



STEWARDSHIP
IN ANXIOUS TIMES
OCTOBER 2026

WHAT IF WE
DON'T KNOW
WHAT TO DO?



BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Covenant and Commandments

OCTOBER 11TH, 2026

8:30 AM & 10:30 AM

+ indicates to stand in body or spirit;

***bold print** indicates congregational responses*

✠ GATHERING ✠

PRELUDE (8:30) *"Be Thou My Vision"* Traditional

(10:30) *"Meditation from Thaïs"* Jules Massenet, arr. Burton

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.**

We give thanks, God of grace, creator of waters,
that long ago your Spirit hovered over the deep.

Organ: We remember that you separated the land from the waters
and provided rain to freshen the ground.

Pulpit: We remember that you flooded the earth
and held creatures and people above the waters.

Organ: We remember that you parted the waters
as your people fled from bondage in Egypt.

Pulpit: We remember Jesus your Son, who, like all of us,
arrived in the waters of childbirth.

Organ: We remember John baptizing in the waters of the Jordan
and the Spirit descending like a dove.

Pulpit: We remember that Jesus shared our thirst
and a Samaritan woman shared water from a well.

**Living Water, renew us in our baptisms and pour your Spirit on us.
Wash us and free us from sin, make us fruitful in every way,
and renew your world with showers of blessing. Amen.**

+ CANTICLE OF PRAISE



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.

+ 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

Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*At this time, children age 3 to grade 5 are invited to go to Sunday School.
They will return to the sanctuary before communion.*

✠ WORD ✠

+ SCRIPTURE ACCLAMATION "God, When Human Bonds are Broken" ELW #603

*The first stanza is sung before the reading of the gospel.
After the reading, the second stanza is sung.*

1 God, when hu - man bonds are bro - ken and we lack the
5 Give us faith to be more faith - ful, give us hope to
love or skill to re - store the hope of heal - ing,
be more true, give us love to go on learn - ing:
give us grace and make us still.
God, en - cour - age and re - new!

+ HOLY GOSPEL *MATTHEW 5:17-20*

The gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹⁷“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

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

READING *EXODUS 19:3-7; 20:1-17*

A reading from Exodus.

³Then Moses went up to God; the Lord called to him from the mountain, “Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the Israelites: ⁴‘You have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. ⁵Now, therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, ⁶but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites.”

⁷So Moses went, summoned the elders of the people, and set before them all these words that the Lord had commanded him.

...

¹Then God spoke all these words,

²“I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall have no other gods before me.

⁴“You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above or that is on the earth beneath or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me ⁶but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷“You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

⁸ “Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰ But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹ For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and consecrated it.

¹² “Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

¹³ “You shall not murder.

¹⁴ “You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵ “You shall not steal.

¹⁶ “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷ “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, male or female slave, ox, donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

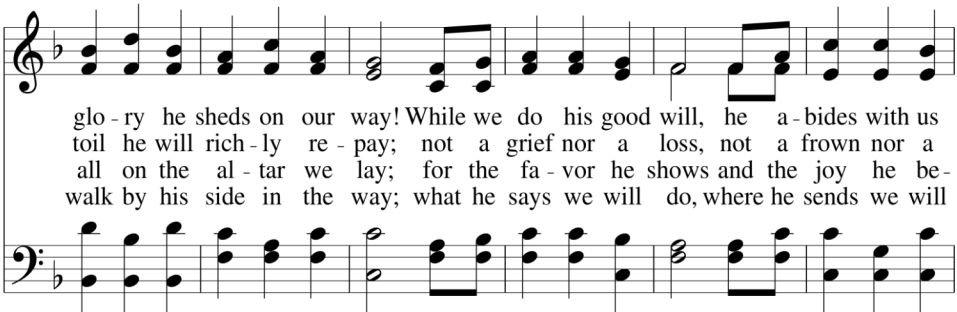
Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

HOMILY

+ HYMN OF THE DAY "When We Walk with the Lord" VT #570



1 When we walk with the Lord in the light of his Word, what a
 2 Not a bur - den we bear, not a sor - row we share, but our
 3 But we nev - er can prove the de - lights of his love un - til
 4 Then in fel - low - ship sweet we will sit at his feet, or we'll



glo - ry he sheds on our way! While we do his good will, he a - bides with us
 toil he will rich - ly re - pay; not a grief nor a loss, not a frown nor a
 all on the al - tar we lay; for the fa - vor he shows and the joy he be -
 walk by his side in the way; what he says we will do, where he sends we will

Refrain



still, and with all who will trust and o - bey.
 cross, but is blest if we trust and o - bey. Trust and o - bey, for there's
 stows are for them who will trust and o - bey.
 go—nev - er fear, on - ly trust and o - bey.



no oth - er way to be hap - py in Je - sus, but to trust and o - bey.

