

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, June 16, 2024  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Praise Service

Rev. Molly Wills, Pastor  
Jan Smith, Accompanist  
GivePlus Text 866-298-7547

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE "Everlasting God" and "Blessed Be Your Name" arr. by Mark Hayes

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS/GIDEONS TEMPLE TALK

GATHERING SONG "10,000 Reasons" (Bless The Lord) (green binder #133)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy. **Amen.**

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

God, our provider, **help us, it is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.**

Beloved people of God...forgiven and loved into abundant life. **Amen.**

SONG OF PRAISE "Mighty to Save" (insert)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

**O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SONG "Awesome God" (green binder #46)

WORD

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

READINGS AND PSALM

Ezekiel 17:22-24 (back page)

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

Psalms 92:1-4, 12-15 (read responsively/insert)

2 Corinthians 5:6-10 [11-13] 14-17 (back page)

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

Gospel Acclamation "Sanctuary" (green binder #127)

**Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true; with thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for You.**

Mark 4:26-34 (back page)

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

SONG OF THE DAY "There's a River of Life" (green binder #19)

APOSTLES' CREED (p. 105, front of the red *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*/ELW hymnal)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 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 "We Give Them to You" (green binder #99)

OFFERTORY PRAYER

**Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. Amen.**

COMMUNION

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer (p. 145, front of the red ELW)

Communion Song "All Are Welcome" (insert)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray. **Amen.**

### 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

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, † be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG "Send Us Out" (green binder #91)

SENDING WORDS Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE "Mighty to Save" arr. Carol Tornquist

Spirit Art  
A Meditative Study of Scripture through Art  
Mark 4:26-34



## **Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15**

<sup>1</sup>It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to your name, O Most High;

<sup>2</sup>**to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night,**

<sup>3</sup>to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre.

<sup>4</sup>**For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy.**

<sup>12</sup>The righteous flourish like the palm tree, and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

<sup>13</sup>**They are planted in the house of the LORD; they flourish in the courts of our God.**

<sup>14</sup>In old age they still produce fruit; they are always green and full of sap,

<sup>15</sup>**showing that the LORD is upright; he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.**



The mustard seed becomes a great shrub that shelters the birds, recalling ancient images of the tree of life. We'd expect a cedar or a sequoia, but Jesus finds the power of God better imaged in a tiny, no-account seed. It's not the way we expect divine activity to look. Yet the tree of life is here, in the cross and around which we gather, the tree into which we are grafted through baptism, the true vine that nourishes us with its fruit in the cup we share. It may not appear all that impressive, but while nobody's looking it grows with a power beyond our understanding.

—*Time after Pentecost, June 16, 2024, Sundays and Seasons*

# WELCOME TO BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

**OUR 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.

**QUESTIONS OR REQUESTS?** Please contact the church office at 320-395-2125 or [bethellutheranlp@gmail.com](mailto:bethellutheranlp@gmail.com). For emergency pastoral care needs, please call Pastor Molly Wills at 320-339-8169 or email [pastor@lpbethel.org](mailto:pastor@lpbethel.org). **BULLETIN SUBMISSION DEADLINE:** Wednesdays at noon. **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:** 25<sup>th</sup> of the month.  
**CHURCH ADDRESS:** 77 Lincoln AVE N, PO Box 207, Lester Prairie, MN 55354

**SIMPLY GIVING** offers convenience for you and much needed consistency for Bethel! If you have any questions, contact Stacy Meyer, Financial Secretary, at [finsec@lpbethel.org](mailto:finsec@lpbethel.org). **TEXT GIVING:** To give text dollar amount to **866-298-7547**

**HEARING ASSIST DEVICES AVAILABLE**—speak to an usher for assistance.  
**LARGE PRINT HYMNS AVAILABLE**—contact the office if you are interested.

## THIS WEEK...

### SUNDAY, JUNE 16 (Happy Father's Day!)

- Celebration Bank: Drop your change in the [piggy] bank and tell us what you're celebrating! The goal is to raise funds to purchase items from the GLLM Wish List.
- Fellowship Hour: following worship

### MONDAY, JUNE 17 (Emmanuel Nine)

- Bible Study: 1:30 pm

### TUESDAY, JUNE 18

- Bethel/Crow River WELCA meeting: 9:00 am-Noon

### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19 (Juneteenth)

- Quilting: 1:00 pm-4:30 pm
- Book club discussion: 6:00 pm, *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by J. McBride
- Women's Bible Study: 7:00-8:00 pm, Feel free to bring a friend!

(FRIDAY-SUNDAY, JUNE 21-23: Bethel Campout @ Baylor Regional Park-visitors are welcome!)

### NEXT SUNDAY, JUNE 23

- Worship: 9:00 am
- Celebration Bank: bring your change to worship and tell us what you're celebrating!
- Fellowship Hour: following worship

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

**Bell Tower Painting Campaign:** Now that the cross is painted, join our campaign to raise funds to paint the bell tower! Our goal is to raise \$8,000 and get the job done this summer. Check out the model in the narthex to see the progress! *The Trustees*

**Thrivent members, would you like to apply for a \$250 Thrivent Action Team Grant?** WELCA wants to combine grant money and money collected from the *Celebration Bank* to purchase items for Green Lake Lutheran Ministries (Green Lake Bible Camp). Jan Smith, Jill Duncan, and Judy Angvall are willing to answer your questions and show you how to apply. If you apply yourself, please let them know.

**Fellowship by the Fire: June 26, July 24, & August 21.** The evening will begin at 6:00 pm outside by the fire pit. WELCA will supply hotdogs and buns. Please bring a dish to share, your lawn chairs and games.

**Annual Bergen Church Site Worship service on Sunday, June 30:** Join us for our annual worship service in the country [where the old church once sat] at 10:00 am, followed by a potluck picnic. Bring lawn chairs or a blanket, lawn games, and a dish to share. This worship service will be the only one on this day, and note the time change. See the bulletin board for directions to the Bergen Church site. In case of bad weather, we'll meet at church.

**MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK!** There are still church cleaning jobs for someone to sign up for on the list in the narthex! Sign up for one or more jobs to do at your convenience. Everyone's help is greatly appreciated! Thank you, volunteers!

**Prairie Days Burger Stand Volunteers:** The Prairie Days committee has asked Bethel to cover a Burger Stand shift during Prairie Days [July 12-13]. We are looking for 6-8 people to work from 1:00-3:00 pm on Saturday, July 13, under the tent. If you are interested contact Peggy Wick at [sully72828@gmail.com](mailto:sully72828@gmail.com) or 612-499-0186.

**Volunteer Sign-up sheets:** There are spots left to sign up for ushering or reading scripture this summer. These are great ways that children could be more included in worship! There are also several opportunities to help prepare (altar guild) and serve (worship assistant) communion. The sign-up sheets are in the narthex. Please consider how you can help us fill these spots!

**Travelers keep up with regular offerings by giving electronically:** Just as you rely upon receiving income on a regular basis, Bethel relies on your regular contributions. Bethel appreciates the efforts of congregation members to make consistent donations throughout the year. To assist you, the church provides a convenient electronic giving option (*Simply Giving*) for setting up regular giving contributions. *Simply Giving* authorization forms on the narthex wall. Return to Fin. Sec. mailbox.