

The Ordinary Time after Pentecost

ELW Holy Communion Setting Eight
Sunday, September 13, 2026

Trinity-Bethel Partnership with Faith-Bethany Partnership
Home together, at the Bethany Campus

Two partnerships, four campuses within the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Introduction to the day

In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

www.bethanyishpeming.org | www.faithishpeming.weebly.com |
trinitylutheranishpeming.weebly.com | www.bethelish.org

715 Mather Avenue | 180 County Road PPO | 414 E Ridge Street | 333 Ridge Street
Ishpeming, Michigan 49849

Two Partnerships, Four Campuses

Serving Ishpeming | ELCA, Northern Great Lakes Synod

You Are Received Here, as you are

We are **partnerships, worshiping across Ishpeming** – serving Ishpeming and its surrounding neighborhoods. Rooted in Jesus Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit, we believe God’s grace is for all people and all creation, calling us into lives of compassion, justice, service, and hope.

Whoever you are, whatever your story or questions, you are free to listen, to join in as you are able, and to be met by the living presence of God. Whether you are new to church, returning after time away, carrying faith or doubt, or joining us from a distance — **there is space for you here.**

Our services are livestreamed to extend that welcome beyond these walls. Our camera remains focused on the chancel and worship leaders. We do our best to protect the faces of children, and we ask for your grace knowing we cannot control every moment. Questions or concerns about our livestream? Please speak with a pastor or worship leader.

From the earliest days of the Church, God’s people gathered in different places while sharing one faith, one mission, and one Spirit. Bethany and Faith share a long history of cooperation and pastoral connection — what we are living into now is a faithful renewal of a way of being church that has served this place before. As part of the ELCA and the Northern Great Lakes Synod, we join the wider church in ministries of mercy, justice, and accompaniment within and beyond our local context.

This Is How We Honor One Another Here

Being received into this community also means receiving one another with care. We are all learning together what it means to protect the dignity, image, and trust of every person who gathers here. These are not rules imposed from outside. They are the values of the Gospel, finding expression in how we treat one another every day.

We ask consent before photographing, recording, or sharing the image of any person — including children — in any public or online space.

We keep confidence. Private communications belong to those who shared them, and are not ours to forward or share without permission.

We name harm. We will not go along to get along. We extend grace to one another in learning, while holding one another accountable with honesty and love.

Honoring the Land

With gratitude and humility, we acknowledge that we gather on the ancestral lands of the Anishinaabeg — the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi peoples — who have stewarded this region since time immemorial. We honor their enduring presence and commit ourselves to walk gently on the earth and seek right relationship with all our neighbors.

One community. Four campuses. Many gifts. One body in Christ.

Grace and peace to you: welcome.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)
y Mark Hayes

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Please stand, as you are willing or able, in body or in spirit.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth.

Amen.

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,
let us confess our sin.

*Our confession is that we have
forgotten whose we are and
therefore who we are – created and
lovingly made to walk in God's way
of peace and live in God's peace;
we confess as an opportunity to
begin reconciliation, with one
another and with God.*

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,
we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.

Creation groans from overuse.

Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.

Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.

**Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love
to others.**

Turn our hearts back to you.

Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.

**Renew us to live as your holy people,
following the way of Jesus Christ.**

Amen.

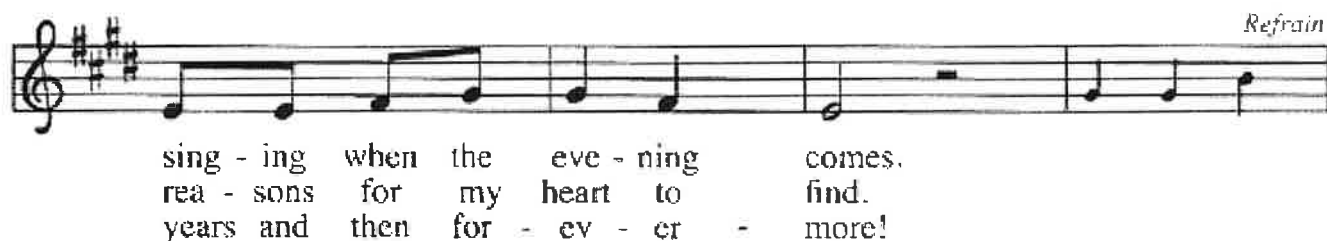
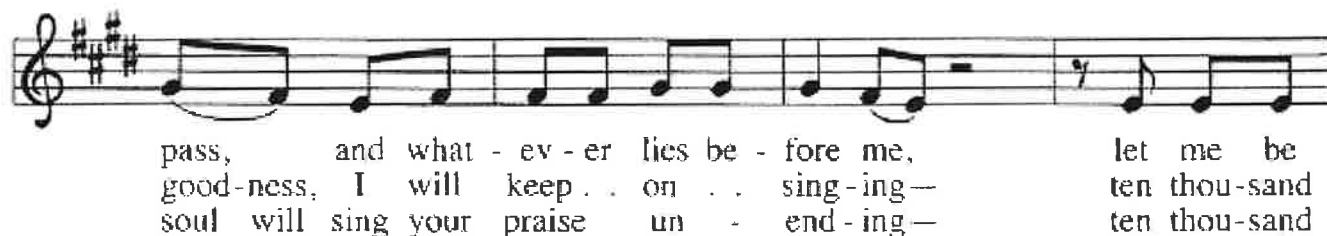
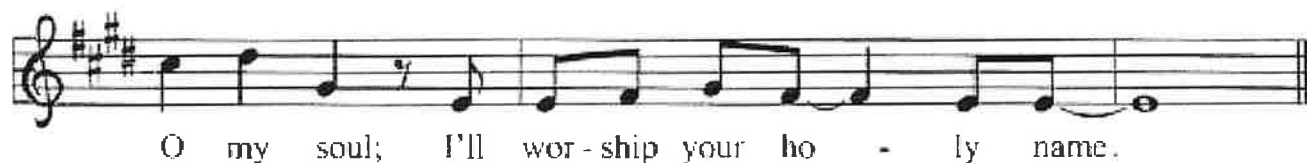
Hear this good news:

We have peace with God through ✝ Jesus Christ,
in whom there is no condemnation,
but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.

