

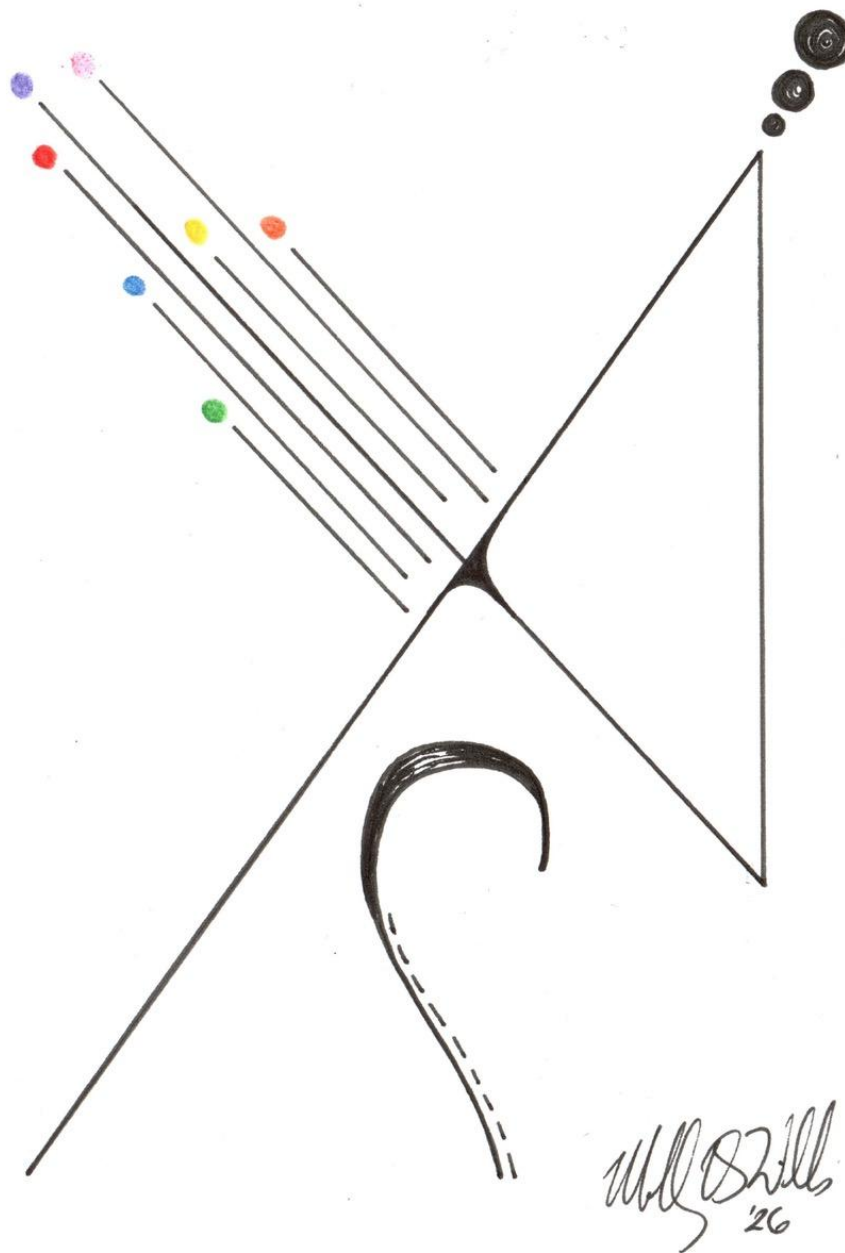


WELCOME TO BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH!

14th Sunday after Pentecost | Sunday, August 30, 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 *Open My Eyes That I Might See* arr. by Dale Gale

I Want Jesus to Walk With Me arr. by Anna Laura Page

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 bro - 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 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 *Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song* (ELW 808)

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, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example; point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

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

FIRST READING: A reading from Jeremiah 15:15-21

¹⁵ O LORD, you know; remember me and visit me, and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult. ¹⁶ Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts. ¹⁷ I did not sit in the company of merrymakers, nor did I rejoice; under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation. ¹⁸ Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail. ¹⁹ Therefore thus says the LORD: If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth. It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them. ²⁰ And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the LORD. ²¹ I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

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

PSALM: Psalm 26:1-8 (responsive reading)

¹ Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived with integrity; I have trusted in the LORD and have not faltered.

