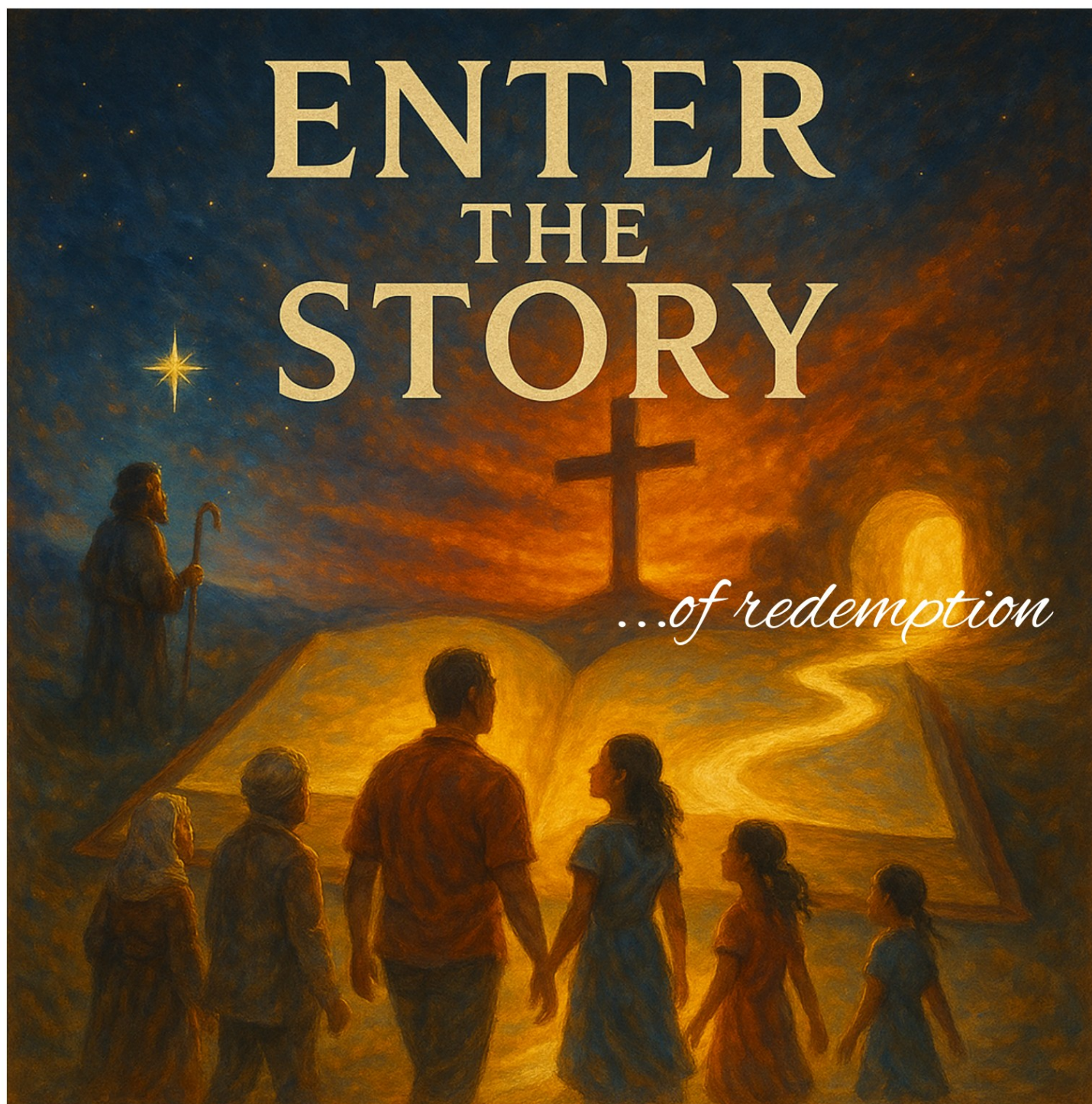


# BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



**10:00AM SEPTEMBER 14, 2025**



# WEDNESDAY NIGHT

*at Bethany*

5:15 – 6:15PM	Dinner	Fellowship Hall
<b><u>Faith Formation Programming Begins!</u></b>		
5:15 – 6:15PM	Deborah Circle: Women's Group	Library
6:00 – 6:25PM	Faith in Motion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth Choir</li> <li>• ReBELLion Youth Bell Choir</li> <li>• High Energy games</li> </ul>	Choir -314 Bells -316 Great Hall
6:00 – 6:50PM	Adult Ed: Bible Study	Chapel
6:30 – 7:15PM	Parents Group	Room 400
6:30 – 7:15PM	Spark Nite: Preschool 3-4 year olds	Nursery
6:30 – 7:15PM	Spark Nite: Elementary Kindergarten – 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Room 403
7:15PM	Pick Up and Sign Out: PreSchool-5th Grade	Classrooms
6:30 – 7:30PM	Confirmation: 6th-8th Grade	Great Hall
6:30 – 7:30PM	Youth Group: High School	Soul Schopp
6:45 – 8:30PM	Carillons Adult Bell Choir	Room 315/316
7:00 – 9:00PM	Chancel Adult Choir	Room 312

# + WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS +

## Gathering Music

Arise, My Soul, Arise!  
Amazing Grace

Michael Burkhardt  
Robert A. Hobby

## Welcome to Worship

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

Deacon Debra Alba



## Song of Praise

I Love to Tell the Story

ELW 661

*Refrain*



I love to tell the sto - ry; 'twill be my theme in glo - ry



to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

Text: Katherine Hankey, 1834–1911  
Music: HANKEY, William E. Fischer, 1849–1936

## A Time of Confession

Gracious God,

**We admit that we have fallen short. In what we have said and done, and in what we have left undone, we have not loved you or our neighbors as we should. We have carried worries, guilt, and burdens that we struggle to release. We confess these to you now, trusting in your mercy. Forgive us, God. Lighten our load and guide us into a new way of living. Amen.**

## God's Gift of Forgiveness

Friends in Christ, hear this good news. God is merciful and full of love. Through Jesus, your sins are forgiven and your burdens are lifted. You are set free to walk in God's grace and to live in the joy of the resurrection. **Amen.**



1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide - ness of the sea;  
 2 There is wel - come for the sin - ner, and a prom - ised grace made good;  
 3 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sures of our mind;  
 4 'Tis not all we owe to Je - sus; it is some - thing more than all:



there's a kind - ness in God's jus - tice which is more than lib - er - ty.  
 there is mer - cy with the Sav - ior; there is heal - ing in his blood.  
 and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.  
 great - er good be - cause of e - vil, larg - er mer - cy through the fall.



There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heav'n.  
 There is grace e - nough for thou - sands of new worlds as great as this;  
 But we make this love too nar - row by false lim - its of our own;  
 Make our love, O God, more faith - ful; let us take you at your word,



