

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

4500 EAST HAMPDEN AVENUE | CHERRY HILLS VILLAGE, CO 80113 | WWW.BETHANY-DENVER.ORG | 303.758.2820



The Seasons of the Church

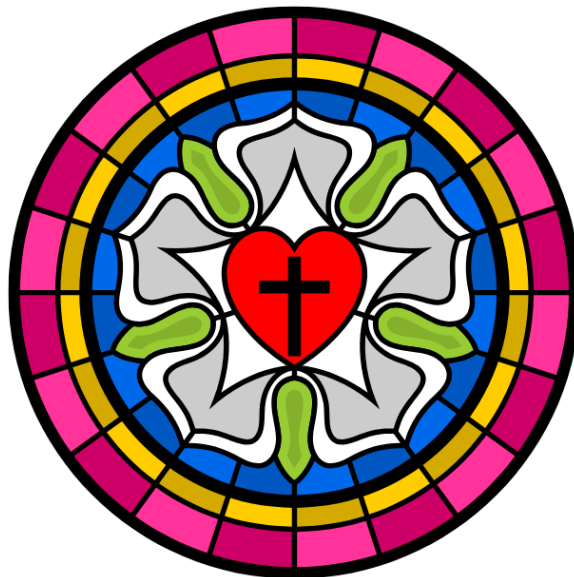
9:00AM AUGUST 31, 2025



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+ WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS +

Gathering Music

How Great Thou Art

Dan Miller

Welcome to Worship

Pastor Gary Sandberg

Genesis 1:1-2

¹ When God began to create the heavens and the earth, ² the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.

We believe

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

Song

This is my Father's World

ELW 824



1 This is my Fa-ther's world, and to my lis-t'ning ears all
2 This is my Fa-ther's world; the birds their car - ols raise; the
3 This is my Fa-ther's world; oh, let me not for - get that,



na - ture sings, and round me rings the mu - sic of the spheres.
morn - ing light, the lil - y white, de - clare their mak - er's praise.
though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the rul - er yet.



This is my Fa-ther's world; I rest me in the thought of
This is my Fa-ther's world; he shines in all that's fair. In the
This is my Fa-ther's world; why should my heart be sad? The



rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the won - ders wrought.
rus - tling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me ev-'ry-where.
Lord is king, let heav - en ring; God reigns, let earth be glad!

Text: Maltbie D. Babcock, 1858–1901

Music: TERRA PATRIS, Franklin L. Sheppard, 1852–1930, adapt.

ADVENT

John 1:1-4

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He 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 being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

We believe

in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord.

Luke 1:26-35

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God."

