



Bethel Lutheran Church
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FRIENDS OF CHRIST ~ ALL OF OUR PEOPLE

The Rev. Zachary Wright ~ *Pastor*

Sylke Bargsten (254-394-0582) ~ *Director of Music*

Hazel Shutt (609-865-7752) ~ *Flower Coordinator*

The Rev. Bill Gohl ~ *Delaware-Maryland Synod Bishop*

***We celebrate the promise that all people are loved
and enough in Jesus Christ as we worship, learn,
and serve together.***

Pentecost Sunday

May 19, 2024

*In our Lutheran Tradition, liturgy reminds us that we are one in Christ, so we do it together! You are invited to respond in community with the **bold print** and stand in body or spirit when indicated by the asterisks (*).*

WELCOME

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP (*selections from Acts 2:1-21*)

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. **And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.**

Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them.

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?”

But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

But Peter, raised his voice and addressed them,

“This is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: ‘In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, And your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.

Even upon my servants, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit;... And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’”

*OPENING HYMN: *Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading (ELW 401)*

*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 (*in unison*)

Mighty God, you breathe life into our bones, and your Spirit brings truth to the world. Send us this Spirit, transform us by your truth, and give us language to proclaim your gospel, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: *Ezekiel 37:1-14* (pg. 625)

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

RESPONSIVE READING: *Psalm 104:24-34, 35b*

²⁴How manifold are your works, O LORD!

In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

²⁵**Yonder is the sea, great and wide, with its swarms too many to number,**

living things both small and great.

²⁶There go the ships to and fro,

and Leviathan, which you made for the sport of it.

²⁷**All of them look to you**

to give them their food in due season.

²⁸You give it to them; they gather it;

you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.

²⁹**When you hide your face, they are terrified;**

when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.

³⁰You send forth your Spirit, and they are created;

and so you renew the face of the earth.

³¹**May the glory of the LORD endure forever;**

O LORD, rejoice in all your works.

³²You look at the earth and it trembles;

you touch the mountains and they smoke.

³³**I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;**

I will praise my God while I have my being.

³⁴May these words of mine please God.

I will rejoice in the LORD.

^{35b}**Bless the LORD, O my soul.**

Hallelujah!

SECOND LESSON: *Romans 8:22-27* (pg. 120)

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

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *Halle, Halle, Hallelujah* (ELW 172)

*GOSPEL LESSON: *John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15* (pg. 84)

The Holy Gospel according to St. John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

~Gospel is read~

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY: *O Day Full of Grace* (ELW 627)

HOLY BAPTISM & AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

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, and 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 the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Dear friends, I am overjoyed to present Brittney Pilkerton for baptism and Sylke Bargsten and Cathy Heaps for Affirmation of Baptism.

I have a few questions to ask you, along with all members of the church, to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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.

Brittney, called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to be baptized into Christ and into the faith we just confessed? If so, say “I do.”

I do.

Sylke & Cathy, you have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism, like Brittney will:

to live among God’s faithful people,

to hear the word of God and share in the Lord’s supper,

to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,

to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,

and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

If so, say “I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.”

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

People of God, do you promise to support these sisters and pray for them in their life in Christ and to help them live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church? If so, say “We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.”

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Brittney, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Brittney, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen.**

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Sustain Brittney and stir up in Sylke and Cathy the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

Let us rejoice with these sisters in Christ.

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news of God’s creative and redeeming word to all the world.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

THE PEACE OF THE CHRIST

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

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Offerings can be placed in the offering plate on the small table as you walk in the sanctuary.

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (pg. 144)

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 our thanks and praise.

*SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

*WORDS OF INSTITUTION & LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those

who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

POST COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*BENEDICTION

*SENDING HYMN: *God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind (ELW 400)*

*SENDING

*POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today we celebrate the birth of the church with God's giving of the Spirit. We will welcome new members and celebrate a baptism. Stay after worship for some fellowship.

Vacation Bible School will be July 29-August 1. We'll be scuba diving into God's love. We will have a volunteer meeting next Sunday, May 19th, after worship.

This Saturday, May 25th from 2:00-4:00pm, our Delmarva North Conference will be welcoming Shane Claiborne to St. Mark's, Wilmington for a "Swords to Plowshares" event. This event will be a time of forging peace, disarming hearts, and turning guns into plowshares. All are welcome to attend!

Synod Assembly will be Friday, June 7 @ 9:45am through Saturday, June 8 @ 12:30pm at Grace Lutheran in Westminster, MD. Bethel can send two lay voting members. The registration deadline is coming up. If you are interested in attending, talk to Pastor Zach.

On the last day of school, June 13th, we will hand out ice cream for our neighborhood students at the bus stop between 12:30-2pm. If you're able to help, sign-up on the back table.

OUR STEWARDSHIP

May 5	Worship—47	Offering—\$2,295
May 12	Worship—52	Offering—\$1,275

Please fill the **wood food basket** in the back for the St. Mary Anne's food pantry. Specific needs: cereal, peanut butter, jelly, water only pancake mix, and canned fruit. *Make sure to check those expiration dates.

If you would like to give online, you can use the QR, which will redirect you to our giving platform.



Thank you for you for your faithfulness and generosity.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mike Beiter	Ray Weygand	Terry Fuss	Rayanne Lavery
Steve Bird	Kelly Campana	Stacy Igo	Abby Brown
Pastor Zach			

If you have a question, concern, or a new idea, make sure to tell someone!

Server Schedule

	Greeter	Reader	Usher	Acolyte
5/19	Stacy Carey	Mark Mortenson	Gretchen Brown	Mitchell Brown
5/26	Carol Ann Connors	Paul Markkula	Mark Andrichyn	Nathan Pelino

If you would like to help serve on a Sunday morning, let Pastor Zach know (pastorzach.blcne@gmail.com).

SERVICE NOTES

A **special and warm welcome** to everyone here this morning – seekers, members, and guests. We are glad you are here to join our church family for worship!

For worship, you'll need the bulletin and the cranberry-colored hymnal in the pew back in front of you. The liturgy is indicated by page number and can be found in the front half of the hymnal. The hymns are indicated by hymn number and are found in the back half of the hymnal.

If you find yourself needing to leave the worship space for any reason (cough, noisy child, overstimulated, etc.), the service is being livestreamed to the television in Fellowship Hall. Feel free to worship in there and come back into the sanctuary when you're ready.

COMMUNION INSTRUCTIONS

The communion table is God's table. Jesus invites all who desire to partake of His body and blood to come forward and receive God's amazing grace in the promises of forgiveness and eternal life. At **communion distribution**, please come forward to the altar rail, filling in the space from right-to-left. Pastor Zach will hand you a wafer to eat. You may then take wine from the tray (center ring is grape juice), drink it, and dispose of your cup in the basket as you return to your seat. If you want a blessing instead, please indicate this by folding your arms across your chest.

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