Receive freely this healing gift of grace. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG

Ten Thousand Reasons (ACS 1097)



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.

This greeting, based on 2 Corinthians 13:13, is a call-and-response between the worship leader (often the pastor) and the congregation. This greeting is more than a simple salutation; it is a blessing and a recognition of God's presence, here and now, and of God's grace.

The Kyrie, from the Greek "Kyrie eleison" (meaning "Lord, have mercy"), is a prayer of supplication, a plea for God's grace and forgiveness. In many ELCA traditions, the Kyrie is a threefold repetition of "Lord, have mercy" (Kyrie eleison), often followed by "Christ, have mercy" (Christe eleison) and then "Lord, have mercy" (Kyrie eleison) again.

KYRIE

Refrain

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, ev-'ry day.

For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for

friends and fam-i-ly; for

Continues on next page



life and for love, for our work and our play,



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray, together.

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The Prayer of the Day is born out of the lectionary (texts), and is the primary invitation to the radical love offered through the Gospel of the day, focused on the primary themes we might experience together, across the church and traditions.

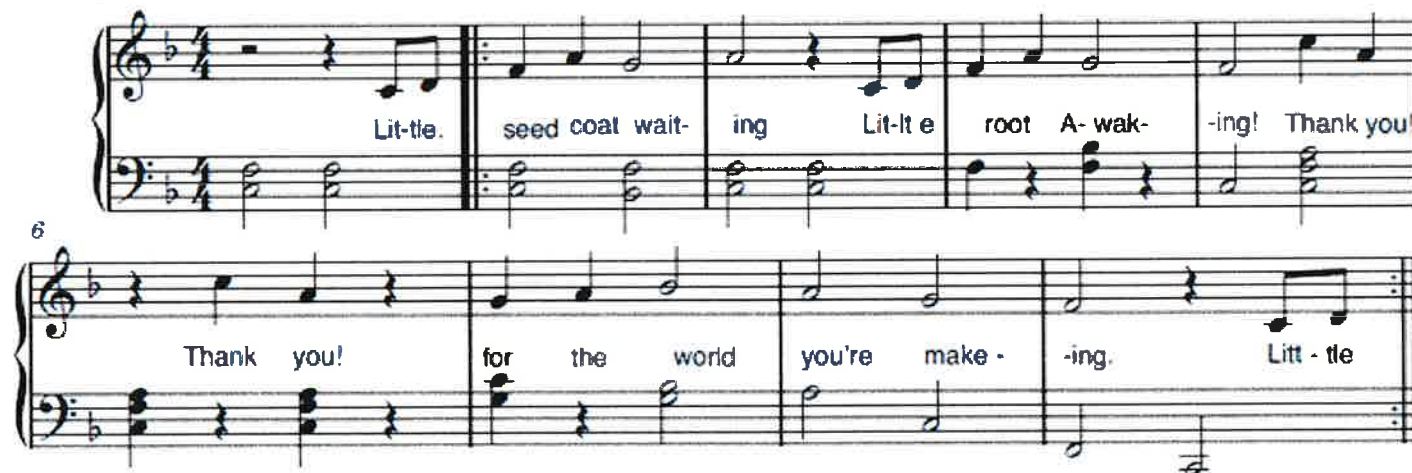
Please be seated.

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

SERMON FOR THE YOUNG, AND YOUNG AT HEART

The People are invited forward for an invitation to see themselves in God's story with us anew.



FIRST READING

Genesis 50:15-21

A reading from Genesis.

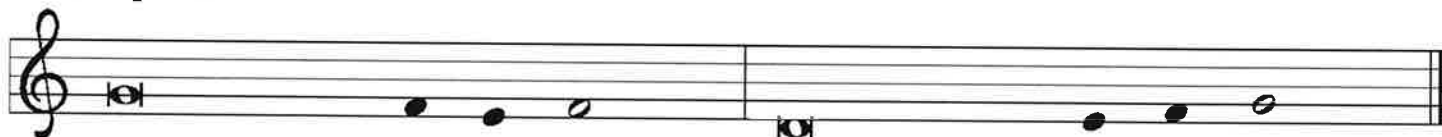
¹⁵ Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹ So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

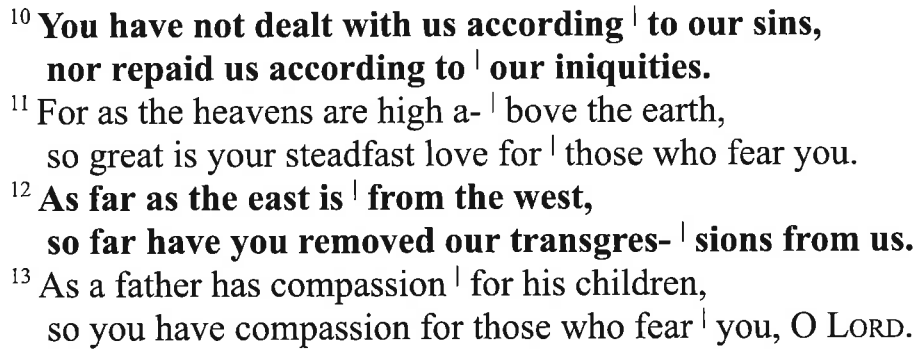
PSALM

103

We will chant the psalm, responsively, with the Choir. The assembly will follow the Choir, in the bold print.



