



STEWARDSHIP
IN ANXIOUS TIMES
OCTOBER 2026

WHAT IF WE FORGET?

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Joshua Renews the Covenant

OCTOBER 18TH, 2026

8:30 AM & 10:30 AM

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

✠ GATHERING ✠

PRELUDE *“Word of God, Come Down on Earth”* arr. Wayne Wold

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, you have done great things for us. Sometimes we forget,
taking or giving credit to our own efforts or other forces. Direct our choices
and preserve us in your truth, that renouncing what is false and evil, we may
live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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 *"Jesus, Tempted in the Desrt"* (stanzas 1 & 4)

The first stanza is sung before the reading of the Gospel.

After the reading, the second stanza is sung.



+ HOLY GOSPEL *MATTHEW 4:8-10*

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

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, ⁹ and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,
‘Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.’”

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

READING *JOSHUA 24:1-15*

A reading from Joshua.

¹ Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. ² And Joshua said to all the people, “Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. ³ Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many. I gave him Isaac, ⁴ and to Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau. I gave Esau the hill country of Seir to possess, but Jacob and his children went down to Egypt.

⁵ Then I sent Moses and Aaron, and I plagued Egypt with what I did in its midst, and afterward I brought you out. ⁶ When I brought your ancestors out of Egypt, you came to the sea, and the Egyptians pursued your ancestors with chariots and horsemen to the Red Sea. ⁷ When they cried out to the Lord, he put darkness between you and the Egyptians and made the sea come upon them and cover them, and your eyes saw what I did to Egypt. Afterward you lived in the wilderness a long time.

⁸ Then I brought you to the land of the Amorites, who lived on the other side of the Jordan; they fought with you, and I handed them over to you, and you took possession of their land, and I destroyed them before you. ⁹ Then King Balak son of Zippor of Moab set out to fight against Israel. He sent and invited Balaam son of Beor to curse you, ¹⁰ but I would not listen to Balaam; therefore he blessed you, so I rescued you out of his hand.

¹¹ When you went over the Jordan and came to Jericho, the citizens of Jericho fought against you, as well as the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Girgashites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, and I handed them over to you. ¹² I sent swarms of hornets ahead of you that drove out before you the two kings of the Amorites; it was not by your sword or by your bow. ¹³ I gave you a land on which you had not labored and towns that you had not built, and you live in them; you eat the fruit of vineyards and oliveyards that you did not plant.

¹⁴ “Now, therefore, revere the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt and serve the Lord. ¹⁵ Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living, but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

HOMILY

+ HYMN OF THE DAY "We Will Serve the Lord" Gather #827
Verse 1 will be sung as a solo. All will join on Verse 2



Refrain

As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord,
we will serve the Lord, we will serve the Lord!

+ 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

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

+ SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

OFFERING



Guests

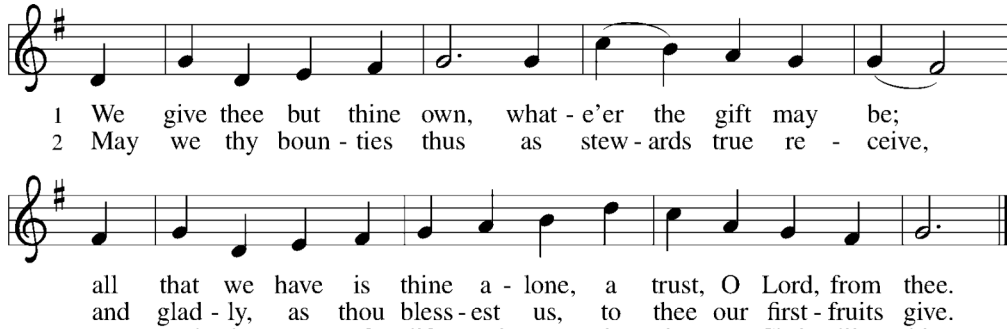
Generosity is part of who we are as God's people. Guests can use their QR code to give via Breeze, Bethel's trusted online giving platform. Select "Member Faith Giving" to give to the general budget. Members can use their QR code to sign into Breeze to give a one-time gift or to schedule an automated 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) *"I Will Serve the Lord All My Days"* Nancy Price & Don Besig
(10:30) *"Air from Water Music"* Handel; arr. Chuck Seipp

