



PRIDE WORSHIP GATHERING

SEEN AND BELOVED

"I have called you by name; you are mine." – Isaiah 43:1

SUNDAY, JUNE 21, 2026
3:00 PM

We gather to celebrate God's love for all people and the beautiful diversity of the human family. This worship gathering invites us to hear God's promise that we are known, called by name, and embraced with grace. Through scripture, prayer, music, Holy Communion, and fellowship, we give thanks for God's presence among us and for the gift of community. May we always remember that we are all Seen and Beloved children of God.

Throughout today's gathering, we invite you to use the names, images, and language for God that are most meaningful to you. However you pray and however you experience the Holy One, you are welcome to join fully in this time of worship, grace, and community.

BETHEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation

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Gathering Song

Beautiful Things

CCLI Song # 5665521

Lisa Gungor | Michael Gungor

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Welcome & Invitation to Worship

Call to Worship

In a world that often moves too quickly, we gather to pause and remember who we are. **We are children of God, created in love, known and cherished by God.**

Some come joyfully. Some come weary. Some come searching. Some come carrying burdens unseen by others. **Yet none of us walks alone.**

Through the prophet Isaiah, God says: "I have called you by name; you are mine." **We come to worship the One who knows us, sees us, and calls us beloved.**

During Pride Month, we remember those who longed simply to live openly, honestly, and safely. **We honor the dignity and belovedness of every human being.**

Come, let us gather in grace, hope, and community. **Let us worship God.**

Opening Song

Gather Us In (ELW 532)

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Loving God, you gather people from every walk of life and call each of us by name.

In a world where many long to be seen, help us recognize your image in one another and your presence among us.

Gather us into your love, strengthen us through your Word and this holy meal, and send us into the world as witnesses of your grace, that all people may know they are cherished, beloved, and never alone.

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who welcomes us, knows us, and calls us friends. **Amen.**

Preparing to Hear God's Word

Before we hear God's Word, let us quiet our hearts.

There are moments in life when we wonder if anyone truly sees us.

We carry grief quietly. We hide parts of ourselves. We long to be welcomed, known, and called by name.

Yet throughout scripture, God continues to draw near to human beings with tenderness and compassion: to the weary, the grieving, the overlooked, and those searching for a sense of belonging.

As we listen today, may we hear again God's promise: Do not fear. You are precious. You are loved. You are not alone. **Amen.**

First Reading

Isaiah 43:1–4 (The Message Bible)

A Reading from Isaiah:

But now, God's Message, the God who made you in the first place, Jacob, the One who got you started, Israel: "Don't be afraid, I've redeemed you. I've called your name. You're mine. When you're in over your head, I'll be there with you. When you're in rough waters, you will not go down. When you're between a rock and a hard place, it won't be a dead end— Because I am God, your personal God, The Holy of Israel, your Savior. I paid a huge price for you: all of Egypt, with rich Cush and Seba thrown in! That's how much you mean to me! That's how much I love you! I'd sell off the whole world to get you back, trade the creation just for you.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Song for Reflection

Jesus Loves Me (ELW 595)

Stanza 1 only



Gospel

John 20:11-18 (CEB)

The Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹¹Mary stood outside near the tomb, crying. As she cried, she bent down to look into the tomb. ¹²She saw two angels dressed in white, seated where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head and one at the foot. ¹³The angels asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

She replied, "They have taken away my Lord, and I don't know where they've put him." ¹⁴As soon as she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she didn't know it was Jesus.

¹⁵Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who are you looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she replied, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him and I will get him.”

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary.”

She turned and said to him in Aramaic, “Rabbouni” (which means Teacher).

¹⁷ Jesus said to her, “Don’t hold on to me, for I haven’t yet gone up to my Father. Go to my brothers and sisters and tell them, ‘I’m going up to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

¹⁸ Mary Magdalene left and announced to the disciples, “I’ve seen the Lord.” Then she told them what he said to her.

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

Musical Reflection

Testify to Love

CCLI Song # 2572844

H. Pool | P. Field | R. Van Manen | R. Riekerk

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Offered by Viqui Dill

Sermon

Seen and Beloved

You Are Known. You Are Loved. You Are Called by Name.

George Donovan, Commissioned Lay Minister, VA Synod ELCA

Song of Reflection

You Are Mine (ELW 581)

Our Affirmation of Faith

Let us confess our faith together.

We believe in God, who created all people in love and calls each of us by name.

We believe in Jesus Christ, who welcomed those on the margins, healed the wounded, and showed us the depth of God's love.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who gathers us into community, inspires hope, and calls us to lives of compassion and justice.

We believe that nothing can separate us from the love of God.

We are God's beloved people, called to love one another and to serve the world in Christ's name. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Called by name and gathered in grace, let us pray for the church, the world, and all people in need.

A brief silence.

Loving God, you gather people from every nation, culture, language, and walk of life into the body of Christ. Help your Church reflect your welcome, compassion, and mercy, that all may know they are seen and beloved.

God of love and grace, **hear our prayer.**

For the peoples of the world, for communities divided by fear, prejudice, or violence, and for all who work for understanding, reconciliation, and peace. Teach us to honor the dignity of every human being.

God of love and grace, **hear our prayer.**

During Pride Month, we remember generations of LGBTQIA+ people who longed simply to live openly, honestly, and safely. Grant courage to those who are afraid, comfort to those who have been rejected, and hope to those searching for belonging.

God of love and grace, **hear our prayer.**

For those who feel unseen, forgotten, lonely, or misunderstood; for those struggling with anxiety, depression, grief, or uncertainty; and for all who carry burdens known only to you. Remind them that they are precious in your sight.

