

# BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

March 15, 2026



Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

**PEGGY TERHUNE, S.A.M., MINISTER**  
**DEACON WENDY ROBERTS, GUEST PREACHER**  
Cathy Williams, Organist

355 East Ridge Road Salisbury NC 28144  
Phone: 704-636-0331

**CHURCH WEBSITE**  
WIFI Bethel Guest

**Bethelsalisbury.org**  
password **Lutheran**

## ENTER TO WORSHIP – LEAVE TO SERVE

### “Holy Communion / Setting Ten”

*\*Congregation Stands*

*Congregation responses are in bold*

## **WELCOME**

**Pre-Service Music** “Were You There” by McChesney Rung by JOY Ringers

### **Welcome and Announcements**

**Dedication of Gloria Dei Paraments** Sisters and brothers, today we give thanks to God, and we seek God’s blessing as we set apart these paraments to the glory of God.

Let us pray. Send your blessing on these paraments, which we set apart today. May they adorn this house, show us the beauty of holiness, and so proclaim the glory of your majesty. To you, O God, be all glory and honor through your Son, Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Prelude “Children of the Heavenly Father” arr. by Vicker

**Call to Worship** God loves the field mouse.  
God loves the crows that take flight when church bells ring.  
God loves the baby, cooing in the back pew.  
God loves the child who rocks and claps.  
God loves the one with wrinkled hands and soft eyes.  
God loves the bumblebees and the tabby cats.  
God loves those who walk, crawl, and roll.  
God loves the giant oaks and the evergreens, standing strong over all of us.  
God loves the young, the impressionable, and the earnest.  
There is no bit of creation that God does not love.  
So let us worship this good-news God! **Amen.**

**Call to Confession** Family of Faith,  
every week we pray the Prayer of Confession,  
because every week we need to be reminded of God’s abundant grace.  
Every week we need to be reminded of God’s love.  
Every week we need to be reminded that we too can grow and change.

So join me in this moment of honesty as we seek transformation.

Friends, let us pray:

**Prayer of Confession** God said, “When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them.”

**Holy God, we confess, we have mistreated the immigrants in our land.**

Jesus said, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”

**We confess, we have clung to guns and war more than we have pursued peace.**

God said, “When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, do not glean what is left; it shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow.”

**We confess, we have hoarded our resources and failed to care for our neighbors.**

Jesus said, “Let the children come to me, and do not stop them.”

**We confess, we have gatekept the good news in unfair ways.**

Fortunately for all of us, God also said,

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name; you are mine.”

**By God’s grace, despite our sin and shortcomings,  
we are redeemed, claimed, forgiven, and loved.**

May this good news change our lives! **Amen.**

\*Gathering Hymn

“There is a Balm in Gilead”

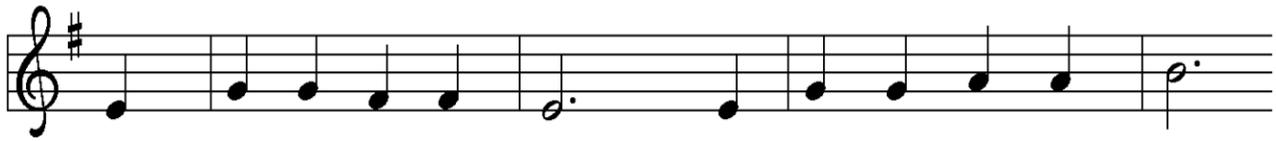
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ELW # 614

## **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.**

## \* Kyrie



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.  
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.  
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

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**\*Prayer of the Day** Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*The congregation is seated.*

## THE WORD

### First Reading

1 Samuel 16:1-13

A reading from the sixteenth chapter of 1 Samuel

<sup>1</sup> The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” <sup>2</sup> Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the LORD said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’” <sup>3</sup> Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” <sup>4</sup> Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, “Do you come peaceably?” <sup>5</sup> He said, “Peaceably. I

have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

<sup>6</sup> When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely his anointed is now before the LORD.” <sup>7</sup> But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.” <sup>8</sup> Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” <sup>9</sup> Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” <sup>10</sup> Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen any of these.” <sup>11</sup> Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here.” <sup>12</sup> He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The LORD said, “Rise and anoint him, for this is the one.” <sup>13</sup> Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 23** *congregation will read responsively*

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Second Reading

Ephesians 5:8-14

A reading from the fifth chapter of Ephesians

<sup>8</sup> Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, <sup>9</sup> for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. <sup>10</sup> Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup> Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. <sup>12</sup> For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, <sup>13</sup> but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, <sup>14</sup> for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

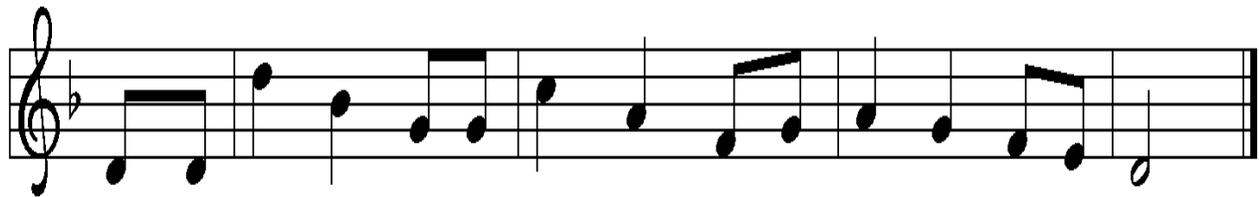
The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## \*Gospel Acclamation



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

## Prayer for Illumination

Holy One, sometimes the simplest of your commands are the hardest for us to hear.

