

WELCOME TO BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH!

11th Sunday after Pentecost | Sunday, August 9, 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 *How Can I Keep from Singing* arr. by Mark Hayes

When Peace Like a River/The Water is Wide arr. by Rachel Trelstad Porter

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 my 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 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 *Shout to the Lord (ELW 821)*

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

O God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your children from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Chris, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

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

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 19:9-18

A reading from 1 Kings. ⁹ At [Horeb, the mount of God,][Elijah] came to a cave and spent the night there. Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁰ He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." ¹¹ He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind, and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake, ¹² and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire, and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. ¹³ When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁴ He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." ¹⁵ Then the LORD said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. ¹⁶ Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel, and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place.

¹⁷ Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill, and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. ¹⁸ Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.”

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

PSALM: Psalm 85:8-13 (responsive reading)

⁸ I will listen to what the LORD God is saying; for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.

⁹ **Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you, that your glory may dwell in our land.**

¹⁰ Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

¹¹ **Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

¹² The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, and our land will yield its increase.

¹³ **Righteousness shall go before the LORD and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

SECOND READING: Romans 10:5-15

A reading from Romans. ⁵ Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that “the person who does these things will live by them.” ⁶ But the righteousness that comes from faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷ “or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸ But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim), ⁹ because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For one believes with the heart, leading to righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, leading to salvation. ¹¹ The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³ For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” ¹⁴ But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? ¹⁵ And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!” The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

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

GOSPEL: Matthew 14:22-33

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

²² [Jesus] made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side [of the Sea of Galilee,] while he dismissed the crowds. ²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴ but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. ²⁵ And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. ²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were

terrified, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out in fear. ²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.” ²⁸ Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” ²⁹ He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” ³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” ³² When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³ And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.” The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *Mighty to Save* (GB 120)

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.

OFFERTORY *Blessed Assurance* arr. by Joel Raney/Duet-Elaine Olson & Noni Robnett

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

LORD’S PRAYER (ELW p. 191)

COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONG (ELW p. 191)

SONG DURING COMMUNION *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* (ELW 773)

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 *Praise, Praise! You Are My Rock* (ELW 862)

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

POSTLUDE *Meditation on “Showalter”* arr. by David Lasky

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NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS: Is 56:1,6-8; Ps 67; Rom 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matt 15: [10-20], 21-28

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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WEBSITE: www.lpbethel.org

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/lpbethel

BULLETIN SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Wednesday at noon

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: 25th of the month

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, August 9

- Worship: 9:00 a.m.
- Inter-Gen Vacation Bible School: 10:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Monday, August 10 (eve. office hrs.)

- Worship & Music Committee meeting: 5:00 p.m.
- Council meeting: 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, August 11

- *(Crow River Conference Pastor's Gathering)*

Wednesday, August 12

- No Bible study
- Quilting: 1:00 p.m.
- *(Poolside Plates: noon @ park)*

Sunday, August 16

- Outdoor Praise Worship: 9:00 a.m., bring your blankets or chairs
- Inter-Gen Vacation Bible School: 10:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

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.



If you have children or grandchildren, stewardship is one of the most important things you can model for them. When they see you give they learn that generosity is just part of who we are as people of faith.

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.

THANK YOU to Bethel worshipers for their monetary donations to the Common Cup "Back to School Supply Drive"! A total of \$220.00 was collected from the congregation on July 26th, meeting the challenge of the WELCA group offering to match up to \$150.00 in donations! As a result, Common Cup Ministries gratefully received a \$370.00 check from Bethel to help fund this year's school supply drive!

COMMON CUP DONATIONS: We are collecting donations of applesauce cups and fruit cups for the food program at Common Cup Ministries. A collection basket is in the "Common Cup Corner" of the narthex. Thank you!

LAST POOLSIDE PLATES—Wednesday, August 19, serving at noon; a free meal 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 a Bethel Lutheran Church Endowment grant, LP Youth Task Force, LP Lions Club, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, and St. Paul's Sandwich Ministry, Lester Prairie.

CELEBRATION BANK: We celebrated and collected **\$117.64** in June and July. Thank you for sharing! Our Celebration Bank will continue through the end of August. Organizational items for tools will be purchased for the garage.

END OF SUMMER POTLUCK: Join us on Wednesday, August 26 at 6:00 p.m. in the church basement. Bring a dish to share. A fire will be going in our outdoor fire pit area to roast marshmallows and create your own s'more. All ingredients for the s'mores will be provided.

SIGN UP FOR WOMEN'S RETREAT: Women's Retreat at Water's Edge, Medayto Lodge, September 11-13, **Registration deadline: September 1, 2026.** Place your registration form and payment in the envelope on the retreat display at church or mail your form and payment to: Jill Duncan, PO Box 745, Lester Prairie, MN 55354.

NEW MEMBER INFORMATIONAL MEETING: There will be a meeting on **September 6th following the service** in Pastor Molly's office for those who are interested in potentially becoming Bethel members. If you plan to come, please let Pastor Molly know.

ALTAR DUTIES: A sign-up sheet is available on the bulletin board for families or individuals who are interested in volunteering for altar duties on Sundays. This sign-up rotation ensures that no one person is solely responsible every week, allowing us to continue having weekly communion. Additionally, if you would like to contribute your garden flowers for any Sunday, feel free to include your name on the Altar Duties list.

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 board for more information.