

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Nurture with Love, Serve with Hope
AUGUST 10, 2025

Prelude *“Ready the Way”*

Welcome and Announcements

THE GATHERING

(Please stand.)

Gathering Song *“Gathered in the Love of Christ”*

*Gathered in the love of Christ
We are one in the fam'ly of God
We are the dwelling place that love has made
We are formed to be goodness and light in the world.*

*See what love our God has shown to us
To call us the children of God
And as God has loved us, so we must love each other
Ever follow the way of truth and life.*

*Gathered in the love of Christ
We are one in the fam'ly of God
We are the dwelling place that love has made
We are formed to be goodness and light in the world.*

*Join with me and enter in rejoicing
Praise the one who had called us to be
And we come to you the flock that you will shepherd
You will show us the way of truth and life.*

*Gathered in the love of Christ
We are one in the fam'ly of God
We are the dwelling place that love has made
We are formed to be goodness and light in the world.*

*Praise our God who fashioned all creation
Praise to Christ, who redeems us in love
Praise the Spirit blest, who calls us and renew us
Leads us all in the way of truth and life.*

*Gathered in the love of Christ
We are one in the fam'ly of God
We are the dwelling place that love has made
We are formed to be goodness and light in the world.*

Greeting

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

Hymn of Praise *“Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God”*

*Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you. Alleluia, alleluia.*

*Ask and it shall be given unto you; seek and you shall find;
knock and the door shall be opened unto you. Alleluia, alleluia.*

*We do not live by bread alone, but by ev'ry word
that proceeds from the mouth of God. Alleluia, alleluia.*

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, 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, with Sarah's involvement, he received power of procreation, even though he was too old, because he considered himself 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 homeland, 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 *“Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom” vs.1*

*Come and seek the ways of Wisdom,
she who danced when earth was new.
Follow closely what she teaches,
for her words are right and true.
Wisdom clears the path to justice,
showing us what love must do.*

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 hour you do not expect.”

L The Gospel of the Lord.

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

(Please be seated.)

Sermon **Elena Ceci**

Back to School Blessing

(Please stand.)

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

*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 In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray
for the needs of the world.

(a moment of silence)

A Keep the heart of your church set firmly in you so that, with lamps lit and attentive to
Christ’s call at any time or place, your people are ready to respond with faithful action for
the sake of the world. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A Worlds were prepared by your word. Speak healing and protection upon the earth,
especially where life and habitats are threatened. Guide the work of astronomers and all
who teach us about the stars and galaxies. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A You know the actions and deeds of the nations. Turn humanity away from instruments of
war and violence. Fashion the hearts of world leaders to work for peace. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A Let your lovingkindness be on those in need. Assure all who are afraid or experiencing great uncertainty that your promises are sure. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Calm the fears of all those people who set out, not knowing where they go. Provide shelter, sustenance, protection from harm, and welcome. Bless the work of Global Refuge and other means of support and advocacy. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

A We celebrate the ancestors in the faith who built their lives on your promises and died having seen them only from a distance. Sustain us in our hope of things not seen. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

Sharing of Christ's Peace

L The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

(Please be seated.)

THANKSGIVING

Invitation to the Offering

L God calls us to use our gifts to nurture with love and serve with hope. We worship God with our offerings.

Offering

(Please stand.)

Offertory Song *“For Such a Time as This”*

*Could it be (could it be) that we are called
for such a time as this?*

*Could it be (could it be) that we are called
for such a time as this?*

Offertory Prayer

- A Creator God,
in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good
and the harvest is plentiful.
Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth
and our labor,
that we may work for the good of all;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
- 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 love of God abound in us;
 the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill our hearts;
 and the life of the Spirit
 bless us and give us peace.
- C **Amen.**

Sending Song *“Lead Me, Guide Me”*

Refrain

*Lead me, guide me, along the way;
for if you lead me, I cannot stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.*

*I am weak and I need thy strength and pow’r
to help me over my weakest hour.
Help me through the darkness thy face to see.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. Refrain*

*Help me tread in the paths of righteousness,
be my aid when Satan and sin oppress.
I am putting all my trust in thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. Refrain*

*I am lost if you take your hand from me,
I am blind without thy light to see.
Lord, just always let me thy servant be.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. Refrain*

Dismissal

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

PRAYERS FOR THE COMMUNITY

MariLynn Bergmark	Pat Johnson	Ken Rose
Sue Blender	Caty K	Frank Roy
Sharon Bolerjack	Zepplyn Killmer	Ben Sabourin
Hazel Brant	Lenny Kobilca	Pr. Elaina Salmon
Scott Browne	Carrie Koon	George Scheel
Evelyn Cahill	Rev. John Lang	Bernie Schroeder
Tom Casey	Nancy Lang	Tim Schroeder
Gary Cobbett	Sue Lucheon	Virginia Schroeder
Sidney Colburn	Scott Lundgren	Josh Shaw
Jim Connelly	Dede Machowski	Sharon Skopec
Beau Dowling	Ashley Maestre	Gene Sobba
Finley Engnell	Hanna Mau	Gary Sperka
Elwood Faulhaber	Jim McKeever	Gary Szafranski
Judy Faulhaber	Ruth Ann Miller	Dom Thielmann
Abby Galvin	Omni Rook Myers	Kayley Koter Taddeo
David Gilchrist	Linda Nelson	Chuck Vlcek
Chriss Hassel	Dave Nommenson	Cindy Vorel
Mike Hoffman	Charlotte Pohlman	Rick Vorel
Bob Hoster	Misty Pounder	Kyle Williams
Monica Johnson	Brilee Robbins	George Woolet

For Sean Acosta, Dustin Johnson, Steve Kleinfelder, Damen McDermott,
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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ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERVING TODAY — Elena Ceci and Bill McAdam

MUSICIANS — David Bergmark, Sandy Doebert and Sue Gray

TECH CREW — Gary Gray and Zach Howell

PRAYER GROUP

Our monthly Prayer Group will meet on Wednesday, August 13 at 7pm in the sanctuary. Please use the back door into the sanctuary (southside of building, facing the parsonage).

FILL THE BUS

The pantry needs volunteers to collect donations as we **FILL THE BUS** during the Keepataw parade. Volunteers will walk with the bus along the route, passing out candy and collecting donated items. The parade is on August 31st. Volunteers check in at 12:30, parade begins at 1 and you should be done by 2. If you have questions or would like to sign up, call or text Alison Parker at 312-890-8416.

A DONATION TO THE OPEN PANTRY was given in memory of Richard Darling by Elwood and Judy Faulhaber.

DONATIONS TO THE OPEN PANTRY were given by Giving Back to Lemont Concert hosted by Hope & Friendship Foundation, Tammy & Jeff Bertucci, Lois Miller and Meg & Chris Domzalski.

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