

# BETHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

*You have a place here!*

*"Joyfully we profess our faith through God's unconditional love.  
Here and now God dwells in all of our lives,  
bears our sins on the cross, and forgives us all."*

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## DAY OF PENTECOST

**9:00 am Sunday, May 24, 2026**

*Pastor David Johnson*

### TODAY'S REFLECTION

Pentecost derives its name from the Jewish festival celebrating the harvest and the giving of the law on Mount Sinai fifty days after Passover. Fifty days after Easter, we celebrate the Holy Spirit as God's presence within and among us. In Acts the Spirit arrives in rushing wind and flame, bringing God's presence to all people. Paul reminds us that though we each have different capacities, we are unified in the Spirit that equips us with these gifts. Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit on his disciples, empowering them to forgive sin. We celebrate that we too are given the breath of the Holy Spirit and sent out to proclaim God's redeeming love to all the world.



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*All baptized and confessing believers are welcome to receive Holy Communion.*

*We hope that your worship experience is spiritually fulfilling  
and your day begins with our Lord's gifts of peace and joy*

▼ **Prelude Reflections for Meditation**

▼ **Welcome Greeting—Prayers and Praises**

▲ **Opening Hymn**

*“ Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”” page 9*

▲ **In Confession & Forgiveness for Easter Worship**

We serve a risen Savior yet we live as if in chains. Forgive us, Lord that we are so hesitant to live the resurrection life. Forgive us that we fail to show through word and action the truth that you loved us into your kingdom through the glorious mystery of the Cross.

Forgive us that there is still fear in our lives that prevents us from achieving our full potential. Draw us close. Open our eyes to the glory of the risen Christ, our hearts to the wonder of the Cross and our hands to the service of your kingdom where you have placed us, that your name might be glorified through our lives. **Amen.**

*Silence for Reflection*

God of resurrection of life and death and rebirth **renew our hearts and minds**

God of promise of all beginnings and all endings **renew our hearts and minds**

God of hope of new growth and harvest **renew our hearts and minds**

(by John Birch, Faith and Worship Blogspot)

▲ **Absolution**

▲ **Prayer of the Day**

**O God, on this day you open the hearts of your faithful people by sending into us your Holy Spirit. Direct us by the light of that Spirit, that we may have a right judgment in all things and rejoice at all times in your peace, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

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**THE WORD**

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

▼ **God's Word from the Scriptures (NRSV)**

*The First Reading is 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.

Now there were devout Jews from every people under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." 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, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Fellow Jews and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, 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 slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

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

▼ **God's Word from the Psalms (NRSV)**

*Psalm 104:24-34, 35b*

O Lord, how manifold are your works!

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

There is the sea, great and wide; creeping things innumerable are there, living things  
both small and great.

**There go the ships and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.**

These all look to you to give them their food in due season;

**when you give to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled  
with good things.**

When you hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die  
and return to their dust.

**4 When you send forth your spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the ground.**

May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord rejoice in his works—  
**who looks on the earth and it trembles, who touches the mountains and they smoke.**

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being.  
**May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the Lord.**

Bless the Lord, O my soul. Praise the Lord!

▼ **God's Word from the Scriptures (NRSV)**

*The Second Reading is from 1 Corinthians 12:3-13*

Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of powerful deeds, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

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

▼ **Children's Sermon**

▲ **God's Word from the Gospel (NRSV)**

*The Holy Gospel according to John 20:19-23*

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

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

▼ Sermon—God’s Word Applied to Life

▼ Hymn of the Day

“America the Beautiful” page 10

▲ The Apostles’ Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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 Church

Trusting in the power of Christ’s resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

*A brief silence*

O God, you send the Holy Spirit to gather your church into one. Inspire all ministers of the gospel to speak prophetic and hope-filled words to all whom they encounter. Bless the work of interreligious dialogue. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You send the Holy Spirit to renew the face of the earth. Protect all living things, bring forth clean water and abundant food, and grant us wonder as we contemplate all you have made. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You send the Holy Spirit to break down the barriers of communication among nations. Bestow peace in war-torn areas, guide all in government and society to work for justice, and guard those serving in the armed forces, especially this weekend as we remember those who died in service to their country. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You send the Holy Spirit to accompany those who feel abandoned. Provide food for those who hunger and drink for those who thirst, soothe those who are anxious or bereaved, comfort those who are sick or suffering, and answer all who call upon your name, especially for those we name before you now (either in silence or out loud). Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You send the Holy Spirit through the gift of baptism. Bless both those preparing for or affirming their baptism. May they be encouraged by this community of faith as they live out their baptismal promises. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You send the Holy Spirit to console us in our grief. We give you thanks for our ancestors in the faith whose witness to your mighty works continues to inspire our lives. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