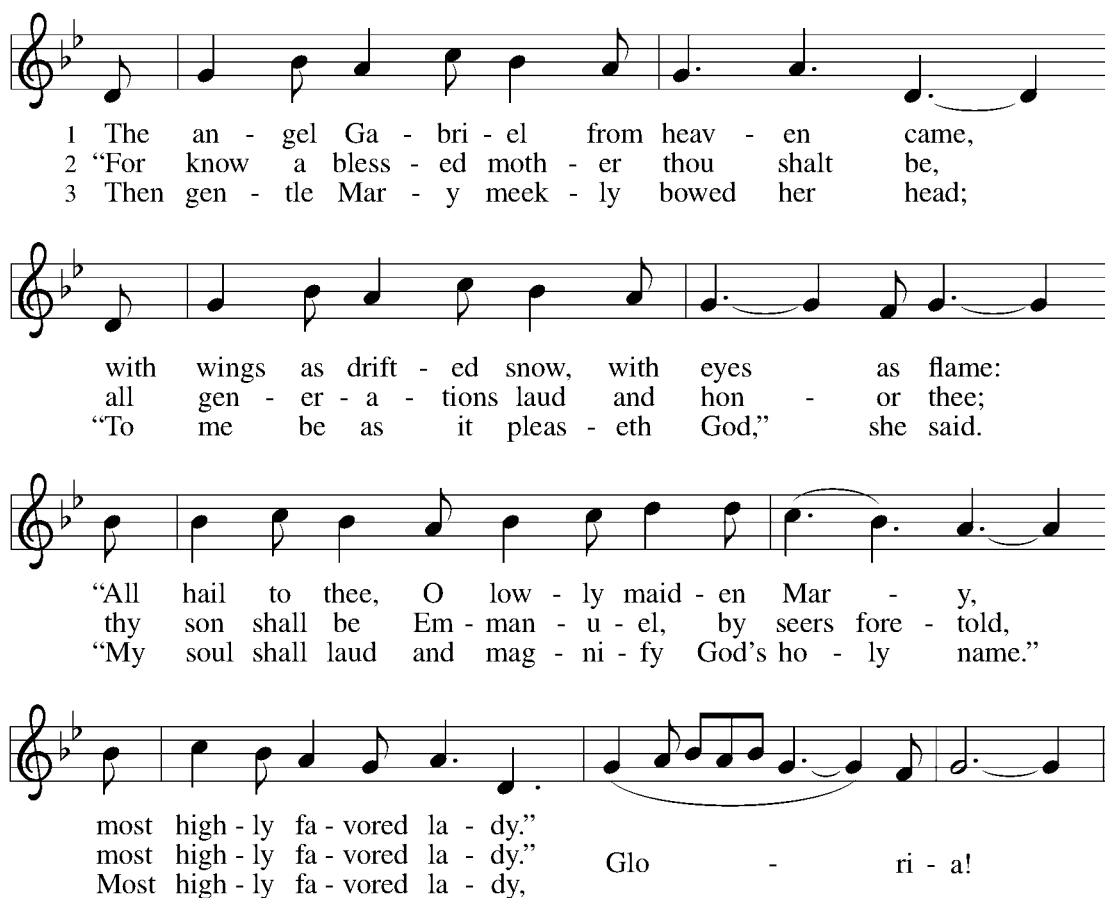
We believe

he was conceived by the Holy Spirit.

Advent Song

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

ELW 265



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
 2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;

with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
 "To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.

"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
 thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
 "My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."

most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!

CHRISTMAS/Children's Sermon

Luke 2:4-7

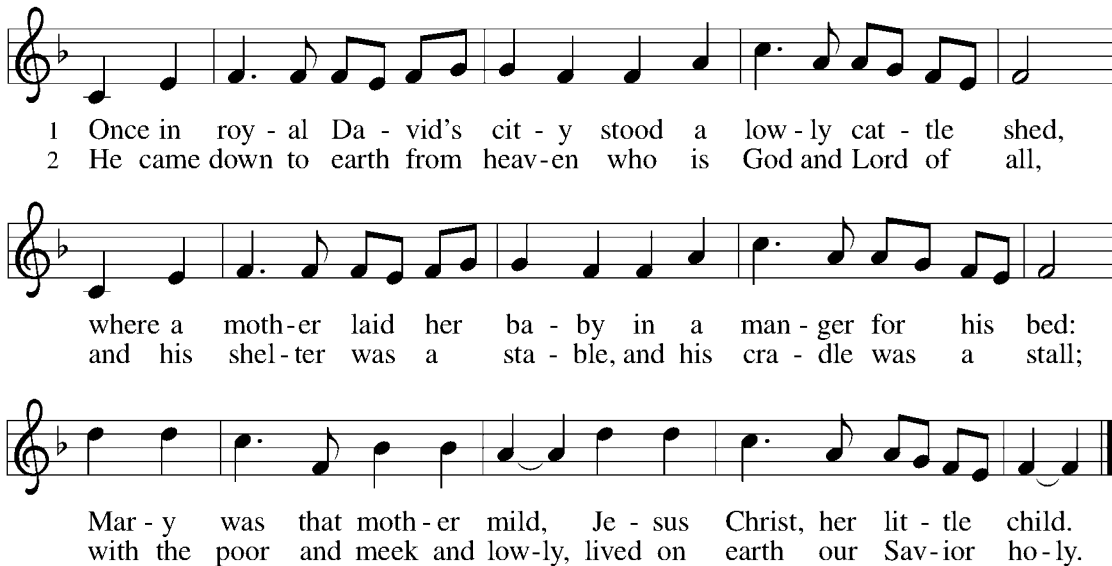
⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

We believe
he was born of the Virgin Mary.

