

Bethel Lutheran Church

August 16, 2026



MATTHEW 15:21-28



**THE
TWELFTH
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
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 in bold

WELCOME

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude “Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing ” by Blersch

***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 “Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing ” ELW #886
intro by Hopson

***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** God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The congregation is seated.

THE WORD OF GOD

First Reading

Isaiah 56:6-8

A reading from the fifty sixth chapter of Isaiah

¹ Thus says the LORD: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come and my deliverance be revealed.

⁶ And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, all who keep the Sabbath and do not profane it and hold fast my covenant—⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. ⁸ Thus says the Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel: I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalms 67

Congregation will read responsively

¹ May God be merciful to | us and bless us; may the light of God's face | shine upon us.

² **Let your way be known | upon earth, your saving health a- | mong all nations.**

³ Let the peoples praise | you, O God; let all the | peoples praise you.

⁴ **Let the nations be glad and | sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the na- | tions on earth.**

⁵ Let the peoples praise | you, O God; let all the | peoples praise you.

⁶ **The earth has brought | forth its increase; God, our own | God, has blessed us.**

⁷ May God | give us blessing, and may all the ends of the earth | stand in awe.

Second Reading

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

A reading from the ninth chapter of Romans.

[Paul writes:] ¹ I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ^{2a} God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

²⁹ For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰ Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹ so also they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they also may now receive mercy. ³² For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



*Holy Gospel

Matthew 15: {10-20} 21-28

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[¹⁰ [Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, “Listen and understand:

¹¹ it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.” ¹² Then the disciples approached and said to him,

“Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?” ¹³ He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴ Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.” ¹⁵ But Peter said to him, “Explain this parable to us.” ¹⁶ Then he said, “Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷ Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸ But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. ¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰ These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.”]

²¹ Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” ²³ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” ²⁴ He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” ²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” ²⁶ He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁷ She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” ²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed from that moment.

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

Children's Sermon

Caroline Monroe

Sermon

Dr. Peggy Terhune

*Hymn of the Day

“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

ELW #588

Intro by Sims

***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 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 Intercession**

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 believers around the world who stream to your holy mountain, that all be united in faith and harmony in the body of Christ. Let your church on earth be a witness to the beloved community of your heavenly kingdom.

Merciful God, receive our prayer.

For your wondrous creation, that it thrives and flourishes as you intend. Raise up wise stewards to defend the natural world against carelessness and destruction.

Safeguard endangered species and their habitats (*especially*).
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For the nations of the world and all in authority, that they heed the cry of the out-cast and ensure care for the most vulnerable. Give wisdom to leaders of countries, congregations, and communities, that they lead and serve justly.
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For all who are lonely, grieving, or struggling with chronic pain, that they find comfort, community, and hope. Send relief to all who struggle with illness of any kind (*especially*). Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For this congregation, for visitors and those new to this faith community, that all may recognize the presence of Christ in each new face. Draw this community together in love and strengthen it in unwavering faith.
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For the saints before us whose work is done, that their faithful example continues to direct your church. May their witness remind us that your gifts and calling are irrevocable, whether in life or death. 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.**

*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 congregation is seated.

Offering

Anthem

“Put Peace into each Other’s Hands ”

by Holstein

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

Offering Song

The musical score is written on five staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The lyrics are: '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 now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.'

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 now. 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: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

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***Offertory 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.**

Great Thanksgiving

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... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



***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.

Remembering, therefore, Christ's execution at the hands of a ruthless regime, Christ's resurrection that buries death, Christ's ascension to rule with love forever, we declare the revolutionary mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

