BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

4500 East Hampden Avenue | Cherry Hills Village, CO 80113 | www.Bethany-Denver.org | 303.758.2820

Enter the Story of Justice



September 21, 2025 8:30am



5:15 - 6:15PM	Dinner	Fellowship Hall
Faith Formation Programming Begins!		
5:15 - 6:15PM	Deborah Circle: Women's Group	Library
6:00 - 6:25PM	Faith in Motion:Youth ChoirReBELLion Youth Bell ChoirHigh 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

¥ GATHERING **¥**

PRELUDE

Concerto in C Major, BMV 595

J.S. Bach

WELCOME

Pastor Gary Sandberg

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



CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

You are invited to face the cross as it enters.



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.**

Kyrie



Hymn of Praise



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.**



PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Marie Friedemann

Dear Lord, may the scriptures we read today ground us in the joy of the resurrection, that we might grow in God's grace. May we find opportunity to live out your Gospel message as we share this good news with the world. **Amen.**

LESSON Amos 8:4-7

Amos was called by God to prophesy in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Peace and prosperity in Israel led to corrupt business practices and oppression of the poor. The prophet declares that God will not tolerate such a situation.

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?

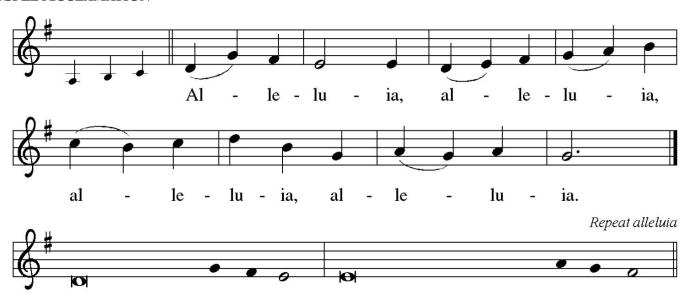
We will make the ephah smaller and the shekel heavier and practice deceit with false balances,

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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e-ter-nal life.

GOSPEL Luke 16:1-13

Jesus tells the curious story of a dishonest manager who cheats his employer and then is commended by him for having acted so shrewdly. Jesus wonders why his own followers are less creative and diligent in their stewardship given that they are managers of a far more valuable household.

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

HYMN OF THE DAY

Let Justice Flow like Streams

ELW #717



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

BLESSING OF 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.

¥ Offering **¥**

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

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

Give Thanks to God on High

K. Lee Scott

Chancel Choir, dir. Kirk Schjodt

Give thanks to God on high for saints of other days, whose hope it was to live and die in love's consiming blaze, for Christ and his kingdom, his glory and his praise.

Their vision long fulfilled, our prayer is still the same: upon their work of faith to build, their word of truth proclaim, for Christ and his kingdom, and for his holy name.

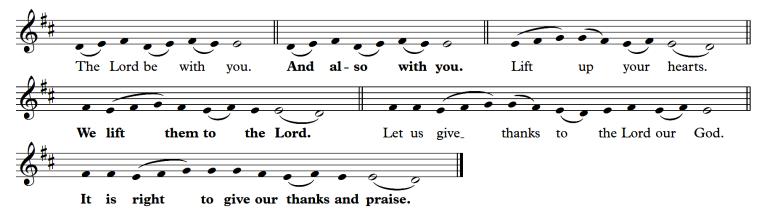
New tasks today are ours who serve a world in pain, new calls to challenge all our powers of heart and hand and brain, for Christ and his kingdom, while life and breath remain.

Give thanks to God on high for all the future sends, in praise of Christ to live and die who calls his servants friends, for Christ and his kingdom, whose glory never ends.

* Meal *

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Pastor Gary Sandberg



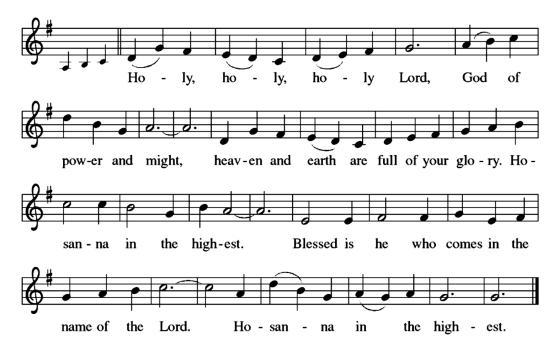
CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...

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

SANCTUS



BLESSING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

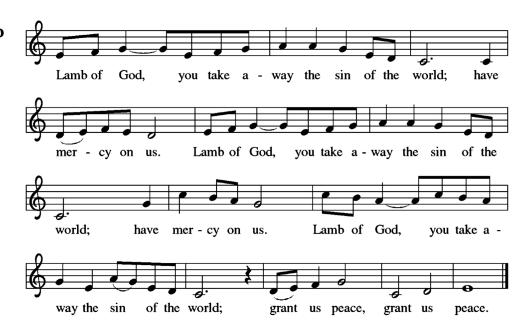
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

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

LAMB OF GOD



COMMUNION MUSIC

Chancel Choir, dir. Kirk Schjodt

There is a Balm in Gilead

arr. William L. Dawson

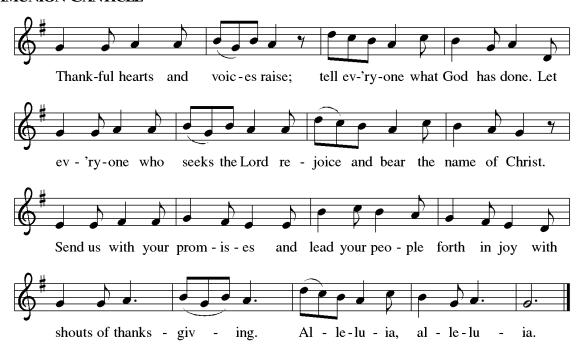
There is a balm in Gilead, to make the wounded whole, there is a balm in Gilead, to heal the sin-sick soul.

Sometimes I feel discouraged, and think my work's in vain, But then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.

If you cannot sing like angels, if you cannot preach like Paul, You can tell the love of Jesus, and say he died for all.

TABLE BLESSING

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE



Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980 Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927 Text and music © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

¥ Sending **¥**

BENEDICTIONPastor Gary Sandberg

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



DISMISSALPastor 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.

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. For more details visit the 'News' page on the Bethany website.
- 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.
- 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.
- Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp's 18th Annual Grace Race on Saturday Oct 4th, 2025! This annual 5k run/walk was started as part of RTLC'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, RTLC and the participants of Grace Race have contributed \$102,600 to battling world hunger. We are aiming for 200 participants for this year's race. This can be the second year that we top \$10,000 with the check that we send to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal!
- 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.
- **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/.

- 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!

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: 8:30am Traditional worship follows traditional Lutheran liturgy. 10:00am Casual 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 <u>always</u> 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 8:30am 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.