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



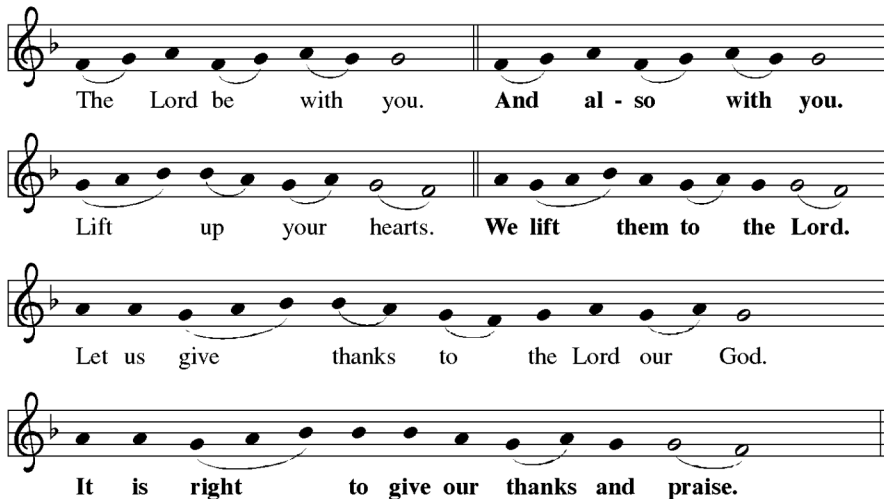
1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;
 2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,
 all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.
 and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.

+ 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 *"Rock of Ages from 'Two Revival Preludes'"* arr. Graham Farrell

+ 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 “*Word of God, Come Down on Earth*” ELW #510

+ DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE “*Festival Prelude on Old Hundredth*” arr. Walter L. Pelz

WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Inger Hanson & Pastor Ben Schori
Assisting Minister: (8:30) Becky Nysteen (10:30) Krista Middlebrooks Trumpet: Gerry Hoekstra

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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

The Prayer of the Day was modified from ELW Year B, Lectionary 21.

“*Jesus, Tempted in the Desert*” Text: Herman G. Stuempfle, © 1993, GIA Publications.
Music: EBENEZER, Thomas J. Williams, 1869-1944.

“*We Will Serve the Lord*” Text & Music: Rory Cooney, © 1986 North American Liturgy Resources, OCP.

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, © 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

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
Pete 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

THIS WEEK — OCTOBER 19-24

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

MONDAY

9:45 am Bethel Staff
12:00 pm Bible Text Study @ The Vault
6:30 pm Resonance Bell Choir

TUESDAY

12:00 pm Lydia Circle
2:00 pm Grief & Loss Support

WEDNESDAY

3:30 pm SPARK
5:45 am Bistro
6:15 pm Ring Forth
7:00 pm Confirmation Rehearsal
7:00 pm 6th Grade Connections/7-8-9 Warm Up/HangTime
7:00 pm Church Choir rehearsal
8:05 pm Brio

THURSDAY

9:00 am FaB (Faith & Books)/MoB (Men of Bethel)
10:00 am Projects with Purpose
5:00 pm Ed Durand Visitation
6:30 pm Mission & Justice Committee Meeting

FRIDAY

9:15 am WoW (Women of the Word) via zoom
11:00 am Ed Durand Funeral Service with Visitation 10:00 am

SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

October 11	in person attendance
8:30 am	160
10:30 am	100
Total	260

NEXT SUNDAY...

The text of the day will be **2 Samuel 11:1-5; 26-27; 12:1-9** with **Psalm 51:1-9**.
Pastor Inger preaches.



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