



BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Creation in Christ Sunday

SEPTEMBER 6TH, 2026

8:30 AM & 10:30 AM

*+ indicates to stand in body or spirit;
bold print indicates congregational responses*

✠ GATHERING ✠

PRELUDE “Morning Song” arr. Edie Linneweber

WORDS OF WELCOME

+ CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth,
our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

We praise you, O God, **for your salvation through water,
and for the waters that have touched our lives this summer:**

*Parishioners may come forward and add water to the font, identifying its source,
e.g. “Water from the Cannon River,” or “water from Lake Byllesby.”*

We praise you for the water in this font, **and for all water everywhere.**

Trusting in the promises of this water, let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.

(a brief silence for reflection)

Creator God,
We confess that we have forgotten who we are.

You made us from the dust of the earth
and breathed into us the breath of life.

**Yet we have lived as though everything belongs to us
instead of remembering that everything belongs to you.**

You have surrounded us with beauty,
wonder, and abundance.

**Too often we hurry past your gifts,
take them for granted,
or use them without gratitude.**

You have called us to love our neighbors,
human and other-than-human,
and to care for your good creation.

**Forgive us when our choices bring harm,
when we value convenience over compassion,
consumption over contentment,
or fear over faithful stewardship.**

When the world is broken,
when creation groans,
when hearts are weary—

**Teach us again to listen,
to wonder, to love,
and to live as your beloved people.**

**Renew us by your Holy Spirit,
that our lives may join the song of all creation,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Listen! Even now, creation proclaims God's mercy.
Morning follows night. Spring follows winter.
Life rises from the earth.

In Jesus Christ, God has entered this world in love,
borne its sorrow, healed its brokenness,
and opened the way to new life.
In Jesus Christ, we are restored as God's good creation.

Therefore, as a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ,
and by his authority, I declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins,
in the name of the Father,
and of the ✠ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

+ **GATHERING SONG** "Good Creation" Living Voice of Creation Liturgy
Verse 1: solo; assembly joins on Refrain and following verses

1 God who made the day and night, the shimmering stars and the
2 God who made the mountains high, the rivers and valleys, the
3 God who makes the birds who soar, the fish in the oceans, the
sun's de-light; God who made the land and sea;
paint-ed sky; God who makes each bloom-ing spring;
li-on's roar; ev-'ry crea-ture great and small:
Refrain
your love cre-at-ed me! We are your good, good cre-a-
your love is why we sing! tion,
your love has made us all! each *rain-bow, each *bull-frog, each face. We are your
good, good cre-a-tion, re-flect-ing your good-ness and grace.

+ **APOSTOLIC 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.**

+ PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, in whom we live and move and have our being, in Christ you created the world, and your Spirit breathes life into the universe. We praise you for your wondrous creation. Bless us and all your handiwork with your infinite light, and direct our lives to the care of this good earth, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

FIRST READING *GENESIS 2:4-25*

A reading from Genesis.

⁴These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, ⁵when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no vegetation of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground, ⁶but a stream would rise from the earth and water the whole face of the ground— ⁷then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

⁸And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. ⁹Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

¹⁰A river flows out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it divides and becomes four branches. ¹¹The name of the first is Pishon; it is the one that flows around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold, ¹²and the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. ¹³The name of the second river is Gihon; it is the one that flows around the whole land of Cush. ¹⁴The name of the third river is Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

¹⁵The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.

¹⁶And the Lord God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

¹⁸Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.” ¹⁹So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air and brought them to the man to see

what he would call them, and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name.

²⁰The man gave names to all cattle and to the birds of the air and to every animal of the field, but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner.

²¹So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²²And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³Then the man said,

“This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
this one shall be called Woman,
for out of Man this one was taken.”

²⁴Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh. ²⁵And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

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

PSALM *PSALM 148*



¹Hallelujah! Praise the LORD | from the heavens;
praise God | in the heights.

²**Praise the LORD, | all you angels;
sing praise, all you | hosts of heaven.**

³Praise the LORD, | sun and moon;
sing praise, all you | shining stars.

