

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH <i>Nurture with Love, Serve with Hope</i> JULY 26, 2026 PASTOR ELA/NA SALMON

Prelude *“Be Thou My Vision”*

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.*

Gathering Song “Come to Me”

Refrain

*Come to me, come to me
and I will give you rest.
Come to me, come to me
and I will give you rest, give you rest.*

*We come to offer you our burdens.
We come to worship you with faith.
We come to ask you for forgiveness.
We come to you for your embrace. Refrain*

*We come to you to tell our story.
We’ve come to give ourselves to grace.
We’ve come with all our faults and failings.
We come because you call our name. 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** Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

(Please be seated.)

THE WORD

The First Reading 1 Kings 3:5-12

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, “Ask what I should give you.” And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great

people of yours?”

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, “Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you.”

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 119

A Your decrees are wonderful;
therefore I obey them with all my heart.

C **When your word is opened it gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple.**

A I open my mouth and pant
because I long for your commandments.

C **Turn to me and be gracious to me,
as you always do to those who love your name.**

A Order my footsteps in your word;
let no iniquity have dominion over me.

C **Rescue me from those who oppress me,
and I will keep your commandments.**

A Let your face shine upon your servant
and teach me your statutes.

C **My eyes shed streams of tears,
because people do not keep your teaching.**

Second Reading Romans 8:26-39

The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or

distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

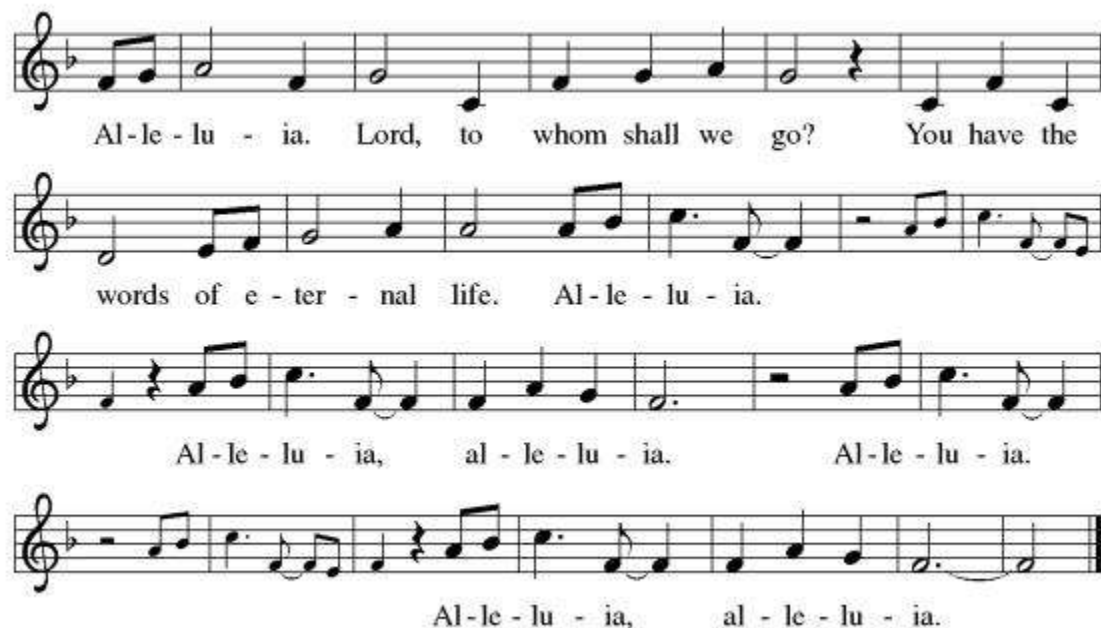
No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand.)

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl

of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

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

(Please be seated.)

Sermon Sandy Doebert

(Please stand.)

