



## BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

SEASON OF CREATION  
GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS  
AUGUST 31ST, 2025  
8:30 AM & 10:30 AM

*+ indicates to stand in body or spirit;  
**bold print** indicates congregational responses*

### ✠ GATHERING ✠

**PRELUDE (8:30)** *"God's Work, Our Hands"* arr. Michael Burkhardt  
**(10:30)** *"All Creatures, Worship God Most High!"* arr. John T. Benson

### WORDS OF WELCOME

### + INVOCATION

Grace and peace to you from the God of Shalom,  
who creates, claims, and calls you for here and now. **Amen.**

+ GATHERING SONG "Here and Now" verses 1, 3 & 4

*Verse 1 will be sung as a solo. All are invited to join on the following verses.*



1. Per - haps you have come\_ down a well trav - eled road\_
3. Con - sid - er the lil - ies, they have - n't a care;\_
4. Im - ag - ine a world where op - pres - sion will cease,



bring - ing your hopes\_ and your ques - tions un - told or  
think of the spar - rows whose song is a prayer and  
just - ice and mer - cy will blos - som in peace and



may - be you're hold - ing too heav - y a load. O  
know you're cre - a - ted, if on - ly you dare, to  
all of cre - a - tion will join in the feast: be -



come, just as you are.\_\_\_\_\_ to verse 3  
be just who you are.\_\_\_\_\_ all other verses to Refrain  
lov - ed all, we are.\_\_\_\_\_

**Refrain**



Here we are, on this sac - red ground.\_\_\_\_



Heav - en dwells a - mong us here\_\_\_\_\_ and now.

**+ GATHERING PRAYER**

God of every time and every place,  
by your Spirit we have been gathered  
from the rhythms and rituals of daily life  
to remember who and whose we are.

Guide our attention to the here and now,  
so that we sense you in our midst,  
rejoicing over us with gladness, renewing us in your love,  
and encouraging us not to fear or let our hands grow weak,  
but to reach out and share your provision and peace. Amen.

**✠ WORD ✠**

**READING**    *ZEPHANIAH 3:14-20*

A reading from Zephaniah.

<sup>14</sup>Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;  
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter Jerusalem!

<sup>15</sup>The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,  
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;  
you shall fear disaster no more.

<sup>16</sup>On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
Do not fear, O Zion;  
do not let your hands grow weak.

<sup>17</sup>The LORD, your God, is in your midst,  
a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness,  
he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing  
<sup>18</sup>as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,  
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

<sup>19</sup>I will deal with all your oppressors  
at that time.

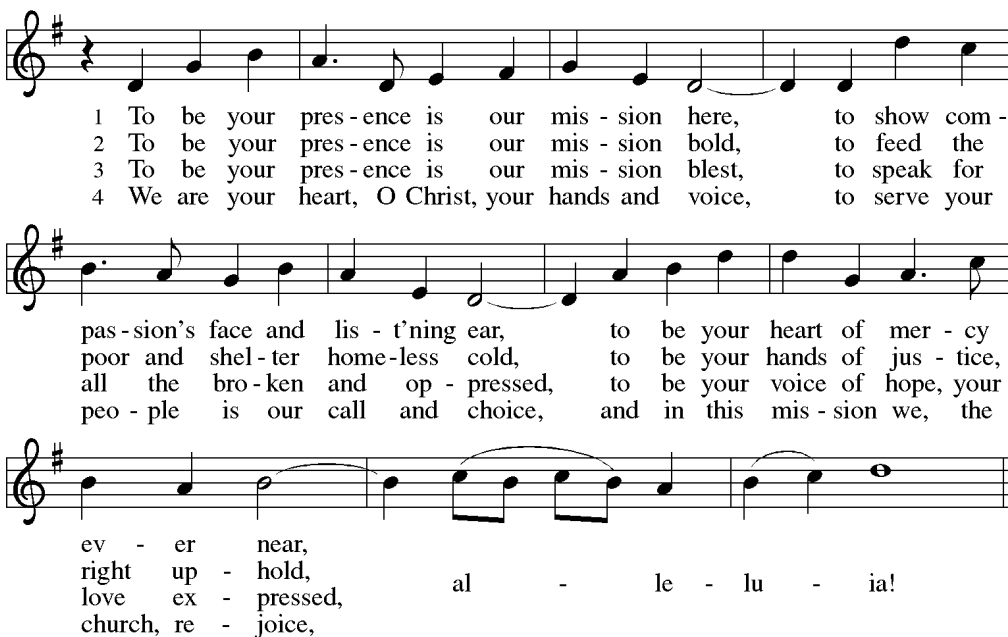
And I will save the lame  
and gather the outcast,  
and I will change their shame into praise  
and renown in all the earth.

