

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

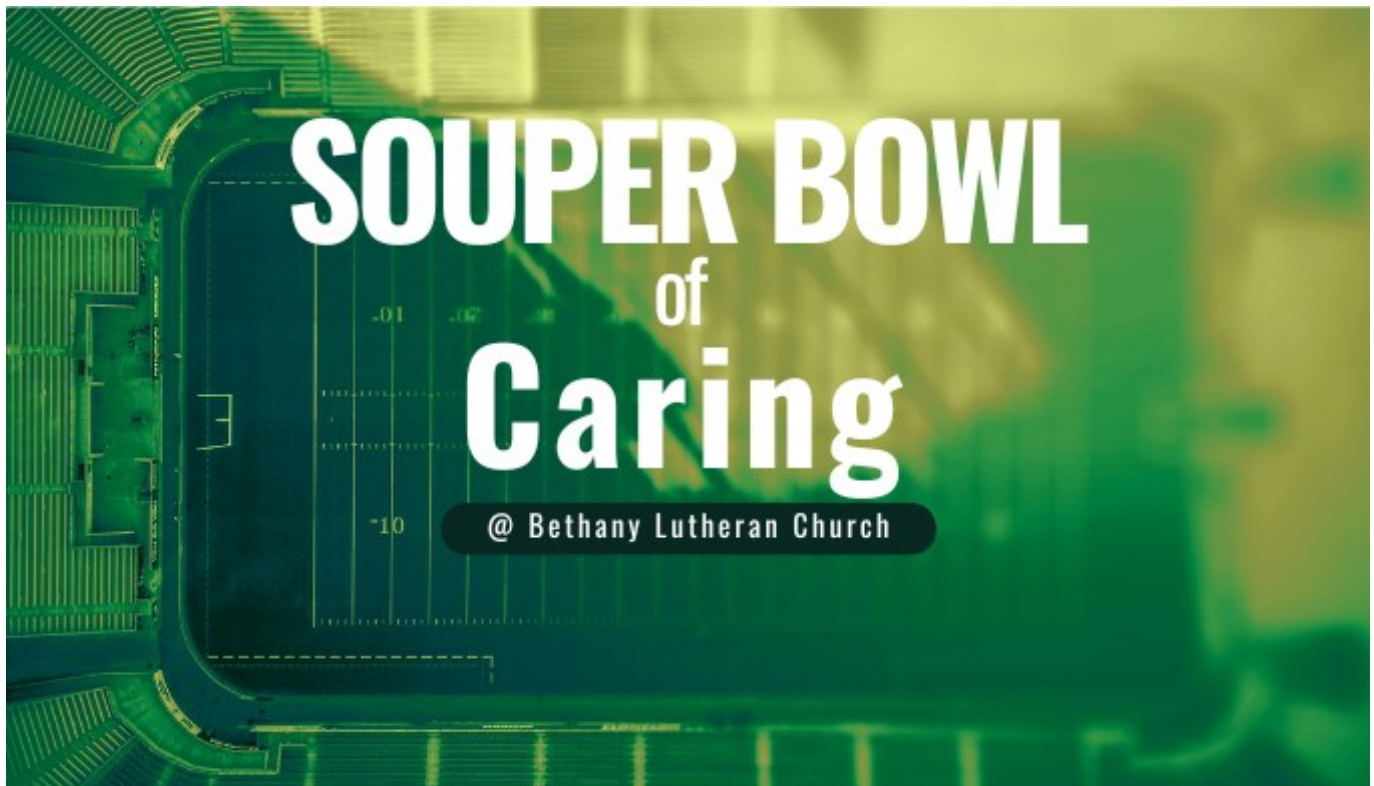
4500 EAST HAMPDEN AVENUE | CHERRY HILLS VILLAGE, CO 80113 | WWW.BETHANY-DENVER.ORG | 303.758.2820

TACKLE HUNGER

with the

SOUPERBOWL OFCARING

**10:00AM BLENDED WORSHIP
FEB 8, 2026**



A History of the Souper Bowl of Caring

For over 30 years, the Souper Bowl of Caring movement has been inspiring people across the nation to tackle hunger in their local communities. They coordinate efforts to tackle hunger through their digital platform of fundraising services created to support food charities large and small. Mobilizing grassroots resources including churches, schools, civic groups and caring individuals, this movement has created over \$193 million worth of support that stays completely local. Over the last three years alone, thousands of groups collected over \$25 million in dollars and food donations for hunger-relief charities across the country. Over that period, the organization took \$1 specifically donated to their mission and created over \$18 for local food charities. Over the last three years, Bethany has given over \$75,000 which is split between our local food bank, Metro Caring and ELCA World Hunger.