There is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment giv'n.  
 there is room for fresh cre - a - tions in that up - per home of bliss.  
 and we mag - ni - fy its strict - ness with a zeal God will not own.  
 and our lives will be thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814–1863, alt.  
 Music: LORD, REVIVE US, North American, 19th cent.

## Greeting

*Deacon Debra Alba*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

O God,

**overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray.**

**Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## Children's Sermon

*Deacon Debra Alba*

## Children's Worship



Text: Katherine Hankey, 1834–1911

Music: HANKEY, William E. Fischer, 1849–1936

## + WE ENCOUNTER GOD'S WORD +

Today's Sermon is based on readings from:

1 Timothy 1:12-17

Paul Rodeck

<sup>12</sup> I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he considered me faithful and appointed me to his service, <sup>13</sup> even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, <sup>14</sup> and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup> The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. <sup>16</sup> But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience as an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. <sup>17</sup> To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

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

Luke 15:1-10

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

<sup>1</sup> Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. <sup>2</sup> And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” <sup>3</sup> So he told them this parable: <sup>4</sup> “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? <sup>5</sup> And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. <sup>6</sup> And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.’ <sup>7</sup> Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. <sup>8</sup> “Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? <sup>9</sup> And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’

<sup>10</sup> Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

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



## Sermon Notes

## Song of the Day

## What Wondrous Love Is This

ELW 666



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What  
 2 When I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, sink-ing down, when  
 3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to  
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this  
 I was sink - ing down, sink-ing down, when I was sink - ing down  
 God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,  
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my  
 be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my  
 who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will  
 I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?  
 soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.  
 sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.  
 on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.

Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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

Pastor Nate Preisinger

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

Jeff Finnin

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

- ♦ **Bethany Discipleship Class:** sign up by Monday, Sep 22
- ♦ **For the Beauty of the Earth Mountain Outing:** Saturday, Oct 4, Staunton State Park

## + WE WORSHIP GOD WITH OUR OFFERINGS +

### OFFERING

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

August Financial Update: Total contributions for the month of August was \$125,250.

Thank you all for your generosity!

- 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

Nothing at All

High Road

Bethany Bluegrass Ensemble: Dave Craven, Neil Hanson, Koren Holden,

Rebecca Hubbard, Scott Nixon, Anne Warren

*You can have all the silver. You can have all the gold.  
You can have all the treasure the world could ever hold.  
But if you ain't got Jesus, well, you ain't got nothing at all.  
You can have all the power. You can have all the fame.  
You can have lots of titles tied onto your name.  
But if you ain't got Jesus, well, you ain't got nothing at all.  
You ain't got nothin' that's ever going to last. It all burns, it'll all be ash.  
When the sky rolls back, and the trumpet calls,  
If you ain't got Jesus you ain't got nothing at all.  
You can have all the good deeds. You can say all your prayers.  
You can shout Hallelujah; throw your hands in the air.  
But if you ain't got Jesus, well, you ain't got nothing at all.*

## Children Return to the Sanctuary

# + THE COMMUNITY MEAL +

## Invitation to The Communion Table

Pastor Nate Preisinger

## Celebration of Holy Communion

Jesus shared meals with friends and strangers, turning ordinary tables into signs of God's kingdom.

**We remember his welcome, and we come to be fed.**

The story of God's love is told in bread and wine, in friendship and forgiveness.

**We are part of this story today.**

We come as those before us came, hungry for hope and longing to be made whole.

**This is God's story. This is our story.**

## 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

Fishers of Men

Rhonda Vincent

Bethany Bluegrass Ensemble: Dave Craven, Neil Hanson, Koren Holden,

Rebecca Hubbard, Scott Nixon, Anne Warren

*Rise and follow me. I'll make you worthy.  
Rise and follow me. I'll make you fishers of men.  
Peter, John, and James could never be the same  
After they heard him say, "I'll make you fishers of men."  
Cast your nets aside and join the battle tide.  
He will be your guide to make you fishers of men.  
Jesus bore the cross to gather in the lost.  
Oh, what a mighty cost to set us free from sin.*



## Communion Song

### Now the Silence

ELW 460



Now the si - lence Now the peace Now the emp - ty hands up - lift - ed



Now the kneel - ing Now the plea Now the Fa - ther's arms in wel - come



Now the hear - ing Now the pow'r Now the ves - sel brimmed for pour - ing



Now the bod - y Now the blood Now the joy - ful cel - e - bra - tion



Now the wed - ding Now the songs Now the heart for - giv - en leap - ing



Now the Spir - it's vis - i - ta - tion Now the Son's e - piph - a - ny



Now the Fa - ther's bless - ing Now Now Now

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919

Music: NOW, Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929

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## Table Blessing

# + GOD SENDS US TO SERVE +

## Sending Invitation and Blessing

Pastor Gary Sandberg

### Song of Sending

Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer

ELW 618

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



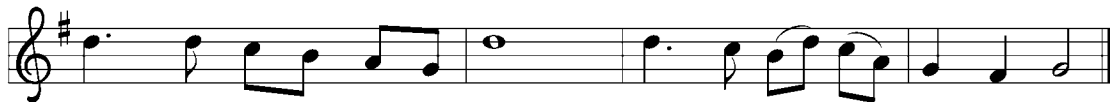
1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this  
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain where the heal - ing  
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me  
wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me  
fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me



with your pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,  
all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,  
safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es



feed me now and ev - er - more, feed me now and ev - er - more.  
shield me with your might - y arm, shield me with your might - y arm.  
I will raise for - ev - er - more, I will raise for - ev - er - more.

