



Bethel Lutheran Church

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FRIENDS OF CHRIST ~ ALL OF OUR PEOPLE

The Rev. Zachary Wright ~ *Pastor*

Mike Beiter (410-808-1074) ~ *Council President*

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.***

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

February 23, 2025

*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

CHORAL PRELUDE

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life. **Amen.**

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Most merciful God, **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

~time of silent confession~

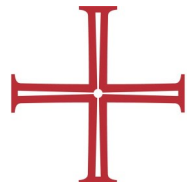
God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

*OPENING HYMN: *Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us (ELW 707)*

*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.



*KYRIE & CANTICLE OF PRAISE (*Setting Four, page 147*)

*PRAYER OF THE DAY (*in unison*)

O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: *Genesis 45:3-11, 15 (page 33)*

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

RESPONSORIAL READING: *Psalms 37:1-11, 39-40*

¹ Do not be provoked by evildoers;

do not be jealous of those who do wrong.

² **For they shall soon wither like the grass,
and like the green grass fade away.**

³ Put your trust in the Lord and do good;
dwell in the land and find safe pasture.

⁴ **Take delight in the Lord,
who shall give you your heart's desire.**

⁵ Commit your way to the Lord; put your trust in the Lord,
and see what God will do.

⁶ **The Lord will make your vindication as clear as the light
and the justice of your case like the noonday sun.**

⁷ Be still before the Lord and wait patiently.

Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds
in evil schemes.

⁸ **Refrain from anger, leave rage alone;
do not be provoked; it leads only to evil.**

⁹ For evildoers shall be cut off,
but those who hope in the Lord shall possess the land.

¹⁰ **In a little while the wicked shall be no more;
even if you search out their place, they will not be there.**

¹¹ But the lowly shall possess the land;
they will delight in abundance of peace.

³⁹ **But the deliverance of the righteous comes from you, O Lord;
you are their stronghold in time of trouble.**

⁴⁰ You, O Lord, will help them and rescue them;
you will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them, because in
you they seek refuge.



SECOND LESSON: *1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50 (page 135)*

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

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *O Splendor of God's Glory Bright*

(ELW 559) - verses 3 & 4

*GOSPEL LESSON: *Luke 6:27-38 (page 49)*

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

~Gospel is read~

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

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY: *God, When Human Bonds Are Broken*

(ELW 603)

*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

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

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 (*Setting Four, page 152*)

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 (*page 153*)

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

Lord God of pow'r and might:

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

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: *Blest Be the Tie that Binds (ELW 656)*

*SENDING

*POSTLUDE



SERVER SCHEDULE

	Greeter	Reader	Usher	Acolyte
2/23	Carol Ann Connors	Steve Bird	Paul Markkula	Nathan Pelino
3/2	Marie Lynch	Sandy Matthews	Bill Matthews	Alex 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 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.

All hymns are under Bethel's CCLI license (#11313912) and streaming license (#20849338). All rights reserved, unless otherwise indicated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thanks to everyone who brought food for LCM @ UD. It was greatly appreciated and enjoyed!

Want to join the Kids Club fun on Wednesday afternoons? We need two volunteers each week to spend time with us from 1:30-3:30. Sign-up on the sheet in the back.

Ash Wednesday (March 5) Schedule:

12:00 Noon—Community Ash Wednesday Service at North East Methodist (308 S. Main St.). Parking is in the lot by the Post Office or behind the church.

6:00pm—Pancake Potluck Supper. Men will cook the pancakes. Sign-up to bring a side, if you can.

7:00pm—Worship with the Imposition of Ashes in the Sanctuary.

Lenten Soup Suppers begin on March 12 for 5 weeks. We'll have soup and bread from 6-6:30pm followed by a study on the Nicene Creed. Sign-up to bring soup or bread on the sheet in the back.

Sign-up for Celebration Sunday Fellowship on the first Sunday of each month. If you want, team up with someone!

OUR STEWARDSHIP

February 9	Worship—41	Offering—\$1,510
February 16	Worship—33	Offering—\$1,794

Please fill the wood food basket in the back for the St. Mary Anne's food pantry. Specific needs: **shelf-stable milk, add-water-only pancake mix, canned meat (tuna, chicken, Vienna sausages), peanut butter & jelly, and cereal** *Make sure to check those expiration dates.



If you need a 2024 Giving Statement, make sure to see Steve Bird and he will get you one.

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

Thank you for your faithfulness and generosity.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mike Beiter	Cathy Heaps	Terry Fuss	Rayanne Lavery
Steve Bird	Linda Stoflet	Stacy Igo	Pastor Zach

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

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Blue print indicates a church event.

Regular print indicates an outside community event.

Sunday, February 23rd—Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

- 9:30am Youth Sunday School
- 10:30am Traditional Worship Service
- 1:00pm Korean Church Bible Study

Monday, February 24th

- 6:30pm Pastor Tom Bible Study
- 7:00pm Sisters of Serenity NA Group

Tuesday, February 25th

- 6:30pm North East AA Group

Wednesday, February 26th

- 10:30am Korean Church Bible Study
- 1:30pm Bethel Kids Club
- 4:00pm Vision Team Meeting

Thursday, February 27th

- 9:00am Men's Bible Study
- 12:00pm Children's Sermon (via Facebook, YouTube, and Beacon)
- 4:00pm Nicanor
- 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal
- 6:30pm Women's AA Group

Friday, February 28th

Saturday, March 1st

Sunday, March 2nd—Transfiguration of Our Lord

- 9:30am Youth Sunday School
- 10:30am Traditional Worship Service
- 11:45am Celebration Sunday Fellowship
- 1:00pm Korean Church Bible Study