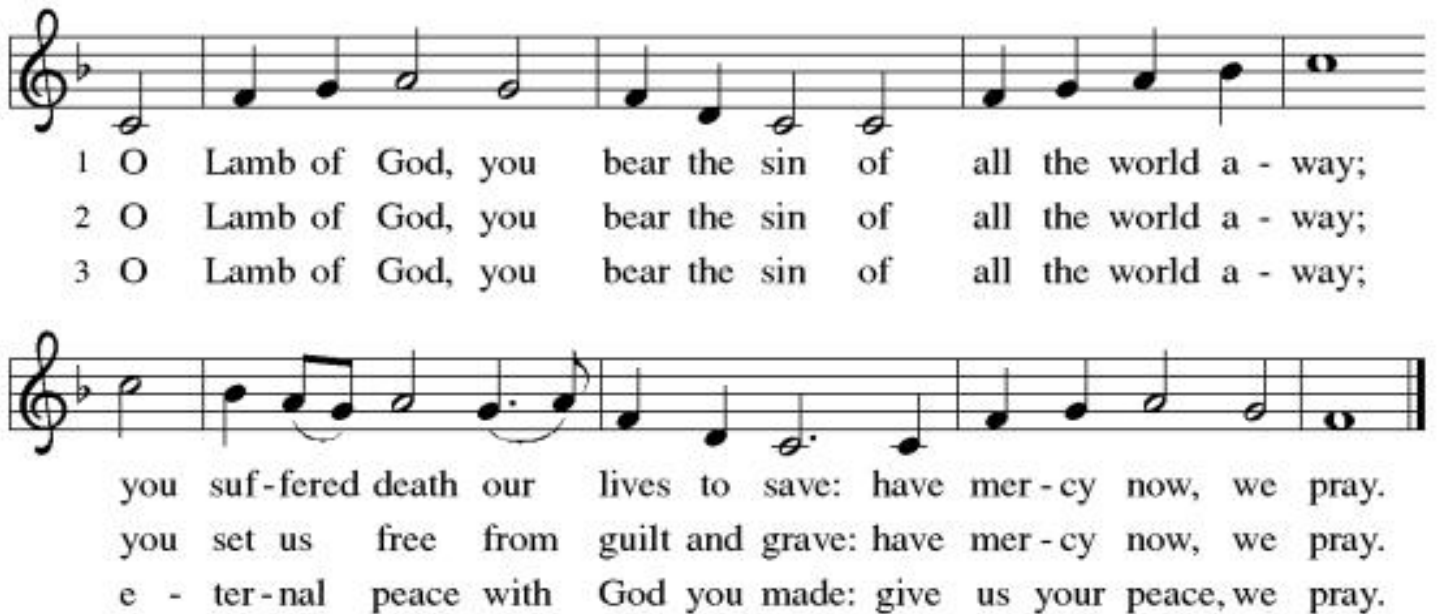
Invitation to Communion

Heaven has come near.

Come, share in the feast! **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.



The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains three lines of lyrics, each preceded by a number (1, 2, 3). The second staff contains three lines of lyrics. The music is a simple, hymn-like melody.

1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

Communion Music “Bread of Life” by Callahan
“One Bread, One Body” ELW #496

***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.**

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

*Sending Song

“My Faith Looks Up to Thee” ELW #759

Intro by Callahan

*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.

Today, we will celebrate Holy Communion and wish to share the following with you. Holy Communion is offered to all baptized believers, regardless of denomination or home church. Lutherans believe that Jesus Christ is truly present in the meal we call Holy Communion. (ELCA.FAQ) in the principal service of Christian worship, the Holy Spirit gathers people around the means of grace – the saving Word of God and the sacraments. From the table of communion where Jesus Christ comes with forgiveness, life, and salvation, God sends us out to share the good news and to care for those in need. (Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 2006)

Here at Bethel Lutheran Church:

- The ushers will direct you forward to the communion table. If you prefer to receive communion in your seat, simply share your wish with one of the ushers.
- You are not required to kneel and may be more comfortable standing.
- Grape juice is offered in the center of each tray. (The majority of the cups contain wine).
- After you have communed, the pastor will dismiss your table.
- Children who have not received communion training are welcome come forward and receive a blessing.

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HOMEBOUND/HOSPITAL/NURSING HOME

Betty Shuping	Home of Daughter, 336-513-4035
Linda Plummer	Trinity Oaks Health & Rehab., Memory Unit
Robert & Gathel Meachem	Brookdale, Room 34, 2201 Statesville Blvd.
Carolyn Hicks	Piedmont Health & Rehab., W. Fisher St., Salisbury
Vickye Sloop	Forest Oaks Rehab. Albemarle, NC
Sarah Bame	Home of daughter (mother of Cathy Williams)
Katrina Kurfees	Home of Daughter,
Peggy Swicegood	Continue prayers
Marcia Miller	Continue prayers
Eric & Dawn Leach	Continue prayers
Danny Norman	Continue prayers (brother of Ellen Webb)
Judy Kennerly	Continue prayers
Cody McDowell	Continue prayers
Anna Lingle	Continue prayers
Kelly Smith	Continue prayers
Julia Hibbard	Recuperating at her home
Kathy Trexler	Recuperating at her home
Monica Raney	Recuperating at her home
Cecil Hutchinson	Recuperating at his home
Winfred Kluttz	Recuperating at his home
Larisa Terhune	Recuperating at her home

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Eternal Flame for the month of August is Given to the Glory of God by the Todd Lingle Family in memory of Charles and Georgia Shuping.