- ¹ Bless the LORD, | O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's | holy name.
- ² **Bless the LORD, | O my soul,**
and forget not | all God's benefits—
- ³ who forgives | all your sins
and heals all | your diseases;
- ⁴ **who redeems your life | from the grave**
and crowns you with steadfast | love and mercy;
- ⁵ who satisfies your desires | with good things
so that your youth is renewed | like an eagle's.
- ⁶ **O LORD, you provide | vindication**
and justice for all who | are oppressed.
- ⁷ You made known your | ways to Moses
and your works to the chil- | dren of Israel.
- ⁸ **LORD, you are full of compas- | sion and mercy,**
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love;
- ⁹ you will not al- | ways accuse us,
nor will you keep your an- | ger forever.



Romans 14:1-12

¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷ For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

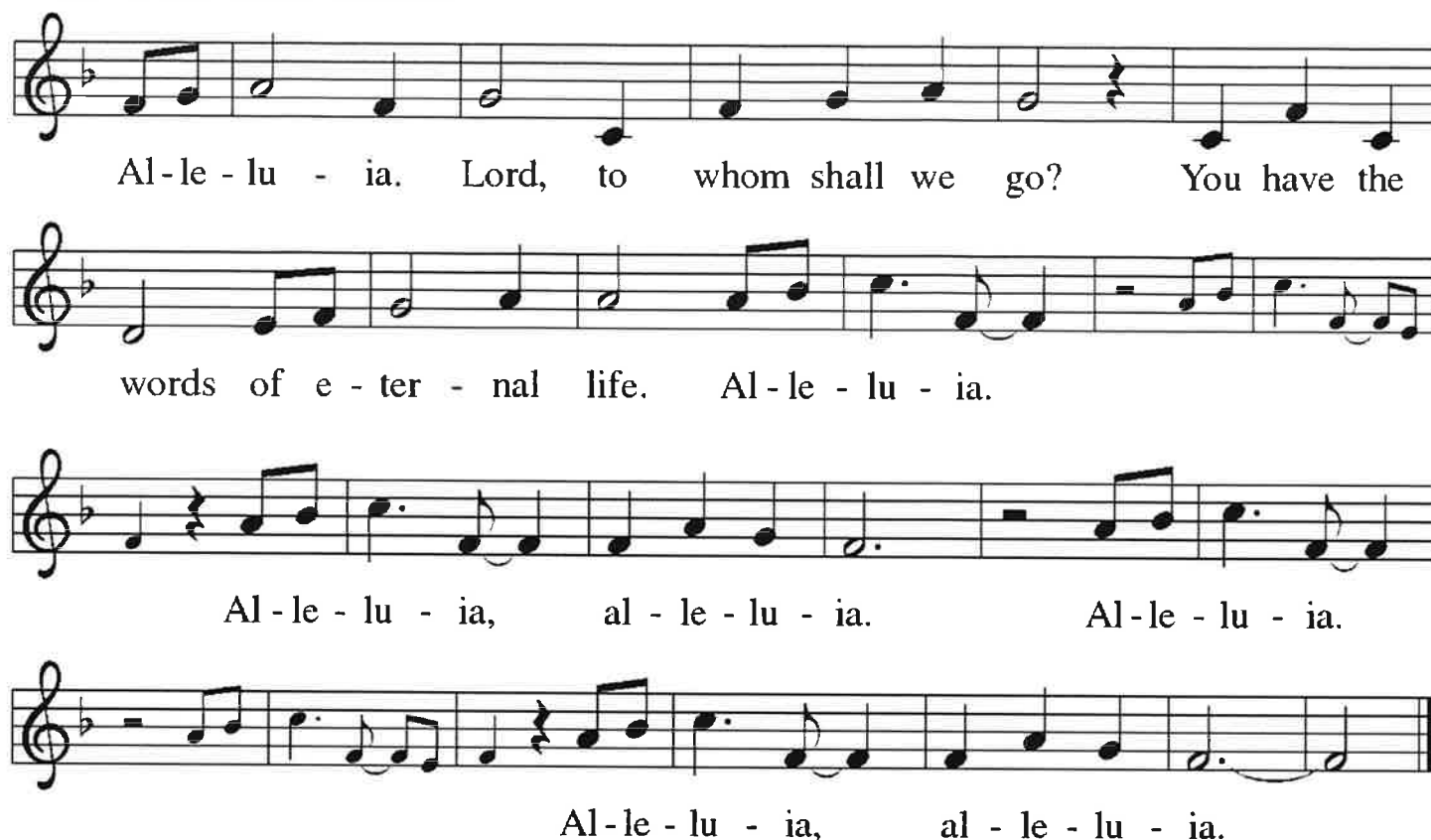
¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God."

¹² So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.

Please stand, as you're willing and able, in body or in spirit.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

Matthew 18:21-35

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹ Peter came and said to [Jesus,] “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²² Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³ “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place.

³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

Please stand, as you're willing and able, in body or in spirit.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Where Charity and Love Prevail (ELW 359)



1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;
 2 With grate-ful joy and ho - ly fear, God's char - i - ty we learn;
 3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son;
 4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; let all con - ten - tions cease.
 5 Let us for - give each oth - er's faults as we our own con - fess,



brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.
 let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.
 as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.
 Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.
 that we may love each oth - er well in Chris - tian gen - tle - ness.



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

Silence is held, for preparation.

Move your church throughout the world away from judging and despising others. Lead us to embody the forgiveness you have given us in Jesus. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

The endless beauty of your creation reminds us of your mercy. Protect those who care for farms and ranches. Guide those who lead us to wonder at your creation.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Raise up leaders to hold all in authority accountable for any misuse of the power entrusted to them. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Calm the fears of all in need with your promises. Compassionately free the lives of any who feel bound by their failures. Remember your children in need. We lift up those Siblings who have invited us to walk with them through our prayer connections, either silently or aloud, now... .. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Ground this congregation in the welcome you show us in forgiving our sin. Inspire each of us to welcome others for your honor and glory. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

With you is found the joy and promise of eternal life. Keep us in that joy as we remember all those who have gone before us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please be seated.



Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

ANTHEM

Bless The Lord, Oh My Soul
by Greg Scheer

OFFERING

Ways to support the ministry here at in Ishpeming with either Faith, or Bethany, or both:

- Certainly, you are welcome to take part in our “noisy offering” collection, by placing your gifts **in the containers passed** by our Usher Team, each Sunday during this time. Noisy Offering supports the work and outreach of the Social Ministry Team. The September Noisy supports the Salvation Army.
- You are invited to set up a one-time or recurring donation by **texting ASSIST to 844-920-4105**; be sure to have your preferred method of sharing ready.
- Use this **QR Code** (to the right). Open your camera app on your phone, place the QR code in the center of your camera’s view-field, and select the Vanco link that appears!
- Offerings will be assigned to the campus you name, or by the affiliated envelope you use. You may designate a specific partnership building online; or designate offerings by applying a note of intent, or reaching out to the office, by phone or email, and expressing your intent with your name and amount offered.



We give thanks for your sharing of gifts and generosity!

Please stand, as you're willing and able, in body or in spirit.

Voices Raised to You (ELW 845)

Musical notation for the hymn 'Voices Raised to You' in G major (one sharp). The melody is written on a single staff with a treble clef. The lyrics are: 'Voic - es raised to you we of - fer; tune them, God, for songs of praise. Hearts and hands we bring in trib - ute for your gifts through all our days. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Tri - une God, to you we sing!' The music consists of four lines of notes, each corresponding to a line of lyrics. The final line ends with a double bar line.

Voic - es raised to you we of - fer; tune them, God, for
songs of praise. Hearts and hands we bring in trib - ute
for your gifts through all our days. Al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia! Tri - une God, to you we sing!

OFFERING PRAYER

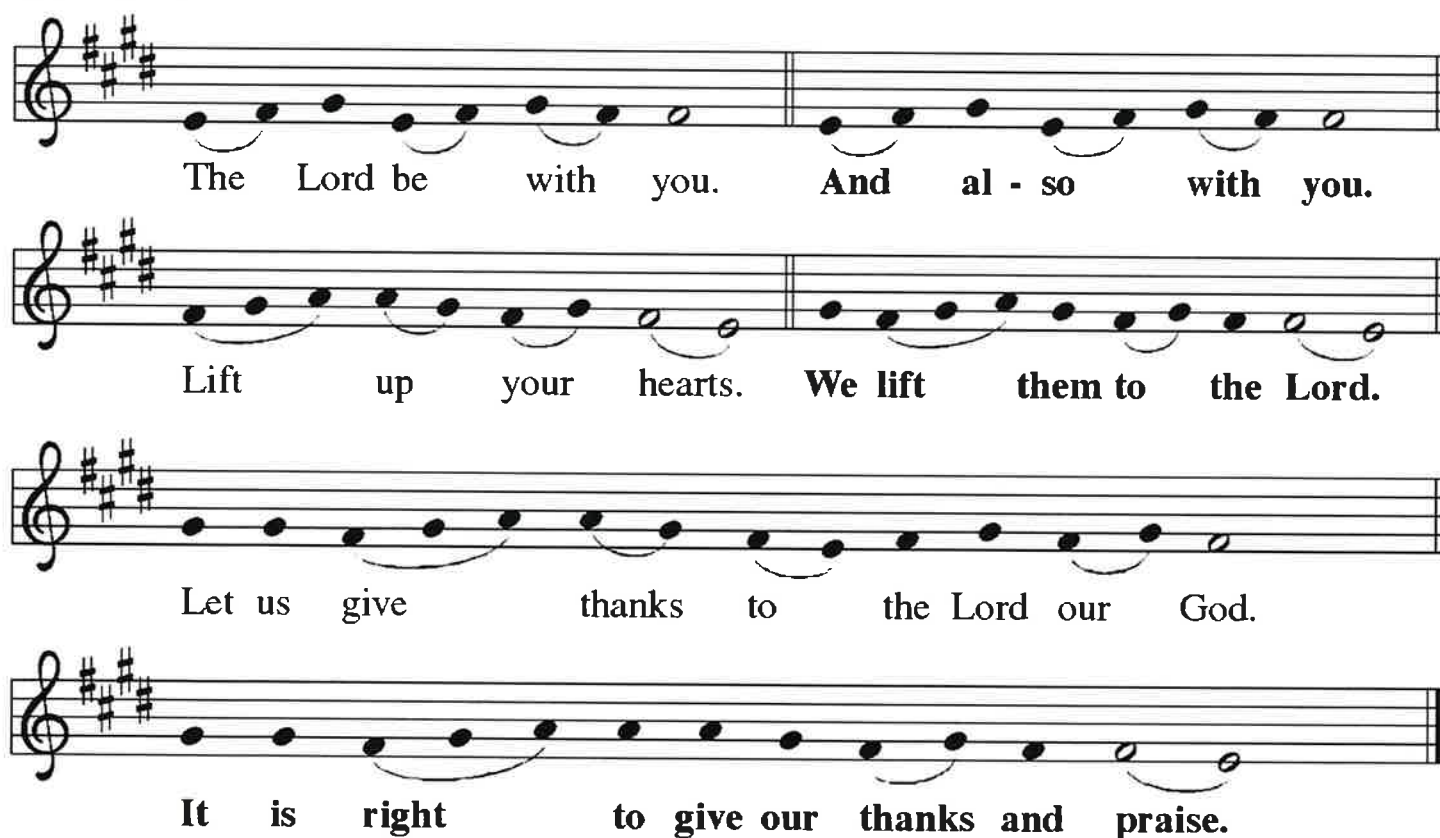
Let us pray, together.

