

Bethel Lutheran Church

July 12, 2026



MATTHEW 13:1-9, 18-23



**THE
SEVENTH
SUNDAY
AFTER
PENTECOST**

Adult Sunday School 9:00 a.m.

Lectionary Study 9:30 a.m.

Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

DR. PEGGY TERHUNE, S.A.M., MINISTER

KARA THURSTON, 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

“Setting Ten”

**Congregation Stands*

Congregation responses in bold

WELCOME

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

“As Rain from the Clouds ”

by Hobby

***BRIEF ORDER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept 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.**

*Gathering Hymn “Blessed Assurance ” intro by Carlson ELW #638
(Text by Fanny J. Crosby)

*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!

*Canticle



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for-give us; in your prom-ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

***Prayer of the Day** Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

WORD OF GOD

First Reading

Isaiah 55:10-13

A reading from the fifty fifth chapter of Isaiah

¹⁰ For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

¹² For you shall go out in joy and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. ¹³ Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle, and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 65: [1-8] 9-13 *Congregation will read responsively*

[¹ You are to be praised, O | God, in Zion; to you shall vows | be fulfilled.

² **To you, the one | who answers prayer, to you all | flesh shall come.**

³ Our sins are strong- | er than we are, but you blot out | our transgressions.

⁴ **Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your | courts to dwell there!
They will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness | of
your temple.**

⁵ Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of | our salvation, O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the oceans | far away.

⁶ **You make firm the mountains | by your power; you are girded a- | bout with
might.**

⁷ You still the roaring | of the seas, the roaring of their waves, and the clamor | of the peoples.

⁸ **Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your | marvelous
signs; you make the dawn and the dusk to | sing for joy.**

] ⁹ You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; the river of God is ¹ full of water. You prepare the grain, for so you provide ¹ for the earth.

¹⁰ **You drench the furrows and smooth ¹ out the ridges; with heavy rain you soften the ground and ¹ bless its increase.**

¹¹ You crown the year ¹ with your goodness, and your paths over- ¹ flow with plenty.

¹² **May the fields of the wilderness be ¹ rich for grazing, and the hills be ¹ clothed with joy.**

¹³ May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak them- ¹ selves with grain; let them shout for ¹ joy and sing.

Second Reading

Romans 8:1-11

A reading from the eighth chapter of Romans.

¹ Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³ For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶ To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



*Holy Gospel
The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Matthew 13:1-9,18-23
Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶ But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ If you have ears, hear!"

¹⁸ "Hear, then, the parable of the sower. ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word,

but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing.²³ But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

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

Children's Sermon
Children's Church

Linda and Jerry Trier

Sermon

Kara Thurston

*Hymn of the Day “As Rain from the Clouds” intro by Hobby ELW #508
(Text by Delores Dufner)

***Apostle's Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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 Intercession**

Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

God our gardener, you scatter grace like seed across the world. Continue to cultivate the garden of your church with your abundant Spirit.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our joy, your bountiful creation reflects your commitment to life despite our actions disregarding its wonder. We look toward Isaiah's vision, when all creation rejoices, and the trees will clap for joy at your salvation.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our life, you give us the same Spirit by which you raised Christ from the dead. Set our minds on that Spirit whenever fear or condemnation overwhelm throughout the world (*global concerns may be named*).
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our host and table, we pray for children who hunger and rely on school meals, for all who toil under the hot sun without refreshment, for the chronically ill who have exhausted their resources, and for local concerns (*especially*).
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our source, tend this assembly with your grace throughout this summer season. May those who travel for work or recreation do so safely, and may visitors find refreshment among us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We give you thanks that the roots of your goodness run deep throughout history. We remember those saints who have gone before us in faith.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of all creation, today we thank you for the gift of women whom you have called to serve you. We remember how Jesus welcomed, honored, and valued women in his ministry; how Mary Magdalene became the first witness to the resurrection and the first to proclaim the good news; and how many of the earliest Christian communities were nurtured through the leadership, hospitality, and faithful service of women.

Today we give you thanks for the ministry of women throughout the history of your Church and in our own congregation. Continue to call, equip, and strengthen

women to share your love, proclaim your gospel, and lead your people with wisdom, compassion, and courage. May we celebrate the gifts you have given to all your children and faithfully serve you together. In Christ's name we pray. **Amen.**

***Peace**

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

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say "Peace be with you" or similar words.

The assembly is seated.

Offering

Anthem

"Peaceful River"

by Donnelly and Srid

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful
Offering Song

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and
fill to the brim our cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a
har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the
bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: *Liturgy of Joy*, James M. Capers, b. 1948

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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.**

*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.

*Blessing Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, † one God, bless, heal,
and hold you today and always.
Amen.

***Sending Song “The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve” intro by Bogнар ELW #551**
(Text by Delores Dufner)

*Dismissal Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!
Thanks be to God.

*Postlude

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

Welcome everyone to Bethel Lutheran Church. 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 to the fellowship pad as it is passed on each pew.