<sup>20</sup>At that time I will bring you home,  
 at the time when I gather you;  
 for I will make you renowned and praised  
 among all the peoples of the earth,  
 when I restore your fortunes  
 before your eyes, says the LORD.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

## HOMILY

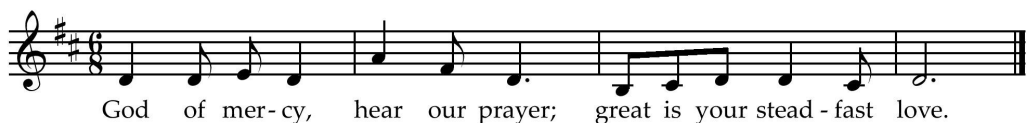
+ HYMN OF THE DAY “To Be Your Presence” ELW #546



1 To be your pres - ence is our mis - sion here, to show com -  
 2 To be your pres - ence is our mis - sion bold, to feed the  
 3 To be your pres - ence is our mis - sion blest, to speak for  
 4 We are your heart, O Christ, your hands and voice, to serve your  
 pas - sion's face and lis - t'ning ear, to be your heart of mer - cy  
 poor and shel - ter home - less cold, to be your hands of jus - tice,  
 all the bro - ken and op - pressed, to be your voice of hope, your  
 peo - ple is our call and choice, and in this mis - sion we, the  
 ev - er near,  
 right up - hold, al - le - lu - ia!  
 love ex - pressed,  
 church, re - joice,

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE “Great is Your Steadfast Love”

*A soloist will sing the Refrain once at the beginning of the prayers; the assembly is invited to join at the end of each petition:*



God of mer - cy, hear our prayer; great is your stead - fast love.

**+ SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

**OFFERING**



Guests

Generosity is part of who we are as God’s people. Guests can use their QR code to give via Breeze, Bethel’s trusted online giving platform. Select "Member Faith Giving" to give to the general budget. Members can use their QR code to sign into Breeze to give a one-time gift or to schedule an automated donation. Online giving cards (at the name tag stations), checks, or cash may be placed in the offering plates as they are passed.



Members

**ANTHEM (8:30)** *“Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee”* Dale Wood  
**(10:30)** *“Seed of Life”* Hans Peterson & Maia Twedt

**+ OFFERTORY “Enough for Today”** verses 1, 4, & 5

1. E - nough for to - day,\_\_\_ a flow - er's splen - dor; e -  
4. E - nough for to - day,\_\_\_ the Spir - it's heal - ing; e -  
5. E - nough for to - day,\_\_\_ rich bless - ings giv - en; e -

nough for to - day,\_\_\_ a spar - row's nest. Con -  
nough for to - day,\_\_\_ the strength\_\_\_ God gives. Suf -  
nough for to - day,\_\_\_ e - ter - nal springs. Un -

sid - er the care,\_\_\_ our Mak - er ten - der:\_\_\_  
fi - cient the grace,\_\_\_ such pow'r\_\_\_ re - veal - ing:\_\_\_  
end - ing the love,\_\_\_ the hope\_\_\_ we live\_\_\_ in:\_\_\_

\_\_\_ e - nough for us\_\_\_ to trust,\_\_\_  
\_\_\_ e - nough for us\_\_\_ to live,\_\_\_  
\_\_\_ e - nough for us\_\_\_ to sing!\_\_\_

## + OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of the winged ones and the wildflowers,  
by your living word you call us valuable  
and promise what we need to live abundantly.  
Renewed by your presence and provision,  
we offer our whole selves to this time and place,  
trusting it is enough because you say it is so. Amen.