God of creation, **you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. Amen.**

The service of Holy Communion is at the heart of Christian faith and life. In this sacrament, two essential realities occur for the benefit of God's people. First, God gives us his Son's true body and blood, through which we receive the forgiveness of sins. Second, the people of God's church are joined with one another as we share a mysterious and intimate bond as fellow members of Christ's body. This sacrament, together with the proclamation of God's Word, lies at the core of Christian worship. We Lutherans often describe our ministry as "Word and Sacrament". Both elements of worship are essential. There have been periods in the history of the Lutheran church where the frequency of Holy Communion waxed and waned. In the late 19th century, a liturgical renewal began, and one of the results was the restoration of weekly Communion. In this partnership, we follow that cadence.

Great Thanksgiving

DIALOGUE



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

PREFACE

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

The Preface introduces us to the next part of the service, where we are invited into God's presence for the sharing of the meal. It is an ancient aspect of Christian liturgy. St. Hippolytus mentions that in the early 3rd century, Christians were using a preface in worship. This exchange has survived for centuries almost word-for-word in our liturgy!

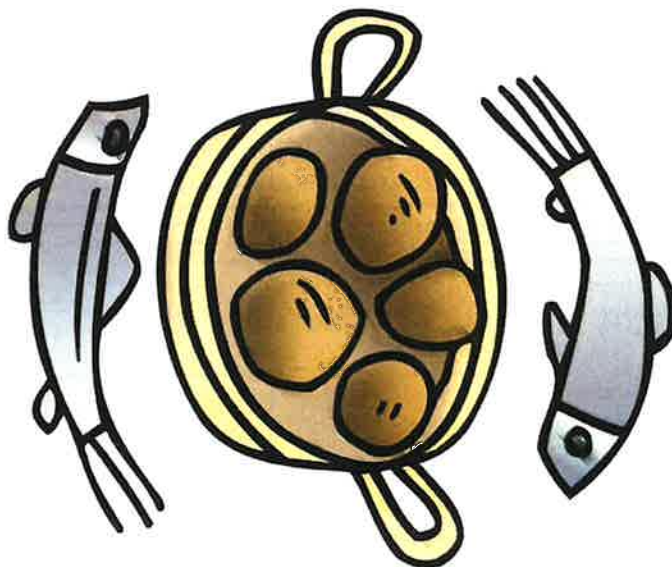
HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff ends with a double bar line. The second staff continues the melody. The third staff continues the melody. The fourth staff continues the melody. The fifth staff continues the melody and ends with a double bar line.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night ... Do this for the remembrance of me.



LORD'S PRAYER

We invite you to use the words of the Lord's Prayer that speak loudest to you, and experiencing the rhythms of the Spirit that speak to each of us, creating both dissonance and resonance. Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray:

**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.**

**Isä meidän, joka olet taivaissa
Pyhitetty olkoon sinun nimesi
Tulkoon sinun valtakuntasi
Tapahtukoon sinun tahtosi
Myös maan päällä niin kuin taivaassa
Anna meille tänä päivänä
Meidän jokapäiväinen leipämme
Ja anna meille meidän syntimme anteeksi,
Niin kuin mekin anteeksi annamme niille
Jotka ovat meitä vastaan rikkoneet
Äläkä saata meitä kiusaukseen
Vaan päästä meidät pahasta
Sillä sinun on valtakunta
ja voima ja kunnia
iankaikkisesti. Aamen.**

**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.**

**O Great Spirit, our Father from above,
we honor your name as sacred and holy.
Bring your good road to us, where the
beauty of your ways in the spirit-world
above is reflected in the earth below.
Provide for us day by day—the elk, the
buffalo, and the salmon. The corn, the
squash, and the wild rice. All the things
we need for each day. Release us from the
things we have done wrong, in the same
way we release others for the things done
wrong to us. Guide us away from the
things that tempt us to stray from your
good road, and set us free from the evil
one and his worthless ways. Aho! May it
be so!¹**

¹ Wildman, Terry M.. First Nations Version: An Indigenous Bible Translation of the New Testament (p. 10). InterVarsity Press. Kindle Edition.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ invites you to this table.

All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

Thanks be to God!

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

Please be seated.

We celebrate an open table in this community; all are welcome. Our communion bread is gluten and egg free. Grape juice and wine are both available in each passed tray; grape juice is in the center of the tray, wine is reddish in color.

Holy Communion, also known as the Lord's Supper, or Eucharist, is a central practice where the crucified and risen Christ is believed to be truly present, offering his body and blood as food and drink, and is celebrated every Sunday and festival. We believe that the presence of Christ is in, with, through, around, and under the elements of bread and wine. We hold that there are two Sacraments (sacred acts of divine institution), Communion and Baptism, both outward and visible signs of an inward and spiritual grace coupling earthly elements with divine command.

COMMUNION SONG

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, Lamb of God.

SONG DURING DISTRIBUTION

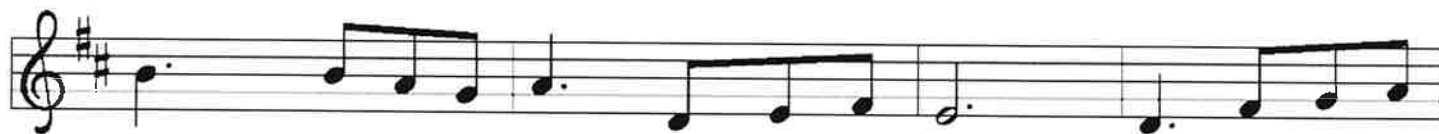
Goodness is Stronger than Evil (ELW 721)



Good -ness is stron - ger than e - vil; love is stron - ger than hate;



light is stron-ger than dark - ness; life is stron-ger than death; vic-t'ry is



ours, vic-t'ry is ours, through God who loves us. Vic-t'ry is



ours, vic - t'ry is ours, through God who loves us.