METRO CARING
ENDING HUNGER AT ITS ROOT
TERMINAR LAS CAUSAS PROFUNDAS DEL HAMBRE
EST.  1974

DONATE NOW!





world hunger

+ FIRST QUARTER +

Prelude

Partita on Ebenezer

John A. Behnke
Dave Ellison, Guest Organist

Welcome to Worship

Pastor Gary Sandberg

Song of Praise

Everytime I Feel the Spirit (sung twice)

ACS 942

Refrain

Ev - 'ry time I feel the spir - it mov - ing
in my heart, I will pray. Ev - 'ry time I feel the
spir - it mov - ing in my heart, I will pray.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: PENTECOST, African American spiritual; arr. Melva W. Costen, b. 1933

Arr. © 1990 Melva W. Costen, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

ELW 836



- 1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
- 2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
- 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

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

We pray together: Gracious God,

Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Anthem

ReBELLion dir. Alex Rodasti

Dedication

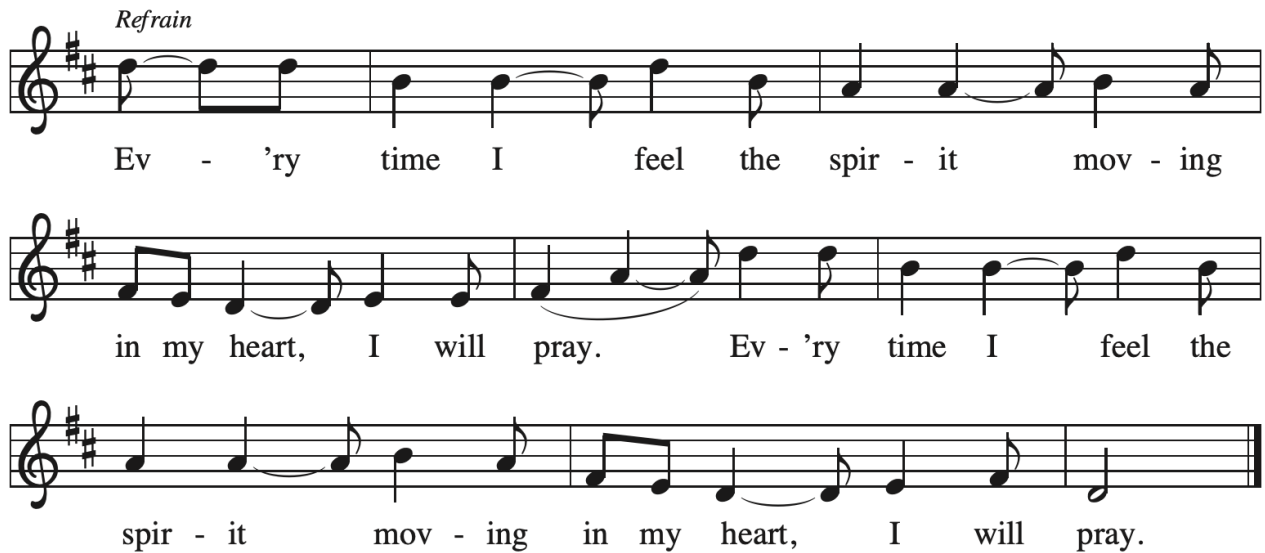
John Dare

Children's Huddle

Deacon Debra Alba

We Prepare to Hear God's Word *(Sung twice)*

Refrain



Ev - 'ry time I feel the spir - it mov - ing
in my heart, I will pray. Ev - 'ry time I feel the
spir - it mov - ing in my heart, I will pray.