## ✠ MEAL ✠

## + GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

## + EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Generous God, you show your love through the beauty and bounty of Creation.  
For the benefit of all creatures, you make rivers flow in the desert and bring forth plants from  
the soil. When we are lost, you deliver guidance from the mountaintops. And when we fall short,  
you send Jesus, born of Mary, to redeem us.

*The Words of Institution / Las Palabras de la Institución*

These simple sacraments reflect your loving creation. Wheat from the field  
and grapes from the vineyard become our bread and wine. And by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
both become instruments of your grace. Bless this meal, the earth that bore it, the hands that made  
it, and the people who share it, that we may be a blessing to your world. **Amen.**

## + THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Fa-ther, who art in heav-en, hal-low-ed be thy  
name; thy king-dom come, thy will be done on  
earth as it is in heav-en. Give us this day our

dai - ly bread, and for - give us our tres - pass - es,  
as we for - give those who tres-pass a - gainst us;  
and lead us not in - to temp-ta-tion, but de - liv - er  
us from e - vil. For the  
king - dom, the pow - er and the glo - ry are yours  
now and for - ev - er. A - men.

# LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

**HOLY COMMUNION HYMN** *"Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service"* ELW #712



1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser-vice bore the weight of hu-man need,  
2 Still your chil-dren wan-der home-less; still the hun-gry cry for bread;  
3 As we wor-ship, grant us vi-sion, till your love's re-veal-ing light  
4 Called by wor-ship to your ser-vice, forth in your dear name we go,



who up-on the cross, for-sak-en, worked your mer-cy's per-fect deed:  
still the cap-tives long for free-dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.  
in its height and depth and great-ness dawns up-on our quick-ened sight,  
to the child, the youth, the a-ged, love in liv-ing deeds to show;



we, your ser-vants, bring the wor-ship not of voice a-lone, but heart;  
As you, Lord, in deep com-pas-sion healed the sick and freed the soul,  
mak-ing known the needs and bur-dens your com-pas-sion bids us bear,  
hope and health, good-will and com-fort, coun-sel, aid, and peace we give,



con-se-crating to your pur-pose ev-'ry gift which you im-part.  
by your Spir-it send your pow-er to our world to make it whole.  
stir-ring us to ar-dent ser-vice, your a-bun-dant life to share.  
that your ser-vants, Lord, in free-dom may your mer-cy know and live.

**+ TABLE BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

**+ PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Once again, O God, you have given us not only this bread and cup, but your very self.  
Filled again by these signs of your grace, may we hunger for your reign of justice,  
and thirst for your way of peace, that we may live more fully in you;  
through Christ our Lord, Amen.



## ✠ SENDING ✠

### + BENEDICTION

Go forth in peace, and be of good courage;  
hold fast to that which is good,  
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.  
And may the God  
who fills the hungry with good things  
fill us all with Christlike love  
and with a consuming hunger for justice  
in our land and in our world. **Amen.**

**God's work.**  
**Our hands.**

“God’s Work. Our Hands.” Sunday is a day of service for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Most ELCA congregations will participate in this churchwide day of service next Sunday. Here in Northfield, we have the Defeat of Jesse James Days, so we are celebrating a week earlier!

As we conclude our Season of Creation, Bethel joins with thousands of ELCA members across the country, engaging in service work to make a positive change in our communities and world, building and deepening relationships, and sharing God’s love.

“Together in Jesus Christ we are freed by grace to live faithfully, witness boldly and serve joyfully.”

