

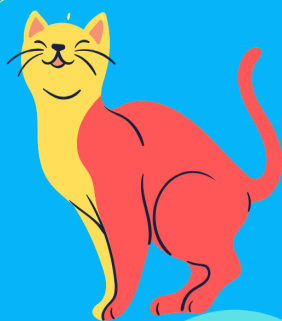
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2026
10:30AM - Bethel Lutheran Church



BLESSING

of the animals

**WITH LIVE
BARNYARD AREA**



Join us for an outdoor
worship service, as we
pray, sing, hear God's word,
and bless all the
animals & pets we love!
All (humans and leashed pets)
are welcome!

We are collecting pet food
and other items (old towels
and blankets) for Cecil
County Animal Services.

Blessing of the Animals

October 4, 2026

*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: *Psalm 80:7-15*

Our help is in the Name of the Lord;

The Maker of heaven and earth.

⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

⁸ **You have brought a vine out of Egypt;
you cast out the nations and planted it.**

⁹ You cleared the ground for it;
it took root and filled the land.

¹⁰ **The mountains were covered by its shadow
and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.**

¹¹ You stretched out its tendrils to the sea
and its branches to the river.

¹² **Why have you broken down its wall,
so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?**

¹³ The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it,
and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.

¹⁴ **Turn now, O God of hosts,
look down from heaven;**

¹⁵ behold and tend this vine;
preserve what your right hand has planted.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.



*OPENING HYMN: *Morning Has Broken* (ELW 556)

1. Morning has broken
Like the first morning,
Black bird has spoken
Like the first bird.
Praise for the singing!
Praise for the morning!
Praise for them springing
Fresh from the Word!

2. Sweet the rain's new fall
Sunlit from heaven,
Like the first dewfall
On the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness
Of the wet garden,
Sprung in completeness
Where God's feet pass.

3. Mine is the sunlight!
Mine is the morning.
Born of the one light
Eden saw play!
Praise with elation,
Praise ev'ry morning,
God's recreation
Of the newday!

*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*)

Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them. We give thanks for the beauty and goodness of the earth that you called into being and continually nurture and sustain. Our voices join in praise with all creation: with the sea that roars, the trees that clap their hands, and the birds that sing in joy, we praise your power and glory revealed in what you made. By your Spirit, weave us anew into your purposes for abundant life. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: *Isaiah 5:1-7*

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

SECOND LESSON: *Philippians 3:4b-14*

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



***GOSPEL LESSON:** *Matthew 21:33-46*

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

~Gospel is read~

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

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY:** *There In God's Garden (ELW 342)*

1. There in God's garden
stands the Tree of Wisdom,
Whose leaves hold forth the
healing of the nations:
Tree of all knowledge,
Tree of all compassion,
Tree of all beauty.

4. See how its branches
Reach to us in welcome;
Hear what the Voice says,
"Come to me, ye weary!
Give me your sickness,
Give me all your sorrow,
I will give blessing."

2. Its name is Jesus,
Name that says, "Our Savior!"
There on its branches
See the scars of suffering;
See there the tendrils
Of our human selfhood
Feed on its life blood

6. All heav'n is singing,
"Thanks to Christ whose passion
Offers in mercy
Healing, strength, and pardon.
Peoples and nations,
Take it, take it freely."
Amen! My Master!

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Most high, almighty Lord, our Creator, yours are the praise, the glory,
the honor and all blessings!

To you alone do all things belong.

Be praised for giving us the animals, birds and fish which fill your
world.

**May we think of you and thank you when we play with and care for
our pets.**

Be praised for making us so happy to have our pets and to have them to
play with.

**We ask you, Lord, that we may be good to our pets always, so that
they may be happy also.**

Help us always to take care of them so that they will be healthy.

O God, your world is wonderful.

May we all come into your even greater world of the kingdom of heav-
en where we shall see even more wonderful things
and where we shall live and love for ever.

**This we ask to your eternal praise, and to our
blessing. Amen.**



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us give thanks to God our Creator for all the gifts so freely bestowed upon us and for the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea;

Response: We thank you, Lord.

