

*“Go therefore to  
the main roads  
and invite to  
the  
wedding feast  
as many  
as you find.”*

*Matthew 22:9, ESV*

**October 15th, 2023  
20th Sunday after Pentecost  
Bethany Lutheran Church (ELCA)**

## **PRELUDE AND LIGHTING OF CANDLES**

### **RINGING OF BELL**

### **WELCOME**

*The people of God stand.*

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father,  
and of the † Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

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.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and 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.**

**HYMN *Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies (ELW 553) See next page.***



1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true and on - ly light,  
 2 Dark and cheer-less is the morn un - ac - com - pa - nied by thee;  
 3 Vis - it then this soul of mine, pierce the gloom of sin and grief;



Sun of righ-teous-ness, a - rise, tri - umph o'er the shades of night;  
 joy-less is the day's re - turn, till thy mer-cy's beams I see,  
 fill me, ra - dian - cy di - vine, scat - ter all my un - be - lief;



Day-spring from on high, be near; Day-star, in my heart ap - pear.  
 till they in - ward light im - part, glad my eyes, and warm my heart.  
 more and more thy - self dis - play, shin - ing to the per - fect day.

## 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

Let us pray.

Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*The people of God are seated.*

### WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

## FIRST READING: Isaiah 25:1-9

*After a hymn of praise acknowledging God as a shelter for the poor, the prophet portrays a wonderful victory banquet at which death—which in ancient Canaan was depicted as a monster swallowing up everyone—will be swallowed up forever. The prophet urges celebration of this victory of salvation.*

A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>1</sup>O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you, I will praise your name; for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure. <sup>2</sup>For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin; the palace of aliens is a city no more, it will never be rebuilt.

<sup>3</sup>Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear

you. <sup>4</sup>For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat. When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm, <sup>5</sup>the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place, you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled.

<sup>6</sup>On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. <sup>7</sup>And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; <sup>8</sup>he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. <sup>9</sup>It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM 23**

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd;  
I shall not be in want.

<sup>2</sup>**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures  
and leads me beside still waters.**

<sup>3</sup>You restore my soul, O LORD,  
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear  
no evil;  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

<sup>6</sup>**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

### **SECOND READING: Philippians 4:1-9**

*Though writing from prison and facing an uncertain future, Paul calls on the Philippians to rejoice and give thanks to God no matter what the circumstance. God's peace is with us and binds together our hearts and minds in Jesus Christ, especially when things around us do not seem peaceful.*

A reading from Philippians.

<sup>1</sup>My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. <sup>2</sup>I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. <sup>3</sup>Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal

companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup>Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. <sup>9</sup>Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The people of God stand.*

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p.188)**



Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

### **GOSPEL READING: Matthew 22:1-14**

*Jesus tells a parable indicating that the blessings of God's kingdom are available to all, but the invitation is not to be taken lightly.*

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: <sup>2</sup>"The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. <sup>3</sup>He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. <sup>4</sup>Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen

and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’<sup>5</sup>But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business,<sup>6</sup>while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them.<sup>7</sup>The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city.<sup>8</sup>Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy.<sup>9</sup>Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’<sup>10</sup>Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

<sup>11</sup>“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe,<sup>12</sup>and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless.<sup>13</sup>Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’<sup>14</sup>For many are called, but few are chosen.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The people of God are seated.*

**SERMON**

*The people of God stand.*

**HYMN As We Gather at Your Table (ELW 522)**



1 As we gath-er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,  
2 Turn our wor-ship in - to wit-ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;  
3 Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife.  
where tri - um-phiant Love will wel-come those who had been last and least.



Nour-ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;  
Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for - give as you for - gave;  
There no more will en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



teach us through this ho - ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic - t'ry known.  
may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.  
as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound-ing joy.

## APOSTLES' CREED (ELW P. 105)

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 INTERCESSION

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church,  
those in need, and all of God's creation.