Today, we have two service opportunities:

- Onsite from 9:30-10:30 am, Rose Turnacliff is leading TORCH Fall Care Package assembling, which will be distributed to Northfield TORCH college students this fall.
- Offsite from 10-12 pm, Bill Nelson is leading a clean up of Bethel’s new Adopt-A-Highway section. Much closer than our previous section, it runs north along Eveleth Ave from the intersection with North Ave (right by Bethel) then runs west along County Road 96 until Foliage Ave.
  - No children under 12 and no animals
  - Wear leather shoes or boots, heavy gloves, leggings that can be tucked into socks, and long sleeves. Bring sunscreen, insect repellent, hat, and sunglasses.

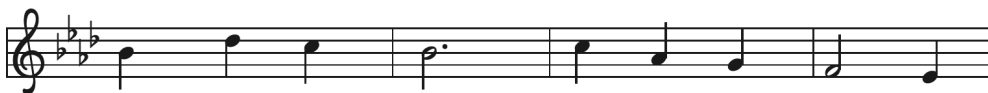
+ SENDING HYMN "God's Work, Our Hands" ACS #1000



1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,  
 2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,  
 3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,  
 4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,  
 fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,  
 prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,  
 seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,  
 walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,  
 pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,  
 Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.  
 run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.  
 claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.  
 gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,  
 Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,  
 Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,  
 Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.  
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.  
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.  
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.

## + DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God!**

**POSTLUDE (8:30)** *“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”* arr. Dallas Blair

**(10:30)** *“God’s Work, Our Hands”* arr. Edie Linneweber

## WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Inger Hanson & Pastor Ben Schori

Assisting Minister: (8:30) Anton Armstrong (10:30) Rolf Kragseth

Ushers: (8:30) Bruce Dueffert, Harley Foster, Craig Grunzke, Dale Turnacliffe  
(10:30) TBD

Readers: (8:30) Anton Armstrong (10:30) Paula Mathison

Sacramental Ministers: (8:30) Clary Cary, MaryAnn Kaul, Carol Cole, Marci Groenewold, Phil Ruud  
(10:30) Megan Pratola

Altar Care: (set) Lois Cary (clean) Lois Cary

Trumpet: Gerry Hoekstra

Vocal Duet: Krista Middlebrooks & Megan Engel

Keyboards: Megan Engel

A/V Technicians: Sam Dwyer, Asher Engle, Nathan Broughton, Nathan Hoekstra

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We are using *Peace of the Prairie: A Liturgy for Here and Now*.

The Invocation, Gathering Prayer, and Offertory Prayer were written by Rev. Meta Herrick Carlson.

The second half of the Gathering Prayer was modified for Lake Sunday by Rev. Inger Hanson.

*“Here and Now”* & *“Enough for Today”* were written and composed by Carol Meier.

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The Eucharistic Prayer was written by Cynthia Carau for Bethel’s Creation Care month, 2025.

*“The Lord’s Prayer”* Music: *Mass from Age to Age*, Chris de Silva, © 2010, GIA Publications, Inc.

The Benediction is from *Bread for the World*, 20th c., USA.

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**THIS WEEK**  
**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**  
**MONDAY—THURSDAY 9 AM - 3 PM**

**MONDAY**

Church Office Closed for Labor Day

**TUESDAY**

9:45 am

Staff Meeting

6:00 pm



Face It

**WEDNESDAY**

4:30 pm

Volunteer Orientation– Children’s Ministry, Zoom

6:00 pm

High School Seniors Red Barn Meeting

**THURSDAY**

9:30 am

FAB (Faith & Books) (Youth Room)

10:45 am

OWLs (Older, Wiser Lutherans) (Room 61)

2:00 pm

Bethel Monthly Movie: It’s a Wonderful Life (Youth Room)

**FRIDAY**

9:30 am



WoW (Women of the Word) (Zoom)

**SUNDAY ATTENDANCE**

| August 24 | in person attendance |
|-----------|----------------------|
| 8:30 am   | 130                  |
| 10:30 am  | 86                   |
| Total     | 216                  |

**NEXT SUNDAY...**

**NEW FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE BEGINS!**

The first service will be at 8:15 am,  
fellowship will be from 9:30-10:15 am,  
and the second service will be at 10:30 am.

The text of the day will be **Genesis 1:1-2:4a**  
and **John 1:1-5.**



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