⁴**Praise the LORD, heav- | en of heavens,
and you waters a- | bove the heavens.**

⁵Let them praise the name | of the LORD,
who commanded, and they | were created,

⁶**who made them stand fast forev- | er and ever,
giving them a law that shall not | pass away. R**

⁷Praise the LORD | from the earth,
you sea monsters | and all deeps;
⁸**fire and hail, | snow and fog,**
tempestuous wind, do- | ing God's will;
⁹mountains | and all hills,
fruit trees | and all cedars;
¹⁰**wild beasts | and all cattle,**
creeping things and | flying birds;
¹¹sovereigns of the earth | and all peoples,
princes and all rulers | of the world;
¹²**young | men and maidens,**
old and | young together. R
¹³Let them praise the name | of the LORD,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over | earth and heaven.
¹⁴**The LORD has raised up strength for the people**
and praise for all | faithful servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. | Hallelujah! R

+ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *“Let All Creation Sing”*



Let all cre-a-tion sing, Al-le-lu-ia!

Let all cre-a-tion sing, Al-le-lu-ia!

+ HOLY GOSPEL *JOHN 1:1-5*

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

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God.³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

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

HOMILY

+ HYMN OF THE DAY *“Morning Has Broken”* ELW #556



1 Morn-ing has bro-ken like the first morn-ing;
2 Sweet the rain's new fall, sun-lit from heav-en,
3 Mine is the sun-light! Mine is the morn-ing,

black-bird has spo-ken like the first bird,
like the first dew-fall on the first grass,
born of the one light E-den saw play!

Praise for the sing-ing! Praise for the morn-ing!
Praise for the sweet-ness of the wet gar-den,
Praise with e-la-tion, praise ev-'ry morn-ing,

Praise for them, spring-ing fresh from the Word!
sprung in com-plete-ness where God's feet new pass,
God's re-cre-a-tion of the new day!

+ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We praise you God, for your Creation of all that is, of galaxies and toadstools,
of earth and all its wonder and goodness.

We thank you, O Christ, for you have embodied God's love among us.
You healed people in mind, and body;
you touched those who were rejected
and laid your hands on those who were broken.
You fed the hungry with the gifts of the earth.
You created a new community that embodied God's vision of justice.

You have shepherded us in green pastures of love,
through the deepest valleys, to a place of feasting and hospitality.
You laid down your life for us, and God raised you from the dead,
redeeming all flesh, making holy all living things.

We belong to you, Holy Spirit.
You make us one Body with one another and with all Creation:
one divine, living ecosystem of love.
You empower us as stewards of life, to care for Creation,
to lead all living things toward wholeness.
Holy One, we belong to you; and we give our lives for the sake of life. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE “Hope of All Creation”

*A soloist will sing the Refrain once at the beginning of the prayers;
the assembly is invited to join at the end of each petition:*

Hope of all cre - a - tion, Heal - er of re -
- la - tions, we lift our prayer to you. We
lift our prayer to you.

+ SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

OFFERING



Guests

Generosity is part of who we are as God’s people. Guests can use their QR code to give via Breeze, Bethel’s trusted online giving platform. Select "Member Faith Giving" to give to the general budget. Members can use their QR code to sign into Breeze to give a one-time gift or to schedule an automated donation. Online giving cards (at the name tag stations), checks, or cash may be placed in the offering plates as they are passed.



Members

ANTHEM “Seed of Life” Hans Peterson & Maia Twedt

+ OFFERTORY “We Praise You, Maker God”

We praise you, Mak - er God, from whom all bless - ings flow.
We praise you, Ho - ly Breath, whose heal - ing love sur - rounds.
We praise you, Ris - en Christ, in whom we live and grow.
We join cre - a - tion's song as end - less praise re - sounds!