You say, “Love your enemy.” “Turn the other cheek.”

“Care for the widow and the orphan.”

And we want to know: How? When? Where?

Today as we turn to your word, open up space in us to simply hear your truth for what it is. Open up space in our hearts to dream new dreams, to imagine new realities, to draw closer to you and closer to love.

With hope for a better tomorrow, we listen, we pray. **Amen.**

**\*Holy Gospel**            The holy gospel according to Matthew & Deuteronomy  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Matthew 19: 13-15**

<sup>13</sup> Then children were being brought to him in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them, <sup>14</sup> but Jesus said, “Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.” <sup>15</sup> And he laid his hands on them and went on his way.

**Deuteronomy 24: 17-22**

<sup>17</sup> “You shall not deprive a resident alien or an orphan of justice; you shall not take a widow’s garment in pledge. <sup>18</sup> Remember that you were a slave in Egypt and the LORD your God redeemed you from there; therefore I command you to do this. <sup>19</sup> “When you reap your harvest in your field and forget a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it; it shall be left for the alien, the orphan, and the widow, so that the LORD your God may bless you in all your undertakings. <sup>20</sup> When you beat your olive trees, do not strip what is left; it shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow. <sup>21</sup> “When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, do not glean what is left; it shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow. <sup>22</sup> Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt; therefore I am commanding you to do this.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Sermon

Caroline Monroe

Children’s Church

Linda Trier

Sermon

Deacon Wendy Roberts

\*Hymn of the Day

“See the Precious Children”

See the precious children seated on the lap of Christ our Lord  
Called the greatest in the kingdom held so gently and adored  
They are precious in the sight of God who made each tiny toe  
In their weakness they're held by love as each day they learn and grow

See the precious widowed women gleaning harvests from the field  
Then returning to their kitchen to prepare their daily meal  
They are precious in the sight of God who holds their broken hearts  
In their sorrow they're held by love that redeems each fragile part

See the precious foreign strangers as they carry all they own  
To a land that's full of dangers for the powerless and prone  
They are precious in the sight of God who made their homeland, too  
In their journey they're held by love as each day they start anew

See the precious dispossessed ones asking for some food to eat  
Sleeping under starry heavens, daily living on the streets  
They are precious in the sight of God who loves them as a child  
In their hunger they're held by love as they guard their human pride

See the precious world impoverished by our malice and our greed  
Humans, animals, and planet crying out for some relief  
We're all precious in the sight of God who made each holy thing  
In our living we're held by love as we care for every being

**The Rite of Installation for a Synod Authorized Minister** Deacon Wendy Roberts

### **\*NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten  
of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true  
God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all  
things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from**

heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

**Amen.**

### **\*Prayers of the People**

Jesus of Nazareth, you loved without abandon.

You loved your disciples, with their questions and their bumbling mistakes.

You loved the children, with their runny noses and their easy joy.

You loved the widows and the immigrants, with their heartbreak and their dreams for a better tomorrow.

You loved the tax collectors and the outcasts, with their hands open to their neighbors.

You loved like it was easy. And my goodness, do we wish that we were more like that. God of Good News, **Hear our prayer.**

So today, we lift up the vulnerable in our community—the ones you loved so quickly.

Today we pray for the immigrants in our land—for those running from fear, longing to give their children a better life.

Today we pray for single parents, who stretch themselves thin to be all things for the little ones they love.

Today we pray for those living below the poverty line, for those who are unsure where their next meal will come from.

Today we pray for those who live in fear due to the color of their skin, the way that they dress, or the person that they love.

Today we pray for those who are bent over by the weight of depression, anxiety, or addiction.

We could go on and on, God, but we know that you see each of us. So draw near to your children.

Wrap your arms around the vulnerable, the weary, the grief-filled. Comfort, O comfort your people.

Wrap your arms around us.      God of Good News, **Hear our prayer.**

And as you do, we ask that we might be transformed.

As you do, we ask that we might bend toward love and move toward compassion.

As you do, we ask that you might soften our hearts.

Until your promised day, when all are cared for and seen, this will be our prayer.

God of Good News, **Hear our prayer.**

In hope, we now join our voices together to pray the words your son taught us to pray, saying. . .**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 Peace is Shared**

The Peace of Christ be with you always **and also with you.**

*Christian Fellowship is one of the most blessed gifts given to us by our God.*

*Please take a moment to greet those around you and extend to them the peace of Christ.*

*The congregation is seated.*

### **Offering**

**Offertory Anthem**

“Just As I am, I Come”

by McDonald



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir -  
 it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take  
 not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store to me the  
 joy of your sal-va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

**\*Offering Prayer** O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**



**Invitation to Communion** All who desire to receive are invited to communion. Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Feast on God's goodness and mercy. Come to the table; taste and see.