Christmas Song

Once in Royal David's City

ELW 269



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,
2 He came down to earth from heav-en who is God and Lord of all,

where a moth-er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:
and his shel-ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;

Mar - y was that moth-er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
with the poor and meek and low-ly, lived on earth our Sav-ior ho-ly.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818–1895

Music: IRBY, Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876

EPIPHANY

Matthew 2:1-2, 10-11

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, ²asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.” ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Epiphany Song

As with Gladness Men of Old

ELW 302



1 As with glad - ness men of old did the guid-ing star be - hold;
as with joy they hailed its light, lead-ing on - ward, beam-ing bright;
so, most gra-cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led by thee.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, alt.
Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

Abundantly Bethany

To fill out your digital connection card, go to www.tinyurl.com/BethanyConnect.

- ♦ **Fall Worship Schedule begins next Sunday:** 8:30am Traditional, 10:00am Casual Blended
- ♦ **Bethany Dinner Club:** register by next Sunday
- ♦ **Social Justice Team:** next Sunday, 11:20am-12:30pm in Room 210
- ♦ **ELCA Churchwide Assembly recap:** next Sunday, 11:20am in the Great Hall rooms 302/303

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

Dave & Cindi Ellison, piano duet

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

John Hughes, arr. Dan Forrest

LENT

Mark 15:15

¹⁵ So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them, and after flogging Jesus he handed him over to be crucified.

We confess

he suffered under Pontius Pilate.

Mark 15:24-25

²⁴ And they crucified him and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take. ²⁵ It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him.

We confess

he was crucified.

Mark 15:37

³⁷ Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

We confess

he died.

Mark 15:46

⁴⁶ Then Joseph bought a linen cloth and, taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb.

We confess

he was buried.

1 Peter 3:18-19

¹⁸ For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹ in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison.

We confess

he descended to the dead.



1 O sa - cred head, now wound - ed, with grief and shame weighed down,
 2 How pale thou art with an - guish, with sore a - buse and scorn;



now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed with thorns, thine on - ly crown;
 how does thy face now lan - guish, which once was bright as morn!



O sa - cred head, what glo - ry, what bliss till now was thine!
 Thy grief and bit - ter pas - sion were all for sin - ners' gain;



Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call thee mine.
 mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, but thine the dead - ly pain.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, based on Arnulf of Louvain, d. 1250; tr. composite

Music: HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN, German melody, c. 1500; adapt. Hans Leo Hassler, 1564–1612

Prayers

EASTER

Matthew 28:1-7

¹ After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ² And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. ⁴ For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵ But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.”

We confess

on the third day he rose again.

Luke 24:50-51

⁵⁰ Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven.

We confess

**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.**

Easter Song

Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

ELW 367



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds
4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring
in praise of love that still a - bounds: "Christ has
and with the heav'n - ly bless - ed sing: "Christ has
tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Sing, choirs of the
tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!" Be to the
an - gels, loud and clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry
Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest, most ho - ly
here: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
God, all the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876–1947, alt.
Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623
Text © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Invitation to The Communion Table

Pastor Nate Preisinger

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 our 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

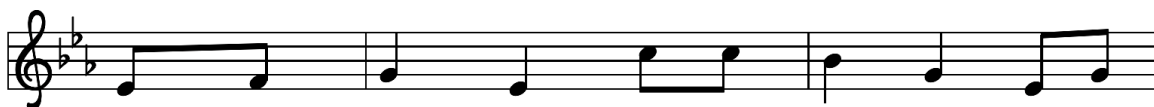
Communion Music

Above All

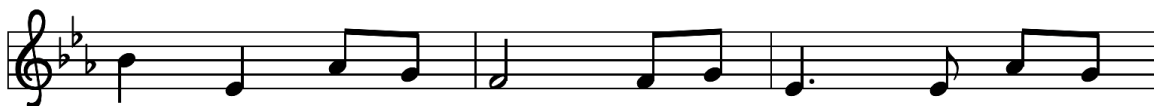
Lenny LeBlanc & Paul Baloché

Annika Scott, alto; Dave Ellison, piano

*Above all powers, above all kings, above all nature and all created things;
Above all wisdom and all the ways of man, you were here before the world began.
Above all kingdoms, above all thrones, above all wonders the world has ever known;
Above all wealth and treasures of the earth, there's no way to measure what you're worth.
Crucified, laid behind the stone, you lived to die, rejected and alone;
Like a rose trampled on the ground, you took the fall and thought of me above all.*



