



WELCOME TO BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH!

19th Sunday after Pentecost | Sunday, October 4, 2026
ELW Holy Communion Setting Six | Peace of the Prairie
Paul Hanson, Guest Preacher | Jan Smith, Accompanist



GATHERING

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

(Congregational response in bold print)

MEDITATION TIME *You are my All in All* arr. by Mark Hayes

Blessed Be Your Name arr. by Mark Hayes

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

God of every time and every place, by your Spirit we have been gathered from the rhythms and rituals of daily life to remember who and whose we are. Guide our attention to the here and now, so that we take root like lilies of the field and spread our wings like birds of the air, restored by your provision and peace. Amen.

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Isaiah 5:1-7

¹ I will sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. ² He dug it and cleared it of stones and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded rotten grapes. ³ And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. ⁴ What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield rotten grapes? ⁵ And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. ⁶ I will make it a wasteland; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. ⁷ For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his cherished garden; he expected justice but saw bloodshed; righteousness but heard a cry!

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

CHOIR ANTHEM *Lift Up Your Heads* by Glenn Wonacott

PSALM: Psalm 80:7-15 (read responsively)

⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

⁸ **You have brought a vine out of Egypt; you cast out the nations and planted it.**

⁹ You cleared the ground for it; it took root and filled the land.

¹⁰ **The mountains were covered by its shadow and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.**

¹¹ You stretched out its tendrils to the sea and its branches to the river.

¹² **Why have you broken down its wall, so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?**

¹³ The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it, and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.

¹⁴ **Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven;**

¹⁵ behold and tend this vine; preserve what your right hand has planted.

SECOND READING: Philippians 3:4b-14

[Paul writes:] ^{4b} If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. ⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. ¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

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

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

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 21:33-46

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

[Jesus said:] ³³ “Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away. ³⁴ When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵ But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶ Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷ Then he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ³⁸ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ ³⁹ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰ Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” ⁴¹ They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.” ⁴² Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures: ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the

cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'?
⁴³ "Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits. ⁴⁴ The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls." ⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶ They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet. The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *Faith Begins by Letting Go* (ACS 1004)

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 *Jesus Love Me* (ELW 595)

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.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray...For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

By your Word...For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

Through Jesus...For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

Send your Spirit of truth...be honor and glory forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 173)

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 *We're Marching to Zion* arr. by Anna Laura Page

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THANK YOU TO THOSE SERVING TODAY! Jean H.; Julie & Jeff H.; Dave H., Bethel Choir

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS: *Is 25:1-9; Ps 23; Phil 4:1-9; Matt 22:1-14*

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY: Altar Candlelighter: Etta H.; Altar Duties: Helland family; Lector: Jean H.; Ushers: Weisenburger family. Can **you** help with coffee, treats, worship assistant, or greeter?



Is there an area of this church's life you've always been curious about but never tried? Stewardship is also about stretching; saying yes to something new and trusting that God will equip you for it.

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 4

Thank you, Paul Hanson, Water's Edge Ministries Director, for leading us in worship!

- Worship: 9:00 a.m.
- Sunday school class: following worship; Paul Hanson will speak about Bible camp opportunities for all ages!

Wednesday, October 7 (office hours)

- Bible study: 11:30 a.m.
- Quilting: 1:00 p.m.
- MEFS Mobile Outreach bus: 2:30 p.m.
- Choir practice: 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 10

- Council Retreat: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 11

- Worship: 9:00 a.m.
- Sunday school class: following worship
- Confirmation class: 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 from the Green Binder are in the bulletin as (GB #).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CAN YOU HELP? Warm Coat Distribution, sponsored by Common Cup Ministries, is coming in October, and we need help collecting new or gently used coats and winter gear for children through adults, all sizes. Special needs: waterproof mittens and gloves, and clean, washable coats. (Coats should not have the name of an employer or individual.) Donations may be placed in the Common Cup Corner at church on or before Sunday, October 11.

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 on Sunday, October 18, 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: Oct. 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!

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

THE CHOSEN SEASON 5 will be shown at Bethel on Sundays at 6:30 p.m. through Nov. 15, with Nov. 22 if needed. This has become a beloved series for past participants, and we invite everyone to join us in viewing these stories of Jesus from the Gospels. You may contact Jill with questions. *The Chosen* DVDs from Seasons 1-4 are available in our church library. The stories are also 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 others can use them.

