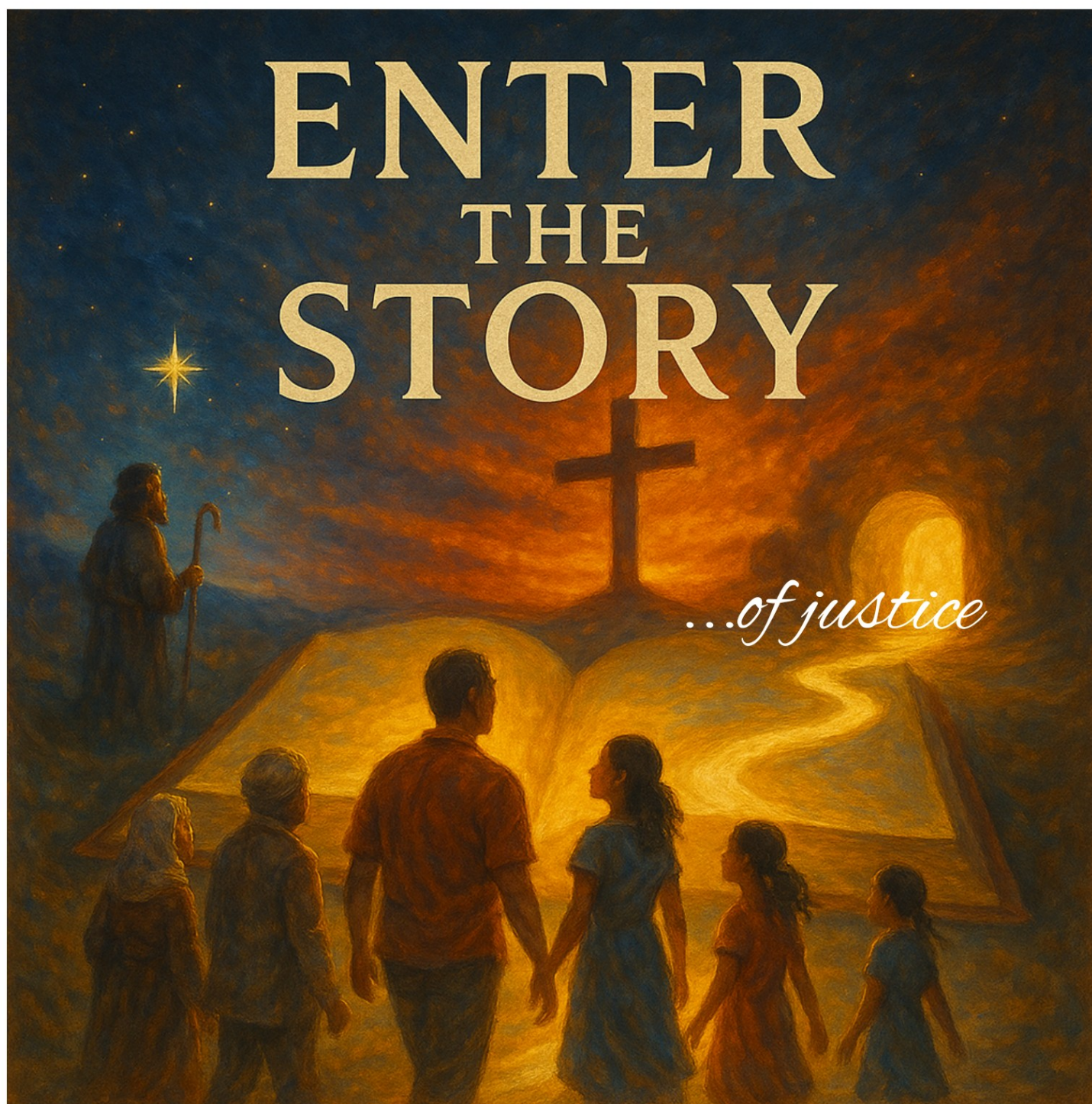


BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



10:00AM SEPTEMBER 21, 2025



WEDNESDAY NIGHT

at Bethany

5:15 – 6:15PM	Dinner	Fellowship Hall
<u>Faith Formation Programming Begins!</u>		
5:15 – 6:15PM	Deborah Circle: Women's Group	Library
6:00 – 6:25PM	Faith in Motion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Choir • ReBELLion Youth Bell Choir • High Energy games 	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 th 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

