., Shotgun Start-3:00 p.m., Price-$85.00 per golfer (includes golf cart, green fees, meal, prizes, and a donation to LMM), Redwood Falls Golf Club, Redwood Falls, MN. Registration deadline is Monday, July 20th. Registration forms are available from the church office.

GLASS MOSIAC & MEAL EVENT—Monday, July 27, 6:00 p.m.
This event is planned for Bethel women and girls ages 15 and up. We will start with a meal followed by the mosaic project, instructed by Linda Reinert of Mosaics at the Farm. No prior mosaic experience is necessary. All glass is cut and tumbled, ensuring there are no sharp edges. **Registration deadline is Wednesday, July 22. Registration is not complete until payment is received.** Cost is $20 per person. For questions, contact Jean Hallberg at 507-430-2671 or email jhallberg59@icloud.com.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS COMING! Just Like Me: Digging In and Growing Deep
Everyone is invited to join us at Bethel on **Sundays, August 2, 9, and 16**, after worship until 12:30 p.m. (lunch at noon) for an inclusive, multi-age Vacation Bible School centered on the active faith lives of children, youth, and families, and the real-world context in which we live. We will practice sharing what we have, finding our community, and using our voices for others. We will meet in small groups for Bible lessons and hands-on activities appropriate for each age group. Each session will also include time for all age groups to gather, sing, share an activity, eat, and end the day together. To register, sign the sheet in the narthex or email bethellutheranlp@gmail.com. All participants are asked to fill out a participation form. If you have questions, ask Jan S. or Katie R.

ATTENTION THRIVENT MEMBERS—Can You Help Us?
One of the adult activities during Vacation Bible School will be to complete a service project for people around the world in need of clean water. Each Thrivent member can order and receive one "Water Filter Kit" at no cost each year. These can be ordered online-go to your Thrivent account and choose "Get a Thrivent Cause Kit". The kit you want to order is the "Water Filter Kit" (not the "Solar Light Build"). Once you order the kit, you will receive it in about a week. Bring the box to church and place it near the Common Cup Corner. We will store it and put the filters together in August**. (Each filter will provide clean water for 12 people for 10 years.)**

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL HELP NEEDED! We are looking for people who are willing to help facilitate Bible story lessons for children, youth, and adults during Vacation Bible School. The lessons will be planned and the materials gathered for you. You may volunteer to teach one lesson once, or you may choose to teach a lesson each day of VBS. We are very flexible! It will also be just fine for two people to work as a team. We are also seeking people willing to prepare food for meals. Of course, the facilitators and cooks need people to teach and feed, so registering to attend is an important task too! **The "sign-up" to help is in the church narthex.**