

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Nurture with Love, Serve with Hope

JUNE 21, 2026

PASTOR ELAINA SALMON

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

THE GATHERING

Call to Worship

L Let us remember that we are always in the holy presence of God.

(a moment of silence)

(Please stand.)

Centering Song *“Let There Be Rest”* vs. 1-3

*Let there be rest; there is rest for you.
Claim back your breath; there is breath for you.
Free from the pressure, the pushing, the pain –
yes, take your rest, yes, take your rest,
yes, take your rest, there is rest for you.*

*Let there be peace; there is peace for you.
Trust in your breath; there is breath for you.
After the struggle, release and receive-
yes, find your peace, yes, find your peace,
yes, find your peace, there is peace for you.*

*Let there be joy; there is joy for you.
Deepen your breath; there is breath for you.
Now in the stillness, remember your song;
yes, feel your joy, yes, feel your joy,
yes, feel your joy, there is joy for you.*

For Rest on the Sabbath

L Sanctifier of Holy Rest,
on the seventh day you paused,
laying down the work of creation,
and entered into sacred stillness.

Let us remember we were freed from slavery
in Egypt and you continue to call us
to be people of liberation.

Kindle in us the strength to say no
to a world of perpetual busyness.
Inspire us to set aside our plans
and goals to receive the lavish gift
of rest for ourselves,
to rediscover the paradise within.

Let the Sabbath be a time of profound renewal,
a gushing forth of the holy well,
a time of intimate connection with you,
and a rekindling of our sacred desires to be of service.
Sustain in us the longing to simply be
and not succumb to the demands
of productivity and an endless string of achievements.

Let our lives be a loving witness
to a world of restoration and refreshment
and to the profound goodness of joy and delight
so that we might take pleasure in the generous gift of pausing.

C **Amen.**

Gathering Song “O Christ Surround Me”

*God, be the love to search and keep me;
God, be the prayer to move my voice;
God, be the strength to now uphold me:*

*Refrain
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.*

*Bind to myself the name of Holy,
great cloud of witnesses enfold;
prophets, apostles, angels witness: Refrain*

*Brightness of sun and glow of moonlight,
flashing of lightning, strength of wind,
depth of the sea to soil of planet: Refrain*

Walking behind to hem my journey,

*going ahead to light my way,
and from beneath, above, and all ways: Refrain*

*Christ in the eyes of all who see me,
Christ in the ears that hear my voice,
Christ in the hearts of all who know me: Refrain*

Greeting

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

Prayer of the Day

L Teach us, good Lord God, to serve and love you as you deserve. By the good news of the gospel, may our fearfulness turn to fearlessness for the sake of Jesus, in whose name we pray.
C **Amen.**

(Please be seated.)

THE WORD

The First Reading Jeremiah 20:7-13

O Lord, you have enticed me,
and I was enticed;
you have overpowered me,
and you have prevailed.
I have become a laughingstock all day long;
everyone mocks me.
For whenever I speak, I must cry out;
I must shout, "Violence and destruction!"
For the word of the Lord has become for me
a reproach and derision all day long.
If I say, "I will not mention him
or speak any more in his name,"
then within me there is something like a burning fire
shut up in my bones;
I am weary with holding it in,
and I cannot.
For I hear many whispering:
"Terror is all around!
Denounce him! Let us denounce him!"

All my close friends
are watching for me to stumble.
“Perhaps he can be enticed,
and we can prevail against him
and take our revenge on him.”
But the Lord is with me like a terrifying warrior;
therefore my persecutors will stumble,
and they will not prevail.
They will be greatly shamed,
for they will not succeed.
Their eternal dishonor
will never be forgotten.
O Lord of hosts, you test the righteous;
you see the heart and the mind;
let me see your retribution upon them,
for to you I have committed my cause.

Sing to the Lord;
praise the Lord!
For he has delivered the life of the needy
from the hands of evildoers.

