

BETHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

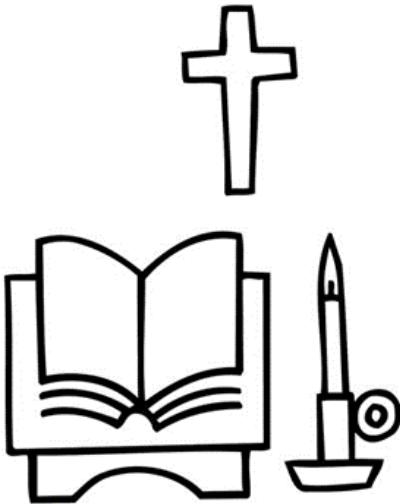
"You have a place here! Joyfully we profess our faith through God's unconditional love. Here and now God dwells in all of our lives, bears our sins on the cross, and forgives us all."

TODAY WE CELEBRATE Confirmation and Reformation Sunday

9:00 am on Sunday, October 25, 2020

Holy Communion Worship

Pr. Dave Johnson, presiding



Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

ALL ARE WELCOME

The family of Bethany hopes that your worship experience is spiritually fulfilling and your day begins with our Lord's gifts of peace and joy.

If you are visiting today, you are invited to the Communion Table.

As Christians of the Reformation tradition, we believe that the Sacrament of the Altar is the Real Presence of Christ's body and blood, instituted by Christ Himself as a sign of unity. All baptized and confessing believers are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion by intinction—the dipping of the wafer into the wine when the chalice is offered. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available. The assembly is to line up down center aisle and return to seats by side aisles.

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR REFORMATION SUNDAY

Minister/Leaders speak regular print—Congregation speaks bold print

Arrow directives indicate the following: ▲ stand if able ▼ be seated

THE GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

▼ Prelude Reflections for Meditation

▼ Prayers and Praises

▼ Welcome and Greeting

▲ Invocation

We gather together in the name of the Father,
the † Son and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

▲ Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Faithful God,

have mercy on us.

**We confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.**

**We turn from your loving embrace
and go our own ways.**

**We pass judgment on one another
before examining ourselves.**

We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.

We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.

**Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,
and turn us again to life in you**

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God hears the cries of all who call out in need,
and through his death and resurrection,
Christ has made us his own.

Hear the truth that God proclaims:
Your sins are forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ.
Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness
to do God's work in the world.

Amen.

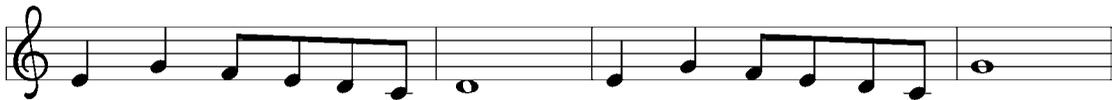
▲ **Prayer of the Day**

Gracious Father,
we pray for your holy catholic church. Fill it with all truth and peace.
Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it;
where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it;
where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it;
for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

THE WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song

▼ **Experiences of the Risen Christ (NRSV)**



Take, oh, take me as I am; sum - mon out what I shall be;



set your seal up - on my heart and live in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell

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A reading from the Gospel of John 20:1, 11-16, 18

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.



Take, oh, take me as I am; sum - mon out what I shall be;



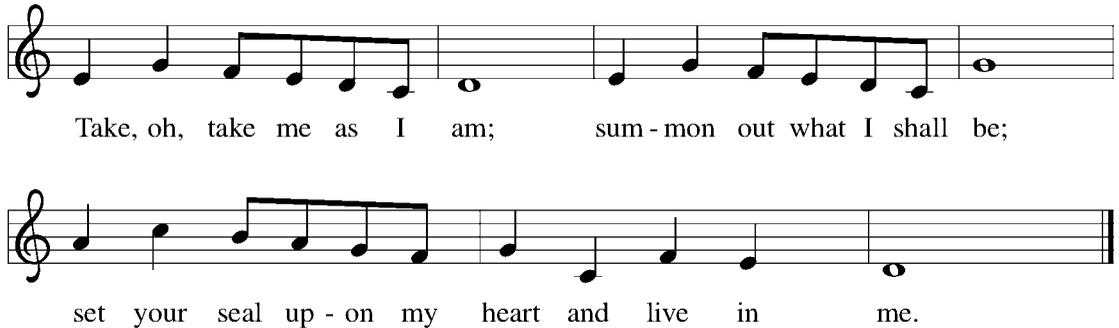
set your seal up - on my heart and live in me.