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) *"Ancient Voices"* Sandra Eithun

(10:30) *"Be Thou My Vision"* arr. Larry Shackley

+ OFFERTORY *"We Give Thee but Thine Own"* ELW #686 stanzas 1 & 2

1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;
2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,

all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.

+ OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of life, you are our provision.

In this season of harvest, we are reminded of your bounty.

From the tiny seed comes plenty; from the dirt enough for all.

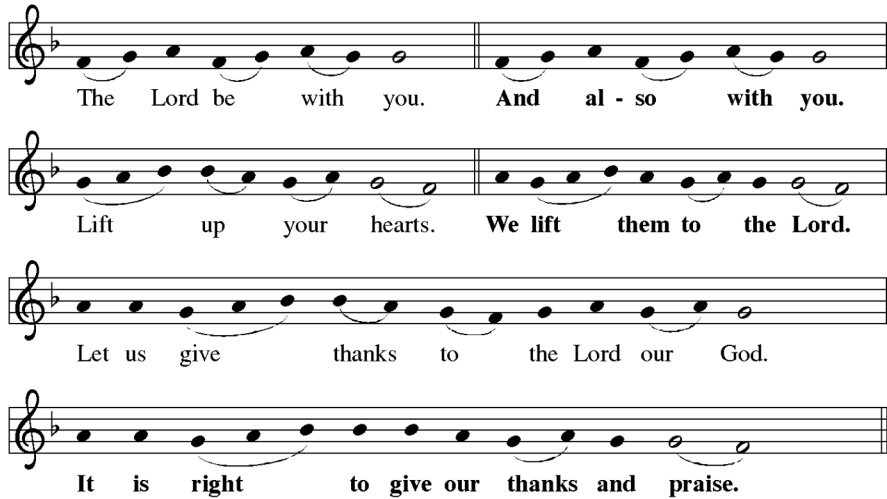
In you, all gifts are given. In you, our need is met.

Trusting in you, we offer what has always been yours

and ask you to align our lives—including our outlook and our finances—in your way. Amen.

✠ MEAL ✠

+ GREAT THANKSGIVING



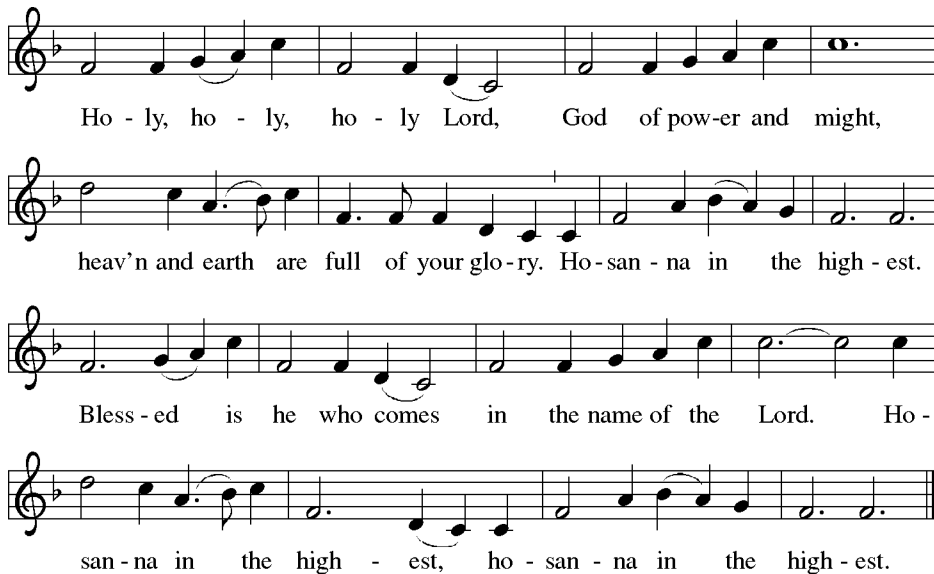
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,

heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

+ EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

O God most mighty, O God most merciful, O God our rock and our salvation, hear our praise, call us to your table, and grant us your life. In all the "what ifs?" of life you fight for us; you give direction through your commandments; when we forget, you remind us; when we make a mistake, there is forgiveness even as we face consequences. In Christ, you meet all our "what ifs?" and walk with us.