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

Today’s Psalm is Psalm 69 from Psalms for Praying by Nan C. Merrill

For in turning from You have I borne the consequences,
so that doubt and loneliness now companion me.
I have become as a stranger in my own home,
an alien to my inner being.
O, that zeal for your Truth might consume me,
might be for your sake.
Let me humble my soul with mind-fasting;
O Beloved, create within me a clean heart!
Answer me, O Beloved, for I know of your compassion;
in your abundant mercy, turn toward me.
Do not hide yourself from your wayward child.
Draw near to me as in days gone by, redeem me,
set me free from my fears as I repent of my erring ways.

Second Reading Romans 6:1b-11

Should we continue in sin in order that grace may increase? By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life.

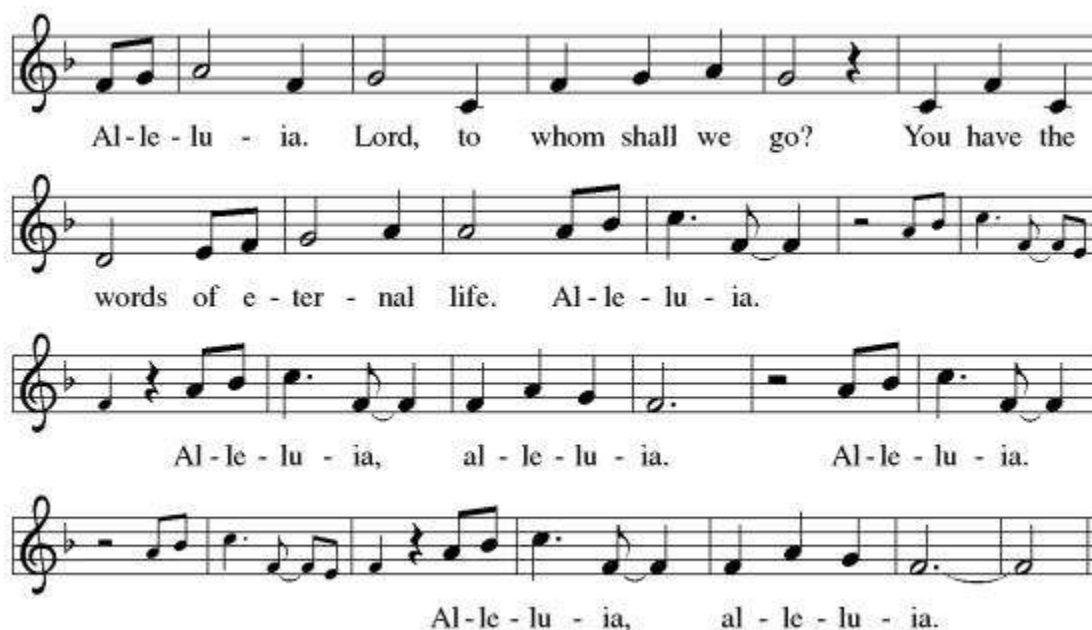
For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, so we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand.)

Gospel Acclamation



Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel Matthew 10:24-39

Jesus said to the twelve: “A disciple is not above the teacher nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

“So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many

sparrows.

“Everyone, therefore, who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven, but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace but a sword.

For I have come to set a man against his father,
and a daughter against her mother,
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law,
and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household.

“Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”

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, Let My Heart Be Good Soil*”

*Lord, let my heart be good soil,
open to the seed of your word.
Lord, let my heart be good soil,
where love can grow and peace is understood.
When my heart is hard, break the stone away.
When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.
When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.
Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart,
Lord, let my heart be good soil.*

Prayers of the People

A Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for the church and the needs of the world.

