



It is the Lord!

JOHN 21:7

Bethel Lutheran Church

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FRIENDS OF CHRIST ~ ALL OF OUR PEOPLE

The Rev. Zachary Wright ~ *Pastor*

Mike Beiter (410-808-1074) ~ *Congregation 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.***

Third Sunday of Easter

May 4, 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 (*).*

EASTER ACCLAMATION & WELCOME

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

*CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Lord God Almighty, in your great mercy, you sent your son to die for us. Grant us now the confidence we need to draw near you, to recognize and confess our sin, that we may receive your mercy and grace now and in the time of our need.

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 is merciful and gracious, loving us even when we were dead in sin, and granting forgiveness through Jesus Christ to all who believe. As a called an ordained minister of the church of Christ and by his authority I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*OPENING HYMN: *Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing (ELW 389)*

*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 Three, page 138*)

*PRAYER OF THE DAY (*in unison*)

Eternal and all-merciful God, with all the angels and all the saints we laud your majesty and might. By the resurrection of your Son, show yourself to us and inspire us to follow Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: *Acts 9:1-9, 17-20 (page 97)*

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

RESPONSIVE READING: *Psalms 30*

¹ I will exalt you, O Lord, because you have lifted me up
and have not let my enemies triumph over me.

² **O Lord my God, I cried out to you,
and you restored me to health.**

³ You brought me up, O Lord, from the dead;
you restored my life as I was going down to the grave.

⁴ **Sing praise to the Lord, all you faithful;
give thanks in holy remembrance.**

⁵ God's wrath is short; God's favor lasts a lifetime.

Weeping spends the night, but joy comes in the morning.

⁶ **While I felt secure, I said,**

"I shall never be disturbed.

⁷ You, Lord, with your favor, made me as strong as the mountains."

Then you hid your face, and I was filled with fear.

⁸ **I cried to you, O Lord;**

I pleaded with my Lord, saying,

⁹ "What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the pit?

Will the dust praise you or declare your faithfulness?

¹⁰ **Hear, O Lord, and have mercy upon me;**

O Lord, be my helper."

¹¹ You have turned my wailing into dancing;

you have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy.

¹² **Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing;**

O Lord my God, I will give you thanks forever.

SECOND LESSON: *Revelation 5:11-14 (page 195)*

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



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

*GOSPEL LESSON: *John 21:1-19 (page 88)*

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: *We Who Once Were Dead (ELW 495)*

*NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

THE PEACE OF THE CHRIST

The peace of the risen 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 Three, page 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 God our thanks and praise.

***SANCTUS** (*Setting Three, page 144*)

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power 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**

Alleluia! Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The blessing of Almighty God, who was, who is, and who is to come,
Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, light your way with resurrection hope and
power, now and always. **Amen.**

***SENDING HYMN:** *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* (ELW 815)

***SENDING**

Go in peace to love and serve the risen Christ!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

***POSTLUDE**



SERVER SCHEDULE

	Greeter	Reader	Usher	Acolyte
5/4	Nick Carter	Sandy Matthews	Bill Matthews	Mitchell Brown
5/11	Carol Ann Connors	Linda Stoflet	Paul Markkula	Chris Brown

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!

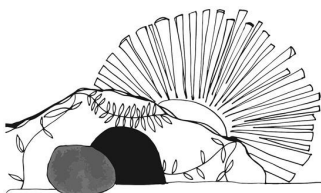
For worship, you'll need the bulletin and the cranberry-colored hymnal in the pew back in front of you. The liturgy is indicated by page number and can be found in the front half of the hymnal. The hymns are indicated by hymn number and found in the back half of the hymnal.

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.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Join us for Celebration Sunday Fellowship after worship today in Fellowship Hall to celebrate our May birthdays.

Kids Club went so well that we're running a session through the end of the school year. If you're available to hang out on Wednesday afternoons, sign-up in the back.

Sewing Class is Saturday, May 17 from 2-4pm in Fellowship Hall. Sign-up on the sheet in the back if you are able to attend. See Sylke if you have any questions.

Vacation Bible School will be here before we know it! If you're interested in helping, let Pastor Zach know. Keep an eye out for a meeting in the next month.

We continue our care for God's creation with our Adopt-a-Highway Clean-Ups on our portion of Rt. 272. We'll meet at 8:45am in the church parking lot and we'll wrap up before 10:30am. Mark your calendars to help out: May 17, July 19, August 23, & October 11.

OUR STEWARDSHIP

April 20	Worship—103	Offering—\$2,495
April 27	Worship—39	Offering—\$1,637

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 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	Linda Stoflet	Cathy Heaps	Rayanne Lavery
Steve Bird	Terry Fuss	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, May 4th—Third Sunday of Easter

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

Monday, May 5th

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

Tuesday, May 6th

- 6:30pm North East AA Group

Wednesday, May 7th

- 10:30am Korean Church Bible Study
- 1:30pm Bethel Kids Club

Thursday, May 8th

- 9:00am Men's Bible Study
- 12:00pm Children's Sermon via Bethel Beacon, YouTube, & Facebook
- 4:00pm Nicanor
- 5:15pm Nicanor Meeting
- 6:30pm Church Council Meeting
- 6:30pm Women's AA Group

Friday, May 9th

- 6:30pm District 11 AA Meeting

Saturday, May 10th

Sunday, May 11th—Fourth Sunday of Easter

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