



BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

SEASON OF CREATION—FORESTS

AUGUST 16TH, 2026

8:30 AM & 10:30 AM

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

✠ GATHERING ✠

PRELUDE (8:30) *“Joyful, Joyful”* arr. D. Burton

(10:30) *“All Things Bright and Beautiful”* arr. Christine Sullivan

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, 2 & 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_
2. So ma - ny the sto - ries we car - ry and tend,
4. Im - ag - ine a world where op - pres-sion will cease,



bring - ing your hopes_ and your ques - tions un - told or
beau - ty and bro - ken - ness, wait - ing to mend. So
just - ice and mer - cy will blos - som in peace and



may - be you're hold - ing too heav - y a load. O
come to this place_ from what - ev - er has been; re -
all of cre - a - tion will join in the feast: be -



come, just as you are.____ to verse 2
mem - ber whose 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 are rooted in your provision
and are restored by your peace. **Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

FIRST READING *ISAIAH 55:10-13*

A reading from Isaiah.

¹⁰ For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.
¹² For you shall go out in joy
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
¹³ Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle,
and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

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

CAMP & YOUTH TRIP REFLECTIONS

SECOND READING *REVELATION 22:1-5*

A reading from Revelation.

¹ Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month, and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³ Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; ⁴ they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵ And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

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

HOMILY

+ HYMN OF THE DAY “*Psalm 139: Wherever I Go, You Go*” John Hermanson

If I take (echo)	the wings of morning (echo)
and fly (echo)	to the furthest sea, (echo)
your right hand (echo)	will guide me. (echo)
Your right hand (echo)	will guide me. (echo)

Chorus

Where can I go from your spirit? (echo)
Where can I flee from your presence? (echo)
Wherever I go, you go. (echo)
Wherever I go, you go. (echo)

If the darkness (echo)	overcomes me (echo)
and day (echo)	turns into night, (echo)
Even night, (echo)	to you is light. (echo)
Even night, (echo)	to you is light. (echo)

+ APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

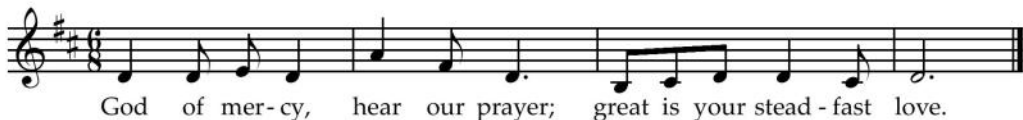
**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

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:



+ 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) *"The Ash Grove"* Traditional

(10:30) *"All Creatures Worship God Most High"* arr. Gary Lanier

+ 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

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal: you we praise and glorify, you we worship and adore. You laid the foundations of the earth; you encircled the globe with air; you prescribed bounds for the waters; you made every creature. You molded us in your image, and with mercy taller than the trees of the forests, with grace deeper than the seas, you blessed the Israelites and cherished them as your own. That also we, estranged and dying, might be adopted to live in your Spirit, you called to us through the life and death of Jesus.

The Words of Institution / Las Palabras de la Institución

With this bread and cup we remember your Son, the first-born of your new creation. We remember his life lived for others, and his death and resurrection, which renews the face of the earth. Send your Spirit on us and on this meal, whose breath revives us for life, whose fire rouses us to love. Nurture in us the fruits of the Spirit, that we may be a living tree, sharing your bounty with all the world, and praising and glorifying you through your Son Jesus Christ, through whom all glory and honor are yours, now and forever. **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

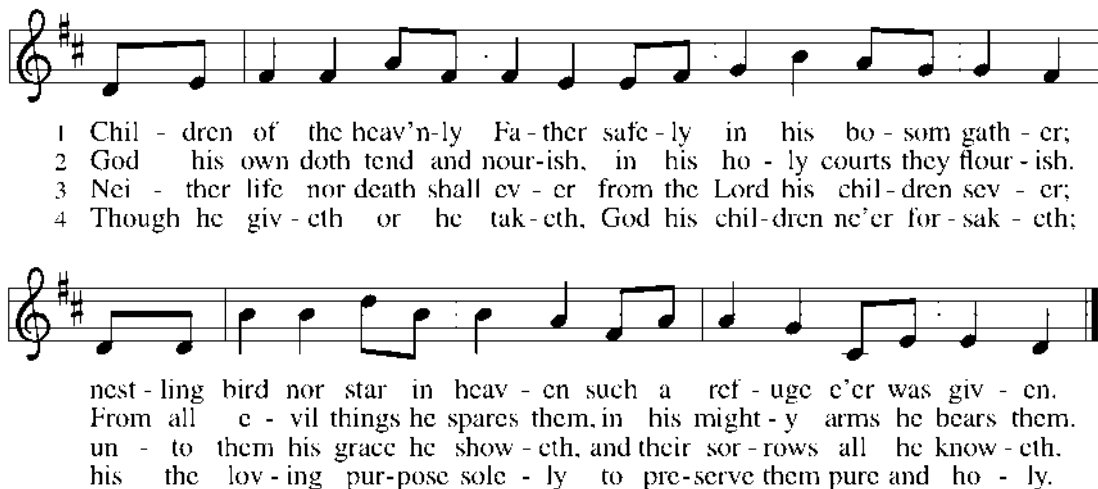
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