Kara Heilman, Dave Craven, Don Heilman

Sing of the Lord's Goodness

Ernest Sands

Welcome to Worship

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

Pastor Gary Sandberg



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.**

Opening Song

Sing to the Lord of Harvest

ELW 694



1 Sing to the Lord of har - vest your songs of love and praise;
2 God makes the clouds drop fat - ness, the des - erts bloom and spring,
3 Bring to this sa - cred al - tar the gifts his good-ness gave,



with joy - ful hearts and voic - es your al - le - lu - ias raise;
the hills leap up in glad - ness, the val - leys laugh and sing.
the gold - en sheaves of har - vest, the souls Christ died to save.



by him the roll - ing sea - sons in fruit - ful or - der move;
God fills them with his full - ness, all things with large in - crease,
Your hearts lay down be - fore him when at his feet you fall,



sing to the Lord of har - vest a joy - ous song of love.
and crowns the year with good - ness, with plen - ty and with peace.
and with your lives a - dore him who gave his life for all.

Greeting

Pastor Nate Preisinger

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

God among us,

we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Claire Isabella Kilbourn - Born: June 2, 2025

Parents: Jacob & Grace Kilbourn

We gather at these living waters. Throughout history, God's saving action toward God's people has taken place through water. Let us pray:

Most Holy God, you created the seas, rivers, and lakes; you saved Noah and his family from the floods; you led the Israelites through the Red Sea and quenched their thirst with water flowing from a rock. Through the waters of the Jordan River, you proclaimed Jesus your own beloved son and so through these waters of baptism, you proclaim that we, too, are your own beloved children, now and forever. Amen.

Parents, do you wish Claire to be baptized into the promises of God?

R: I do.

We make promises and assume responsibilities at baptism. God promises us unconditional love and life forever, and we know that our journey of faith encompasses certain promises so that our lives reflect this love.

Parents, do you promise to: Live with your child among God's faithful people, bring your child to the Lord's table, teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place the holy scriptures in their hands to nurture their faith and prayer life, so that they will know and trust God?

R: I do.

Parents, sponsors, people of God, do you promise to support and pray for Claire's new life in Christ?

R: We do.

Baptism: Claire Isabella, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayer: Sustain Claire with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. Amen.

Blessing: Claire Isabella, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. Amen.

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven.

Let us welcome our new sibling in Christ!

We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as a member of the body of Christ, child of God's kingdom on earth and in heaven.

Children's Worship

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

+ WE ENCOUNTER GOD'S WORD +

Today's Sermon is based on readings from Amos 8:4-7 & Luke 15:1-0

Amos 8:4-7

Koren Holden

⁴ Hear this, you who trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land,

⁵ saying, “When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain,
and the Sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale?

We will make the ephah smaller and the shekel heavier and practice deceit with false balances,

⁶ buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals
and selling the sweepings of the wheat.”

⁷ The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

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

Luke 16:1-13

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

¹ Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. ² So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ ³ Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴ I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ ⁵ So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ ⁶ He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ ⁷ Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ ⁸ And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. ⁹ And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

¹⁰ “Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹ If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹² And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³ No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

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

Sermon

Pastor Samm Melton-Hill

Sermon Notes

1 Let jus - tice flow like streams of spar-ling wa - ter, pure,
 2 Let righ - teous - ness roll on as oth - ers' cares we heed,
 3 So may God's plumb line, straight, de - fine our mea - sure true,

en - a - bling growth, re - fresh - ing life, a - bun - dant, cleans-ing, sure.
 an ev - er - flow - ing stream of faith trans-lat - ed in - to deed.
 and jus - tice, right, and peace per-vade this world our whole life through.