Hymn of the Day “Neither Death Nor Life”

Refrain

*Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,
nor trials in the present, nor any trial to come,
neither height, nor depth, nor all of creation
can ever separate us from the love of God
poured out in Christ Jesus, our Lord.*

*Dwell in the one who raised Christ from the dead;
though your body shall die, in Christ you shall rise
through the Spirit who brings you to life. Refrain*

*All who are led by the Spirit shall live
as children of God, and heirs with Christ Jesus,
God's adopted and chosen and loved. Refrain*

*All of the suffering we now must endure
is nothing to the glory so soon to be revealed
when creation itself is set free. Refrain*

*All of creation awaits the new birth,
the fullness of redemption, through labor pains of love,
and so we wait in patience and hope. Refrain*

Who can separate us from the love of Christ?

*Will hardship or distress, persecution or famine,
or nakedness or peril or sword? Refrain*

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 God our wisdom and our song, we pray for bishops, candidacy committees, those preparing for seminary, those awaiting call as deacons or pastors, and all who seek to lead your disciples in any way. God of grace,
C **hear our prayer.**

A God our breath and our heartbeat, help us to recognize signs of your presence among us. Protect and support diverse ecosystems, from national parks to family farms, from ranches to wild places. God of grace,
C **hear our prayer.**

A God our peace and our guide, help civic leaders hear all their peoples’ stories with compassion and curiosity, and remind us of your love from which we can never be separated. God of grace,
C **hear our prayer.**

A God our intercessor and our lawgiver, dismantle the barriers to care and recognition of all who live with chronic illness, mobility struggles, pain, and uncertainty. God of grace,
C **hear our prayer.**

A God our redeemer, may we trust your love above and beyond all else that distracts, annoys, frightens, exhausts, or divides us. God of grace,
C **hear our prayer.**

A God who seeks, finds, and saves, for our community’s part in the ongoing gift of creation, and for the riches of faith and hope which came before, we give you thanks. God of grace,
C **hear our prayer.**

A Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus.
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

Special Music *“Treasure Each Moment”*

(Please stand.)

Offertory Song *“We Are an Offering”*

*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 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.**

SENDING

Blessing

- L May God's Word be in our hearts.
May God's Word be on our lips.
- C **May God's Word be in our touch.
May God's Word direct our feet.**
- L On this day and all our days to come
May God's Word be the life we live.
- C **Amen.**

Sending Song *“What is the World Like”* vs. 1, 3, 4, 5

*What is the world like when God's will is done?
Mustard seeds grow more than we can conceive:
roots thread the soil; branches reach for the sun.
This is how God moves us each to believe.*

*What is the world like when God's will is done?
No more is neighbor just ally or friend;
peace thrives in places where once there was none.
This is how God works when rivalries end.*

*What is the world like when God's will is done?
Ready for feasting, we watch through the night,
tending our lamps till the new day's begun.
This is how God readies us for the light.*

*These are the stories that Jesus imparts,
filled with the Spirit who joins us as one.
Born through our voices, our hands, and our hearts,
this is a new world where God's will is done.*

Dismissal

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

PRAYERS FOR THE COMMUNITY

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

For Sean Acosta, Dustin Johnson, Steve Kleinfelder, Damen McDermott,
Chad Peters 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 Pam Laasch

MUSICIANS — Sandy Doebert and Sue Gray

TECH CREW — Gary Gray and Zach Howell

SUNSET SOIREE

Bethany will be the featured philanthropic group at Lemont's Sunset Soiree on Thursday, July 30. Seating opens at 6pm and the concert starts at 7pm. You are invited to join us and wear your Bethany gear.

SOUTH AFRICA

There is an opportunity for two Bethany members to travel with Pr. Elaina to meet our companion church in South Africa. Tentative dates are early November. Please let her know if you're interested in this opportunity. There is Losey grant money available to support travel costs.

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.

A DONATION TO THE CEMETERY FUND was given in memory of Glenn McAdam's Birthday, July 27th from his wife, RoseMarie.

DONATIONS TO THE OPEN PANTRY were given by Adrian Zeglin, Doug & Marie DeGregorio and Lemont Christian Ministerial Association.

DONATIONS OF SCHOOL SUPPLIES were given by Meg and Chris Domzalski, Marsha and Bruce Taylor and Laura Tingle.

A DONATION TO THE SCHOOL SUPPLIES FUND was given by Ann Walker.

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.