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 ANTHEM (8:30) *"Morning Has Broken"* arr. R. Bozeman

HYMN (10:30) *"Children of the Heavenly Father"* ELW #781



1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;
2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour - ish.
3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil-dren sev - er;
4 Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his chil-dren ne'er for - sak - eth;
nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.
un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.
his the lov - ing pur-pose sole - ly to pre-serve them pure and ho - ly.

+ 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 ✠

+ GODSPEED AND BLESSING FOR MINISTRY

Jessica Labenski has completed her Masters in Divinity and is beginning her internship year with the people of First Lutheran Church in Waltham, Massachusetts. On internship, she will put into practice all that she has studied, and will learn about how God works in and through God's people in ways that aren't fully held in books or classrooms. Today we ask God's blessing on Jessi and on First Lutheran as they serve and learn from each other.

Jessi, in Holy Baptism, our Lord Jesus Christ received you and made you a member of the Church. Bethel has rejoiced over how the Spirit has moved in your faith journey thus far... from childhood wonderment to the questions of confirmation, from going on trips to being a camp counselor, from a year of service to seminary. You are a blessing, and Bethel has been especially blessed through your summers on staff in pastoral care, communications, and this year working with youth and young adults. We pray that we have blessed you, too. As you prepare for this final year of formation in our church body, we ask God's blessing on you and your calling as a minister of word and sacrament.

Jessi kneels to receive the following sung blessing:

HYMN "God, Be the Love to Search and Keep You" ACS #1084



1. God, be the love to search and keep you; God, be the prayer to
2. Bind to your-self the name of Ho - ly, great cloud of wit - ness -
4. Walk-ing be-hind to hem your jour-ney, go - ing a - head to
5. Christ in the eyes of all who see you, Christ in the ears that



move your voice; God, be the strength to now up - hold you:
es en - fold; proph-ets, a - pos - tles, an - gels wit - ness:
light your way, and from be - neath, a - bove, and all ways:
hear your voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know you:



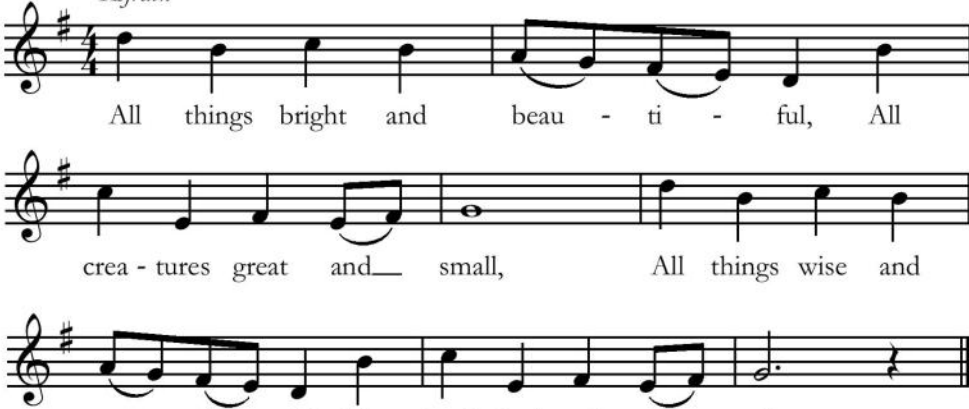
O Christ, sur - round you; O Christ, sur - round you.

