

# BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

4500 EAST HAMPDEN AVENUE | CHERRY HILLS VILLAGE, CO 80113 | [WWW.BETHANY-DENVER.ORG](http://WWW.BETHANY-DENVER.ORG) | 303.758.2820



9:00am August 10, 2025

# NEW

## Stay Connected to Church Life

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Wondering what's happening at Bethany? With the Bethany Connect app, you'll have easy access to the church calendar and updates on upcoming events—right from your phone!



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# + WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS +

## Prelude

Préambule  
Sonata in E Flat Major

Louis Vierne  
W. A. Mozart

## Welcome to Worship

Pastor Nate Preisinger

## Song of Praise

Let There Be Praise (sung twice)



Let there be praise, let there be joy in our hearts.



Sing to the Lord, give God the glo - ry. \_\_\_\_\_



Let there be praise, let there be joy in our hearts.



For - ev - er-more let his love fill the air, and let there be praise.

## A Time of Confession

Holy and gracious God,

**We confess that we have fallen short - in our thoughts, in our words, and in our actions.**

**We have done things we should not have done, and we have left good things undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not fully loved our neighbors.**

**We have often taken your gifts for granted. In your mercy, forgive us.**

**Turn us toward what is good and right, and lead us in the way of Jesus. Amen.**

## God's Gift of Forgiveness

Dear friends, God does not desire shame or punishment for us. God longs for us to turn away from that which does not give life and truly live. So hear this good news: In Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven - completely and forever - in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## Opening Song

## Great Is Thy Faithfulness

ELW 733

You are invited to face the cross as it enters.



1 Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther; there is no  
2 Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest, sun, moon, and  
3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, thine own dear



shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang - est not, thy com -  
stars in their cours - es a - bove join with all na - ture in  
pres - ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright



pas - sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.  
man - i - fold wit - ness to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.  
hope for to - mor - row, bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

### Refrain



Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Morn - ing by



morn - ing new mer - cies I see; all I have need - ed thy



hand hath pro - vid - ed; great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me.

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866–1960

Music: FAITHFULNESS, William M. Runyan, 1870–1957

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## Greeting

Pastor Gary Sandberg

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

Almighty God,

**you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**We Prepare to Hear God's Word**

Let There Be Praise



**+ WE ENCOUNTER GOD'S WORD +**

**Genesis 15:1-6**

Anne Dana

<sup>1</sup> After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." <sup>2</sup> But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" <sup>3</sup> And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." <sup>4</sup> But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." <sup>5</sup> He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." <sup>6</sup> And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

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

## Luke 12:32-40

The Holy Gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said: <sup>32</sup> “Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. <sup>33</sup> Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. <sup>34</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

<sup>35</sup> “Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; <sup>36</sup> be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. <sup>37</sup> Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. <sup>38</sup> If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

<sup>39</sup> “But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>40</sup> You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

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

## Sermon

*Pastor Nate Preisinger*

## Sermon Notes

## Song of the Day

Have No Fear, Little Flock

ELW 764

1 Have no fear, lit - tle flock; have no fear, lit - tle  
2 Have good cheer, lit - tle flock; have good cheer, lit - tle  
3 Praise the Lord high a - bove; praise the Lord high a -  
4 Thank - ful hearts raise to God; thank - ful hearts raise to

flock, for the Fa - ther has cho - sen to  
flock, for the Fa - ther will keep you in  
bove, for he stoops down to heal you, up -  
God, for he stays close be - side you, in

give you the king - dom; have no fear, lit - tle flock!  
his love for - ev - er; have good cheer, lit - tle flock!  
lift and re - store you; praise the Lord high a - bove!  
all things works with you; thank - ful hearts raise to God!

## A Statement of Our Faith (Apostles' Creed)

Pastor Gary Sandberg

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

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

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## Prayers of the People

### We Share God's Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

*Please share a blessing of peace with others around you. After sharing the Peace, please be seated.*

### Abundantly Bethany

To fill out your digital connection card, go to [www.tinyurl.com/BethanyConnect](http://www.tinyurl.com/BethanyConnect).

- ♦ **Trivia Night:** Wednesday, Aug 13, 6:30-8:00pm
- ♦ **Whiz Kids Tutors:** Fellowship Hall
- ♦ **Joyful Noise Summer Choir:** Sunday, Aug 24
- ♦ **Foundation scholarships and grants**

## + WE WORSHIP GOD WITH OUR OFFERINGS +

**Bethany Financial Update** - June 30 marked the end of Bethany's fiscal year for 2024-2025. Thank you all for your generosity! We were able to close the large deficit we were seeing as we headed into Q4. Our total contributions for the year were \$2,068,835 with expenses totaling \$2,230,971. We ended the year with a net loss of \$47,000. Thank you again for helping us end the year strong! The strong end of the year has propelled us to a strong start for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. Contributions for the month of July totaled \$101,000!