+ OFFERTORY PRAYER

✠ MEAL ✠

+ 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 God thanks and praise.**

+ EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy that we should in all circumstances offer our thanks and praise to you, O God, Maker of All. In the beginning, you created humankind in your image and provided more than enough, calling us to trust and care for your abundance. In Christ, you set us free from the power of sin and defeated death, revealing resurrection power among us. By your Spirit, we are swept into a new imagination for the universe united by your love. And so, with all the angels and ancestors, with the church on earth and the choirs of heaven, we come to the table rejoicing as one creation, one body in holy communion now and forever. **Amen.**

The Words of Institution / Las Palabras de la Institución

The empire wanted them frightened, divided, and alone.
Christ wanted them together at the table.

How many fish had they caught? How many weddings had they attended?

How many loaves had they multiplied?
How many meals had they shared, just like this one?

At this table, Christ continues to gather us.
When we come to this meal, we remember. More than that, we are re-membered
- joined again to Christ and to one another as the Body of Christ.
**Every time we practice community and seek connection,
we re-member the body of Christ.**

The promise given in bread and wine is proximate, as near as my blood to yours.
And this promise is universal, for everyone and without condition.
Forgiveness is uniquely for you and for everyone else, too.

It's just a morsel of bread and a sip of wine. Yet in these simple gifts,
Christ is fully present, gathering us in and giving us what we need to live.
Christ wants us together at the table.

Come to remember and be re-membered.
Many voices raised to One God, the Living Voice of Creation.

+ THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom,
the power, and the glory
are yours, now and forever. Amen.

+ EL PADRE NUESTRO

Padre nuestro que estás en los cielos
santificado sea tu nombre;
venga a nos tu reino;
hágase tu voluntad,
así en la tierra como en el cielo;
el pan nuestro de cada día, dánoslo hoy;
y perdónanos nuestras deudas
así como nosotros perdonamos
a nuestros deudores;
y no nos dejes caer en la tentación;
mas líbranos del mal.
Porque tuyo es el reino,
el poder y la gloria,
por los siglos de los siglos. Amén.

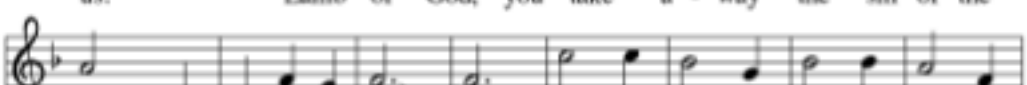
LAMB OF GOD



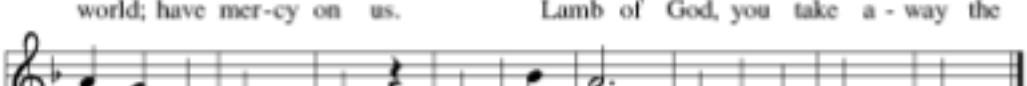
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

HOLY COMMUNION HYMN “For the Fruit of All Creation” ELW #679



1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

+ TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

+ PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of plenty, you have nourished our bodies with the fruits of the earth,
our minds with the assurance that there is enough, and our spirits with
the promise of Christ's true presence. Send us from this table to welcome
as we have been welcomed, to feed as we have been fed, and to forgive
as we have been forgiven, for the sake of the world you love. Amen.

✧ SENDING ✧

+ BENEDICTION

God the Creator made the tiny goldfish and elegant sharks, looked at them and said,
You are good!
God the Creator made the croaky frogs, looked at them and said,
You are good!
God the Creator made the birds of the sky, looked at them and said,
You are good!
God the Creator made the rainbows that shine, looked at them and said,
You are good!
God the Creator made you and me, and all of humanity, looked at us and said,
You are good!
God the Creator bless you and keep you, today and every day in love, peace, and joy.
Amen!

+ SENDING HYMN “God is Doing a New Thing”



1 God is do - ing a new thing, God is do - ing a new thing,
2 Christ is ris - ing with new life, Christ is ris - ing with new life,
3 Now the Spir - it is mov - ing, now the Spir - it is mov - ing,
4 Go and wit - ness the glor - y, all crea - a - tion a - dor - ing

God is do - ing a new thing in this world.
Christ is ris - ing with new life in this world.
now the Spir - it is mov - ing in this world.
God's own beau - ti - ful stor - y in this world.

