

WELCOME TO BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday, September 8, 2024

16th Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Molly Wills, Pastor

Jan Smith, Accompanist

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE *Hymn of Promise and Healer of Our Every Ill arr. Jeremy Bankson*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have honored you with our lips, but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues. The cravings of war within us cause conflicts and disputes. In our desire to be first we make distinctions among ourselves. We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last. In your mercy, forgive us our sins. Draw near to us with grace in time of need, and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God promises to forgive our iniquity and to remember our sin no more. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, the source of eternal healing, your sins are forgiven.

Amen.

Setting 8 begins on page 184 in the front of the Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) red book.

GATHERING SONG *How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds (ELW 620, v. 1-5)*

GREETING(ELW p. 184)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

KYRIE(ELW p. 184) *Kyrie eleison...*

CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p. 187) *This is the feast...*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord.

WORD

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

READINGS AND PSALM

ISAIAH 35:4-7a (back page)

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

PSALM 146 (read responsively) (see insert)

JAMES 2:1-10, 14-17 (back page) The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 188) *Alleluia. Lord...*

The holy gospel according to Mark. **Glorify to you, O Lord.**

MARK 7:24-37 (back page) The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

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

APOSTLES' CREED (ELW p. 105)

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

PEACE The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY *God Extends an Invitation* (ELW 486, sing 2x)

OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING (ELW p. 190)

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 (p. 190)

LORD'S PRAYER (p. 191)

COMMUNION (ELW p. 191) *Lamb of God...*

COMMUNION SONG *O Christ, Our Light, O Radiance True* (ELW 675)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

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

BLESSING

God all mighty, God most merciful ✠ bless you, keep you, and give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG *Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing* (ELW 886)

SENDING WORDS Go in peace. Follow Jesus. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE *You Are My King (Amazing Love)* arr. Carol Tornquist

PSALM 146 (read responsively)

¹Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul!

²I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

³Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help.

⁴When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish.

⁵Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God,

⁶who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever;

⁷who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free;

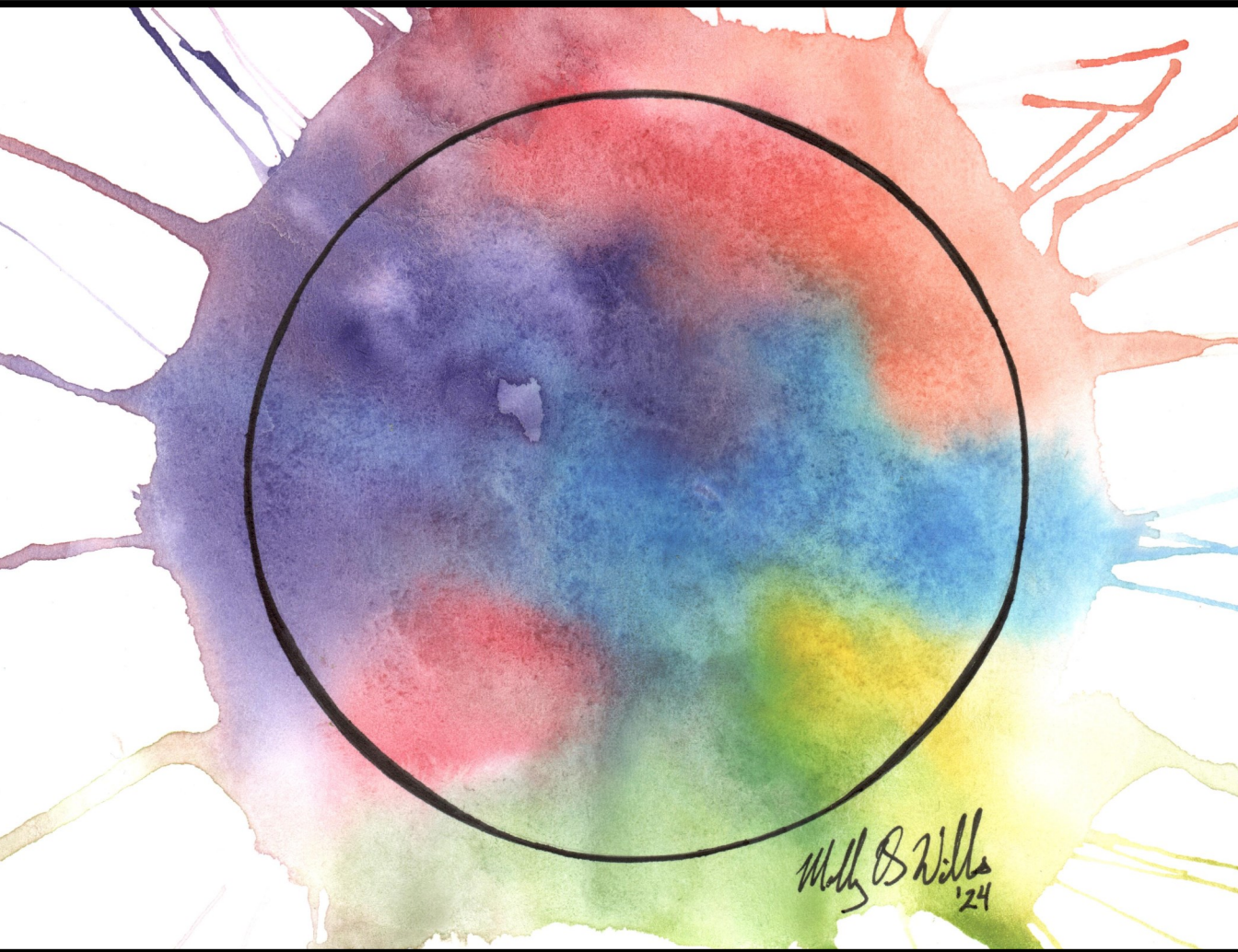
⁸the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.