### OFFERING

*You can give in the following ways; Thank you for your gifts!*

- On our **website**, find the GIVE button in the header or under the Get Involved tab at **Bethany-Denver.org**
- Through **Subsplash** - Use your phone's camera to scan this **QR Code**
- **Mail** in your check to the office (4500 E. Hampden Ave. Cherry Hills Village, CO 80113)
- Sunday mornings, drop your offering in the silver plate at the doors as you exit



## Offering Music

Matthew Eschliman, tenor

Be Thou My Vision

arr. Tom Trenney

*Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art;  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.  
Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower; raise thou me heavenward, O power of my power.  
High King of heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O ruler of all.*

## Children Return to the Sanctuary

# + THE COMMUNITY MEAL +

## Invitation to The Communion Table

Pastor Gary Sandberg

## Celebration of Holy Communion

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.**

## Blessing of the Bread and Wine

## The Lord's Prayer (Ecumenical translation)

**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.**

## Communion Instruction

*Bethany welcomes all to receive the body and blood of Christ in Holy Communion. An usher will direct you forward where you can receive communion by dipping the bread into the wine, or pick up a pre-packaged communion set or a gluten-free communion set from the tray in front of your seating area. Groups are welcome to visit a communion station together. Those who are not receiving communion are invited to cross their arms across their chests to receive a blessing.*

## Communion Distribution



## Communion Music

Matthew Eschliman, tenor

My Lord, What a Morning

arr. H. T. Burleigh

*My Lord, what a morning, when the stars begin to fall.  
Done quit all my worldly ways, join that heavenly band.  
My Lord, what a morning, when the stars begin to fall.*

## Communion Song

Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness

ELW 488



1 Soul, a - dorn your - self with glad - ness, leave the gloom - y  
2 Has - ten as a bride to meet him, ea - ger - ly and  
3 Now in faith I hum - bly pon - der o - ver this sur -  
4 Je - sus, source of last - ing plea - sure, tru - est friend, and



haunts of sad - ness, come in - to the day - light's splen - dor,  
glad - ly greet him. There he stands al - read - y knock - ing;  
pass - ing won - der that the bread of life is bound - less  
dear - est trea - sure, peace be - yond all un - der - stand - ing,



there with joy your prais - es ren - der. Bless the one whose grace un -  
quick - ly, now, your gate un - lock - ing, o - pen wide the fast - closed  
though the souls it feeds are count - less; with the choic - est wine of  
joy in - to all life ex - pand - ing: hum - bly now, I bow be -



bound - ed this a - maz - ing ban - quet found - ed; Christ, though heav' - n - ly,  
por - tal, say - ing to the Lord im - mor - tal: "Come, and leave your  
heav - en Christ's own blood to us is giv - en. Oh, most glo - rious  
fore you, love in - car - nate, I a - dore you; wor - thi - ly let



high, and ho - ly, deigns to dwell with you most low - ly.  
loved one nev - er; dwell with - in my heart for - ev - er."  
con - so - la - tion, pledge and seal of my sal - va - tion.  
me re - ceive you, and, so fa - vored, nev - er leave you.

Text: Johann Franck, 1618–1677; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
Music: SCHMÜCKE DICH, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662  
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

## Table Blessing

# + GOD SENDS US TO SERVE +

## Blessing

Pastor Nate Preisinger

## Song of Sending

The God of Abraham Praise

ELW 831

*You are invited to face the cross as it recedes to the center.*



- 1 The God of A - br'ham praise, who reigns en-throned a - bove;
- 2 The God of A - br'ham praise! At your su - preme com - mand
- 3 The God of A - br'ham praise! Your all - suf - fi - cient grace
- 4 Your prom-ise you have sworn; I on your oath de - pend.



An - cient of ev - er - last - ing days, and God of love—  
from earth I rise and seek the joys at your right hand.  
shall guide me all my pil - grim days in all my ways.  
I shall, on ea - gle wings up - borne, to heav'n as - cend.