+ SECOND QUARTER +

Today's Halftime Speech is based on readings from:

Isaiah 58:6-12

Gretchen Hack

- ⁶ Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?
- ⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
- ⁸ Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.
- ^{9a} Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am."
- ^{9b} If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
- ¹⁰ if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.
- ¹¹ The LORD will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places and make your bones strong, and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters never fail.
- ¹² Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

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

Matthew 5:13-20

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

Jesus said: ¹³ “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵ People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

¹⁷ “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

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

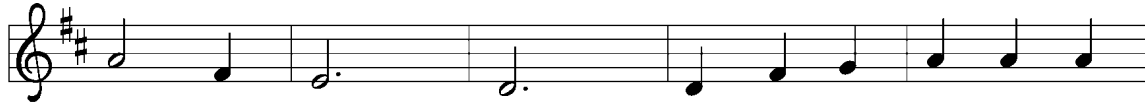
Halftime Speech

Deacon Debra Alba

Sermon Notes



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
 2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
 3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to

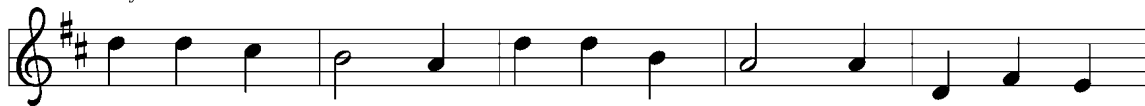


fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
 look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,
 be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
 shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
 pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

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

Deacon Debra Alba

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

- ♦ Souper Bowl of Caring, TODAY
- ♦ Two Upcoming Social Justice Committee Events
- ♦ 2026 Intention of Giving Forms
- ♦ Lenten Mentoring for Confirmation Students

♦ THIRD QUARTER +

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
- Unlock your phone, hold near NFC card (on pew back), & wait for notification to appear



Offering Music

This is My Father's World

arr. Chris Rice

Koren Holden, Scott Nixon & Dave Craven

*This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears
All nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world, I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas, his hand the wonders wrought.
This is my Father's world, the birds their carols raise,
The morning light, the lily white, declare their Maker's praise.
This is my Father's world, he shines in all that's fair,
In the rustling grass I can hear him pass, he speaks to me everywhere.
This is my Father's world, O let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father's world, why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is King, let the heavens ring! God reigns, let the earth be glad!*

+ FOURTH QUARTER +

Invitation to The Communion Table

Pastor Gary Sandberg

Celebration of Holy Communion

May you know God's presence in this moment .

God is with us here.

Come to this table with grateful hearts.

We lift our hearts to God.

Let us be thankful for Christ's promise of grace.

With gratitude, we receive this gift.

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

Receive communion by dipping the bread into the wine. Pre-packaged communion sets are alcohol free; gluten-free options are available. Groups are welcome to visit a communion station together. Those who are not receiving communion are invited to cross their arms across their chest to receive a blessing.

Communion Distribution

Communion Music

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

arr. Chris Rice

Koren Holden, Scott Nixon & Dave Craven

*What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear.
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer.
Oh, what peace we often forfeit. Oh, what needless pain we bear.
All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.
Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful, who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness. Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Are we weak and heavy-laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge, take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do your friend despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In His arms He'll take and shield you, you will find a solace there.*

Communion Song

Let Justice Flow Like Streams

ELW 717



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.

Text: Jane Parker Huber, b. 1926

Music: ST. THOMAS, Aaron Williams, 1731–1776

Text © 1984 Jane Parker Huber, admin. Westminster John Knox Press

Table Blessing

+ POST GAME CELEBRATION +

Sending Invitation and Blessing

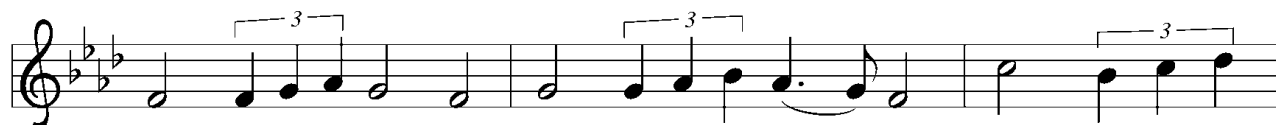
Deacon Debra Alba

Song of Sending

Thy Strong Word

ELW 511

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



1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark - ness; at thy
2 Lo, on those who dwelt in dark - ness, dark as
3 Thy strong Word be - speaks us righ - teous; bright with
4 From the cross thy wis - dom shin - ing break - eth



speak - ing it was done. For cre - at - ed light we
night and deep as death, broke the light of thy sal -
thine own ho - li - ness, glo - rious now, we press toward
forth in con - qu'ring might; from the cross for - ev - er



thank thee, while thine or - dered sea - sons run.
va - tion, breathed thine own life - breath - ing breath.
glo - ry, and our lives our hopes con - fess.
beam - eth all thy bright re - deem - ing light.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise to thee who light dost send!



