

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Nurture with Love, Serve with Hope
SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

Prelude *"Just As I Am, Without one Plea"*

Welcome and Announcements

THE GATHERING

(Please stand.)

Gathering Song *"Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling"*

*Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
calling for you and for me.
See, on the portals he's waiting and watching,
watching for you and for me.*

*Refrain
"Come home, (Come home,) come home!
(come home!) You who are weary, come home."
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
calling, "O sinner, come home!"*

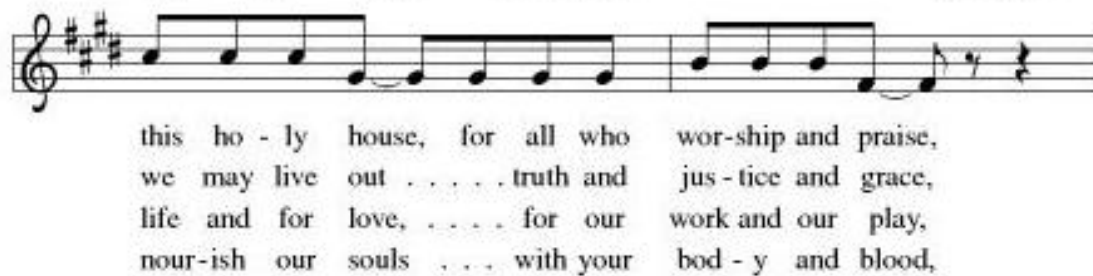
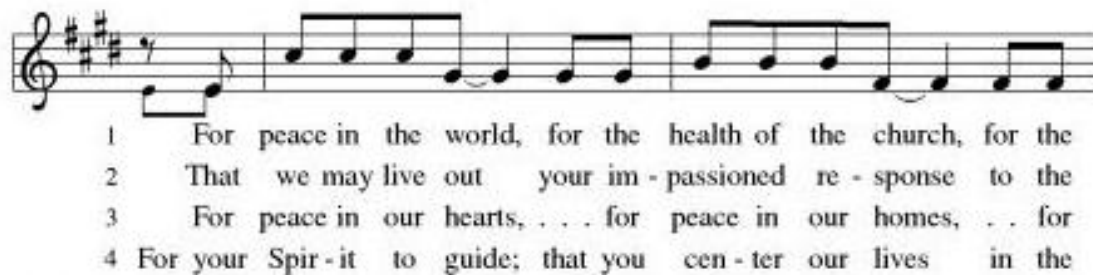
*Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,
pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies,
mercies for you and for me? Refrain*

*Oh, for the wonderful love he has promised,
promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,
pardon for you and for me. Refrain*

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.**

Kyrie Eleison



Prayer of the Day

- L O God, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C **Amen.**

(Please be seated.)

THE WORD

The First Reading Exodus 32:7-14

The Lord said to Moses, “Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’ ” The Lord said to Moses, “I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, and of you I will make a great nation.”

But Moses implored the Lord his God and said, “O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’ ” And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

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

Psalm 51

- A Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
- C **Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.**
- A For I know my offenses,
and my sin is ever before me.
- C **Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**

- A Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother's womb.
- C **Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**
- A Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.
- C **Let me hear joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**
- A Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my wickedness.
- C **Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

Second Reading 1 Timothy 1:12-17

I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he considered me faithful and appointed me to his service, even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience as an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

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

(Please stand.)

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel Luke 15:1-10

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

So he told them this parable: “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.’ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

“Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

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

(Please be seated.)

Sermon Sandy Doebert

(Please stand.)

