



WELCOME TO BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH!

20th Sunday after Pentecost | Sunday, October 11, 2026

ELW Holy Communion Setting Six | Peace of the Prairie

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 Deep the Father's Love arr. by Mark Hayes

In This Very Room arr. by Mark Hayes

Amazing Grace by J. Carrell and D. Clayton (Piano Duet)

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP SONG

God is Here (ACS 993, sing 2x)

INVOCATION

Grace and peace to you from the God of Shalom, who creates, claims, and calls you for here and now. **Amen.**

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Merciful God, **you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.**

You belong to Christ Jesus, and you are God's children through faith. In the cross of + Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG *The Earth with Heaven's Music Rings* (Peace of the Prairie, pg. 2)

GATHERING PRAYER

Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Isaiah 25:1-9

¹ O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you; I will praise your name, for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure. ² For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin; the palace of foreigners is a city no more; it will never be rebuilt. ³ Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you. ⁴ For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat. When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm, ⁵ the noise of foreigners like heat in a dry place, you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled. ⁶ On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. ⁷ And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the covering that is spread over all nations; ⁸ he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. ⁹ It will be said on that day, "See, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation." Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 23 (read responsively)

¹ The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

² **The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**

³ You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴ **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶ **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

SECOND READING: Philippians 4:1-9

¹ My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. ² I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³ Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my coworkers, whose names are in the book of life. ⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

CENTERING SONG *Here and Now* (Peace of the Prairie pg. 3)

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 22:1-14

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

¹ Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ² "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³ He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come.

⁴ Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' ⁵ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶ while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷ The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸ Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹ Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' ¹⁰ Those slaves went

out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests. ¹¹ “But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹² and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. ¹³ Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴ For many are called, but few are chosen.” The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *As We Gather at Your Table* (ELW 522)

APOSTLES’ CREED (ELW p. 105)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

PEACE (ELW p. 172) The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY SONG *For the Beauty of the Earth* arr. by Patricia Sanders Cota Chimes

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given 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 Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING (ELW p. 172)

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.**

LORD’S PRAYER (ELW p. 173)

COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONG *God of Shalom* (Peace of the Prairie pg.4)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING

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

SENDING SONG *Enough for Today* (Peace of the Prairie pg.5)

BLESSING & DISMISSAL

May Creator God give you courage to trust tomorrow with its troubles and grant you strength enough for today. Go forth in peace. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE *This is the Day of New Beginnings* arr. by Carlton Young

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THANK YOU FOR SERVING TODAY! *Helland family, Weisenburger family, Cathy H. & Carolyn B.*

NEXT SUNDAY’S READINGS: *Is 45:1-7; Ps 96:1-13; 1 Thess 1:1-10; Rom 16:1-16*

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY: *Coffee & Treats: Tom M. & Endowment Committee, Lector: Jean H.*

Can you help as a Candle Lighter, Usher, or Greeter



Thank you for your faithful financial gifts for the ongoing work of our church! As of September 30, the end of the 3rd quarter, we have taken in about \$3,000 less than we need to meet our budget. We continue to trust that God will supply our church's financial needs through the continued generosity of our congregation.

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.

QUESTIONS OR REQUESTS

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR: Tamie Foust
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FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/lpbethel
BULLETIN SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
Wednesdays at noon; email bethellutheranlp@gmail.com
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
The 25th of the month; email bethellutheranlp@gmail.com
ONLINE WORSHIP:
www.facebook.com/lpbethel/live

THIS WEEK AT BETHEL

Sunday, October 11

- Worship: 9:00 a.m.
- Sunday school & Confirmation class

Monday, October 12 (office open)

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

Wednesday, October 14

- Quilting: 1:00 p.m.
- Choir practice: 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, October 18

- Worship: 9:00 a.m./no communion
- Sunday school class: following worship
- Bethel Breakfast: following worship

Online calendar: www.lpbethel.org

CHURCH COUNCIL

President: Dave Gohl

Vice-President: Jean Hallberg

Secretary: Julie Hanson

Treasurer: Jill Duncan

Financial Secretary: Stacy Meyer

Education Board: Katie Radtke & Jan Smith

Trustee Board: Bryon Weisenburger & Jeff Hanson

Finance Board: Sara Jepsen & Peggy Wick

The council member's contact information is in the Bethel Lutheran Church Directory.

Contact the office if you need a copy.

WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

WORSHIPING TOGETHER AS CHILDREN OF GOD: Christ has claimed us all as children of God; we welcome children of ALL ages to participate in worship according to their ability.

