

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Nurture with Love, Serve with Hope
AUGUST 31, 2025

Prelude *“Beach Spring”*

Welcome and Announcements

THE GATHERING

(Please stand.)

Gathering Song *“Gather Us In”*

*Here in this place the new light is streaming,
now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings
brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of our name.*

*We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry,
we are the old who yearn for your face;
we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,
called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,
gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly,
give us the courage to enter the song.*

*Here we will take the wine and the water,
here we will take the bread of new birth,
here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.*

*Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light years away—*

*but here in this place the new light is shining,
now is the kingdom, and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever,
gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.*

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 O God, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
C **Amen.**

(Please be seated.)

THE WORD

The First Reading Proverbs 25:6-7a

Do not put yourself forward in the king’s presence
or stand in the place of the great,
for it is better to be told, “Come up here,”
than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

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

Psalm 112

- A Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the Lord
and have great delight in God's commandments!
- C **Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.**
- A Wealth and riches will be in their house,
and their righteousness will last forever.
- C **Light shines in the darkness for the upright;
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**
- A It is good for them to be generous in lending
and to manage their affairs with justice.
- C **For they will never be shaken;
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**
- A They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;
their heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord.
- C **Their heart is established and will not shrink,
until they see their desire upon their enemies.**
- A They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever;
they will hold up their head with honor.
- C **The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine away;
the desires of the wicked will perish.**

Second Reading Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Let mutual affection continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;
I will not be afraid.

What can anyone do to me?"

Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

- 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 14:1, 7-14

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. “When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

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

(Please be seated.)

Sermon **Erin Kissick**

(Please stand.)

Hymn of the Day *“Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service”*

*Lord, whose love in humble service
bore the weight of human need,
who upon the cross, forsaken,
worked your mercy's perfect deed:*

*we, your servants, bring the worship
not of voice alone, but heart;
consecrating to your purpose
ev'ry gift which you impart.*

*Still your children wander homeless;
still the hungry cry for bread;
still the captives long for freedom;
still in grief we mourn our dead.
As you, Lord, in deep compassion
healed the sick and freed the soul,
by your Spirit send your power
to our world to make it whole.*

*As we worship, grant us vision,
till your love's revealing light
in its height and depth and greatness
dawns upon our quickened sight,
making known the needs and burdens
your compassion bids us bear,
stirring us to ardent service,
your abundant life to share.*

*Called by worship to your service,
forth in your dear name we go,
to the child, the youth, the aged,
love in living deeds to show;
hope and health, good will and comfort,
counsel, aid and peace we give,
that your servants, Lord, in freedom
may your mercy know and live.*

Prayers of the People

A Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God, for God is near.

(a moment of silence)

A For the leaders of the church, we pray. Inspire deacons, pastors, Sunday school teachers, and Christian education directors with a passion for speaking the word of God. Equip all the baptized to share your word of grace. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A For the well-being of creation, we pray. Sustain farm workers and all who labor in fields and vineyards to grow the food we eat. Revive plains and pastures, and provide for the cattle and creatures who rely on the land for their sustenance. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

- A For the leaders of towns, cities, provinces, states, and nations, we pray. Guide them to enact equitable laws and policies for all. On this Labor Day weekend, make us mindful of workers whose labor often goes unnoticed. Hear us, O God.
- C **Your mercy is great.**
- A For the lowly and those who are ignored, we pray. Provide for the needs of vulnerable communities, those who are unemployed, burdened by debt, or struggle to make ends meet. Accompany all who need reassurance of your loving presence. Hear us, O God.
- C **Your mercy is great.**
- A For the hospitality ministries of this congregation, we pray. Give ushers and greeters a spirit of welcome for visitors, and bless the work of those who feed and nourish us. Hear us, O God.
- C **Your mercy is great.**
- A For all the saints who from their labors rest, we give thanks. With them, we offer our sacrifice of praise to you, O God, the same yesterday and today and forever. Hear us, O God.
- C **Your mercy is great.**
- A Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion.
- 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 gives freely to all. We respond with our offerings.

Offering

Special Music *"Make Me a Servant"*

(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 *“O Christ the Same”*

*O Christ the same, through all our story's pages,
our loves and hopes, our failures and our fears;
eternal Lord, the king of all the ages,
unchanging still amid the passing years:
O living Word, the source of all creation,
who spread the skies, and set the stars ablaze,
O Christ the same, who wrought our whole salvation,
we bring our thanks for all our yesterdays.*

*O Christ the same, the friend of sinners, sharing
our inmost thoughts, the secrets none can hide;
still as of old upon your body bearing
the marks of love, in triumph glorified:
O Son of Man, who stooped for us from heaven,
O Prince of life, in all your saving pow'r,
O Christ the same, to whom our hearts are given,
we bring our thanks for this the present hour.*

*O Christ the same, secure within whose keeping
our lives and loves, our days and years remain,
our work and rest, our waking and our sleeping,
our calm and storm, our pleasure and our pain:
O Lord of love, for all our joys and sorrows,
for all our hopes, when earth shall fade and flee,
O Christ the same, beyond our brief tomorrows,
we bring our thanks for all that is to be.*

Dismissal

L Go in peace to nurture with love and serve with hope.

C **Thanks be to God!**

PRAYERS FOR THE COMMUNITY

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

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 — Sandy Doebert and Erin Kissick

MUSICIANS — David Bergmark, Sandy Doebert and Sue Gray

TECH CREW — Gary Gray and Zach Howell

CHURCH OFFICE AND PANTRY

The church office and food pantry will be closed on September 2nd and 3rd. It will re-open on Thursday, September 4th.

PRAYER GROUP

Our monthly Prayer Group will meet on Wednesday, September 3 at 7pm in the sanctuary. Please use the back door into the sanctuary (southside of building, facing the parsonage).

SUNDAY SCHOOL KICK -OFF!

Sunday School gets going again on Sunday, September 7 at 9:15am! Children in kindergarten through 6th grade are welcome! Students in 7th and 8th grade participate in Confirmation Classes. We're looking forward to learning and growing together!

A FAREWELL FOR BISHOP YEHIEL CURRY

There will be a farewell celebration on Sunday, Sept. 21st from 2PM-4:30-PM. It will be held at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Schaumburg. For more details and to register, please scan the QR code below.



DONATIONS TO THE OPEN PANTRY were given by Jim & Tom's Auto, Doug and Marie DeGregorio, Terry & Terri Borders, Adrian Zeglin, Al & Cele Albrecht, Lois Miller and CCI Corporation.

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