"I Am the One I Am"—by earth and heav'n con - fessed;  
I all on earth for - sake—its wis - dom, fame, and pow'r—  
You deign to call me friend; you call your - self my God!  
I shall be - hold your face; I shall your pow'r a - dore,



I bow and bless the sa - cred name for - ev - er blest.  
and you my on - ly por - tion make, my shield and tow'r.  
And you will save me to the end through Je - sus' blood.  
and sing the won - ders of your grace for - ev - er - more.

Text: Thomas Olivers, 1725–1799, alt., based on the Yigdal, c. 14th cent.  
Music: YIGDAL, Jewish melody; arr. Meyer Lyon, 1751–1797

## Dismissal

Pastor Nate Preisinger

As we go forth into the week ahead we remember our calling as the people of Bethany.

Together we will:

**Worship and encounter a God who loves us;**

**Embrace healthy dialogue that promotes unity over division;**

**Respond to the needs of the world through generosity and action.**

With this as our mission, go in peace, serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

Prelude and Fugue in G Minor

attr. J. S. Bach

## Things To Know About News & Events

- ♦ **Whiz Kids Tutors needed:** At Whiz Kids we empower everyday people to influence the course of a child's life. Whiz Kids offers one-to-one tutoring, positive mentoring relationships and spiritual nurture to students below the literacy and poverty lines with the Spirit of Christ. We need 5 more tutors this year. Meets Monday nights from Oct-Apr for 1.5 hours each week at Bethany. We need you! Stop by the table in the Fellowship Hall **TODAY** to learn more.
- ♦ **Bethany Foundation scholarships and grants:** **Scholarships** are available to students attending Lutheran colleges. Lutheran colleges offer a smaller class size, like minded students and staff who serve as mentors helping students grow in faith and education. Consider a Lutheran college for your higher education. Send questions to [Office@Bethany-Denver.org](mailto:Office@Bethany-Denver.org). **Grants** are awarded to charitable Christian organizations, as well as those "who are doing the work of Christ", however not for Capital Campaigns. Encourage a non-profit you advocate for to apply for funds. Grant applications must be received by **Sep 15**. Form is on the website under Resources, then Foundation. For questions email [Foundation@Bethany-Denver.org](mailto:Foundation@Bethany-Denver.org).
- ♦ **Food Collection:** In **August**, we're collecting peanut butter, and all kinds of jelly, crackers, and cereal for the Integrated Family Community Services (IFCS) free food market. The 16 oz jars of peanut butter is preferable over larger containers, but any size is welcome. Bring your items to the Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings all of August. Cash donations can be made using the Give button on Bethany's website.
- ♦ **Trivia Night:** Join Pastor Nate on **Wednesday, Aug 13**, 6:30-8:00pm in the Fellowship Hall for a fun and thematic night of trivia. Bring family and friends, teams will be created as you arrive (no need to bring a full team!) A completely worthless prize will be awarded to the winners.
- ♦ **New Children's Ministry Team:** Would you consider being a part of this dynamic, mission-driven team whose primary goal will be to help children fall in love with Jesus? The first team meeting will be **Sunday, Aug 17**, 10:20-11:30am or **Wednesday, Aug 20**, 6:00-7:00pm, both in Room 210. Contact Deacon Debra at [Debra@Bethany-Denver.org](mailto:Debra@Bethany-Denver.org) if you'd like to receive more information or to express your interest.
- ♦ **Family Promise:** Bethany will participate again in Family Promise at Christ the Savior Lutheran Church in Aurora the week of **Aug 17-23**. Family Promise provides shelter, food and job-hunting assistance for homeless families in the Denver Metro Area. Please consider volunteering as a van driver, an overnight host, or helping with dinner the night of Aug 17. For more information, please call Jean Scott at 303-756-2106.
- ♦ **Vitalant Blood Drive:** Vitalant will be here for a blood drive on Wednesday, **Aug 20**, from 10:00am-2:00pm, in the Fellowship Hall. To schedule an appointment, please either call Vitalant at 303-363-2300 or visit [www.vitalant.org](http://www.vitalant.org) and use site code 0377. If you have any questions, please email Janet Mortinsen at [janet@bethany-denver.org](mailto:janet@bethany-denver.org). Thank you in advance!
- ♦ **Women of Bethany:** Potluck Picnic, Pat Wallingford's house, **Saturday, Aug 23**, 11:00am. Shredded BBQ pork sliders, beverages and dessert will be provided. Please bring something to share. RSVP by Tuesday, Aug 19. Address and directions will be sent to those who sign up. All are welcome. If you wish to be notified of future gatherings via e-mail, you can join the WOB e-mail group list by contacting Lizza Aalto at [taalto@aol.com](mailto:taalto@aol.com) or Marilyn Narveson at [msnarv73@gmail.com](mailto:msnarv73@gmail.com).
- ♦ **Joyful Noise Summer Choir:** **Sunday, Aug 24**, 8:00am rehearsal in the choir loft, 9:00am sing during the service. All singers are invited to participate in our summer "pick-up" choir. Inviting all current and future choir members and anyone who would like to sing, even if just this one time. Help us "Make a Joyful Noise!"
- ♦ **Minding Your Balance class:** **Tuesdays, Sept 2 - 30**, 1:00pm-2:15pm, Room 412. Good balance is necessary for daily activities which is essential to maintaining independence. There are steps you can take to improve and maintain balance. Susan Chandler from Denver Ki-Aikido will be offering a 5 week "Minding Your Balance" series at Bethany. Cost for the series is \$75. Susan utilizes an approach that looks at the relationship of mind and emotion and their influence on balance. Space is limited so please sign up online at [www.bethany-denver.org](http://www.bethany-denver.org) at the Bethany News Link by **Aug 26**. **Please plan to pay the instructor directly at the first class.** For questions, contact Janet Mortinsen at [Janet@Bethany-Denver.org](mailto:Janet@Bethany-Denver.org).
- ♦ **Annual Fall Bethany Open House:** Mark your calendars for **Wednesday, Aug 27**, 5:30-7:30pm. There will be food, games, bounce houses, and lots of information about activities at Bethany for the upcoming program year. Invite a friend and introduce them to all Bethany has to offer!
- ♦ **Nametags are in!:** Look for yours on the table in the Fellowship Hall today!

