

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Nurture with Love, Serve with Hope
AUGUST 7, 2022 PASTOR ELAINA SALMON

Welcome to worship! At this time, masks are optional and welcomed. For communion, the congregation may process to the front to receive bread and individual cups of wine/juice. Or you may remain at your seat and use pre-packaged elements for communion. Please honor requests for social distance and allow extra space for families with small children.

Prelude *“I Need Thee Every Hour”*

Welcome and Announcements

THE GATHERING

(Please stand.)

Gathering Song *“Blessed Assurance”* #638

*Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.*

Refrain

*This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior, all the day long:
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.*

*Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love. Refrain*

*Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love. Refrain*

Greeting

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

Hymn of Praise “Kyrie”

*Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.*

*For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all;
for this holy house, for all who worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord
Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.*

*That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor;
that we may live out truth and justice and grace,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord
Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.*

*For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family;
for life and for love, for our works and our play,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord
Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.*

*For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the Word;
that you nourish our souls with your body and blood,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord
Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.*

Prayer of the Day

L Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

(Please be seated.)

THE WORD

The First Reading Genesis 15:1-6

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” But Abram said, “O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.” But the word of the LORD came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.” He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the

stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

- A The Word of the Lord.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 33

- A Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD!
Happy the people chosen to be God’s heritage!
- C **The LORD looks down from heaven,
and sees all humankind.**

- A God sits firmly enthroned and watches
all who dwell on the earth.
- C **God fashions all their hearts
and observes all their deeds.**

- A A king is not saved by the size of the army,
nor are warriors rescued by their great strength.
- C **The horse gives vain hope for victory;
despite its great strength it cannot save.**

- A Truly, your eye is upon those who fear you, O LORD,
upon those who wait for your steadfast love,
- C **to deliver their lives from death,
and to keep them alive in time of famine.**

- A Our innermost being waits for you, O LORD,
our helper and our shield.
- C **Surely, our heart rejoices in you,
for in your holy name we put our trust.**

- A Let your lovingkindness, O LORD, be upon us,
even as we place our hope in you.

Second Reading Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had

promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.”

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand.)

Gospel Acclamation “*Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks*”

*Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.*

*Alleluia, alleluia, Alleluia.
Alleluia, alleluia.*

Gospel Luke 12:32-40

Jesus said, “Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

“Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.”

“But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

L The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(Please be seated.)

(Please stand.)

Hymn of the Day *“Have No Fear, Little Flock”* #764

*Have no fear, little flock;
have no fear, little flock,
for the Father has chosen
to give you the kingdom;
have no fear, little flock!*

*Have good cheer, little flock;
have good cheer, little flock,
for the Father will keep you
in his love forever;
have good cheer, little flock!*

*Praise the Lord high above;
praise the Lord high above,
for he stoops down to heal you,
uplift and restore you;
praise the Lord high above!*

*Thankful hearts raise to God;
thankful hearts raise to God,
for he stays close beside you,
in all things works with you;
thankful hearts raise to God!*

Prayers of the People

A Trusting in God’s extraordinary love, let us come near to the Holy One in prayer.

(a moment of silence)

A Let your lovingkindness be upon your church. Fill all who proclaim the gospel with your Spirit. Equip your flock to speak your word of promise and hope in the midst of fear and uncertainty. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Let your lovingkindness be upon the ELCA Churchwide Assembly as they meet this week in Columbus, Ohio. Guide them by your wisdom and Spirit in their discernment, business, worship, and fellowship. Inspire them by the vision of your kingdom so that the church on earth may reflect your loving reign. We pray for Zach Howell, who will attend on behalf of our synod. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

- A Let your lovingkindness be upon your creation. Dwell among us and sustain our earthly home. In places of famine, provide nourishment. In places of plenty, fashion us to be good stewards of your bounty. Merciful God,
 C **receive our prayer.**
- A Let your lovingkindness be upon your world. Be our helper and our shield in places torn by strife and violence. Raise up courageous leaders to govern with compassion and justice. Merciful God,
 C **receive our prayer.**
- A Let your lovingkindness be upon your children. Look upon all who wait for your steadfast love. Console those who grieve and embrace those who cry out to you especially (*Sandy, please read names on Bethany Prayer List*). Help us to trust your promise and not be afraid. Merciful God,
 C **receive our prayer.**
- A Let your lovingkindness be upon this community. Fashion our hearts to strive for the way of peace. Strengthen the outreach ministries of this congregation and all who care for those in need. Merciful God,
 C **receive our prayer.**
- A With thanksgiving we remember all who have died in faith and now rest in you. As they placed their hope in you, so strengthen us to trust in your promise of new life. Merciful God,
 C **receive our prayer.**
- A Receive the prayers of your children, merciful God, and hold us forever in your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ, our holy Wisdom.
 C **Amen.**

Sharing of Christ's Peace

L The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

(You may share the sign of peace using jazz hands, a peace sign, or by bowing to one another. Please stay in your seats to do so.)

(Please be seated.)