God wants to heal you. As part of our service on August 23rd, you will have the opportunity to come forward and receive Christ's healing grace. A kneeler will be available, and Peggy will lay her hands on you, offer a quiet prayer, and anoint you with oil. Only God can heal. Come and open yourself to His healing power.

Sunday, August 30th we will celebrate another "Bring a Friend to Church Sunday". Be thinking about the friends and neighbors you know who may be looking for a new church home. This is another great opportunity to share our Bethel family love with others. Lutheran Men are planning to provide hamburgers and hot dogs; There is a signup sheet in the narthex for sides and desserts. Plan to stay after worship for food fellowship.

The church sanctuary will be closed in order to steam clean the carpet and the pew cushions during the week of August 24-28. Cleaning will take place on Monday and Tuesday the 24th and 25th and the remainder of the week will be to allow time for thorough drying. The church offices will remain open on their normal schedule.

Sunday School Teachers are needed for our children. Folks who are willing to manage our Sunday School for school age children Starting in September, after Labor Day. There is an exciting, entirely new curriculum. Give prayerful consideration to this request, our children need you. Signup sheet in the narthex.



The 175th Anniversary Committee invites members of the congregation to bring historical mementos to share during our Homecoming celebration on Sunday, September 13, 2026. These items will be displayed during the fellowship dinner for everyone to enjoy. Please label each item with your name, bring it with you on the day of Homecoming, and take it home with you at the end of the day. Thank you for helping us celebrate and preserve the history of our church!

Homecoming Sunday, come meet Bishop Hartner@ 9:30 during a Q&A session in the sanctuary.

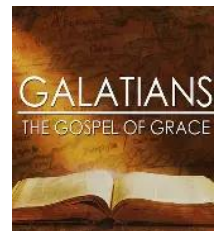
Our study of **Galatians** will continue in August, and everyone is welcome to join us—even if you were unable to attend the first sessions.

Zoom Sessions:

Wednesdays: **August 5, 12, and 26**
7:30 p.m.

In-Person Sessions:

Fridays: **August 7, 14, and 28**
1:00 p.m. at the church



See Peggy for the Zoom link. Study books are available in my office. We would love to have you join us as we continue exploring Paul's powerful letter to the Galatians together.



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).

Our Blessing Box NEEDS you!!

East versus West Blessing Box Challenge Extended

Our East vs. West Blessing Box Challenge has been extended through the month of August! While the competition began in July, the race has become a bit one-sided, so we're giving everyone another chance to help their team catch up and make it a close finish. Each Sunday, please bring canned goods and other non-perishable food items to the table just inside the entrance to the Fellowship Hall. Your donations will be weighed and counted toward your team's total before being stocked in our church's Blessing Box storage area, to help provide food for those in need in our community.



Every donation makes a difference—not only for your team, but for the families who rely on our Blessing Box. So, gather your items, invite your friends to join in, and help your team earn the winning prize while sharing God's love through this important ministry.

Thank you for your generosity and for helping us make a difference, one donation at a time!

You CAN help.....

Thankful
grateful
blessed

Be sure to check your mailbox

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

TODAY

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost August 16th

	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
WED:	7:00 p.m.	NO ZOOM Bible study on Galatians!
THURS:	10:00 a.m.	NO JOY Ringers Practice <i>Summer Break</i>
FRI:	1:00 p.m.	NO Bible study on Galatians!

NEXT SUNDAY:

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost August 23rd

	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
WED:	7:00 p.m.	ZOOM Bible study on Galatians!
THURS:	10:00 a.m.	NO JOY Ringers Practice <i>Summer Break</i>
FRI:	1:00 p.m.	Bible study on Galatians! Large Sunday School room
SAT:	6:00 p.m.	Family Game Night Tacos and games for all!

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
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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
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ASSISTING MINISTERS

LECTOR:	Kathy Pifferetti
ACOLYTE:	Joey Shock
CRUCIFER:	Maddie Shock
COUNCIL HOST:	Judy Hoffman
COMMUNION ASSISTANT:	Judy Hoffman
ALTAR GUILD:	Kathy Pifferetti, Brenda Holbrook
USHERS:	Bob Kennerly, Capt.; Todd Smith, Todd Lingle, Mike & Monica Raney

Bethel Lutheran Church

Praising and serving God since 1851

Great
is thy
Faithfulness

