



# BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Nicodemus*

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

JANUARY 25TH, 2026

8:30 AM & 10:30 AM

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

## ✠ GATHERING ✠

PRELUDE “O God, You Search Me” arr. David Lasky

WORDS OF WELCOME

+ THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,  
the fountain of living water,  
the rock who gave us birth,  
our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
we are clothed with God’s mercy and forgiveness.  
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

*(a brief silence for reflection)*

We give you thanks, O God,  
**for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters  
and by your Word you created the world,  
calling forth life in which you took delight.**

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.  
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.  
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.  
By water and your Word you claim us as your children,  
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

**We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,  
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.  
Shower us with your Spirit,  
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.**

To you be given honor and praise  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord  
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

## + KYRIE

In peace, in peace

*Assistant:* *Congregation:*

Let us pray to the Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have  
 mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy.

For the reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all,.....

For your people here, who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your Word,.....

*Assistant:* *Congregation:*

Help, save and de-fend us, O God. A - men.

## + CANTICLE OF PRAISE

*Refrain*

Now the feast and cel - e - bra-tion, all of cre - a-tion sings for joy to the  
 God of life and love and free-dom: praise and glo-ry for - ev - er - more!

1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has  
 freed and u - ni-ted us to be one great peo-ple of God.

*to refrain*



2. Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and might, and

*to refrain*



hon - or and glo - ry to Christ\_\_\_\_ for ev - er.\_\_\_\_\_



3. For God has come to dwell with us,\_\_\_\_ to make us

*to refrain*



peo-ple of God; to make all things new.\_\_\_\_\_

#### + APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

#### + PRAYER OF THE DAY

**O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

# ✠ WORD ✠

**PSALM** "O God, You Search Me" ACS #1082 (a paraphrase of Psalm 139:13-18)



1 O God, you search me and you know me.  
2 You know my rest - ing and my ris - ing.  
3 Be - fore a word is on my tongue, Lord,  
4 Al - though your Spir - it is up - on me,  
5 For you cre - at - ed me and shaped me,



All my thoughts lie o - pen to your gaze.  
You dis - cern my pur - pose from a - far,  
you have known its mean - ing through and through.  
still I search for shel - ter from your light.  
gave me life with - in my moth - er's womb.



When I walk or lie down you are be - fore me:  
and with love ev - er - last - ing you be - siege me:  
You are with me be - yond my un - der - stand - ing:  
There is no - where on earth I can es - cape you:  
For the won - der of who I am, I praise you:



ev - er the mak - er and keep - er of my days.  
in ev - 'ry mo - ment of life or death, you are.  
God of my pres - ent, my past, and fu - ture, too.  
e - ven the dark - ness is ra - dian in your sight.  
safe in your hands, all cre - a - tion is made new.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? \_\_\_\_



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia! \_\_\_\_

## HOLY GOSPEL     *JOHN 3:1-21*

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup> He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.”

<sup>3</sup> Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” <sup>4</sup> Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?”

<sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup> What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’

<sup>8</sup> The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

<sup>9</sup> Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

<sup>11</sup> “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup> If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?

<sup>13</sup> No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.

<sup>14</sup> And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,

<sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup> “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup> “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him. <sup>18</sup> Those who believe in him are not condemned, but those who do not believe are condemned already because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. <sup>19</sup> And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup> For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. <sup>21</sup> But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

The gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## HOMILY

+ **HYMN OF THE DAY** *“This Is the Spirit’s Entry Now”* ELW #448

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

## + 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.



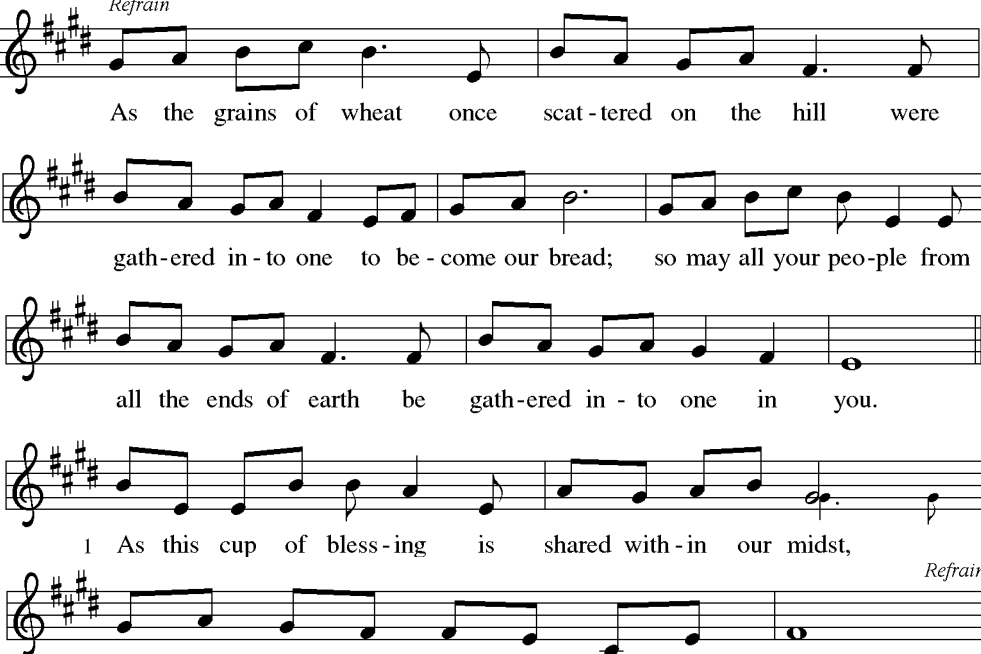
Members

**ANTHEM (8:30)** *"Witness"* arr. Victor C. Johnson

**ANTHEM (10:30)** *"Light of a Clear Blue Morning"* Dolly Parton; as performed by the Wailin' Jennys

## + OFFERTORY

*Refrain*



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were  
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from  
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.  
1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,  
*Refrain*  
may we share the pres - ence of your love.

## + OFFERTORY PRAYER

## ✠ MEAL ✠

### + GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Presider:*                      *Congregation:*                      *Presider:*

The\_ Lord be with you. And\_ al - so with you. Lift up your  
*Congregation:*                      *Presider:*  
 hearts. We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the  
*Congregation:*  
 Lord our God. It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is our duty and delight that we should everywhere and always offer thanks and praise to you, O God, through Jesus Christ, who calls us to follow his way of humble service and love, and so with the church on earth, all creation and the host of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho- ly, ho- ly, ho-ly are you, God of pow-er and might; Heav-en and earth are  
 filled with your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est! Bless - ed is the  
 One who comes in your name.. Ho - san-na in the high-est, ho - san-na in the high-est!

### + EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Christ reveals you to be active everywhere and always, in all the spheres of life: from the wedding feast to the temple, in a private conversation at night and at the public well in broad daylight. Sometimes you transform scarcity to abundance; other times you are flipping tables. Sometimes you teach; other times you heal. And in Christ, you are always inviting us to abide with you.

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

Pour out upon us the Spirit and truth of your love, O Lord, and fill our hearts with zeal for your kingdom. Make us, your church, a fountain of your living water and a healing balm in places of suffering and sorrow. Unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all glory and honor, now and forever. **Amen.**

# **+ THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory  
are yours, now and forever. **Amen.**

# **+ EL PADRE NUESTRO**

Padre nuestro que estás en los cielos,  
santificado sea tu nombre;  
venga a nos tu reino;  
hágase tu voluntad,  
así en la tierra como en el cielo;  
el pan nuestro de cada día, dánoslo hoy;  
y perdónanos nuestras deudas  
así como nosotros perdonamos  
a nuestros deudores;  
y no nos dejes caer en la tentación;  
mas líbranos del mal.  
Porque tuyo es el reino,  
el poder y la gloria,  
por los siglos de los siglos. **Amén.**

# **LAMB OF GOD**

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

# **HOLY COMMUNION HYMN “God Loved the World” ELW #323**



+ **TABLE BLESSING**

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

+ **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

O God, in this holy communion you have welcomed us into your presence,  
nourished us with words of mercy, and fed us at your table.  
Amid the cares of this life, strengthen us to love you with all our heart,  
serve our neighbors with a willing spirit, and honor the earth you have made;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

✠ **SENDING** ✠

+ **BENEDICTION**

May the triune God  
✠ bless you with joy,  
anoint you with compassion,  
and send you in love. **Amen.**

+ **SENDING HYMN** “*From the Waters I Will Rise*” VT #442

1. From the wa - ters I will rise, I will rise and  
2. From my kneel - ing I will stand, I will stand and  
3. From my won - d'ring I will know, I will know and  
4. From my death I'm born a - new, born a - new, I

walk. Wipe the wa - ter from my eyes, walk with  
sing. Reach for me and take my hand, sing with  
dream. Shar - ing wis - dom, we will grow, dream with  
live. Come and see what God will do, live with

1-3 4.  
me in Christ. me in  
me in Christ.  
me in Christ.

Christ, live with me in Christ.

## + DISMISSAL

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

**POSTLUDE** *"Praise God's Greatness"* arr. Mark Hayes

### WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Inger Hanson & Pastor Ben Schori

Acolytes: (8:30) Connor Dahl (10:30)

Assisting Minister: (8:30) Yvonne Roesel (10:30) Krista Middlebrooks

Ushers: (8:30) Connor Dahl, Ruby Dahl, Torin Engle, Kristi Larson  
(10:30) Hannah Broughton, Kristi Larson

Readers: (8:30) Shae Engle (10:30) Kristi Larson

Sacramental Ministers: (8:30) Phil Ruud and Bethel Youth (10:30) Bethel Youth

Altar Care: (set) and (clean) Phyllis Larson (cups) Connie DeGrote

Director of Pop-Up Choir: Pete Schleif

Vocal Trio: Krista Middlebrooks, Megan Engel, Joanna McLees

Keyboards: Megan Engel

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

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Cover Art: Born Again (Nicodemus) by Lauren Wright Pittman, from Art in the Christian Tradition Project.

