

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."*

14TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9:00 am Sunday, August 30, 2026

Lay Leader, Richard (Jouppi) Ochua

TODAYS REFLECTION



The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

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**

“Bless the Lord” page 8

▲ **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, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of
the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us
strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

Amen

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

The First Reading is from Jeremiah 15:15-21

O Lord, you know; remember me and visit me, and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult. Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O Lord, God of hosts. I did not sit in the company of merrymakers, nor did I rejoice; under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation. Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail.

Therefore thus says the Lord: If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth. It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them. And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the Lord. I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

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

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

Psalms 26:1-8

Vindicate me, O Lord, for I have walked in my integrity,
and I have trusted in the Lord without wavering.

Prove me, O Lord, and try me;
test my heart and mind.

For your steadfast love is before my eyes,
and I walk in faithfulness to you.

I do not sit with the worthless,
nor do I consort with hypocrites;

I hate the company of evildoers
and will not sit with the wicked.

I wash my hands in innocence
and go around your altar, O Lord,

singing aloud a song of thanksgiving
and telling all your wondrous deeds.

O Lord, I love the house in which you dwell
and the place where your glory abides.

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

The Second Reading is from Romans 12:9-21

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord." Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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

▼ **Children's Sermon**

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

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew 16:21-28

Glory to you, O Lord.

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?"

"For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

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

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

▼ **Hymn of the Day**

“The Power of the Cross” page 9

▲ **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**

With bold trust in God’s unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God’s creation.

A brief silence

For the church in every land, that its mission and ministry is anchored in the love of Christ. When threats or challenges arise, teach us to take up our cross and follow you in faith. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For the well-being of your creation, that all that lives and grows on the earth may thrive. Bring relief to areas ravaged by droughts, floods, fires, storms, and other disasters. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For the nations and all in authority, that they seek to live in peace with one another. Bless the work of international and diplomatic organizations and all who work to bring peace to a world scarred by violence. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For all those in need, that they be satisfied. Ensure all your children have safe access to food, water, shelter, and medical care. Bring healing to all who bear wounds in body, mind, and spirit (*especially those we now name*). Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For the congregation gathered here to serve you, that they remain strong in faith and united in purpose. Guide our committees, study groups, and other meetings toward honesty and humility, always seeking genuine love. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For the faithful departed, that their witness continues to strengthen and guide the church. Renew our hope in your promises in this life and the life to come. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

▼ **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.

▲ **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.

▼ **Offering and Presentation of the Gifts**

Mission Designation July-September—**Feed America-Good Samaritan**

▼ **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 SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

▼ **Closing Hymn**

“Will You Come and Follow Me” page 10

▼ **Announcements**

Anyone is welcome to make announcements at this time

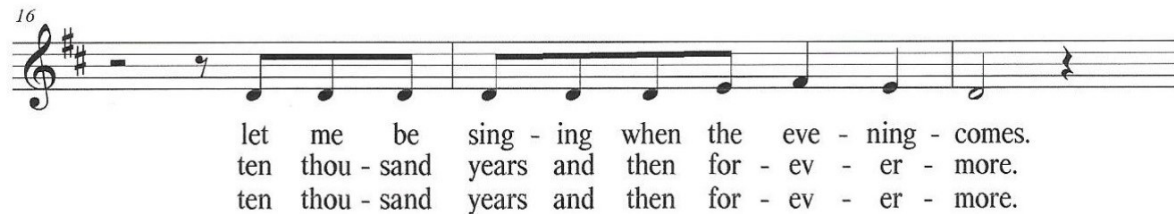
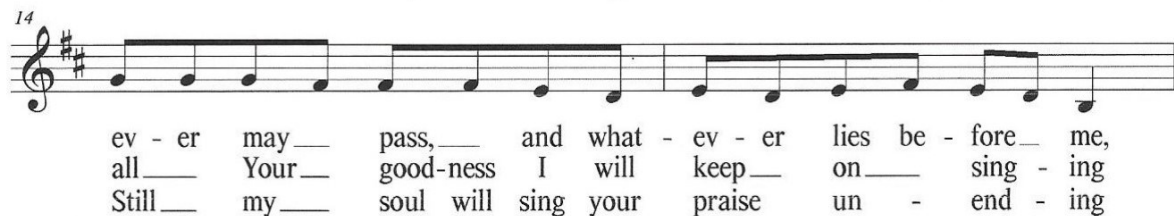
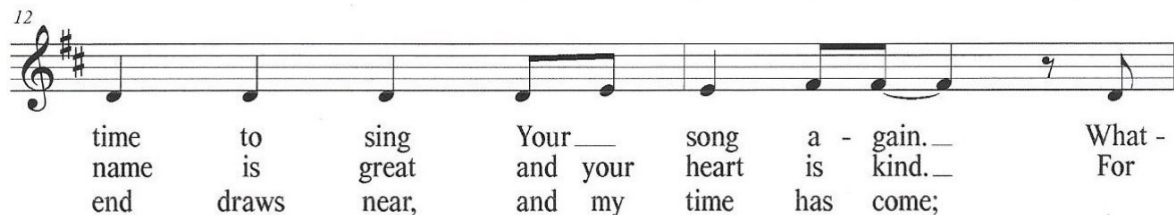
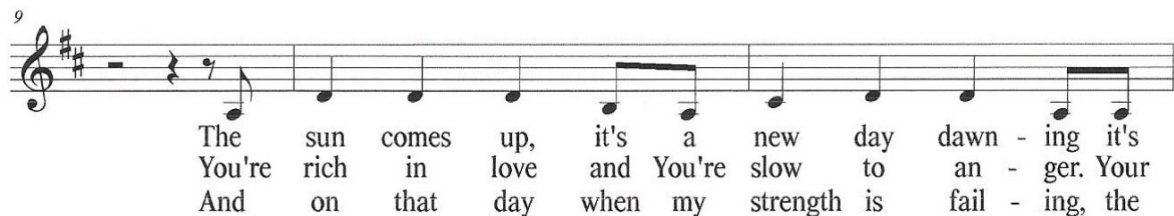
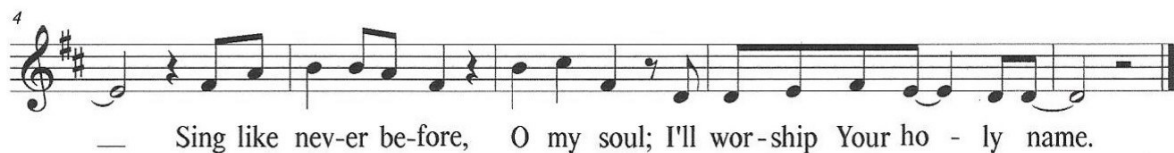
▲ **Blessing and Dismissal**