The Words of Institution / Las Palabras de la Institución

Send your Spirit, that through this heavenly food, the body and blood of Christ, we become what we receive. **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



- 1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

HOLY COMMUNION ANTHEM (8:30) *“Meditation from Thaïs”* Jules Massenet, arr. Burton
(10:30) *“Jesus Loves Me”* William Bradbury, arr. Barnwell
“Blest Be the Tie that Binds” Johann G. Maegeli

+ TABLE BLESSING

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

✠ SENDING ✠

+ BENEDICTION

God all mighty, God most merciful,
✠ bless you, keep you, and give you peace. **Amen.**

+ **SENDING HYMN** *“Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways”* ELW #772

+ DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE *“Now Thank We All Our God”* arr. Paul Manz

WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Inger Hanson & Pastor Ben Schori
Assisting Minister: (8:30) Rolf Kragseth (10:30) Marci Groenewold
Harp: Sarah Swan McDonald Flute: Krista Middlebrooks

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Our Thanksgiving for Baptism is from *Voices Together*, © 2020 Mennonite Worship and Song Committee, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.

The Prayer of the Day is from ELW Year B Lent 3.

"When We Walk with the Lord" Text: John H. Sammis, *Hymns Old and New*, 1887.
Music: TRUST AND OBEY, Daniel B. Towner, *Hymns Old and New*, 1887.

The Offertory Prayer was written by Dr. Kiara Jorgenson.

The Eucharistic Prayer was written by Pastor Inger for the 2026 Stewardship "What If?" theme, drawing on the lessons.

We are using ELW Setting Ten for our liturgy.

Portions of the liturgy are reprinted from Evangelical Lutheran Worship,
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BETHEL STAFF

Inger Hanson, *Senior Pastor* she/her
Ben Schori, *Associate Pastor* he/him
Phil Ruud, *Visitation Pastor* he/him

Megan (Mee-gan) Engel, *Director of Music & Worship* she/her
Peter Schleif, *Church Choir Director* he/him
Jill Mahr, *Youth Handbell Director* she/her
Cindy Carlson, *Resonance Bell Director* she/her

Megan Shoup, *Director of Children,
Youth, & Family Ministries* she/her
Juley Jenkinson, *Nursery Coordinator* she/her

Kate Dreier, *Office Manager* she/her
Caroline Smith, *Financial Assistant* she/her

Marv Farmer, *Custodian* he/him
Blair Fowler, *Building Manager* he/him

Sam Dwyer, *Audio/ Visual Manager* he/him

Audio/ Visual Technicians

Asher Engle he/him
Nathan Hoekstra he/him
Nathan Broughton he/him

SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

October 4	in person attendance
8:30 am	168
10:30 am	73
Total	241

NEXT SUNDAY...

The text of the day will be **Joshua 24:1-15**
[16-26] with **Matthew 4:8-10**.
Pastor Ben preaches.

THIS WEEK — OCTOBER 12-17
CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY - THURSDAY 9 AM - 3 PM

MONDAY

Church Office & Library Closed - Indigenous Peoples Day

6:30 pm Resonance Bell Choir
6:30 pm ISAAH Rice County (61 A/B)

TUESDAY

9:00 am Quilting Group
9:45 am Bethel Staff
3:00 pm Lydia Circle Fellowship
5:00 pm Personnel
6:30 pm Church Council

WEDNESDAY

No Wednesday Programming/Bistro (MEA Break)
5:00 pm Congregational Life

THURSDAY

9:00 am MoB (Men of Bethel) (Room 54)
9:00 am FaB (Faith & Books) (Youth Room)
10:00 am Parkview Fellowship

FRIDAY

9:15 am WoW (Women of the Word) via zoom

SATURDAY

11:00 am Jerry Germundson Service (10:00 am visitation, reception to follow service)



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