A reading from the Gospel of Luke 24:28-35

Glory to you, O Lord

As they came near the village to which they were going, [the risen Christ] walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the

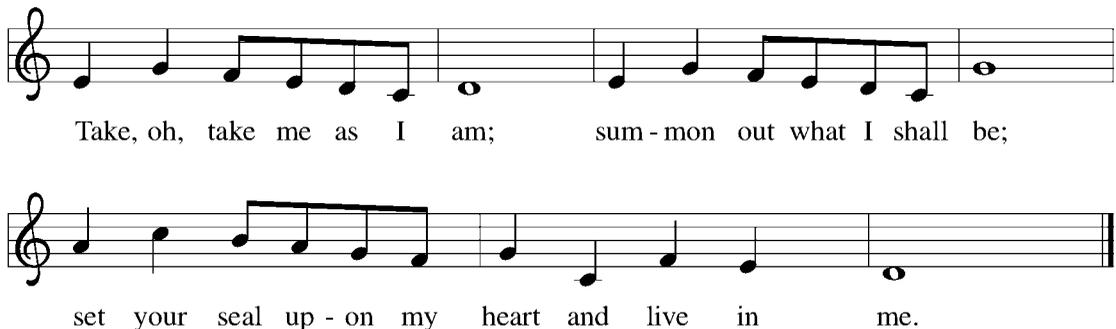
scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.



Take, oh, take me as I am; sum - mon out what I shall be;
 set your seal up - on my heart and live in me.

A reading from the Gospel of John 20:19-23

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."



Take, oh, take me as I am; sum - mon out what I shall be;
 set your seal up - on my heart and live in me.

A reading from the Book of Acts 2:1-12

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?"

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

▼ **Confirmand's Faith Statement**

Grace Schiltz

▲ **Hymn of the Day**

To God Be the Glory, page 12

▲ **Affirmation of Baptism**

I present Grace Schiltz who desires to make public affirmation of her baptism.

Let us pray:

Merciful God, we thank you for sister, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called her to yourself, enlightened her with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished her in the community of faith. Uphold your servant in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth.

We ask this in the name of Christ.

Amen.

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

Confirmand response: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

Confirmand response: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Confirmand response: I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.**

What does this mean?

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin
Mary.**

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

What does this mean?

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

What does this mean?

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,
 to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
 to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
 to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
 and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Confirmand response: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

People of God, do you promise to support this sister and
 pray for her in her life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us
 new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

Stir up in Grace the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and
 understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the
 fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

Let us rejoice with our sister in Christ.

**We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and
 praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

▲ *Prayers of Intercession*

With confidence in God's grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world,
 and all those in need.

brief silence.

Renew and inspire the church in the freedom of the gospel, O God. Where the
 church is in error, reform it. Where the church speaks your truth, strengthen it.
 Where the church is divided, unify it. Ignite in us the working of the Holy Spirit.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As the earth changes, as mountains shake and the waters roar, may we care for this
 planet as a holy habitation for all living things. Sustain all peoples and lands
 recovering from natural disasters of any kind.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Guide areas of the world divided or traumatized by conflict, especially in our own land. Free all from slavery and human trafficking, and protect all in harm's way.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Release those living in bondage to debts, chronic pain, or addiction.

Grant healing touch to those who are ill, grieving or struggling, including *the family of Rod Walter, Tim, Barbara, Mike Day; Ava Johnson Mitchell (Pastor Dave's Aunt); those who have received prayer shawls and are in need of comfort; and those who have requested special prayers through our website.*

Hear now these other intercessions that we offer aloud
or in the silence of our hearts.

brief silence

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In this family of faith we give thanks for courageous voices that have remained firm in their commitment to the one who frees us from sin and death.

Centered in your grace, unify us in the hope of the gospel.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Even in death, you free us and give us a place in your house.

We give thanks for our ancestors who have shown us truth and freedom, especially Martin Luther and those who work for the renewal of the church.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Listen as we call on you, O God, and enfold in your loving arms
all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Greet each other with a sign of Christ's peace.

THE MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

Offering and Presentation of the Gifts

October — December Mission ~ Adopt-A-Family Fund

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, 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.

▲ **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.**

▲ **Invitation To Communion**

Come to the banquet table, where Christ gives himself as food and drink

▲ **Post Communion Blessing**

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in His grace until He comes again.
In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

▲ **Post Communion Prayer**

We give you thanks, gracious God,
that you have once again fed us with food beyond compare,
the body and blood of Christ.

Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven,
into your beloved vineyard
to wipe away the tears of all who hunger and thirst,
guided by the example of the same Jesus Christ
and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

THE SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

▲ **Hymn of Sending**

“A Mighty Fortress is Our God,” page 13

▲ **Blessing**

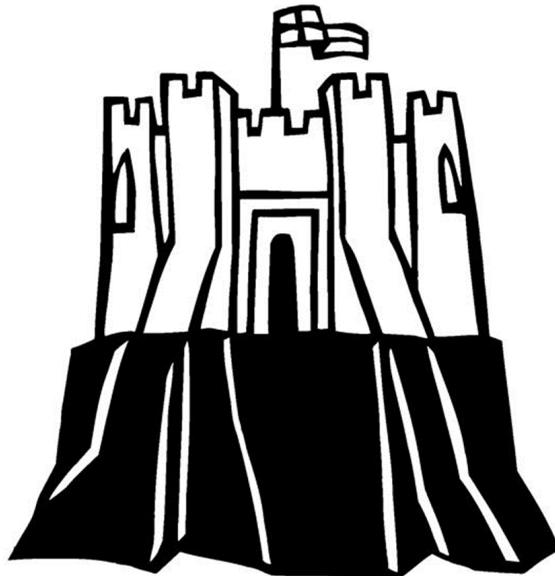
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
In the name of the Father and the † Son and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

▼ **Announcements**

Anyone is welcome to announce any upcoming events or share thoughts of interest

▲ **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Live in love as Christ loved us.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!