1 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken by the
 2 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken in a
 3 Loaves are bro - ken, words are spo - ken, as in
 4 By the loaves you break and give us, send us



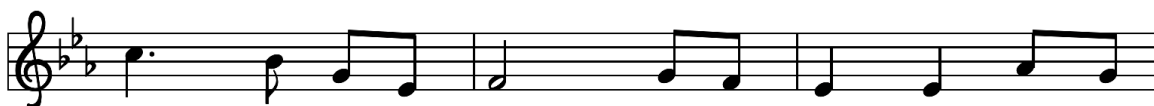
Gal - i - le - an shore. Je - sus, Bread of life from
 qui - et room one night. In the bread and wine you
 faith we gath - er here. Je - sus speaks a - cross the
 in your name to share bread for which the mil - lions



heav - en, was their food for - ev - er - more.
 gave them, Christ, you came as Light from Light.
 a - ges: "I am with you; do not fear!"
 hun - ger, words that tell your love and care.



By your bod - y bro - ken for us, by your



wine of life out - poured, Je - sus, feed a - gain your



peo - ple. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007

Music: JOYOUS LIGHT, Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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PENTECOST

Acts 2:1-4

¹When the day of Pentecost had come, the disciples were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

We believe
in the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:41-42

⁴¹So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. ⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

We believe
in the holy catholic church.

Acts 2:46-47

⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

We believe
in the communion of saints

John 20:21a

²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you."

Sharing of the Peace

John 20:21b-23

Jesus said, "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

We believe
in the forgiveness of sins.

Romans 6:5

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

We believe
in the resurrection of the body.

John 20:30-31

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

We believe
in the life everlasting. Amen.

Song of Sending

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

ELW 545

You are invited to face the cross as it recesses to the center.



1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless-ing, fill our hearts with joy and peace;
2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's joy - ful sound.
3 Sav - ior, when your love shall call us from our strug - gling pil - grim way,



let us each, your love pos - sess-ing, tri - umph in re - deem-ing grace.
May the fruits of your sal - va - tion in our hearts and lives a - bound.
let no fear of death ap - pall us, glad your sum - mons to o - bey.



Oh, re - fresh us; oh, re - fresh us, trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness.
Ev - er faith - ful, ev - er faith - ful to your truth may we be found.
May we ev - er, may we ev - er reign with you in end - less day.

Text: attr. John Fawcett, 1740–1817, sts. 1–2, alt.; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 3, alt.
Music: SICILIAN MARINERS, Sicilian, 18th cent.