▲ **Sharing of the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Greet each other with a sign of Christ's peace.*

**THE MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ*

▼ **Offering and Presentation of the Gifts**

Mission Designation April—June—Fortune Lake

▼ **Offering Prayer**

Merciful God,

**accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory.**

**You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day**

**when we will hunger and thirst no more.**

**Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus,**

**that goodness and mercy may follow us**

**and bless the world you love.**

**In the name of Jesus, Amen.**

▼ **The Great Thanksgiving and 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, 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.

▼ **The 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.**

▼ **Invitation and Distribution of Communion**

Come to the table of new life.  
Receive the risen Lord.

Let Us Break Bread Together



1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;  
2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;  
3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;



let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.  
let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.  
let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.



When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing



sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: BREAK BREAD TOGETHER, African American spiritual

▼ **Post Communion Blessing**

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace until He comes again. In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

▼ **Post Communion Prayer**

Holy One,  
**through this meal you have made your home among us  
 and are making all things new.**  
**Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts,  
 to love our enemies,  
 and to bring your healing to the nations.**  
**In the name of Jesus,  
 Amen.**

**THE SENDING**

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

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▼ **Closing Hymn**

*“Soon and Very Soon”, page 11*

▼ **Announcements**

*Anyone is welcome to make announcements at this time*

▲ **Blessing and Dismissal**

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
 The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
 The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.  
 In the name of the Father and the † Son and the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;  
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;  
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'rings bore,  
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.  
 go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.  
 shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.  
 a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.  
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.  
 A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;  
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.  
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.  
 in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.  
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907

Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

## O Beautiful for Spacious Skies



1 O beau - ti - ful for spa - cious skies, for am - ber waves of grain,  
 2 O beau - ti - ful for he - roes proved in lib - er - at - ing strife,  
 3 O beau - ti - ful for pa - triot dream that sees be - yond the years



for pur - ple moun-tain maj - es - ties a - bove the fruit-ed plain:  
 who more than self their coun-try loved, and mer - cy more than life:  
 thine al - a - bas - ter cit - ies gleam, un - dimmed by hu - man tears:



A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed his grace on thee,  
 A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! May God thy gold re - fine,  
 A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God mend thine ev - 'ry flaw,



and crown thy good with broth - er - hood from sea to shin - ing sea.  
 till all suc - cess be no - ble - ness, and ev - 'ry gain di - vine.  
 con - firm thy soul in self - con - trol, thy lib - er - ty in law.

Text: Katherine L. Bates, 1859–1929

Music: MATERNA, Samuel A. Ward, 1848–1903

## Soon and Very Soon



1 Soon and ver - y soon  
 2 No more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,  
 3 No more dy - in' there,  
 4 Soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon  
 no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,  
 no more dy - in' there,  
 soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon  
 no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King.  
 no more dy - in' there,  
 soon and ver - y soon



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!

*Coda after stanza 4*



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu -



jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

Text: Andraé Crouch, b. 1945

Music: VERY SOON, Andraé Crouch

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## Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church

130 O'Dill Drive, Norway, Michigan 49870      [www.norwaybethany.org](http://www.norwaybethany.org)  
 OFFICE PHONE 906-563-8472      EMAIL [bethanyoffice@norwaymi.com](mailto:bethanyoffice@norwaymi.com)

### Pastor Dave Johnson

PHONE/TEXT 651-769-3365      EMAIL [ftp565@yahoo.com](mailto:ftp565@yahoo.com)

## ONLINE BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH OFFERING DONATIONS

are available following these easy steps from our secure Website or Facebook Page

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## MORE SPECIAL WAYS TO GIVE THROUGH YOUR TIME AND TALENTS

Sunday Worship Lectors and Communion Assistants are needed

Service Assistant to advance projected bulletin slides

Maintenance chores around the facility

Christian Education Volunteers

## BETHANY WEEKLY EVENTS CALENDAR

**Sunday**      9:00 am Worship, in the Great Room and Facebook Live-Stream/Video

**Tuesday**      9:00 am Community Coffee in Great Room  
 9:00 am Cover Girls in Classroom

**Wednesday**      10:30 am Women's Bible Study via ZOOM

**Thursday**      7:00 am Men's Breakfast and Bible Study in Great Room  
 11:00 am Women's Bible Study in Conference Room  
 6:30 Pub Theology

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