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**SUNDAY ATTENDANCE**

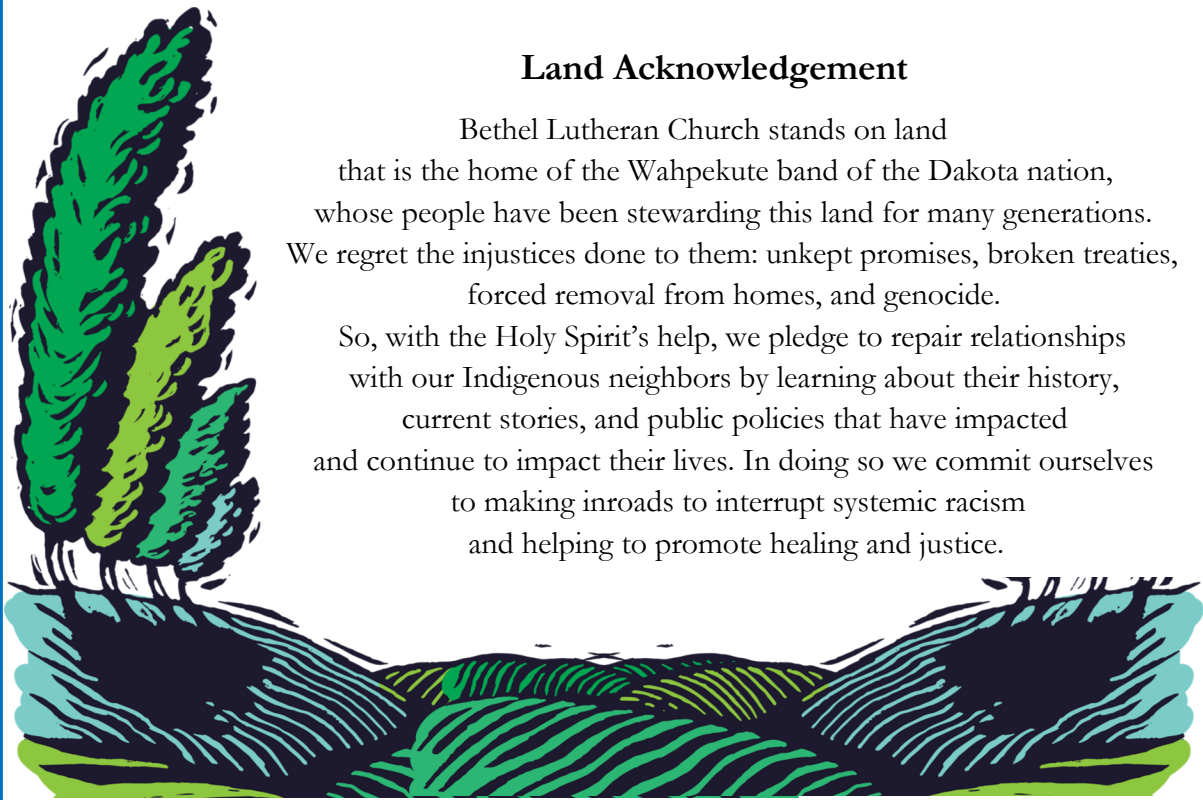
January 18	in person attendance
8:30 am	146
10:30 am	61
Total	207

**NEXT SUNDAY...**

The text of the day will be  
**John 4:1-42** with **Psalms 42:1-3**.

**Land Acknowledgement**


Bethel Lutheran Church stands on land  
that is the home of the Wahpekute band of the Dakota nation,  
whose people have been stewarding this land for many generations.  
We regret the injustices done to them: unkept promises, broken treaties,  
forced removal from homes, and genocide.  
So, with the Holy Spirit's help, we pledge to repair relationships  
with our Indigenous neighbors by learning about their history,  
current stories, and public policies that have impacted  
and continue to impact their lives. In doing so we commit ourselves  
to making inroads to interrupt systemic racism  
and helping to promote healing and justice.




# **THIS WEEK—JANUARY 25—31**

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

## **MONDAY**

12:00 pm  **Bible Study @ the Vault** (1520 Clinton Lane)

6:30 pm  **Resonance Bell Choir** (Adults)

## **TUESDAY**


9:00 am  **Quilting Group**

9:45 am **Staff Meeting**

## **WEDNESDAY**

3:30 pm **Limitless**

4:45 pm **Immigration Team**

5:45 pm  **Bistro** (Pulled Pork Sandwiches, Mac N' Cheese & Cole Slaw/Chips )

5:45 pm **Ring Forth Youth Bell Choir**

6:30 pm **J-Term (6th-9th Grade) / Sitcom & Spirit**

7:00 pm **Hangtime**

8:05 pm  **Brio Youth Bell Choir**

## **THURSDAY**

8:30 am **MOB (Men of Bethel)** (Room 54)

9:30 am **FAB (Faith & Books)** (Youth Room)

6:30 pm **Mission & Justice** (Fireside Room)

## **FRIDAY**

9:30 am  **WoW (Women of the Word)** via zoom



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