² **Test me, O LORD, and try me; examine my heart and my mind.**

³ For your steadfast love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you.

⁴ **I have not sat with the worthless, nor do I consort with the deceitful.**

⁵ I have hated the company of evildoers; I will not sit down with the wicked.

⁶ **I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD, that I may go in procession round your altar,**

⁷ singing aloud a song of thanksgiving and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

⁸ **LORD, I love the house in which you dwell and the place where your glory abides.**

SECOND READING: A reading from Romans 12:9-21

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰ Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

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

GOSPEL: The holy gospel according to Matthew 16:21-28. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²¹ From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." ²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? ²⁷ "For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

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

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *Spirit, Open My Heart* (ACS 1043)

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 *To God Our Thanks We Give* (ELW 682, sing 2x)

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

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 (ELW p. 190)

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 190)

COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONG (ELW p. 191)

SONG DURING COMMUNION *Bind Us Together* (next page)

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 *Blest Be the Tie That Binds* (ELW 656)

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

POSTLUDE *Lord, You Gave the Great Commission* arr. by Michael Larkin

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NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS: Ezek 33:7-11; Ps 119:33-40; Rom 13:8-14; Matt 18:15-20

THANK YOU TO THOSE SERVING TODAY!

748

Bind Us Together

Refrain
F

Bind us to - geth - er, Lord, bind us to - geth - er with cords that

can - not be bro - ken. Bind us to - geth - er, Lord,

bind us to - geth - er, Lord; bind us to - geth - er in love.

1 There . . is on - ly one God. There . . is on - ly one King.
2 You are the fam-'ly of God. You are the prom-ise di - vine.

There . . is on - ly one Bod-y; that . . is why we can sing:
You are God's cho-sen de - sire, you are the glo-rious new wine.

Refrain
F B^b/C

The musical score is written for piano and voice. It consists of five systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). Chord markings are placed above the vocal line: F, Dm, Gm, C⁷, F, C, F, C⁷, F, F, C⁷, F, B^b/C. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The score includes a refrain at the beginning and end, and two verses of lyrics in the middle.

TEXT: BOB GILLMAN, B. 1946

MUSIC: BOB GILLMAN, B. 1946

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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.

"Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the Lord your God has blessed you."
Deuteronomy 16:17



ALTAR FLOWERS

Please let Lisa Klobe know if you have altar flowers you would like to share.

THIS WEEK AT BETHEL

Sunday, August 30

- Worship: 9:00 a.m.
- New Member mtg. after worship

Monday, August 31 (office hours)

Tuesday, September 1

- Sunday school teacher mtg: 6:30 pm.

Wednesday, September 2 (office hours)

- Bible study: 11:30 a.m.
- MEFS outreach bus: 2:30 p.m.
- WELCA mtg.: 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 6

- Worship: 9:00 a.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.

QUESTIONS OR REQUESTS

E-MAIL: bethellutheranlp@gmail.com

PHONE: **320-395-2125** *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, Lester Prairie, MN 55354

WEBSITE: www.lpbethel.org

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/lpbethel

BULLETIN SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Wed. at noon

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: 25th of the month

MISSING GARAGE KEY

DID YOU MISTAKENLY TAKE THE GARAGE DOOR KEY FROM THE LOCKBOX? IF SO, PLEASE RETURN IT.
THANK YOU!



ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL PLANNING MEETING: Anyone interested in helping plan/teach Sunday School this year is invited to a planning meeting on **Tuesday, September 1 at 6:30 p.m.** If you are interested but cannot attend the meeting, talk to Katie Radtke or Jan Smith.