+ BENEDICTION

The holy Three, the holy One
increase your hope, strengthen your faith,
deepen your love, and ✠ grant you peace. **Amen.**

+ SENDING HYMN “All Things Bright and Beautiful” VT #177

Refrain



All things bright and beau - ti - ful, All
crea - tures great and small, All things wise and
won - der - ful, The Lord God made them all.

Verses



1. Each lit - tle flow'r that o - pens, Each
2. The pur - ple - head - ed moun - tain, The
3. The cold wind in the win - ter, The
4. God gave us eyes to see them, And

lit - tle bird that sings, God made their glow - ing
riv - er run - ing by, The sun - set, and the
pleas - ant sum - mer sun, The ripe fruits in the
lips that we might tell How great is God Al -

col - ors, God made their ti - ny wings.
morn - ing That bright - ens up the sky.
gar - den, God made them ev' - ry one.
- might - y, Who has made all things well.

+ DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE (8:30) “*For the Beauty of the Earth*” arr. Robert A. Hobby
(10:30) “*For the Beauty of the Earth*” arr. Greg Bottomley

WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Ben Schori

Preacher: Jessi Labenski

Assisting Minister: (8:30) Ellen Haefner (10:30) Krista Middlebrooks

Ushers: (8:30) Charlie Dahl, Ruby Dahl, Bruce Dueffert, Harley Foster
(10:30) Patrick Stahly

Readers: (8:30) Janice Lehmkuhl (10:30) Jason Pollington

Sacramental Ministers: (8:30) Clark Cary, Phyllis Larson, Rosemarie Lewis, Telford Norvold, Phil Ruud
(10:30) Jason Pollington

Altar Care: (set) and (clear) Linda Zolnosky (clean) Judy Tonolli (cups) TBD

Harp: Sarah Swan McDonald Flute: Krista Middlebrooks Keyboards: Megan Engel

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

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

“*Let All Creation Sing*” from *Living Voice of Creation*. Hans Peterson & Carol Meier.

© 2026 Dakota Road Music & Carol Meier Music

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 Forest Sunday by Rev. Inger Hanson.

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

© 2023 Carol Meier Music (ASCAP).

Pastor Inger modified the Eucharistic Prayer from ELW Form VII and XI for the Season of Creation 2026.

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

The Benediction is from *All Creation Sings* Setting 12.

“*All Things Bright and Beautiful*” Text: Cecil F. Alexander, *Hymns for Little Children*, 1848, alt.

Music: English trad., 17C, *The Dancing Master*, 1686; adapt. Martin Shaw, harm. John Ribble © 1983 John Ribble

“*God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me*” Text and Music: Richard Bruxvoort Colligan,

© 2004 This Here Music, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Portions of the liturgy are reprinted from Evangelical Lutheran Worship,

© 2006 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license SB143519

Other liturgical aids are from Sundays and Seasons © 2026

Other music is used with permission

under OneLicense.net license #A703881 or CCLI license #2666099

THIS WEEK

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

MONDAY

- 12:00 pm  Bible Study @ the Vault
6:30 pm Mission & Justice Committee (Fireside Room)

TUESDAY

- 9:00 am  Quilting Group
9:45 am Staff Meeting
12:00 pm Lydia Circle
5:00 pm Personnel
6:30 pm Church Council

NEXT SUNDAY...

The text of the day will be **Matthew 6:25-27**
with **Job 12:7-10** and **Psalms 104:24-34**.
Pastor Phil preaches.

WEDNESDAY

- 1:00 pm Visitation—Gary Hanson
2:00 pm Celebration of Life—Gary Hanson
4:00 pm Summer Sonshine—Romans and Christians Pizza Party (at St. John's)
4:30 pm Homes for God's Children (Fireside Room)
5:00 pm Congregational Life (Youth Room)

SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

THURSDAY

- 9:00 am  FAB (Faith & Books) (Youth Room)
9:00 am Men of Bethel (Classroom 54)
10:00 am Parkview Fellowship
10:15 am ARLA (Anti-Racism Learning & Advocacy)

August 9	in person attendance
8:30 am	146
10:30 am	68
Total	214

CREATION CARE ACTION NOTE

Forests are the focus of this week's Season of Creation. Forests are critical for many human needs. They provide oxygen to breathe, purification of water for our communities, and help mitigate the effects of climate change. In addition to these obvious benefits, forests also impact human health by lowering stress and improving mental and physical health when spending time in them. What are we doing to care for our forests?



1321 North Avenue, Northfield, MN 55057
www.bethelnorthfield.org | 507.786.6674