Hymn of the Day “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

*There's a wideness in God's mercy,
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice
which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more felt than up in heav'n.
There is no place where earth's failings
have such kindly judgment giv'n.*

*There is welcome for the sinner,
and a promised grace made good;
there is mercy with the Savior;
there is healing in his blood.
There is grace enough for thousands
of new worlds as great as this;
there is room for fresh creations
in that upper home of bliss.*

*For the love of God is broader
than the measures of our mind;
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.
But we make this love too narrow
by false limits of our own;
and we magnify its strictness
with a zeal God will not own.*

*'Tis not all we owe to Jesus;
it is something more than all:
greater good because of evil,
larger mercy through the fall.
Make our love, O God, more faithful;
let us take you at your word,
and our lives will be thanksgiving
for the goodness of the Lord.*

Prayers of the People

A Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

(a moment of silence)

A Merciful God, pour out your grace upon your church. Forgive us for the times when we have been unfaithful, and renew our commitment to your gospel of love. Empower us to live as a community of mercy. God of grace,
C **receive our prayer.**

A Merciful God, we ask forgiveness for the ways we have neglected and harmed this earth and its creatures. Confirm our commitment to care for all you have made, and grant us wisdom and strength to take action toward restoring your creation to its fullness. God of grace,

C **receive our prayer.**

A Merciful God, govern all who hold positions of power and authority. Instruct them to make just decisions that serve the common good. Make them instruments of your mercy in the world, working to heal divisions and promote peace. God of grace,

C **receive our prayer.**

A Merciful God, we lift up all who suffer. Bring healing, comfort, and peace to those who are sick, grieving, or in pain. We pray for... Give us compassionate hearts to accompany those who are hurting and courage to work for justice and mercy. God of grace,

C **receive our prayer.**

A Merciful God, bind us together as a community of forgiveness and love. Supply us with humility to seek forgiveness when we have wronged one another and generosity to extend mercy when we have been wronged. God of grace,

C **receive our prayer.**

A Merciful God, we remember in love those who have departed this life. Console those who mourn, and give them the hope of resurrection. God of grace,

C **receive our prayer.**

A We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.

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's love always finds us and we reflect that love. We worship God with our offerings.

Offering

Special Music *“I Give You My Heart”*

(Please stand.)

Offertory Song *“Take My Life, That I May Be”*

Refrain

*Take my life, that I may be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.*

*Take my hands and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee. Refrain*

Offertory Prayer

- A Lord of the harvest,
we return to you a portion of what you have given to us.
Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches,
but on you, who richly provides for us.
Multiply what we have gathered
to bless all who are suffering and in need,
through Jesus Christ our 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 righteousness,
who gives justice to the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry,
who sets the prisoners free,
bless us now and forever.
- C **Amen.**

Sending Song “Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us”

*Savior, like a shepherd lead us;
much we need your tender care.
In your pleasant pastures feed us,
for our use your fold prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have bought us; we are yours.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have bought us; we are yours.*

*We are yours; in love befriend us,
be the guardian of our way;
keep your flock, from sin defend us,
seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
hear us children when we pray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,*

hear us children when we pray.

*You have promised to receive us,
poor and sinful though we be;
you have mercy to relieve us,
grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
early let us turn to you.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
early let us turn to you.*

*Early let us seek your favor,
early let us do your will;
blessed Lord and only Savior,
with your love our spirits fill.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have loved us, love us still.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have loved us, love us still.*

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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Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847-1909

Just As I Am, Without One Plea Charlotte Elliot and Cindy Berry arrangement

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863, alt.

I Give You My Heart Rueben Morgan © 1995 Hillsong Music Publishing

Take My Life, That I May Be Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879, adap.; Spanish text: Vicente Mendoza, 1875-1955

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us Text: attr. Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779-1847

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERVING TODAY — Glenda Anderson and Sandy Doebert

ACOLYTE – Blaise Kissick

MUSICIANS — Sandy Doebert, Sue Gray and Ralph Johnson

TECH CREW — Gary Gray and Zach Howell

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.



A DONATION TO THE GENERAL FUND was given in memory of Carl Anderson by Mr. & Mrs. Michael Naus.

DONATIONS TO THE OPEN PANTRY were given by Lois Miller and Elsie Schultz.

DONATIONS TO THE OPEN PANTRY were given by Village of Lemont Mayor's Charity Fund Award and Lemont Garden Club.

ELECTRONIC GIVING is available to support Bethany Lutheran Church. It is fast, easy and secure. You can schedule a weekly or monthly contribution that is automatically debited from your savings or checking account. Make a one-time donation to a special fund; even direct the gift in honor or in memory of someone. Visit our website: bethanylemont.org and click the Donate button on the homepage.