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!

Dismissal

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.

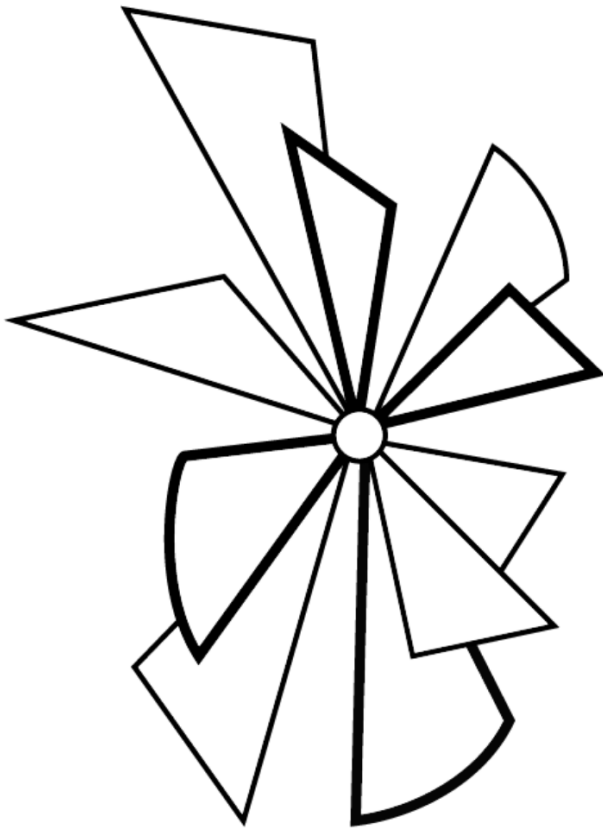
Postlude

God of Grace

Paul Manz

Things To Know About - News & Events

- ♦ **Souper Bowl of Caring: Sunday, TODAY** during Community Time 11:00am in the Fellowship Hall. Come enjoy soup/stew and bread/crackers. Girl Scouts will sell Girl Scout cookies at the Southwest corner of the Fellowship Hall between services!
- ♦ **Habitat for Humanity Metro Denver/Holy Hammers:** Volunteers needed **Saturday, Feb 28** at the Habitat Production Shop, 8:30am- 3:00pm. Address is 430 S Navajo St, Denver, 80223. Note that volunteers can be as young as 14 and you'll want to dress appropriately for painting. Register at <https://vhub.at/HolyHammers> by **Feb 14**. Contact Kevin Dempsey at kmdmpsy@aol.com for more info.
- ♦ **Women of Bethany: Sunday, Feb 15, 5:00pm** at Lizza Aalto's house in Highlands Ranch for an early evening of Appetizers and Fellowship. Please bring a heavy appetizer, salad, or side dish to share. Lizza will provide drinks and desserts. Register at www.bethany-denver.org/News by **Feb 11**. The address will be provided a few days before the event to the list of those who have registered. Starting in March, your new WOB Fellowship organizers are: Michelle Stone Kraus, Clara O'Connell, and Barbara Pomeroy. Thank you ladies for offering to take over the lead and keeping this fabulous group of women continuing to grow friendships.
- ♦ **Lent:** Begins Ash Wednesday, **Feb 18**. 7:30am Brief order of Confession and Ashes in the Chapel; 12:00pm and 7:00pm Communion worship with Imposition of Ashes in the Sanctuary (both of these will be livestreamed). There will also be a Soup Supper available from 6:00pm-7:00pm. If you cannot make services in person and would like ashes you can pick up a packet with ashes in the church office during regular office hours.
- ♦ **Mentoring for Lent!** This year we have 39 middle schoolers who are looking for a caring adult to get to know as mentors on Wednesday nights during Lent – **Feb 25 thru Mar 29**. If you feel called, please email Pastor Nate by **Feb 18** and he will equip you with details and will connect you with a young person and family. Thanks!
- ♦ **Bethany's Social Justice Ministry:** You are invited to participate in a Book Study Sunday, **Feb 22, 11:20am - 12:30pm** in Room 210. The book is, "The God who Sees – Immigrants, the Bible and the Journey to Belong" by immigration advocate, Karen Gonzalez. In the book Karen recounts her family's migration from Guatemala to the US. Along her journey she encounters Jesus and begins to follow him. The book will be at the Mission Center for a suggested donation of \$15. For more information please contact Debra at Debra@Bethany-Denver.org.
- ♦ **Cocina Libre International Meal: Sunday, Mar 8, 11:30am-1:00pm**, Fellowship Hall. This meal is prepared by local, immigrant chefs. The Cocina Libre team, lead by DU Associate Professor of Psychology, Dr. Julia Roncoroni will lead us in viewing a documentary highlighting a few of their stories and participating in guided discussions as we share our stories of Identity, Purpose, and Belonging. The cost of the meal is \$25 and childcare will be available in the Nursery. Due to the sensitive nature of the discussion, it is not recommended for children under the age of 12. Sign up with this QR code or at the event ad on Bethany News by **Feb 26** to secure your seat! For more information contact Debra at debra@bethany-denver.org.
- ♦ **Winter Food Bank Collection Drive:** Continues through mid-April. Please bring boxes of cereal to church and put them on the table in the Fellowship Hall. This effort supports the Integrated Family Community Services (IFCS) food bank, located at 3370 S. Irving St, Englewood. Thank you for your gracious hands-on support of this Bethany ministry. For questions contact Ed Blum at 303-506-4782.
- ♦ **Senior Ministries** What are you doing on Tuesday mornings? Are you looking for something new to do and/or the opportunity to meet new people? XYZ ministries meets every Tuesday morning in the Fellowship Hall. The group starts to gather around 10 a.m. for games, puzzles and conversation followed by a chapel service at 11:30 a.m. A chef prepared lunch is ready at 12. At least once per month, there is a special program. Here's what's coming up in the next couple of weeks: February 3: Games, puzzles, etc. with a chapel service; Taco Bar for lunch February 10: The HIP Replacements band will be performing for us. It will be such a treat to have them perform for us! I hope you will be able to join us. Please contact Janet Mortinsen if you would like to be on the email list or if you have questions.