The Lord be with you.  
 Lift up your hearts.  
 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**And also with you.**  
**We lift them to the Lord.**  
**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... Proper Preface (concluding)...we praise your name and join their unending hymn



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, 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. **Amen**



**\*Dismissal**        When you meet anger, speak with love. When you meet fear, speak with hope. When you meet pain, speak with gentleness. But no matter what, speak this good news. For the good news of the gospel is love and justice for all. It is joy that surprises, and nonviolence that transforms. The good news of the gospel is alive in the world, so go forth speak. For if you won't, then who will. **I will, and I ask God to help me.**

**\*Postlude**

*Our worship service has ended.  
Our worship thru service begins.*

**The Good News is...**

**Protection and care  
for the Vulnerable**



## HOMEBOUND/HOSPITAL/NURSING HOME

Betty Shuping	Home of Daughter, 336-513-4035
Katrina Kurfees	Home of Daughter
Linda Plummer	Trinity Oaks Health & Rehab., Memory Unit
Peggy Swicegood	Continue prayers
Brenda Dwiggin	Continue prayers
Carolyn Hicks	Continue prayers
Marcia Miller	Continue prayers
Elaine Stiller	Recovering at her home
Eric & Dawn Leach	Continue prayers
Danny Norman	Continue prayers (brother of Ellen Webb)
Robert & Gathel Meachem	Brookdale, Room 34, 2201 Statesville Blvd.
Cody McDowell	Continue prayers
Wayne Chaffin	Recovering at his home
Eddie Rabon	NH Presbyterian Hospital

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



**We are glad you have joined us for worship and bid a special welcome to guests in our midst.** May you find peace, comfort, strength, and hope as our Lord comes to us in his word. Please take a moment to register your attendance by signing your name on the fellowship pad as it is passed in each pew.

**This morning, we welcome Deacon Wendy Roberts, Assistant to the Bishop, NC Synod ELCA. Deacon Roberts is with us to install Peggy Terhune, Synodical Approved Minister, (S.A.M.).** A covered dish meal will follow worship in the fellowship hall. Plan to stay, welcome Wendy and celebrate Peggy!

**The Paraments dedicated today to the Glory of God are from the altar of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Statesville Blvd., Salisbury.** These paraments are being rededicated today to memory of the Zimmerman and Glover families; created and handmade by Brenda Zimmeman, former member of Gloria Dei.

**Bethel's 175th Anniversary – We Need Your Ideas!** Drop your anonymous suggestion for a **theme** for our 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary year in the box in the narthex. The anniversary committee is looking for the perfect **phrase, slogan, or short verse** to serve as our anniversary theme. This theme will also appear on a t shirt, so please keep submissions brief, memorable, and faith centered. Then vote for your favorite theme on Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> and the final theme will be revealed on Palm Sunday.



**Laura's Children's Closet will be open on Saturday, March 28th, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

**As is our tradition, we will decorate the sanctuary on Easter Sunday with lilies.** Please use the inserted sheet to give a plant in honor or memory; the cost is \$11. The last Sunday to reserve a plant is Palm Sunday, March 29th. If you need additional forms, they can be found on the narthex table.



**Thank you all for your continued supplies of food for the Blessing Box.** It is amazing how this box is being used in the community. Please continue with your contributions. These may be put in the box (assuming there is room) or bring to the office. The black cart in the narthex is only for RHM food donations, NOT blessing box.

**QR Code for quick access to our website:  
Bethelsalisbury.org**



**Be sure to check your mailbox in the narthex!**



## BETHEL'S MINISTERS

PASTOR:	Peggy Terhune, Synodical Approved Minister
CONTACT INFO	Phone - 704 305-0752 Email - <a href="mailto:peggy.terhune@gmail.com">peggy.terhune@gmail.com</a>
MINISTERS:	All Members of Bethel Lutheran Church
ORGANIST:	Cathy Williams
CHOIR DIRECTOR:	Kara Thurston
PARISH ADMINISTRATOR	Martha Graham 704 202-3962
2026 COUNCIL CHAIRMAN	Todd Corriher 704 433-6729
ONE CHURCH/ONE CHILD COORD:	Dave Hincemon and Lora Owen
CHURCH PHONE:	704-636-0331
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CHURCH WEBSITE	<b>Bethelsalisbury.org</b>
WIFI <b>Bethel Guest</b>	Password <b>Lutheran</b>

## ASSISTING MINISTERS

LECTOR:	Judy Hoffman
ACOLYTE:	Sam Thurston
CRUCIFER:	Todd Smith
COMMUNION ASSIST.	Mike and Monica Raney
COUNCIL HOST:	Mike and Monica Raney
ALTAR GUILD:	Judy Hoffman, Vickie Grubb, Kelly Smith, Diane Roseman
USHERS:	Mike Spry, Capt.; Aaron Thurston, Mike Raney, Crystal Shock