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

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

- ♦ **Bethany Discipleship Class:** sign up by Monday, Sep 22
- ♦ **Invitational Events:** Staunton State Park Hike (Oct 4) and Blessing of the Pets (Oct 5)
- ♦ **Ministry Fair,** Sept 28 after both services
- ♦ **Global Mission Announcement**

+ WE WORSHIP GOD WITH OUR OFFERINGS +

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

Sing of the Lord's Goodness

Ernest Sands

Sounds of Praise, dir. Paula Wills

*Sing of the Lord's goodness, Father of all wisdom, come to him and bless his name.
Mercy he has shown us, his love is forever, faithful to the end of days.
Come then all you nations, sing of your Lord's goodness, melodies of praise and thanks to God.
Ring out the Lord's glory, praise him with your music, worship him and bless his name.
Power he has wielded, honor in his garment, risen from the snares of death.
His word he has spoken, one bread he has broken, new life he now gives to all.
Courage in our darkness, comfort in our sorrow, spirit of our God most high;
Solace for the weary, pardon for the sinner, splendor of the living God.
Praise him with your singing, praise him with the trumpet, praise him with the lute and harp;
Praise him with the cymbals, praise him with your dancing, praise God till the end of days.*

Children Return to the Sanctuary

+ THE COMMUNITY MEAL +

Invitation to The Communion Table

Pastor Gary Sandberg

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

Goodness of God

Jenn Johnson

Sounds of Praise, dir. Paula Wills

I love You, Lord. Oh, your mercy never fails me. All my days I've been held in Your hands.

From the moment that I wake up, until I lay my head, I will sing of the goodness of God.

All my life You have been faithful. All my life You have been so, so good.

With every breath that I am able I will sing of the goodness of God.

I love Your voice. You have led me through the fire. In darkest night You are close like no other.

I've known You as a father, I've known You as a friend. I have lived in the goodness of God.

Your goodness is running after, it's running after me.

With my life laid down, I'm surrendered now; I give You everything.

Communion Song

Come to the Table

ELW 481



Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

Table Blessing

+ GOD SENDS US TO SERVE +

Sending Invitation and Blessing

Pastor Gary Sandberg

Song of Sending

All Depends on Our Possessing

ELW 589

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



1 All de - pends on our pos - sess - ing God's free grace and
2 God, who hith - er - to has fed me and to man - y
3 When with sor - row I am strick - en, hope my heart a -
4 Well you know what best to grant me; all the long - ing
5 If on earth my days should length - en, God, my wea - ry



con - stant bless - ing, though all earth - ly wealth de - part.
joys has led me, is and ev - er shall be mine.
new will quick - en, all my long - ing shall be stilled.
hopes that haunt me, joy and sor - row, have their day.
soul still strength - en; all my trust in you I place.



They who trust with faith un - shak - en by their God are
God, who did so gent - ly school me and who dai - ly
To your lov - ing - kind - ness ten - der all my be - ing
I shall doubt your wis - dom nev - er; as you will, so
Earth - ly wealth is not a - bid - ing; like a stream a -



not for - sak - en and will keep a daunt - less heart.
guides and rules me, will re - main my help di - vine.
I sur - ren - der; Lord, on you a - lone I build.
be it ev - er; I com - mit to you my way.
way it's glid - ing; safe I an - chor in your grace.

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

Postlude in D Major

Denis Bédard

Things To Know About - News & Events

- ♦ **Welcome Pastor Samm Melton-Hill.** We are pleased to welcome Pastor Samm today as our guest preacher. Pastor Samm serves at Highlands Lutheran Church and at New Beginnings Worshipping Community, which meets at the Denver Women's Correctional Facility, a ministry that Bethany supports. Pastor Samm will be leading a conversation about this important ministry at **11:20am today in room 208.**
- ♦ **Christmas Decorating Team: TODAY, 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: TODAY, 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.
- ♦ **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.**
- ♦ **Ministry Fair!** Get involved in something new at Bethany this fall! On **Sunday Sept 28** after both worship services, we will have information in the fellowship hall about all of Bethany's ministry offerings. Come talk with representatives from a new group or ministry and sign up to get connected right away.
- ♦ **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 or 303-758-2820.
- ♦ **Project Angel Heart** is the Bethany ministry partner that provides medically tailored meals to persons with serious illnesses. The organization is holding its 24th annual Taste for Life **fundraiser on October 16th** at the Infinity Park Events Center, 4400 E. Kentucky Avenue, Glendale from 6-9 pm. For more information go to <https://www.projectangelheart.org/events/a-taste-for-life/>.
- ♦ **Pet Blessing Sunday** is the perfect Sunday to invite a friend (and their pet) to worship! **Sunday October 5** at the 10am service will be our annual pet blessing worship service! Bring your furry family members for a special blessing from a member of the pastoral team at the 10:00am service... Please Note: All pets must be safely secured by leash or carrier.
- ♦ **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 **by Oct 31.** Consider joining the team—you're needed!