⁹The LORD watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

¹⁰The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the LORD!

SPIRIT ART

A meditative study of scripture through art.



BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

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. For emergency pastoral care needs, please call Pastor Molly Wills at 320-339-8169 or email pastor@lpbethel.org.

BULLETIN SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Wednesdays at noon.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: 25th of the month.

CHURCH ADDRESS: 77 Lincoln AVE N, **PO Box 207, Lester Prairie, MN**

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.

ONLINE GIVING: scan QR code

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 AT BETHEL...

Sunday, September 8 (Rally Day — God's Work, Our Hands)

- Fellowship hour: join us after worship!

Monday, September 9

- Bible study: 1:30 pm
- Council meeting: 6:00 pm

Wednesday, September 11

- Quilting: 1:00 pm-4:30 pm

Thursday, September 12

- MEFS Mobile Outreach: 2:30-4:00 pm, Bethel's parking lot

Friday, September 13-Sunday, September 15

- Women's Retreat @ Green Lake Bible Camp

Next Sunday, September 15

- Praise Worship: 9:00 am
- Fellowship hour: following worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

BACK-TO-SCHOOL KITS COLLECTION: WELCA will again have a school supplies collection for LWR to distribute to children worldwide. We anticipate using a Thrivent grant to purchase school bags and supplemental supplies. Bring your supplies to church by September 15. The kits will be assembled after worship on September 22.

School Kit List: four 70-sheet notebooks, wide or college-ruled, 8 x 10 ¹/₂ paper (no loose-leaf paper) | one 30 cm ruler (or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other) | one pencil sharpener | one 2 ¹/₂" pink eraser | one blunt-point scissors (Fiskars brand) | five ballpoint pens, blue or black ink (no gel ink) | one box of 24 crayons (Crayola brand) | five unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers.

“TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE” Crow River Conference Women of the ELCA Fall Gathering will be hosted by Bethel on Saturday, September 28. Registration begins at 8:00 am with brunch at 8:30 am. Registration fee: \$10, payable to the Women of the ELCA. Registration deadline: September 18. Guest Speaker: Tammy Diehn of 2B Continued.

SUNDAY SCHOOL, CONFIRMATION, & BLTs:

Kids kindergarten-6th grade join our Sunday School classes starting today after the service! You'll be helping with God's Work, Our Hands. Classes will meet every Sunday during the school year.

Youth 7th-10th grade (or unconfirmed) join our confirmation classes starting Sunday, Sept. 15th after the service, meeting every other Sunday (check out the calendar online or talk to Pastor Molly for instances when the dates vary).

Youth 6th-12th grade join our Bethel Lutheran Teens (BLTs) group! Meetings start today helping with God's Work, Our Hands. Meetings will happen every other Sunday. Come for fun activities that will help our church & wider community and give you a chance to be a part of a faithful group of peers.

THIRD GRADERS & BIBLES: Third graders and their parents are invited to a First Bible class after church on Sunday, Sept. 15th. Bibles will be presented to 3rd graders with a blessing on Sunday, Sept. 29th. Please RSVP to Emily Koehler (cell #605.661.5717 or email: emily.e.koehler@gmail.com) if you plan to attend the class.

CHOIR will begin practicing on Wed., Sept. 11th @ 6:30PM. All are welcome to join! Please contact Emily Koehler with any question (*see contact info above in 3rd grade announcement*).