God of love and grace, **hear our prayer.**

For families in all their forms, for friendships, chosen families, and communities of care. Strengthen the bonds that sustain us and help us to bear one another's burdens with compassion and love.

God of love and grace, **hear our prayer.**

For all who accompany others through illness, grief, loneliness, rejection, or uncertainty; and for those who build communities of welcome, healing, advocacy, and support. Bless their work and renew their spirits.

God of love and grace, **hear our prayer.**

For those we love and those we now name before you, either aloud or in the silence of our hearts...

(Silence.)

God of love and grace, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your steadfast love revealed in Jesus Christ, who knows us, calls us by name, and gathers us into one community.

Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Let us share the peace with one another.

Offering

Mary Bohacek

Winchester AIDS Response Effort & R.I.S.E. Center

About the R.I.S.E. Center

The R.I.S.E. Center (Resources, Inclusion, Support, and Empowerment), a program of AIDS Response Effort (ARE), serves LGBTQ+ individuals and allies in Winchester and Frederick County through advocacy, education, support, and community-building.



No offering will be collected during today's worship gathering. Those who wish to support the work of ARE and the R.I.S.E. Center, please scan the QR code or visit ARE's website at www.aidsresponseeffort.org.



**R.I.S.E.
CENTER**

RESOURCES, INCLUSION, SUPPORT, EMPOWERMENT

Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

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, O God.

You created us in love and call each of us by name.

When we are weary, you strengthen us. When we are afraid, you draw near.
When we feel unseen, you remind us that we are precious in your sight.

In Jesus, you came among us, sharing our joys and sorrows, welcoming the overlooked, healing the wounded, and calling people into lives of grace, hope, and love.

In this meal, you gather us again, feeding us with your presence and reminding us that we belong to you and to one another.

Words of Institution

In the night, he was betrayed...

Then continue...

Remembering his life, death, resurrection, and promise to be with us always, we give thanks for this bread and cup.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine.

Gather us into one body. Strengthen us in faith. Renew us in hope. And send us into the world to be signs of your love, honoring your image in one another and sharing your peace with all people.

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, now and forever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As we pray together, we invite you to use the names and language for God that are most meaningful to you.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us...

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 to Communion

This is Christ's table. Here, we remember that we are known, loved, and called by name.

Come not because you must, but because Christ invites you. Come with your faith and your questions, your joys and your burdens. Come as you are to receive the gifts of grace, mercy, and hope.

All are welcome at Christ's table.

Communion Song

Come to the Table (ELW #481)

Communion Song

Blest Be the Tie That Binds (ELW #656)

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

Gracious God, we give you thanks for this holy meal, where you have gathered us around Christ's table, fed us with your love, and renewed us with your grace.

As you have called us by name and welcomed us as your beloved children, send us now into the world to share your compassion, extend your welcome, and reflect your love.

Help us to see one another as you see us: with mercy, dignity, and hope.

Strengthened by this meal and guided by your Spirit, may we live as signs of your peace and bearers of your grace.

In the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Friend. **Amen.**

Blessing

May the God who created you in love, the Christ who calls you by name, and the Holy Spirit who walks beside you bless you and keep you.

May you know that you are seen. May you know that you are beloved. May you know that you are never alone.

And may the blessing of God, Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit, be with you today and always. **Amen.**

Closing Song

All Are Welcome (ELW 641)
Stanzas 1, 3, 4, & 5 Only

Dismissal

Go in peace. You are seen and beloved. **Thanks be to God.**



All are invited to gather in the courtyard for refreshments, conversation, and fellowship. As we continue celebrating God's love and the beautiful diversity of the human family, we hope you'll stay, connect, and enjoy the gift of community together.

THANK YOU TO THOSE ASSISTING IN WORSHIP THIS AFTERNOON

Rev. Terry Hannon, Celebrant
George Donovan, Jr., Commissioned Lay Minister, VA Synod ELCA
Kristal Cutler and Bethel Musicians
Viqui Dill, Soloist
Mel Siebert, Assisting Minister
Lee Braithwaite, Greeter
Evelyn Boyle, Reader
Cherie Lauck, Video & Tech
Hospitality Team

Special thanks to our Church Office Manager, *Nina Davis*, who somehow transformed a pile of emails, Word documents, text messages, and last-minute edits into the bulletin you are holding today.

WELCOME TO BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH!

We're glad you're here!

Founded in 1820, Bethel Lutheran Church is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) serving the Winchester community. Our mission is simple: *"growing deeper in faith and wider in love."*



ReconcilingWorks
LUTHERANS FOR FULL PARTICIPATION



As followers of Jesus, we are called to love God and one another, practice liberating hospitality, and serve others with humility and generosity. We strive to welcome everyone: believers, questioners, and questioning believers. We commit ourselves to welcoming people of every race, culture, age, ethnicity, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, physical and mental ability, socioeconomic position, marital status, family structure, citizenship, and veteran status. Likewise, we commit ourselves to embracing the work of racial equity, social and economic justice, and environmental care.

Whether you're visiting for today's Pride Worship Gathering, exploring faith, or searching for a church home, we invite you to join us on the journey. Here, you'll find a community seeking to follow Jesus, practice hospitality, and share God's love with the world.

**YOU ARE WELCOME HERE.
YOU ARE VALUED HERE.
YOU ARE BELOVED BY GOD.**

[To learn more, connect with us, or plan a return visit:](#)

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We meet weekly for worship on Sundays @ 9:30 am.