For the richness of the mountains, plains and rivers; **R**

For all that is gracious in the lives of men and women; **R**

For all creatures that breathe, and move, and have life; **R**

For the songs of birds and the loveliness of flowers and trees; **R**

For the trust you have shown in giving into our care these, our pets; **R**

That each pet here may be treasured with care; **R**

That we may love and honor all your works, O God; **R**

That we may continue to grow in our grateful enjoyment of your abundant creation;

To the honor and glory of your name, now and forever, we pray to you, Lord. Amen.

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 table.

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

*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: *All Creatures, Worship God Most High!* (ELW 835)

1 All creatures, worship God most high!

Sound every voice in earth and sky:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Sing, brother sun, in splendor bright,
sing, sister moon and stars of night:

Chorus

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia!

2 Sing, brother wind; with clouds and rain
you grow the gifts of fruit and grain:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Dear sister water, useful, clear,
make music for your Lord to hear: (chorus)

3 Sing, brother fire, so mirthful, strong;
drive far the shadows, join the throng:
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Dear mother earth, so rich in care,
praise God in colors bright and rare: (chorus)

6 O sisters, brothers, take your part,
and worship God with humble heart:
Alleluia! Alleluia!

All creatures, bless the Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit Three in One: (chorus)

*SENDING

*POSTLUDE



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Another Kids Club program year is here. Can you join us on **Wednesdays from 1:30-3pm**? Sign-up sheet is in the back.

Our last Adopt-A-Highway Clean-Ups will be Saturday, October 10. We'll gather and head out in crews at 8:45AM to our portion of 272 and be done around 10:15AM.

Our Community Trunk or Treat will be on Saturday, October 24 from 11AM-1PM. We need all hands on deck—grillers, moon bounce watchers, trunk decorators, and candy passer-outers. Sign-up in the back if you're able to help out.

The annual fundraiser for Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of Delaware will be held at St. Philip's, Wilmington on **Saturday, October 17**. There will be silent and live auctions, food, and fellowship.

Adult Sunday School began today at 9:30AM. We'd love to see you every first and third Sunday of the month. The "Christ In Our Home" devotionals will center our conversation.

The next Faith and Recovery Service at St. Mary Anne's Episcopal will be next Sunday, October 11. There will be a meal following the service.

OUR STEWARDSHIP

September 20	Worship—33	Offering—\$1,275
September 27	Worship—44	Offering—\$2,026

Please fill the food donation bin 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 code, which will redirect you to our giving platform.

Thank you for your faithfulness and generosity.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mike Beiter	Linda Stoflet	Cathy Heaps	Rayanne Lavery
Steve Bird	Terry Fuss	Stacy Igo	Lori Scott
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, October 4th—Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

- 9:30am Adult Sunday School
- 10:30am Blessing of the Animals Worship Service
- 11:45am Celebration Sunday Fellowship

Monday, October 5th

- 7:00pm Sisters of Serenity NA Meeting

Tuesday, October 6th

- 6:30pm North East AA Meeting

Wednesday, October 7th

- 2:00pm Bethel Kids Club
- 5:00pm Choir Rehearsal
- 6:15pm Praise Team Practice
- 7:00pm AA Meeting
- 7:00pm Al-Anon Meeting

Thursday, October 8th

- 8:30am Men's Bible Study (meet at JoJo's in Elkton)
- 12:00pm Gospel Glimpse (via Facebook, YouTube, and Beacon)
- 4:00pm Nicanor Feeding Ministry
- 6:30pm Church Council Meeting
- 6:30pm Women's AA Meeting

Friday, October 9th

- 8:00pm AA Meeting

Saturday, October 10th

- 8:45am Adopt-A-Highway Clean-Up
- 5:30pm Pastor Tom Bible Study

Sunday, October 11th—Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

- 10:30am Traditional Worship Service
- 10:45am Youth Sunday School
- 6:00pm Faith and Recovery Service (St. Mary Anne's, North East)