We all have a part in God's won - drous work of art.
Love will be the seed that can heal a world in need.
Com - for - ter and friend, ev - er with us to the end,
Trees shall clap their hands; joy shall ring a - cross the lands.

God is do - ing a new thing in this world.
Christ is ris - ing with new life in this world.
Now the Spir - it is mov - ing in this world.
Praise! For God is re - stor - ing all this world!

Last time
God is do - ing a new thing in this world!

+ DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE (8:30) “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee” arr. Matt Limbaugh
(10:30) “Earth is Full of Wit and Wisdom” arr. Aaron David Miller

WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Inger Hanson & Pastor Ben Schori
Assisting Minister: (8:30) Joanna McLees (10:30) Krista Middlebrooks
Guitar: Gary Lewis Flute: Krista Middlebrooks

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Confession & Forgiveness is by Rev. Dr. Charlene Rauchuy Cox from *Living Voice of Creation*.

“*Good Creation*” is from the liturgy *Living Voice of Creation*, by Carol Meier & Hans Peterson,
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The Affirmation of Faith was written by Steve Garnaas-Holmes,
Unfoldinglight.net under Creation-Centered resources.

“*Hope of All Creation*” Prayer Response by Hans Peterson, © 2010 Dakota Road Music.

“*We Praise You Maker God*” is from the liturgy *Living Voice of Creation*, by Hans Peterson & Carol Meier ,
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Sending Litany: "Good Creation"; *Living Voice of Creation* liturgy, Rev. Amanda Dahlseng.

“*The Lord’s Prayer*” Music: *Mass from Age to Age*, Chris de Silva, © 2010, GIA Publications, Inc.

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BETHEL STAFF

Inger Hanson, *Senior Pastor* she/her
Ben Schori, *Associate Pastor* he/him
Phil Ruud, *Visitation Pastor* he/him

Megan (Mee-gan) Engel, *Director of Music & Worship* she/her
Pete Schleif, *Church Choir Director* he/him
Jill Mahr, *Youth Handbell Director* she/her
Cindy Carlson, *Resonance Bell Director* she/her

Megan Shoup, *Director of Children,*
Youth, & Family Ministries she/her
Juley Jenkinson, *Nursery Coordinator* she/her

Kate Dreier, *Office Manager* she/her
Caroline Smith, *Financial Assistant* she/her

Marv Farmer, *Custodian* he/him
Blair Fowler, *Building Manager* he/him

Sam Dwyer, *Audio/ Visual Manager* he/him

Audio/ Visual Technicians

Asher Engle he/him
Nathan Hoekstra he/him
Nathan Broughton he/him

WHY DOES THIS SECTION LOOK DIFFERENT?