Dismissal

Pastor Gary Sandberg

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

Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

Robert A. Hobby

Things To Know About News & Events

- ◆ Starting **Next Sunday Sept 7**, we will move to two worship services. The Traditional Service will be held at 8:30am and the Casual Blended Service will be held at 10:00am.
- ◆ **Bethany Dinner Club:** This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know fellow Bethany members while sharing a meal. Groups of 6-8 adults gather to enjoy dinner in a home, brunch out or any meal in any location. The goal is fellowship! Each group meets three or four times in a four-month period as the role of host rotates. Couples and singles are welcome! The groups will begin meeting in late September. Registration is open until **Sept 7** on the Bethany Connect app. Email Bethanybreakingbread@gmail.com if you have questions.
- ◆ **Social Justice Team:** Meeting on **Sunday, Sep 7**, 11:20-12:30pm in Room 210 to discuss the book, *The Asylum Seekers* by Catherine Rathbone. Catherine is an Episcopal priest and former journalist. She was the keynote speaker at the Rocky Mountain Synod's Immigration Summit this past spring in Albuquerque. For more information please contact Deacon Debra at Debra@Bethany-Denver.org
- ◆ **ELCA Churchwide Assembly recap:** Please join Erik Stone and Vicky Daub on **Sunday, Sep 7** at 11:20am in the Great Hall rooms 302/303. Erik and Vicky served as voting members at this Assembly.
- ◆ **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. **Grants** are awarded to charitable Christian organizations, as well as those "who are doing the work of Christ", however not for Capital Campaigns. If you are an advocate for a non-profit organization that could be served by a grant from the Foundation, please encourage your non-profit 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.
- ◆ **Metro Caring's Cornucopia Celebration and Fundraiser: Friday, Sep 19**, 6:00-9:30pm, Mile High Station, 2027 W Colfax Avenue, Denver. Join Metro Caring to nourish what matters most: a community where everyone has a plate full of nutritious food, a safe home to live and grow, and a place to belong. Buy tickets at metrocaring.org/events/. Contact Kevin Dempsey at kmdmpsy@aol.com for more information or if you are interested in being part of a Bethany table at the event.
- ◆ **Walk to End Alzheimer's: Saturday Sep 20**, Denver City Park. Many in our church have had loved ones afflicted with Alzheimer's and dementia of all forms. Join the Bethany Walkers team for this walk, or make a donation at www.alz.org/walk. Find team "Bethany Walkers" then either click "Join our Team" and/or "Donate to the Team". Check-in begins at 8:00am, Ceremonies begin at 9:30am. Meet in Bethany's east parking lot at 7:00am to carpool/caravan. Contact Ed Blum 303-506-4782 for more info.
- ◆ **Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver/Holy Hammers:** Go to the Holy Hammers Volunteer Hub to register - <https://vhub.at/HolyHammers>. No prior construction experience necessary. **Saturday, Sep 20** at Augustana Homes (5088 E Dakota Ave, Denver, CO, 80246) from 7:50am-3:30pm. Volunteers must be 16+. Please contact Kevin Dempsey at kmdmpsy@aol.com with questions or for more information.
- ◆ **Christmas Decorating Team: Sunday, Sep 21**, 11:20am, Room 210. Yes, it's time to think about decorating the church for Christmas! If you love Christmas and love to decorate, you're needed! Come hear about timelines, strategies, and how it'll all get accomplished.
- ◆ **For the Beauty of the Earth Mountain Outing: Saturday, Oct 4**, Staunton State Park. Meet at 7:45am at Bethany to carpool or at 8:45am at the park. Choose between 3 beautiful guided hikes at different levels. Register on the website at the link on the Bethany News article. You can find more information about the hikes there too. Once registered, Lizza Aalto will contact you via e-mail with additional details so you can sign up for the specific hike you prefer to take and to find out whether you wish to carpool from Bethany Lutheran Church or meet us at Staunton State Park.
- ◆ **Breakfast help needed:** Does your family or group like to cook? Does your family or group like to serve others? We are looking for interested people/families to help host a breakfast now and then for the Bethany Community. Please contact Gayle Newell at Gayle@Bethany-Denver.org or 303-758-2820.

- ♦ **Breakfast with the Bible:** This is a weekly Bible study **Tuesdays**, 9:00-10:00am in the church Library. For the summer, Vicky Daub and Clara O'Connell are facilitating this Bible study. All are welcome!
- ♦ **Bethany has an App!** The new Bethany Connect App features sermons, music, devotionals, meditations, and much, much more with new features added all the time! Download the Bethany Connect App in the Google Play or Apple App store.
- ♦ **Bethany Mugs:** Want a "Sanctuary-approved" coffee mug? You can purchase one for \$15 at the Mission Center.
- ♦ **Nametags are in!:** Look for yours on the table in the Fellowship Hall today!

For more information and to see other announcements, please sign up for the email blasts by contacting the office - 303.758.2820, or visit www.Bethany-Denver.org/Bethany-news/

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, 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. **Starting Sep 7 we return to two services - 8:30am Traditional and 10:00am Blended.** 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 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.