SUNDAY SCHOOL INFORMATION:

1. The first day of Sunday school for children pre-school through grade 6 will be **Sunday, September 27.**
2. Bibles will be given to third graders during worship on **Sunday, September 13.** Following the worship service, a short "Introduction to the Bible" lesson will be offered for these children, and parents are welcome to join. There will also be time after the lesson to participate in "God's Work. Our Hands." activities.
3. All children and families are invited to take part in the Harvest Festival on **Sunday, September 20.** This would be a great time to invite friends, neighbors, and their families to enjoy a fun time at Bethel!
4. Looking ahead, on **Sunday, October 4,** a representative from Water's Edge Ministries (formerly Green Lake Ministries) will lead our worship and discuss Bible camp opportunities with both the Sunday School children and adults.

SIGN UP FOR THE 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.

GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS. **Sunday, September 13.** We are looking for ways we can help a neighbor (anyone) in need. If you have any ideas, please speak to Pastor Molly. **Also on September 13th, Bev Bonte, Director of Common Cup Ministries,** will visit Bethel during worship. She is grateful for all the support that Bethel has provided to the organization and will tell us about the amazing undertakings the group has been focusing on. Let's see if we can have a nice applesauce/fruit cup collection ready for her to take back! A collection basket is in the "Common Cup Corner" of the narthex. Thank you!

THE CHOSEN: **We are bringing back *The Chosen* this fall! Season 5, episodes 1-8,** will be shown at Bethel on **Sunday evenings at 6:30 p.m. beginning September 13.** This has become a beloved series for those who have participated in the past, and we invite everyone to join in viewing these stories of Jesus from the Gospels. You may contact Jill with questions. ***The Chosen* DVDs from Seasons 1-4** are now available in our church library for anyone to borrow and view at home! (You could binge-watch and be all caught up before Season 5 begins!) In addition, the stories are available in print form (novels), and a guidebook/workbook is also available for each season. Please sign these resources out and return them within a month so we can maintain a complete set and others can use them as well.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: The Women's Bible study will again meet on **Thursday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on September 17th & 24th and October 1st.** All women are invited and encouraged to attend and bring a friend as well. The group will focus on topics in the book ***A is for Alabaster*** by Anna Carter Florence. All materials and resources are provided, and no prior participation is required. If you have questions, ask Jan Smith.

HARVEST FESTIVAL-Sunday, September 20TH, 10:30 AM-12:30 PM: Join us as we celebrate the season's bounty and give thanks for God's provision! Bethel Lutheran Church will host our annual Community Garden Harvest Festival right after worship, with food, fellowship, and fun for all ages! Invite your friends and family!

HARVEST FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Whether you can help set up, run an activity table, bring a dish, or lend a hand during the event, we'd love to have you! Do you have a favorite harvest tradition or activity idea? In the past, we've had cookie and cupcake decorating, games, fire truck rides, face painting, crafts, and food, but we welcome suggestions! If you would like to volunteer or share ideas, contact Emily Koehler at 605-661-5717 or emily.e.koehler@gmail.com. Let's make this a wonderful celebration of community and harvest season!

CROW RIVER CONFERENCE WOMEN OF THE ELCA FALL GATHERING: Saturday, September 26, 2026, Ostmark Lutheran Church, Watkins (handicap accessible); Program: "Here I Am, Send Me", with Special Guest: Pastor Tom Evenson. The Reservation fee is \$12 per person, payable by check to Women of the ELCA and given to Jill Duncan, PO Box 745, Lester Prairie, MN 55354 **by Monday, September 14th.**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: A sign-up sheet is available on the bulletin board for families or individuals interested in serving in various ways on Sunday mornings. This sign-up rotation ensures that no one person is solely responsible and everyone has an opportunity to serve.

BETHEL T-SHIRTS: If you missed ordering a Bethel T-shirt last year, we are now compiling another order! Prices will likely be adjusted due to the size of the order. Both long-sleeve and short-sleeve shirts are available. Contact Jean Hallberg at 507-430-2671 to order a T-shirt.

BETHEL'S WISH LIST: If you're looking for more ways to support our church community, check out Bethel's Wish List and contact information on the bulletin board.