## **THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT WORSHIP**

- ♦ **Welcome to Bethany!** If you have questions or would like to consider making Bethany your church home, visit our website, [Bethany-Denver.org](http://Bethany-Denver.org), or stop by the Newcomer Nook after worship. The pastoral team, consisting of Pastor Gary Sandberg (he/him), Pastor Nate Preisinger (he/him), Deacon Debra Alba (she/her) and Director of Pastoral Care Janet Mortinsen (she/her), is available to speak with you.
- ♦ Bethany Lutheran Church values people of diverse race, sexual identity, ethnicity, and political affiliation. **All are welcome at Bethany Lutheran Church** and this community is enriched because you are here. We are together for good!
- ♦ **Sunday Worship services:** 9:00am One worship service in the summer - Memorial Day weekend thru Labor Day weekend. Worship style may be Traditional - follows traditional Lutheran liturgy or Blended – a flow of worship that includes the elements of Lutheran worship with music that spans multiple genres and brings some creative ways to engage the theme of the day.
- ♦ **Participating in Worship:** There will be times during worship when you are invited to stand, but if it is more comfortable or more meaningful for you to remain seated, please feel free to do so.
- ♦ **Communion Statement:** Everyone gathered for worship is invited to take part in Communion. Jesus did not place any barriers around who received communion and neither does Bethany.
- ♦ **Hearing Assistance Device:** Please see the Sound Tech in the A/V booth at the rear of the Sanctuary if you need a hearing assistance device.
- ♦ **Worship Servants:** Thank you to all the A/V team, Ushers, Communion Servers, Altar Guild, Musicians, Embrace Volunteers and Sacristans for your work to greet people and make worship happen. We always welcome Worship Servants - go to [www.signupschedule.com/Bethany](http://www.signupschedule.com/Bethany) to sign up!
- ♦ You are welcome to bring beverages into the Sanctuary but please use a covered container. And enjoy your food outside the Sanctuary (although we understand small children may need snacks!).
- ♦ **Children at Bethany:** Children and youth are a blessing from God and we love having children in the Sanctuary! Additionally, we offer several options for children and families to feel comfortable in a variety of spaces on Sunday mornings:
  - ⇒ **Fidget Station:** We know that all of God's children (young and old) are wonderfully and fearfully made in the image of God. And, at Bethany, ALL are welcome to worship. Available outside the Sanctuary's north doors is a Fidget Station. Children and adults are invited to use these fidgets and art supplies to aid in your spiritual growth and presence in worship. Please return items to the station when you are finished.
  - ⇒ **Busy Bags:** Near the Sanctuary doors you will find premade bags perfect for littles. Grab one on the way in and return it on the way out.
  - ⇒ **Nursery:** For directions to our Nursery, please speak with an usher. You are welcome to use it with your child.