To God Be the Glory



1 To God be the glo - ry, great things he has done;
 2 Oh, per - fect re - demp - tion, the pur - chase of blood,
 3 Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,



so loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
 to ev - 'ry be - liev - er the prom - ise of God;
 and great our re - joic - ing through Je - sus the Son;



who yield - ed his life an a - tone - ment for sin,
 the vil - est of - fend - er by grace may be - lieve,
 but pur - er, and high - er, and great - er will be



and o - pened the life - gate that all may go in.
 that mo - ment from Je - sus a par - don re - ceive.
 our won - der, our vic - t'ry, when Je - sus we see.

Refrain



Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!



Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the peo - ple re - joice!



Oh, come to the Fa - ther, through Je - sus the Son,



and give him the glo - ry, great things he has done.

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom
 your us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
 weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
 in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
 goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,



he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
 they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Pastor Dave Johnson, phone and e-mail: 651-769-3365, ftp565@yahoo.com

Office Hours: 9:00 a.m.—12 noon, Monday and Thursday, and by appointment.

Tuesday and Wednesday: by appointment.

Lori Ward, Secretary

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Alter Flowers

are given In Memory of Jeff Nickels

by Gerry Nickels and family

and

In Memory of Parents and Grandparents

Lenore & Charles Welch

by Bill & Gloria Welch & Family and

Carolyn Lindquist Family



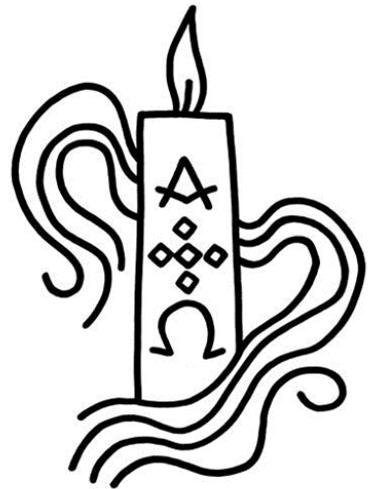
Living Our Baptismal Covenant

We are a church whose unity is in Jesus Christ, who gathers us around word and water, wine and bread. Baptism is a significant part of our faith journey as we come from the baptismal waters to live a new life as children of God.

Our baptism sets us out on a lifelong journey that is characterized by our relationship to God, our relationship to our faith community, our relationships in our community and the wider world. Living our baptismal covenant means living a life of growth in the faith practices of discipleship.

The liturgy for the Affirmation of Baptism describes the faith practices that grow out of our baptism (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, page 236). We are to “...live among God’s faithful people; hear the word of God and share in the Lord’s Supper; proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed; serve all people following the example of Jesus; and strive for justice and peace in all the earth.”

***Almighty God,
Stir up in Grace
the gift of your Holy Spirit:
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge
and the fear of the Lord,
the spirit of joy in your presence,
both now and forever.
Amen.***



Announcements and Upcoming Events

Bethany Needs YOU! Through term limits and resignations, Bethany Council will be in need of four new members to serve beginning in January. Please prayerfully consider serving Bethany as a Council member. If you have ideas for our church, would like to have input on church matters, or if you are just interested in serving Bethany as a Council member, please contact Pastor Dave or any current Council member ASAP. Current members are Erv Sparapani, Mike Randall, Ray Anderson, Vicki Underhill and Sally Borga. As we looking to the future and what that may look like for our church, we would like to do so with a full Council. Again, please consider helping lead Bethany into the future.

On All Saints Sunday, November 1, we will remember loved one who have entered the church triumphant. Contact the church office by 10 a.m. on Thursday, October 29 to add names to Bethany's list of the saints who have gone before us. Also, please note that our church bell will toll at noon that day. Congregations throughout the Northern Great Lakes Synod are doing so in honor of the more than one million people worldwide who have died from COVID 19. Our Bishop Katherine Finegan encourages us to light a candle in our homes at noon.

The November newsletter will be published in the next week. Submit news items to the church office by 10 a.m. on Thursday, October 29.

Two weekly events at Bethany are open to members and friends: **Community Coffee** at 9 a.m. every Tuesday and **The Men's Breakfast and Bible Study** at 7 a.m. every Thursday.

Communion kits are available for pick-up in the Bethany parking lot from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday and 8 to 8:30 a.m. on Saturday. This is done so those who worship online from their homes have the opportunity to receive communion.

Please contact the church office with any additions or updates to the **prayer list** published in our weekly bulletin and monthly newsletter.

Help us to update the Bethany congregational directory! If you receive an e-mail asking for your household information, please get back to the church office.