*Each petition ends with, "Lord, in your mercy." Those worshipping respond with the hymn below "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" (ELW 752) See next page.*



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting  
in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The people of God are seated.*

## OFFERING

We are grateful for your gifts, and they are needed to continue the work of the church. For those worshipping online please visit our website ([www.wbbethany.org](http://www.wbbethany.org)) and click on the blue "Give Now" button on the home page. Thank you! The people of God stand as the offering is brought forward.

## OFFERTORY HYMN *Change My Heart, O God (ELW 801)*



Change my heart, O God; make it ev - er true.



Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.



You are the pot - ter; I am the clay.



Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

Text: Eddie Espinosa, b. 1953  
Music: CHANGE MY HEART, Eddie Espinosa  
Text and music © 1982 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing, admin. Music Services

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## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

**Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

### MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

## GREAT THANKSGIVING (ELW p.190)

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

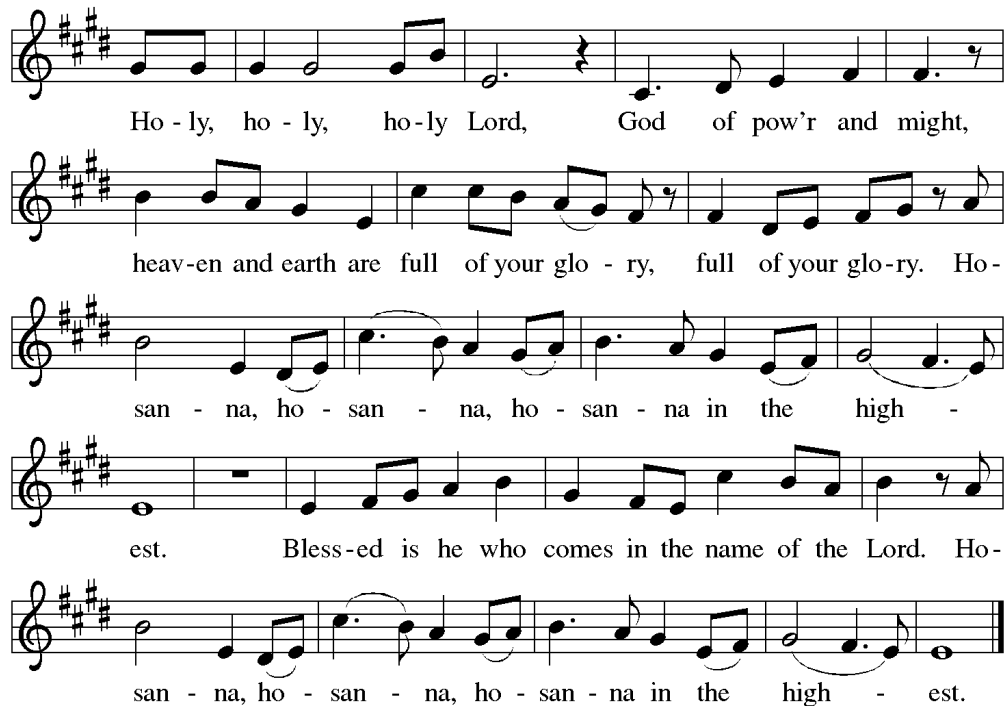
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**



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 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'r and might,  
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -  
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -  
 est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
 shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

## LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

*The people of God are seated.*

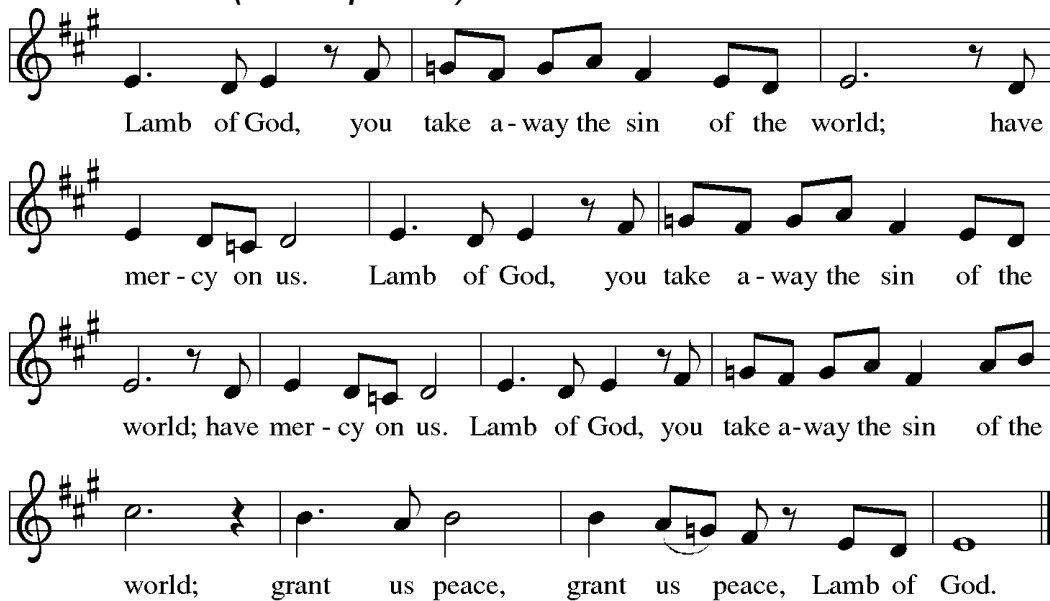
## **COMMUNION**

*Communion today will be distributed in a continuous line. The cups in the center of the tray contain white grape juice. All other cups are wine. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.*

*All gathered who believe Jesus Christ is their Lord and Savior are invited to come to Holy Communion with repentant hearts believing that Christ forgives our sins and guides our lives. Strengthened, forgiven, and nourished through this meal the Spirit sends us forth in service and to proclaim the good news of Christ's love. Children and adults who do not take communion may come forward for a blessing.*

## **HYMNS DURING COMMUNION**

### ***Lamb of God (ELW p.191)***



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

### ***Come, Let Us Eat (ELW 491)***

Leader or All

1 Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread,  
 2 Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured,  
 3 In Je - sus' pres - ence now we meet and rest,  
 4 Rise, then, to spread a - broad God's might - y word,

All

come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.  
 come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured.  
 in Je - sus' pres - ence now we meet and rest.  
 rise, then, to spread a - broad God's might - y word.

Leader or All

Our Lord's bod - y let us take to - geth - er,  
 Je - sus' blood poured let us drink to - geth - er,  
 In the pres - ence of our Lord we gath - er,  
 Je - sus ris - en will bring in the king - dom,

All

our Lord's bod - y let us take to - geth - er.  
 Je - sus' blood poured let us drink to - geth - er.  
 in the pres - ence of our Lord we gath - er.  
 Je - sus ris - en will bring in the king - dom.

Text: Billema Kwillia, b. 1925, sts. 1-3; Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930, st. 4, alt.; tr. Margaret D. Miller, b. 1927, sts. 1-3, alt.  
 Music: A VA DE, Billema Kwillia, adapt.  
 Text sts. 1-3 and tune © Lutheran World Federation; text st. 4 and music adapt. © 1972 *Contemporary Worship 4*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup (ELW 492)

Refrain

Eat this bread, drink this cup. Taste and see the good-ness of God.

Bread of life, cup of love, we re-joice in your pres-ence.

1 I will bless the Lord at all times, praise with heart and voice;  
 2 Look up - on the Lord, be ra - dant, nev - er turn a - way.  
 3 An - gels fold their wings a - round us, guard through good and ill.  
 4 Saints of God, bow down and wor - ship, bless the ho - ly name.

Refrain

in my God I glo - ry for - ev - er: lis - ten and re - joice!  
 God will save in ev - 'ry af - flic - tion, hear us when we pray.  
 Those who seek the Lord will lack noth - ing; taste, and have your fill.  
 Rise to tell God's great - ness for - ev - er, won - drous deeds pro - claim!

Text: Jeremy Young, b. 1948, refrain; *With One Voice*, stanzas, based on Ps. 34  
 Music: STONERIDGE, Jeremy Young  
 Text and music © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

*The people of God stand.*

**PRAYER**

Let us pray.