ADDITIONAL COMMUNION HYMN

Please use the cranberry hymnal in the pew

Taste and See (ELW 493)



POST-COMMUNION COMMENDATION

May the body and blood of Christ, Risen Savior, strengthen ✝ and keep us. **Amen.**

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand, as you're willing and able, in body or in spirit.

BLESSING

The God of love
draw you into full accord and one mind,
in the ✝ body of Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope
grant you strength and joy in all circumstances
through the ✝ interceding of the Spirit.

Amen.

The God of grace
✝ bless you now and forever.

Amen.



SENDING SONG

Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing (ELW 544)



1 Praise the Lord, rise up re - joic - ing, wor - ship, thanks, de -
2 Scat - tered flock, one shep - herd shar - ing, lost and lone - ly,
3 Sins for - giv - en, wrongs for - giv - ing, we go forth a -



vo - tion voic - ing: glo - ry be to God on high!
one voice hear - ing, ears at - ten - tive to your word;
lert and liv - ing in your Spir - it, strong and free.



Christ, your cross and pas - sion shar - ing, by this eu - cha -
by your blood new life re - ceiv - ing, in your bod - y,
Part - ners in your new cre - a - tion, seek - ing peace in



rist de - clar - ing yours the fi - nal vic - to - ry.
firm be - liev - ing, we are yours, and you the Lord.
ev - 'ry na - tion, may we faith - ful fol - l'wers be.

DISMISSAL

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace! **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Voluntary
by John Travers.



Upcoming Commemorations

John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, died 407

Sunday, September 13, 2026

John was a priest in Antioch and an outstanding preacher. His eloquence earned him the nickname "Chrysostom" ("golden mouth"). Appointed bishop of Constantinople, seat of the empire, he criticized corruption in the court. As a result, he was exiled by the empress.

Holy Cross Day

Monday, September 14, 2026

Helena, mother of Constantine, made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and found what may be the actual site of Jesus' crucifixion. Her son built two churches there, and the dedication of one of them gave rise to this celebration of our Lord's victory on the cross.

Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, martyr, died around 258

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

Cyprian served as a bishop during a time of great persecution of Christians. He insisted on receiving back those who had left the faith under duress. He also provided medical care during a severe epidemic.

Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen, died 1179

Thursday, September 17, 2026

A mystic who was widely influential within the church, Hildegard advised and reproved kings and popes, wrote poems and hymns, and produced treatises in medicine, theology, and natural history. She was also a musician and artist.

Dag Hammarskjöld, renewer of society, died 1961

Friday, September 18, 2026

A Swedish diplomat, Hammarskjöld served as the second Secretary General of the United Nations until his death in a plane crash while trying to negotiate peace in present-day Zambia. His journal, published as *Markings*, revealed the depth of his Christian faith.

From sundaysandseasons.com

Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

From Evangelical Lutheran Worship copyright © 2006. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission of Augsburg Fortress under licenses #SB150417 | SAS006539.

One License Music and Podcast/Streaming Licenses # A-736734 | #A-736409

CCLI Licenses # 21230252 | 11297858

CCLI Streaming Licenses # 21230269 | 20751794

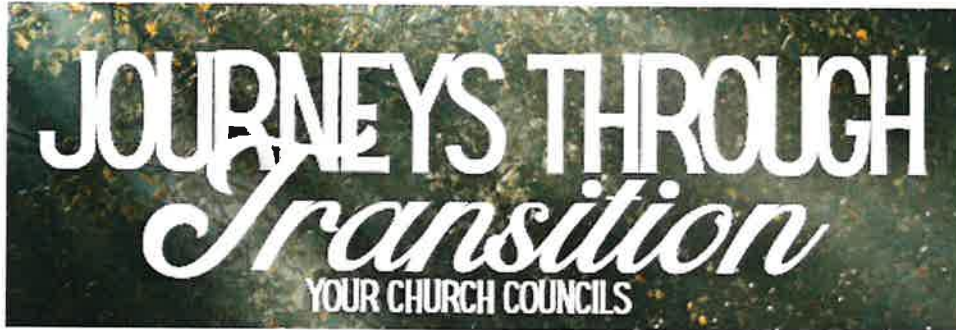
Sunday
SERMONS

Copies of Pastor's sermon manuscripts are available every Sunday, near the bulletins wherever we are worshipping. If you would like them emailed to you, reach out to the Pastors to be added to an email list that will deliver a copy of the sermon, after worship each Sunday.

OUTLOOK: Faith Ventures

An outreach publication of the 4ish

Hearing the concerns of the community, we want to open lines of intentional communication by offering a thread of information similar to that of our newsletters. This offering is in hopes of opening dialogue with your leaders and teams planning ministry. Take this portion home with you to review, discern, and dialogue with as you follow your heart into spaces we create together for the good of the community we are called to serve. Pass the information to a friend, or loved one who you think might just have a gift that simply needs a path of connection.



We operate with 4 Councils, meeting the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00PM, at the Bethany Campus. The 4ISH Councils meet together, first, to learn and grow together around broad topics that might spark conversation

in the wider community. After an hour of education and discernment, we collapse into the 2ISH partnerships for our ministry of governance and action for our unique, and partnered ministries. We are dedicated to growing our communities together, recognizing that since our church buildings coming into being, we have ministered to and served Ishpeming since before 1870, and since then! We strive to build paths of connection for all of us to walk together and recognize that the breadth of what we're doing is big, and new. So, in the spirit of transparency and hope, we want to invite you to join us in healthy curiosity by requesting copies of our story and minutes (if you can't join us on Tuesdays; meetings are open to you!) through your Office Administrators. We are happy to share, with you, the written record of our consents, motions and actions and invite your discernment and dialogue with us.