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!

Bless The Lord

Words and Music by
Jonas Myrin and Matt Redman



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The Power Of The Cross

Words and Music by
Stuart Townend and Keith Getty

♩ = 68

VERSE

D/F# E/G# A E7/B A/C# D A/C#



1. Oh to see the dawn of the dark - est day. Christ on the road to
2. Oh to see the pain writ - ten on Your face, bear - ing the awe - some
3. Now the day - light flees, now the ground be - neath quakes as its Mak - er
4. Oh to see my name writ - ten in the wounds, for through Your suf - fring

4 Bm7 Dmaj7 E^{SUS} E D/F# E/G# A E7/B A/C#



Cal - va - ry. Tried by sin - ful men, torn and beat - en then
weight of sin. Ev - 'ry bit - ter thought, ev - 'ry e - vil deed
bows His head. Cur - tain torn in two, dead are raised to life.
I am free. Death is crushed to death, life is mine to live

CHORUS

7 D A/C# Dmaj7 E^{SUS} E/D A/C# D E/G#



nailed to a cross of wood. 1, 2, 3. This the pow'r of the
crown - ing Your blood - stained brow. 4. This the pow'r of the
"Fin - ished!" the vic - t'ry cry.
won through Your self - less love!

10 A A/C# D E/G# A A/C# D B/D#



cross. Christ be - came sin for us. Took the blame, bore the
cross Son of God slain for us. What a love, what a

14 E E/D A/C# D E^{SUS} E D/F# E/G# A Dmaj7 Bm7 E^{SUS} E



wrath. We stand for - giv - en at the cross.
cost. We stand for - giv - en at the cross.

CCLI Song # 4490766

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Will You Come and Follow Me

The Summons

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
 Music: KELVINGROVE, Scottish traditional
 Text © 1987 Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent, 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.
 www.giamusic.com, 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.



1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
 2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
 4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call
 5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't
 your name? Will you care for cruel and
 your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners
 your name? Will you quell the fear in -
 my name. Let me turn and fol - low



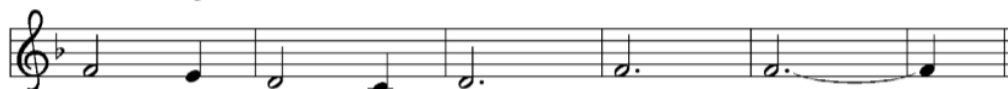
know and nev - er be the same?
 kind and nev - er be the same?
 free and nev - er be the same?
 side and nev - er be the same?
 you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and



name be known, will you let my life be
 tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer
 this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I
 world a - round, through my sight and touch and
 foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



grown in you and you in me?"
 pray'r in you and you in me?"
 mean in you and you in me?"
 sound in you and you in me?"
 grow in you and you in me.

Miscellaneous Tidbits



Altar Flower Bouquet Reminder

Flowers are available for purchase in memory of loved ones or in celebration of special events. Please return a designation form with payment of \$20.00 to Bethany Ladies Guild and drop to the church office or to Coordinator Peggy Gattrra who can be reached at 906-563-7301.



Empty Pill Bottles

Grace Methodist is collecting empty pill bottles to be sent to Haiti and other destitute countries for distribution of medicine.

(Basket is to the left of the main entry doors-please remove labels)

Norway Food Pantry Needs

The Food Pantry is always in need of the following items:

- Sloppy Joe sauce
- Jelly
- Saltine Crackers
- Ramen noodles
- Kleenex
- Toilet Paper
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Laundry detergent
- Dish Soap
- Feminine Hygiene products
- Brown paper bags



These are products that are needed all the time. If you want to bring items for the pantry, you can leave them by the small food pantry door in the Great Room. Any and all donations are very much appreciated!

Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church

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ONLINE BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH OFFERING DONATIONS

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

norwaybethany.org: Click the donate button on the upper right side of the page to directly access Bethany's secure PayPal Account.

facebook.com/BethanyLutheranChurchElca: Click the "Shop Now" button on the upper right corner to directly access Bethany's secure PayPal Account.

MORE SPECIAL WAYS TO GIVE THROUGH YOUR TIME AND TALENTS

Sunday Worship Lectors and Communion Assistants are needed

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
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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
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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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