- ♦ **Understanding Your Grief Support Group:** Bethany will be offering a 7-week grief support group based on the book, “Understanding Your Grief” by Dr. Alan Wolfelt co-facilitated by Janet Mortinsen, Director of Pastoral Care, and Susan Junge, Stephen Minister and congregational member. The group will meet in the library on **Sundays 10/19 – 11/23 and 12/7 from 11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.** To register for this class or for more information, please contact Janet Mortinsen at janet@bethany-denver.org or call 303-300-3317.
- ♦ **Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp’s 18th Annual Grace Race on Saturday Oct 4th, 2025!** This annual 5k run/walk was started as part of RTLCL’s 50th anniversary in 2007, to raise money for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. The event is held in collaboration with the Rocky Mountain Synod Hunger Network. Over the last 18 years, RTLCL and the participants of Grace Race have contributed \$102,600 to battling world hunger. This can be the second year that we top \$10,000 with the check that we send to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal!
- ♦ **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.
- ♦ **REMINDER:** If you haven’t already, please transition your recurring gift from Realm to Subsplash. If you need any assistance, please reach out to Josh Ehlers (Accountant) or Diane McAllen (Gifts Processor). Thank you all so much for your help with this transition!
- ♦ **Nametags are in!:** Look for yours on the table at the Mission Center desk today!



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LUTHERAN CHURCH

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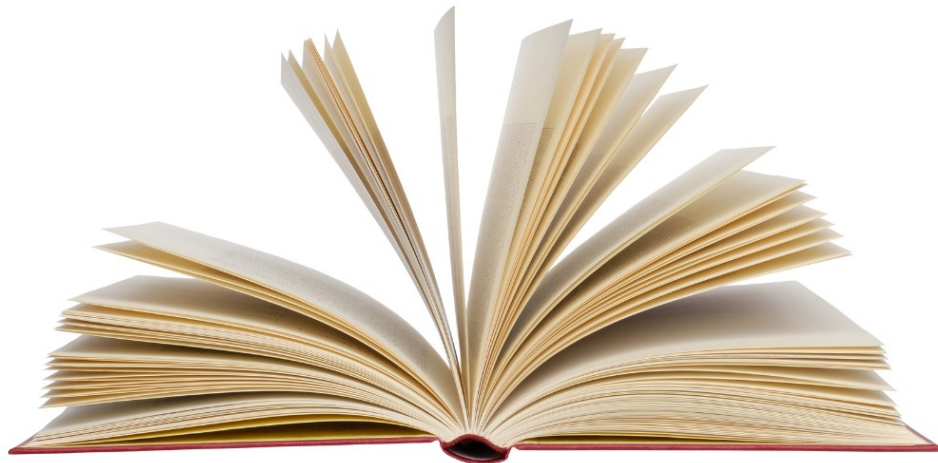
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The Bethany Connect Mobile App is Here!

Start Your Day with Inspiration

Receive daily devotionals written by members of the Bethany Community to guide you on your daily walk of faith. These blogs will explore faith through the lens of health, scripture, spiritual practices, and more.



Download the new Bethany Connect app today!
Search "Bethany Connect" in the App Store or Google Play and
start your daily journey in faith.

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:** 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.
- ◆ **Safety:** Bethany Lutheran Church is committed to maintaining a safe and welcoming environment for everyone. If at any time you feel uncomfortable, unsafe or have concerns, please speak with one of our staff or designated leaders. We are here to listen and to support you.
- ◆ **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. 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 Sherri Koelbel in memory of her husband, Buz, and with deep appreciation for the memorial service provided by all of the Bethany Pastoral team for him.