Faith Administrator: faithlc180.581@gmail.com, 906-486-9083;

Trinity and Bethel Administrator: Bethellc333@gmail.com, 906-485-5533;

Bethany Administrator: secretary@bethanyishpeming.org, 906-486-4351.

Partnership Events



Trinity Work Bee - 10:00 AM, September 22

Bring your friends, gloves, tools, etc. and help Trinity finish some work and projects before winter sets in. All are welcome!





OPEN FORUM Feedback Session

2ISH Open Forum Feedback Session: Sunday, September 27 following the 2ISH Bethel/Trinity worship service at Bethel we will gather coffee and treats and then have an open forum in the fellowship hall. This twice yearly gathering is a time of sharing information, ideas, and observations so that everyone at Bethel/Trinity can be in open communication. No business or voting will be conducted, just a time of listening together for the Holy Spirit's leading. Please come and join us.

Bethel & Trinity Partnership Note:

The following items are still needed for this year's **LWR Kits**:

Baby Kits: sleepers, diapers, towels, soap, blankets (no smaller than 36x36 and no bigger than 52x52).

School Kits: notebooks and rulers

Personal Care Kits: soap, combs, nail clippers, and bath towels

Updated Requirements: *Items are to be new, handmade, or appear in pristine condition. Socks and towels are required to be brand new.*



The **Bethany Campus** is collecting **school supplies** to fill backpacks. (We don't need the backpacks.) These items are needed: spiral notebooks, blue or black pens, box of 24 crayons, #2 pencils, erasers (2 1/2" long), small pencil sharpeners,

rulers, blunt scissors.. Last year we filled 97 backpacks.! Thank you for your support of this annual project!

The **Faith-Bethany Social Ministry team** will meet at 10:30A on Tuesday, September 15, 2026. Join us!

Community Events

*** Attention Youth entering 8-12th grade this fall. You, yes YOU, can come to the ELCA National Youth gathering next summer where around 15,000 youth will gather in Minneapolis. Through experiential learning, worship, and intentional community, participants will be both affirmed and challenged in their faith. Dates are Saturday June 26 through Friday July 2 (we



Sisters in the Wind by Angeline Bouley

- 9/15 from 630-745pm in the Fireside room at Bethel, Ishpeming.

Contact Pastor Tim with questions.

The Complete Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi

Contact Pastor J with questions, and this copy is for you to have and KEEP.

- Meeting 1: 9/29 from 630-745pm at Bethany
- Meeting 2: 10/8 from 630-745pm at Bethany

Mornings in Jenin by Susan Abulhawa

Contact Pastor J or Tim with questions, and this copy of this book is available for you to have and KEEP.

- Meeting 1: 11/3 from 630-745pm at Bethany
- Meeting 2: 11/17 from 600-815pm at Bethany.
 - 1st 45 minutes discussing the book; last 1.5 hours movie and discussion: Louis Theroux: The Settlers (1 hour documentary, 2025)

will return late in the evening on the 2nd so you can still make it to 4th of July weekend events). If you are interested, please talk to or email Pastor Tim (tdjohnst@gmail.com). We will need to have our group decided so we can register by late September.



CONFIRMATION 2026-27

Confirmation Retreats Initial Gathering - Building Community

Confirmation is a three-year learning program, with students starting in 7th grade and finishing in 9th grade. It is a combined program with churches across our conference. Pastor Tim is organizing confirmation for the 4ISH churches. Please contact Pastor Tim with any questions. **The required initial gathering will be at Immanuel, Negaunee on Sunday September 20 from 5-7pm.** The schedule for the evening will include introductions of the pastors leading the program, dinner, worship, and meetings with others from your individual congregations to go over expectations (we will meet as 4ISH).

- Please bring your health insurance information so you can complete the yearly release form before you leave for home! Also, please bring your calendars so you can sign up to help drive to classes, help with snacks, etc.



Opening Day!

September 17, 2026

5-8PM, ages 5 to (any)

715 Mather Avenue, Ishpeming



Marji Gesick Bike Race

The 4 Ish ELCA churches will have an aid/support station across from Bethel, on the Heritage trail, for the Marji Gesick bike race on **September 19th**. We will **set up at 11:30AM** and have **two-hour shifts beginning at noon, through midnight**. If you are interested in supporting the racers, there will be a sign-up sheet at Bethel or please feel free to **call Bethel's office or call or text Anne Giroux at 906-361-0847 or email giroux_anne@outlook.com**. We have been supporting the race for the past two years and all who have participated will attest that it is a lot of fun!

Bibles for students- As a part of the congregational baptismal promise to support families in raising their/our children in faith, we will be presenting 4ISH students who have not received a bible with a bible. All students who are in 3rd grade and higher are eligible. Bibles will be given during worship on **Sunday, September 20** with a class to learn about the bible happening during coffee hour to follow the service (4ISH at Faith). Please email Pastor Tim if you plan to be a part of this and include in your email your student's correct address, family email and cell phone, student 2026-27 grade level, and student birthdate. Thank you for this information in advance!



Triad of Marquette County

Triad of Marquette County will offer a senior safety presentation at 6pm on September 22nd @ Bethel. Local law enforcement and Triad volunteers will be on hand to offer important information and answer questions. Come and learn about the latest scams targeting seniors, and what is happening in our local communities.

Triad was founded locally in 1998 as a partnership between the Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) of Marquette County, the Michigan State Police and the Marquette County Sheriff's Department to address issues of senior safety. Triad works to distribute Files of Life to local Seniors and to educate about Smart911 and Life Tracker services. Its current mission is to help seniors avoid the recent wave of fraud and scams through prevention, including presentations like this.



Coffee Hosts are needed for 9.27 fellowship at Bethel. Please call the office if you are able to host. Thank you!