TO OUR YOUNGEST WORSHIPERS: We believe children are not the future of the church; they are the church present! Parents, encourage your child to sing, clap, wiggle, drop coins in the offering, and receive a goldfish cracker and a blessing during communion. A [non-staffed] toy room is available just outside the sanctuary.

TO OUR "YOUNG AT HEART": We welcome your enthusiasm and voices, too! Assisted listening devices are available; see an usher.

FOR ALL: We strive for worship that is intergenerational and welcoming to the whole body of Christ.

COMMUNION is typically served every Sunday. We invite all persons who seek God's grace through the bread and wine to share this meal, regardless of denominational affiliation. **You are welcome at Christ's table.** Grape juice and gluten-free wafers are available, too.

BATHROOMS are just outside the sanctuary.

SUNDAY SCHOOL follows worship. During the school year, children are invited to grab their treat and meet downstairs.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR follows worship. Join us for coffee, treats, and conversation.

CONNECTION CARDS are in the narthex; we'd love to hear from you! Fill it out, drop it in the offering plate, or give it to an usher.

WORSHIP HYMNAL INFORMATION: We use the [red] *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* hymnal and the [purple] supplement hymnal *All Creation Sings*, 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 (ELW p.) or (ACS p.) **Song pages are in the back two-thirds of the hymnal, with the page numbers at the top** and in the bulletin as (ELW #) or (ACS #). The songs in the Green Binder are in the bulletin as (GB #).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED:

A sign-up sheet for anyone interested in volunteering to teach Sunday School on a specific Sunday or Sundays is posted in the narthex. Please prayerfully consider this invitation to share your love for the Lord with our congregation's children. You may volunteer individually or as a team. We will help you by providing lessons and materials. Jan Smith and Katie Radtke would be delighted to answer your questions and offer words of encouragement and gratitude.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SERVE? Sign-up sheets are available on the bulletin board for families or individuals interested in serving in various ways on Sunday mornings. This sign-up rotation ensures everyone has an opportunity to serve and no one person is solely responsible. If you have any questions, the chairpersons for each group are listed on the sign-up sheets.

BETHEL BREAKFAST: Join other Bethel members for breakfast at Longhorn's Burger House today, after worship.

OCTOBER BOOK CLUB—Everything is Tuberculosis by John Green

In 2019, author John Green met Henry Reider, a young tuberculosis patient at Lakka Government Hospital in Sierra Leone. John became fast friends with Henry, a boy with spindly legs and a big, goofy smile. Since that first visit to Lakka, Green has advocated for better access to treatment and raised awareness about healthcare inequities that

allow tuberculosis, a disease that can be cured and prevented, to continue being deadly, killing over a million people each year. In *Everything is Tuberculosis*, John shares Henry's story along with scientific and social histories of how tuberculosis has shaped our world. He explores how our choices will impact the future of this disease. Discussion date: October 21, 7:30 p.m.

MOSAIC JEWELRY MAKING EVENT:

Tuesday, Oct. 27. Meal at 6:00 p.m.; class at 6:30 p.m. Lester Prairie Community Center, 37 Juniper St. N. Join us to create jewelry under the instruction of Linda Reinhart, owner of Mosaics at the Farm. Make a pendant with a necklace chain or a keychain ring. All tools and supplies will be provided, and no mosaic experience is required. Open to women and girls 16+. Cost is \$30, and registration is limited to 50 participants. Registration is not complete until payment is made. Contact Jean Hallberg at 507-430-2671 or email jhallberg59@icloud.com to register. Write checks to Bethel WELCA.

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.

ENDOWMENT SUNDAY IS COMING!

Next Sunday, October 18, the Endowment Committee will present during worship. Refreshments will follow the service. A free-will donation to support our Endowment fund is welcome.

THE CHOSEN Season 5, Episode 4 will be shown at Bethel at 6:30 p.m. tonight, with Episodes 5 and 6 following over the next two weeks. We will finish up with Episodes 7 and 8 in November. Check out *The Chosen* resources in our church library or watch the inspiring series (plus lots of extras) on *The Chosen* app.

ALL SAINTS DAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2026

On All Saints' Day, we will honor the saints who have passed away since the last All Saints' Sunday, November 2, 2025. Please write their names on the sign-up sheet in the narthex. During worship, we will also invite you to remember your beloved family and friends who have gone before us by lighting a candle in their memory.

A second offering will be taken to support the Cemetery Fund.

**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS
NOVEMBER 1—SET YOUR CLOCKS
BACK 1 HOUR.**