“The Spirit Intercedes for Us”

*The Spirit intercedes for us
with sighs too deep for words to express. Oh, oh.*

A Life-giving God, you have called your people to lose their lives for Jesus' sake.
Strengthen your church to follow you in the face of difficulty. God of grace,
C **hear our prayer.**

A Creator God, you know every sparrow that falls to the ground. Protect migrating birds,
endangered species, and their natural habitats. Empower us to care for your creation. God
of grace,
C **hear our prayer.**

A Sovereign God, you call us to act justly and love mercy. Protect those with marginalized
identities to whom we have not shown the abounding love of Jesus. Bring an end to
oppression and bigotry in all forms. God of grace,
C **hear our prayer.**

A Sustaining God, you promise to provide for us. Help those living with disability. Comfort
those experiencing any sort of illness or suffering. God of grace,
C **hear our prayer.**

A God our Father, we give you thanks and praise for fathers young and old. We pray for
young fathers, newly embracing their vocation; may they find courage and
perseverance to balance work, family and faith in joy and sacrifice. We pray for fathers
around the world whose children are lost or suffering; may they know that the God of
compassion walks with them in their sorrow. We pray for men who are not fathers but
still mentor and guide us with fatherly love and advice. We remember fathers,
grandfathers, and great grandfathers who are no longer with us but who live forever in
our memory and nourish us with their love. God of grace,
C **hear our prayer.**

A Faithful God, we give thanks for saints who have claimed their baptismal promises.
Today we especially remember Linda Naus. May we follow their example of faith and
service. God of grace,
C **hear our prayer.**

A Trusting you receive all our prayers, we commend our spoken and unspoken prayers to
you, O God, through Jesus our Savior.
C **Amen.**

Sharing of Christ's Peace

L The peace of Christ be with us always.
C **And also with us.**

(Please be seated.)

Invitation to the Offering

L God has been gracious to us with mercy and love. Let us offer the Beloved a gift of thanksgiving, with grateful hearts.

Offering

Instrumental Music

(Please stand.)

Offertory Song “*God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*”

*God, whose giving knows no ending,
from your rich and endless store:
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom,
costly cross, grave's shattered door,
gifted by you, we turn to you,
off'ring up ourselves in praise;
thankful song shall rise forever,
gracious donor of our days.*

*Treasure, too, you have entrusted,
gain through pow'rs your grace conferred;
ours to use for home and kindred,
and to spread the gospel word.
Open wide our hands in sharing,
as we heed Christ's ageless call,
healing, teaching, and reclaiming,
serving you by loving all.*

Offertory Prayer

A Loving God,
we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.
Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love,
so that all creation can taste your abundance.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.

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 – A Celtic Version

L Holy One beyond all names
Eternal Wellspring

**C May love rise again in us today
With food for every table
Shelter for every family
And reverence for every life.
Forgive us our failing in love
And free us from all falseness
That the light of our souls may shine
And the strength of our spirits endure
For earth and all its people
This day, tonight, and forever.
Amen.**

(Please be seated.)

Farewell and Godspeed

L Pr. John and Ruth, as you leave Bethany Lutheran Church, we wish to bid you farewell.

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (*John 8:12*)

L In holy baptism our Lord Jesus Christ received you and made you members of his church. When you came to this community we rejoiced to welcome you into the mission we share as the people of God. In this community you have come to know and to share in God's loving purpose for you and for all creation. God has blessed you in this community, and God has blessed us through you.

Let us pray.

Gracious God, we thank you for the work and witness of your servants, John and Ruth, who have enriched this community and shared their gifts with us. Now bless and preserve them at this time of transition. Day by day, guide them and give them what is needed, friends to cheer their way, and a clear vision of that to which you are now calling them. By your Holy Spirit be present in their pilgrimage, that they may travel with the one who is the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

(Please stand.)

SENDING

Blessing

P Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,
one God,
bless, heal, and hold you
today and always.