Pastoral Care

Pastor Tim will be away August 18- September 9 with our synod Tanzania delegation and September 10-12 leading sessions at Fortune Lake. Pastor J will be gone for vacation September 7-13. If you are in need of immediate pastoral care August 18- September 6 contact Pastor J Mills at 443-846-9203; September 7-12 contact Michael Holman at 231-824-6757; September 13 contact Pastor Tim at 563-581-0929.

Celebration of Closing Events for Trinity Lutheran Church:

Saturday, October	3rd 3pm-4:30pm	Meet & Greet with Pastor Lamb
Sunday, October	4th 10am worship	Pastor Matt Lamb
Wednesday, October 14th	5:30pm-7pm	Free Soup Supper
Saturday, November 14th	3pm-4:30pm	Meet & Greet with Pastor Wight Hoogheem
Sunday, November 15th	10am worship	Rev. Dr. Joel Wight Hoogheem
Sunday, December 13th	6pm	Night of Christmas Music Coffee Fellowship to follow
Saturday, December 19th	3pm-4:30pm	Meet & Greet with Pastor Skrenes
Sunday, December 20th	10am	worship Rev. Thomas Skrenes
Sunday, January 10th	10am	worship Rev. Sharolyn Swanson
Sunday, January 24th	10am	worship Bishop Katherine Finegan
Sunday, January 31st	12:30pm	Building Blessing & Storytelling
Sunday, February 7th	10am	worship Closing Service for Trinity Members
	2pm	Closing & Decommissioning Service



THE GRASS WITHERS
AND THE FLOWERS FALL,
BUT THE WORD OF OUR
GOD ENDURES
forever.



Fortune Lake's Annual Fall Fest Quilt Auction Saturday, October 3

9:30-10:30 CT

Continental Breakfast
Bake Sale
Quilt Viewing

9:30-Noon CT

Draffle Ticket Sales
Country Store

11 am CT

LIVE Auction begins

Can't make it?

Check out our online auction
Sept 23 - Oct 3 at 5 pm CT

auctria.events/fortunelake



138 Fortune Lake Camp Rd., Crystal Falls, MI 906-214-2267 www.fortunelake.org

OUR LEADERS IN PARTNERED MINISTRY

Pastors: J. Michael Mills and Tim Johnston
 Presiding: Pastor Tim Johnston
 Assisting Minister:
 Lector:
 Music Director: Donna Poirier
 Organist/Accompanists: Carol Cox, Linda Hurrell

CALENDAR

Today *Ordinary Time, Green and Growing Sunday*
 9:00A Choir practice, Bethany campus
 10:00A 4ISH Worship/Online at Bethany campus
 11:00A Fellowship

Tuesday
 9:00A Quilters, Bethany campus
 10:30A Social Ministry team, Bethany campus
 11:00A Quilters, Faith campus
 11:00A Bible Study at Bethel campus

Wednesday
 9:30A Weight Watcher Support Group, Bethany campus
 6:00P Choir Practice at Bethany Campus

Friday
 5:00P Parents' Night Out, Bethany campus

Sunday *Ordinary Time, Green and Growing Sunday*
 9:00A Choir practice, Trinity campus
 10:00A 4ISH Worship, Trinity campus
 11:00A Fellowship

20-Sep, 10AM	4ISH at Faith Campus (Milestones: 3 rd Grade Bible Presentation)	
27-Sep, 10AM	Faith	Bethel
04-Oct, 10AM	Bethany	Trinity

Church Office hours Bethany Campus

Monday 10:00A - 4:30P
 Tuesday 10:00A - 4:30P
 Wednesday 10:00A – 11:45A, 1:45P - 4:00P
 Thursday 10:00A – 1:00P, 4:00P– 5:00P

Church Office hours Faith Campus

Tuesday 10:00P – 2:00P
 Wednesday 1:00P – 5:00P

Please contact the office if you would like to make an appointment to see the Pastors.

Date and Time	2ISH Faith and Bethany	2ISH Trinity and Bethel
06-Sep, 10AM	4ISH at Bethel Campus (Pr. Tim in Tanzania, Africa Delegation)	
13-Sep, 10AM	4ISH at Bethany Campus	
20-Sep, 10AM	4ISH at Faith Campus (Milestones: 3 rd Grade Bible Presentation)	
27-Sep, 10AM	Faith	Bethel
04-Oct, 10AM	Bethany	Trinity
11-Oct, 10AM	Faith	Bethel
18-Oct, 10AM	Bethany	Trinity
25-Oct, 10AM	4ISH at Trinity Campus (Reformation Sunday)	
01-Nov, 10AM	Faith	Bethel
08-Nov, 10AM	4ISH at Bethel Campus	
15-Nov, 10AM	Bethany	Trinity
22-Nov, 10AM	4ISH at Bethany Campus	
29-Nov, 10AM	4ISH at Faith Campus (no communion, lay led)	
06-Dec, 10AM	4ISH at Trinity Campus (St. Nicholas Day)	
13-Dec, 10AM	Faith	Bethel
20-Dec, 10AM	Bethany	Trinity
24-Dec	Christmas Eve times to be determined	
12 Days of Xmas	Daily (except Sundays), 6:30PM at Bethany Campus, 25Dec-6Jan27	
27-Dec	Faith	Bethel

Announcement – September 13, 2026

The councils of the Faith-Bethany partnership have appointed a committee of six, three from each campus, to meet with Bishop Katherine Finegan to design the process for calling Pastor J Michael Mills as pastor to both congregations.

Those agreeing to serve are Deanna Johnson, Vic Cox, Dan Argall, Terra Frustaglio, Faith Cain, and Abbey Hollinshead.

A call vote is expected in the coming weeks. More information will be shared in letters as required by our constitutions.

We ask your prayers for the work of this group and for the discernment of the Holy Spirit as she has guided and continues to guide our steps forward.