Text: William Williams, 1717–1791; tr. William Williams and Peter Williams, 1722–1796, alt.  
Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

## 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

Toccata

Gordon Young

## Things To Know About News & Events

- ◆ **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. 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](mailto: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/](http://metrocaring.org/events/). Contact Kevin Dempsey at [kmdmpsy@aol.com](mailto:kmdmpsy@aol.com) for more information or if you are interested in being part of a Bethany table at the event.
- ◆ **Women of Bethany (WOB) Fellowship: "Welcome Fall" luncheon Saturday, Sep 20, 11:30am**, Zane's Italian Bistro ([www.zanesbistro.com](http://www.zanesbistro.com)), 3535 South Yosemite Street, Denver 80237 (near Hampden and Yosemite). Register by **Sep 17**, on the Bethany Connect app or at the Register link on the Bethany email. If you wish to be notified of future gatherings via e-mail, contact Lizza Aalto at [taalto@aol.com](mailto:taalto@aol.com) or Marilyn Narveson at [msnarv73@gmail.com](mailto:msnarv73@gmail.com).
- ◆ **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](http://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, Sept 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](mailto:kmdmpsy@aol.com) with questions or for more information.
- ◆ **Extreme Community Makeover - Faith Day: Saturday, Sep 20, 9:00am-3:00pm** (or any portion thereof). It's a volunteer day focused on encouraging churches to come together and make an impact on the Denver Community - cleaning up neighborhoods, helping with yard work, etc. Sign up on the Bethany Connect app. For questions, contact Julie Bock at [bockfam@comcast.net](mailto:bockfam@comcast.net). All ages welcome - a great family & friends activity!
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **Rejoicing Spirits: Sunday, Sept 21, 4:00-6:00pm**, Lord of the Hills Lutheran Church, 21755 E Smoky Hill Rd., Aurora. Rejoicing Spirits is an inclusive worship space for people with cognitive and intellectual disabilities, their caregivers, families and anyone who seeks an open, joyful and creative worship experience. If you would like more information regarding the Rejoicing Spirits experience or volunteering, please contact: Pastor Margot at [pastor@lordofthehills.org](mailto:pastor@lordofthehills.org).
- ◆ **Bethany Discipleship Class:** Living Faith For a group of 12-20 that can commit to the program year. Explore seven practices of discipleship. Each practice will take 3 weeks as we Learn/Experience/Share together. Sign up on the Bethany Connect app by **Monday, Sep 22**.
- ◆ **Pet Blessing: Sunday, Oct 5** at the 10:00am service. Bring your pet, properly restrained, for a joyful service and then have them blessed at the end of the service. We'd love to show photos of your pets! Send them to this QR code **by Oct 1**.
- ◆ **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 **by Oct 3**. 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](mailto: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. The preacher for the upcoming Sunday will guide the discussion. All are welcome!
- ♦ **Bethany's Global Mission Ministry Team:** Funds have been awarded to eight international partners and the team hopes to do even more this year as we share God's generosity. If you know an international church, program, or project to recommend, including efforts like the Youth in Global Mission initiative, we're accepting letters of introduction now. Please contact Deacon Debra at [Debra@Bethany-Denver.org](mailto:Debra@Bethany-Denver.org) by **Oct 31**. Consider joining the team—you're needed!

## 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:** 8:30am Traditional - worship follows traditional Lutheran liturgy each week. 10:00am 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. Worship leaders are generally dressed more casually.
  - ♦ **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. The Nursery will not be staffed during our 10:00am service but you are welcome to use it with your child.

Today's flowers were given by Linda Seidl-Ducnuigeen in memory of Dean L. Ducnuigeen who passed away on September 11, 2024.