C **Amen.**

Sending Song *“Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”*

*Praise the One who breaks the darkness
with a liberating light;
praise the One who frees the pris'ners,
turning blindness into sight.
Praise the One who preached the gospel,
healing ev'ry dread disease,
calming storms and feeding thousands
with the very bread of peace.*

*Praise the One who blessed the children
with a strong yet gentle word;
praise the One who drove out demons
with a piercing, two-edged sword.
Praise the One who brings cool water
to the desert's burning sand;
from this well comes living water
quenching thirst in ev'ry land.*

*Praise the one true love incarnate:
Christ, who suffered in our place;
Jesus died and rose for many
that we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness,
seeing what our God has done.
Praise the one redeeming glory;
praise the One who makes us one.*

Dismissal

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

PRAYERS FOR THE COMMUNITY

Ed Anderson	Monica Johnson	Dave Nommenson
MariLynn Bergmark	Pat Johnson	Charlotte Pohlman
Sue Blender	Jessica Kean	Misty Pounder
Sharon Bolerjack	Zeplyn Killmer	Brilee Robbins
Hazel Brant	Lenny Kobilca	Ken Rose
Scott Browne	Carrie Koon	Frank Roy
Evelyn Cahill	Rev. John Lang	Ben Sabourin
Tom Casey	Nancy Lang	Bernie Schroeder
Gary Cobbett	Sue Lucheon	Tim Schroeder
Jim Connelly	Scott Lundgren	Virginia Schroeder
Vicki Dieska	Dede Machowski	Josh Shaw
Beau Dowling	Ashley Maestre	Sharon Skopec
Finley Engnell	Hanna Mau	Gene Sobba
Elwood Faulhaber	Jim McKeever	Gary Sperka
Abby Galvin	Ruth Ann Miller	Dom Thielmann
David Gilchrist	Devin Mulcahy	Rick Vorel
Terri Hacker	Omni Rook Myers	Kyle Williams
Charlie Hagedorn	Linda Nelson	George Woollet
Mike Hoffman		

For the family and friends of Linda Naus.

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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Psalm 69 from Psalms for Praying by Nan C. Merrill

Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950 Text © 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc.

God Bless to Us Our Bread Text: Argentine traditional, collected by Federico Pagura, 1923–2016; tr. John L. Bell, b. 1949 English text © WGRG, Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending Text: Robert L. Edwards, 1915-2006 Text © 1961, ren. 1989 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955 Text © 1987 Hope Publishing Company

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERVING TODAY — Erin Kissick and Bill McAdam

MUSICIANS — Sandy Doebert and Sue Gray

TECH CREW — Gary Gray and Zach Howell

REQUESTING PICTURES!

As our congregation grows, it's helpful to have pictures so that we can put names to faces. To complete a Bethany picture directory, we are requesting that you email a picture of you/your family to bethanylmt@aol.com.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPPLIES

We will be packing school supply kits on Sunday, July 19. That means we need to have supplies purchased by that date. You can see the list of requested items or make a donation directed for school supplies. We love to see kids head off to school with all they need in their backpack! Thank you for your support!

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS BETHANY?

During your summer travels and activities, we invite you to wear your Bethany gear and get a picture for our bulletin board. Let's see where Bethany pops up!

BETHANY RAFFLE FUNDRAISER!

Our Raffle Fundraiser is officially launched! We're asking Bethany members to help us reach our goal of selling 200 tickets! Chris Domzalski will be available after worship to provide tickets. Payment is not due today, but when ticket stubs are returned. You may also opt to purchase today or purchase on our Vanco Giving Page. Tickets are \$60 each.

Five Winners

Grand Prize: \$2000

Runner Up: \$1000

Third Place: Apple iPad Air 11

Fourth Place: \$500

Fifth Place: \$100

Drawing will be on July 15th at Tap House Grill. Join us for food, fun and fellowship before we announce the winners.

A DONATION TO THE GENERAL FUND was given in memory of Rev. Glenn Bergmark for Father's Day by Ann Walker.

A DONATION TO THE CEMETERY FUND was given in memory of John Jaje and Carl Ahlberg on Father's Day by Kelly Jaje.

A DONATION FROM THRIVENT was given by Rev. John and Ruth Gerike.

DONATIONS TO THE OPEN PANTRY were given by Lemont Garden Club and St. Alphonsus and St. Patrick parishes.

MUSIC AVAILABLE

If a hymn number is listed with a song, you can find the music in the red hymnal in your pew. We have packets available at the back table that include the songs for the day.

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.