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
Carolyn Hicks	Piedmont Health & Rehab., W. Fisher St., Salisbury
Marcia Miller	Continue prayers
Eric & Dawn Leach	Continue prayers
Danny Norman	Continue prayers (brother of Ellen Webb)
Judy Kennerly	Continue prayers
Robert & Gathel Meachem	Brookdale, Room 34, 2201 Statesville Blvd.
Cody McDowell	Continue prayers
Kelly Smith	Continue prayers
Eddie Rabon	Recovering at his home
Sarah Bame	Home of her daughter, Cathy Williams
Julia Hibbard	Recovering at her home
Anna Lingle	Continue Prayers

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today is a special Sunday as we celebrate the women of our church. We are grateful to Kara Thurston, Shelia Lingle, Lora Owen, Linda Trier and Kelly Smith for their leadership in today's worship service. In keeping with this celebration, every hymn we sing today was written or composed by a woman—either the words, the tune, or both. We give thanks for the many women whose gifts, faith, and creativity continue to enrich the life and worship of the Church.



The Blessing Box continues to be a steady source of activity.

Please remember this outreach when you're grocery shopping for your family.

The Trexler Family invites the Bethel congregation. ** On Sunday, July 19th after the worship service Amber and Cody Trexler are inviting the congregation to a memorial luncheon.** This luncheon is in memory of their infant son Tobias John Trexler. Everyone is invited and asked to bring sides, dessert, and drinks.



An exciting new Sunday School curriculum is coming this fall for school-aged children! We are excited for our children and teachers. If you have given thought to helping in our Sunday school program you are certainly welcome as we want to extend this opportunity to anyone interested in teaching our children about God's love. There is a signup sheet in the narthex if you are interested.

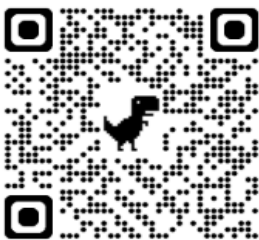


Pool Party and Cookout The Thurston family is hosting our annual pool party, games, and cookout at their home again this year; Sunday afternoon, July 26th from 3pm until. The Thurston's' will provide the BarBQ, burgers, and paper goods. There will



be a signup sheet in the narthex for sides, desserts, drinks. Bring a bathing suit or a game for fun and fellowship. See you there, it's always a great time!!

A Peals For Peace... We invite you and your community to take part in A Peals for Peace, an act of public witness rooted in faith and grounded in the shared belief that every person has inherent worth. Beginning in July, faith communities, organizations, families, and individuals are invited to join together in this shared act of reflection, prayer, and hope. On the first Monday of each month at 6:00 PM (expanding to weekly Mondays in September through the Monday before Election Day), participants are encouraged to ring bells for about 15 minutes as a public expression of peace and unity. All are welcome to participate: churches, synagogues, mosques, temples, community organizations, families, and individuals. Any bell or sound-making object can be used. **Signup sheet located in the Narthex**



This QR code is created to be a quick link the bethelsalisbury.org website



Online Offertory Donations - If you would prefer to make offertory donations online, please visit the church website (bethelsalisbury.org), or scan the QR code below that will take you directly to our online giving page. (There is a small fee associated with this service).

Be sure to check your mailbox

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

TODAY

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost July 12th

9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School

9:30 a.m. Lectionary Study

9:45 a.m. Choir Practice

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

THURS:

9:30 a.m. NO JOY Ringers Practice *summer break*

NEXT SUNDAY:

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost July 19th

9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School

9:30 a.m. Lectionary Study

9:45 a.m. Choir Practice

10:30 a.m. Worship Service/Holy Communion

THURS:

9:30 a.m. NO JOY Ringers Practice *summer break*

*Thankful
grateful
blessed*

Attendance/Contribution Information for 7/05/2026

Worship Service 46

	Given 07/05/2026	Given Year to Date	Needed Weekly to Attain Budget
Current	\$2,600.00	\$82,414.83	\$ 2,630.00
Benevolence	\$125.00	\$5,315.00	\$ 77.00
Missions & Outreach		\$4,820.00	
Building Improvement	\$285.00	\$1,865.00	

BETHEL'S MINISTERS

PASTOR:	Dr. Peggy Terhune, Synodical Authorized Minister
CONTACT INFO	Phone - 704 305-0752 Email - peggy.terhune@gmail.com
MINISTERS:	Members of Bethel Lutheran Church
ORGANIST:	Cathy Williams
CHOIR DIRECTOR:	Kara Thurston
CHURCH SECRETARY:	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
CHURCH E-MAIL:	parishadmin@bethellutheranofSalisbury.com
WEBSITE	bethelsalisbury.org
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ASSISTING MINISTERS

LECTOR:	Kelly Smith
ACOLYTE:	Shelia Lingle
CRUCIFER:	Lora Owen
COUNCIL HOST:	Butch Williams
ALTAR GUILD:	Kelly & Todd Smith, Vickie Grubb, Judy Hoffman, Diane Roseman
USHERS:	Mike Spry, Capt.; Aaron Thursotn, Todd Corriher, Crystal Shock



Bethel Lutheran Church Praising and serving God since 1851