

# 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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## SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9:00 am Sunday, June 7, 2026

*Pastor David Johnson*

### TODAY'S REFLECTION



Though Jesus was a devout Jew who practiced his faith, he was criticized for eating with tax collectors and sinners—the religiously nonobservant. Jesus criticizes the self-righteous and reminds us that mercy is to be at the heart of our religious practices. God continues to be made known in those on the margins of society, like Matthew the tax collector and the hemorrhaging woman. As we gather each Lord's day we receive the healing that makes us well and sends us forth to be signs of God's mercy for 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**

*“My Faith Looks up to Thee” page 9*

▲ **Confession & Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
whose compassion endures forever.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin to God.

*Silence for Reflection*

Compassionate God,

**we confess to you all our sins.**

**Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.**

**In your mercy, call us back to you.**

**Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.**

**Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray,**

**Amen.**

Jesus says, “Come to me, all you who are weary  
and are carrying heavy burdens,  
and I will give you rest.” In the name of God,  
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,  
your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love.

**Amen.**

▲ **Prayer of the Day**

**O God, you are the source of life and the ground of our being. By the power of your Spirit bring healing to this wounded world, and raise us to the new life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

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

*The First Reading is from Hosea 5:15-6:6*

I will return again to my place until they acknowledge their guilt and seek my face. In their distress they will beg my favor.

“Come, let us return to the Lord, for it is he who has torn, and he will heal us; he has struck down, and he will bind us up. After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him. Let us know, let us press on to now the Lord; his appearing is as sure as the dawn; he will come to us like the showers, like the spring rains that water the earth.”

What shall I do with you, O Ephraim? What shall I do with you, O Judah? Your love is like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes away early. Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets; I have killed them by the words of my mouth, and my judgment goes forth as the light. For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

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

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

*Psalms 50:7-15*

“Hear, O my people, and I will speak, O Israel, I will testify against you. I am God, your God.

**Not for your sacrifices do I rebuke you; your burnt offerings are continually before me.**

I will not accept a bull from your house or goats from your folds.

**For every wild animal of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills.**

I know all the birds of the air, and all that moves in the field is mine.

**“If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the world and all that is in it is mine.**

Do I eat the flesh of bulls or drink the blood of goats?

**Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and pay your vows to the Most High.**

Call on me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.”

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

*The Second Reading is from Romans 4:13-25*

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So shall your descendants be." He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), and the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore "it was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

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

▼ **Children's Sermon**

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

*The Holy Gospel according to Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26*

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax-collection station, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him.

And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with Jesus and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous but sinners."

While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader came in and knelt before him, saying, "My daughter has just died, but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live." And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from a flow of blood for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, for she was saying to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well." Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." And the woman was made well from that moment. When Jesus came to the leader's house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, he said, "Go away, for the girl is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and

the girl got up. And the report of this spread through all of that district.  
The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

▼ **Sermon—God’s Word Applied to Life**

▼ **Hymn of the Day**

“Great is Thy Faithfulness” 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**

Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for the church and the needs of the world.  
*A brief silence*

God of mercy, you call us to a life filled with acts of mercy. Ground us in following Christ, that we might extend the mercy we receive. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of creation, all you have made is yours. Revive lands in need of healing and make us wise stewards of all you have given us to tend. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of the nations, you promise to deliver those who call on you. Bring an end to conflict, bigotry, and injustice in all their forms wherever they are found. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of comfort, you provide for those in need. Bring an end to addiction. Comfort people as they mourn. Provide tenderly for those in need, especially for those we name before you now (either in silence or out loud). God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of blessings, you send the Holy Spirit to provide varieties of gifts in the body of Christ. Accompany those who travel this summer, make our gatherings joyous, and grant us a spirit of hospitality and togetherness. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of life, we give you thanks for saints whose lives revealed your faithfulness. May remembering their faithfulness strengthen our own. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Trusting you receive all our prayers, we commend our spoken and unspoken prayers to you, O God, through Jesus our 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**

Loving God,

**we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.**

**Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love,  
so that all creation can taste your abundance.**

**We ask this in the name of Jesus,  
through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.**

**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*

Heaven has come near.  
Come, share in the feast!

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**

Compassionate God,  
**through the gifts of bread and wine**  
**our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.**  
**Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,**  
**may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.**  
**We ask this in the name of Jesus,**  
**through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.**

**Amen.**

## **THE SENDING**

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

▼ **Closing Hymn**

*“My Hope is Built on Nothing Less (The Solid Rock)”, 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.**

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## My Faith Looks Up to Thee



1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,  
 2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,  
 3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me spread,  
 4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream



Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my  
 my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, oh, may my  
 be thou my guide; bid dark-ness turn to day, wipe sor-row's  
 shall o'er me roll; blest Sav - ior, then, in love fear and dis -



guilt a - way, oh, let me from this day be whol - ly thine!  
 love to thee pure, warm, and change-less be, a liv - ing fire!  
 tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.  
 trust re-move; oh, bear me safe a - bove, a ran - somed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808–1887

Music: OLIVET, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

# Great Is Thy Faithfulness



1 Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther; there is no  
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest, sun, moon, and  
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, thine own dear



shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang - est not, thy com -  
 stars in their cours - es a - bove join with all na - ture in  
 pres - ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright



pas - sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.  
 man - i - fold wit - ness to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.  
 hope for to - mor - row, bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

## *Refrain*



Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Morn - ing by



morn - ing new mer - cies I see; all I have need - ed thy




hand hath pro - vid - ed; great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me.

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866–1960


Music: FAITHFULNESS, William M. Runyan, 1870–1957

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## My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less



1 My hope is built on noth - ing less than  
 2 When dark - ness veils his love - ly face, I  
 3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus -  
 4 When he shall come with trum - pet sound, oh,



Je - sus' blood and righ - teous - ness; no mer - it of my  
 rest on his un - chang - ing grace; in ev - 'ry high and  
 tain me in the rag - ing flood; when all sup - ports are  
 may I then in him be found, clothed in his righ - teous -



own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.  
 storm - y gale my an - chor holds with - in the veil.  
 washed a - way, he then is all my hope and stay.  
 ness a - lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

### *Refrain*



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Text: Edward Mote, 1797–1874, alt.  
 Music: MELITA, John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

## Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church

130 O'Dill Drive, Norway, Michigan 49870      www.norwaybethany.org  
OFFICE PHONE 906-563-8472      EMAIL bethanyoffice130@gmail.com

### Pastor Dave Johnson

PHONE/TEXT 651-769-3365      EMAIL ftp565@yahoo.com

## ONLINE BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH OFFERING DONATIONS

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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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