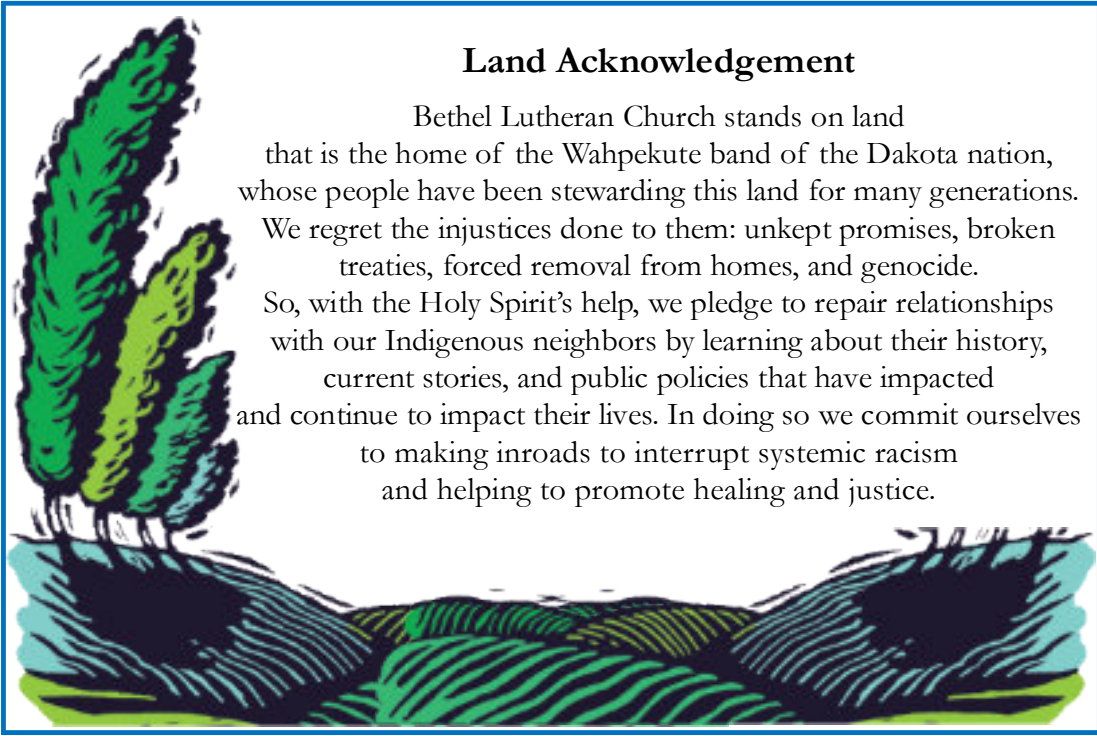
Volunteers are key to making Sunday mornings run smoothly, and Bethel is so grateful for how parishioners greet, usher, read, serve communion, set and clean up the altar, serve coffee, and more. We are also aware that sometimes busy lives prevent signing up early. Some might not know weekend plans on Wednesday (when the bulletin is usually being finalized for printing), and so can’t commit to a particular role. In order to open up volunteering opportunities to more parishioners and remove any unnecessary pressure, we will no longer list all the names supporting a particular service.

Know that you are still very, very valued!

If you hope to thank a particular volunteer and are uncertain who they are, names are available on the podium near the center doors of the sanctuary on Sunday mornings.

Following a recommendation from the RIC team, we are going to use the freed up space to give the names and positions of the Bethel Staff with their pronouns.

Sharing staff pronouns in this way still models the inclusivity Bethel aspires to, and lessens the need to frequently share them verbally.



Land Acknowledgement

Bethel Lutheran Church stands on land that is the home of the Wahpekute band of the Dakota nation, whose people have been stewarding this land for many generations. We regret the injustices done to them: unkept promises, broken treaties, forced removal from homes, and genocide. So, with the Holy Spirit’s help, we pledge to repair relationships with our Indigenous neighbors by learning about their history, current stories, and public policies that have impacted and continue to impact their lives. In doing so we commit ourselves to making inroads to interrupt systemic racism and helping to promote healing and justice.

THIS WEEK — SEPTEMBER 7 - 12
CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY - THURSDAY 9 AM - 3 PM

MONDAY

Office Closed in Observance of Labor Day

TUESDAY

9:00 am Quilting Group
9:45 am Bethel Staff
3:00 pm Lydia Circle Fellowship
6:30 pm ISAIAH Discipleship Training

WEDNESDAY

5:00 pm Congregational Life
7:00 pm Finance

THURSDAY

8:30 am MoB (Men of Bethel) (Room 54)
9:30 am FaB (Faith & Books) (Youth Room)
10:30 am Projects with Purpose
5:45 pm Active Befriender Ministry Support

FRIDAY

9:15 am WoW (Women of the Word) via zoom

SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

August 30	in person attendance
8:30am	169
10:30am	78
Total	247

NEXT SUNDAY...

The text of the day will be **Genesis 6:5-14, 17-19, 22; 8:6-12; 9:8-13, 16-17**
with **Matthew 8:24-27**.
Pastor Inger preaches.



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