O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**SENDING**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

**BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

**Amen.**

**HYMN *Sent Forth by God's Blessing (ELW 547) See next page.***



1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,  
 2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er - liv - ing,



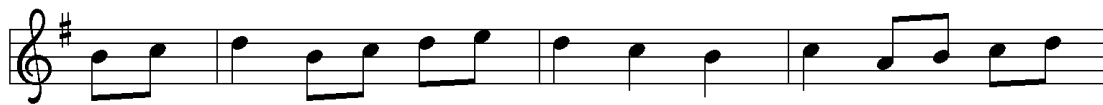
the peo - ple of God from this dwell - ing take leave.  
 the tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face—



The sup - per is end - ed. Oh, now be ex - tend - ed  
 our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing,



the fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.  
 em - brac - ing God's chil - dren, the whole hu - man race.



The seed of Christ's teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls  
 With your feast you feed us, with your light now



reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.  
 lead us; u - nite us as one in this life that we share.



Your grace shall in - cite us, your love shall u - nite us  
 Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing



to work for your king - dom and an - swer your call.  
 give hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.  
 Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune  
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## SENDING

Go in peace! Share the good news!

Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE

*Please join us for fellowship and refreshments in the Great Hall.*

OUR WORSHIP ASSISTANTS		
Ministers of:	Today	October 22
Music	Jill Barnhart	Jill Barnhart
Proclamation (Lector)	Phil Hougen	Mike Fryauf
Minister of Technology	Paula Casper	Jill Taylor
Worship (Altar Care)	Kent & Beth Kaufman	Kent & Beth Kaufman
Ministers of Hospitality	Paula Casper	Jamie & Anne Fetzer



Thank you for worshipping with us today. Just as Jesus welcomed the stranger, we believe all are welcome here. Please join us again next week. For more information about our life together in Christ, visit: [www.wbbethany.org](http://www.wbbethany.org)

### Ministry Opportunities This Week

**Wednesday, October 18**  
 7:00 AM — Men’s Bible Study with Breakfast  
 6:15 Choir Practice  
 6:30 Youth Formation (Grades 3-8)  
**Thursday, October 19**  
 6:00 AM — Women’s Bible Study  
 1:00 PM — Quilting Group  
**Sunday, October 22**  
 9:30 AM — Worship  
 10:30 AM — Fellowship  
 5:00 PM — 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Community meal

Preschool - Grade 3  
**October 8, 15, 22**  
 8:30 - 9:15 AM

Preschool - Grade 3  
**November 5, 12, 19**  
 8:30 - 9:15 AM

**OUR**  
*mission*

*To grow so deep in Christ through worship, education, and fellowship that we celebrate by reaching out to others.*

### Land Acknowledgement

Bethany Lutheran is located in the original and ancestral homelands of the Iowa, Sauk, Fox, Kickapoo and Ojibwe peoples, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

# Did you know...

## How your weekly offering makes an impact?

### It supports... youth ministries

50 children were able to attend Vacation Bible School  
25 children attend Faith Formation  
Sunday School



### It supports... small group Bible Studies

Wednesday Mornings - Men's Study Group - 7:00am  
Thursday Mornings - Woman's Study Group - 6:00am  
Monthly Women's Bible Study - 2nd Wednesday at 9:00am  
Quilting Group - Thursdays at 1:00 pm  
Choir - Wednesdays at 6:15

### It supports... community outreach programs

Food Pantry, Domestic Violence Intervention Program,  
Shelter House, Lutheran Campus Ministry, Lutheran  
Services of Iowa, and Sleep in Heavenly Peace



### It supports... meals and fellowship

Free dinner on the 4th Sunday of the month, the  
annual community tailgate, and Angel Meals

### Thank you for your gifts,

which support these and many more  
great ministries at Bethany Lutheran Church

# Did you know...



## How your weekly offering makes an impact?

It helps us invest in technology to  
expand our reach beyond the church  
doors



**Average Online attendance =  
125 viewers**

### Thank you for your gifts,

which support these and many more  
great ministries at Bethany Lutheran Church

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