THANKSGIVING

Offering

(Our offering is an act of worship and thanksgiving for all God has first given us. Our gifts support the mission of the church to “nurture with love and serve with hope.”)

Song “*People Need the Lord*”

(Please stand.)

Offering Response Song

“We Are an Offering”

#692

*We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:
we are an offering.*

*Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our lives,
they are yours: we are an offering.*

*All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be,
we give to you, we give to you.*

*We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:
We are an offering, we are an offering.*

Offertory Prayer

A Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

Thanksgiving for the Word

L Let us pray.

L Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

C **we give you thanks and praise.**

L By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

C **we give you thanks and praise.**

L Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

C **we give you thanks and praise.**

L Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

C **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

- L Remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray,
C **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those
who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

SENDING

Blessing

- L The God of peace,
Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless us, comfort us,
and show us the path of life
this day and always.
- C **Amen.**

Sending Song "Blessing Riddle"

*I hope you will find peace through ev'ry trial;
I hope you will find courage for ev'ry mile;
And when you are alone, you'll find a friend;
And you may live forever, life without end.*

*But how will I find peace through ev'ry trial;
And how will I find courage for ev'ry mile;
And when I am alone, where is my friend?
How can I live forever, life without end?*

*Well, God will give you peace through ev'ry trial;
And God will give you courage for ev'ry mile;
And when you are alone, He'll be a friend
And give you life eternal, life without end.*

Dismissal

- L Go in peace to nurture with love and serve with hope.
C **Thanks be to God!**

PRAYERS FOR THE COMMUNITY

EJ Ahlberg	Nancy Iwan	Linda Nelson
Georgette Beck-Brandt	Monica Johnson	Dave Nommenson
Rev. Glenn Bergmark	Peyton Kirk	Dana Pitlik
Sharon Bolerjack	Louise Kobernus	Frank Roy
Yvonne Borkhuis	Lenny Kobilca	Joseph Rymkey
Sean Clark	Julie Kowal	Ben Sabourin
Gary Cobbett	Rick Kwasneski	Joe Sanfillipo
Louise Crapil	Virgie Kwasneski	George Scheel
Beau Dowling	Rev. John Lang	Bernie Schroeder
Finley Engnell	Nancy Lang	Tim Schroeder
Laura Erickson	Pam Laasch	Virginia Schroeder
Elwood Faulhaber	Dan Lipowski	Sharon Skopec
Judy Faulhaber	Sue Lucheon	Gene Sobba
Luke Gannon	Scott Lundgren	Vivian Tiemeier
Julie Hayes	Dede Machowski	Kyle Williams
Marie Heeren	Jim McKeever	Justin Wormsley
Mike Hoffman	Ruth Ann Miller	Stephanie Wormsley
Russell Howell	Omni Rook Myers	

For Sean Acosta, Dustin Johnson, Steve Kleinfelder, Patrick Naughton, Chad Peters, Mitch Pohlman and all others serving our country and their families.

For those we name in our hearts, and for those who have not yet found Jesus.

Acknowledgements

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I Need Thee Every Hour by Jason Payne

Blessed Assurance Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915

Have No Fear, Little Flock Text: Luke 12:32, st. 1; Marjorie Jilson, b. 1931, sts. 2-4 Text © 1973 Concordia Publishing House

We Are an Offering Text & Music Dwight Liles, ©1983 World Music, LLC

Blessing Riddle

People Need the Lord by Steve Green

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERVING TODAY — Sandy Doebert and Elena Ceci

MUSICIANS — Sue Gray and Sandy Doebert

TECH CREW — Gary Gray, Sue Gray and Zach Howell

BEERS & BIBLES

Join your friends from church for a brew or a soda and a Bible Study. We're in the year of Luke, so we'll continue to take a look at the stories and themes of this Gospel. We'll meet at Pollyanna on Thursday, August 11 at 7pm. Bring a Bible or download a Bible app on your phone.

ELCA CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY

This week, August 8-12, ELCA members from across the country will gather in Columbus, Ohio for the biannual ELCA Churchwide Assembly. Voting members at this meeting were elected at their Synod assembly in a previous year. Zach Howell is a voting member for the Metropolitan Chicago Synod. At the Churchwide Assembly, voting members hear reports and review the work of churchwide ministries, consider proposals from synod assemblies, elect officers and board members, establish ELCA churchwide policy, adopt a budget and worship and fellowship together. Please keep the Assembly in your prayers.

BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSING

It's that time of year when our teachers and students are back to school! Next Sunday, we'll have a special Back to School Blessing during worship.

FORMER PASTOR VISIT

Join us on Sunday, August 21 as we welcome former pastor, Rev. John Lang. Pastor Lang served at Bethany from the end of 2005 thru June 2011. Pr. Lang is now retired, but still pulpit supplies in the north suburbs. Pr. Lang will preach for us and then following worship we will have a reception.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We need some helpers as we host our former pastors. Sign-up sheets are on the back table. For our visiting pastors, we're looking for hosts to set-up and make coffee, and others who will provide some light nibbles. Many hands make light work!

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