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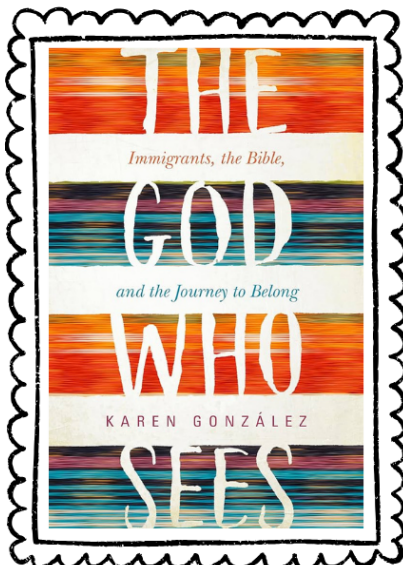
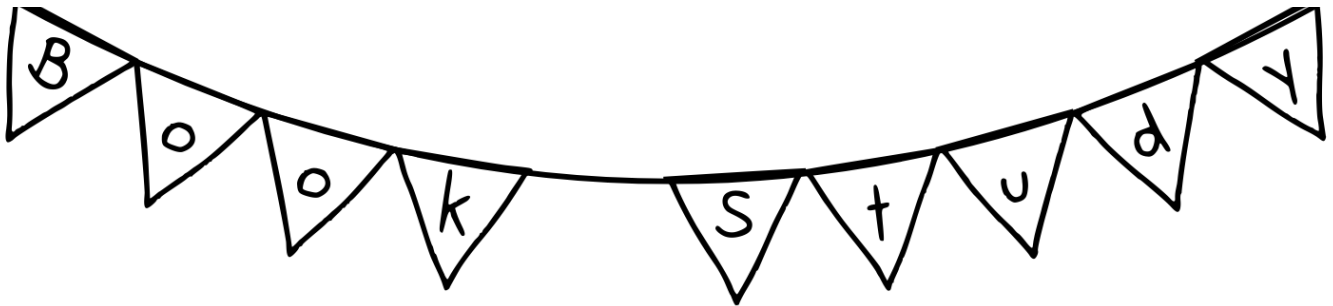
LUTHERAN CHURCH

bethany-denver.org

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Bethany's Social Justice Ministry invites you to participate in an engaging Book Study on **Sunday, February 22nd from 11:20am -12:30pm** in Room 210. The book we'll be discussing is, "The God who Sees – Immigrants, the Bible and the Journey to Belong" by immigration advocate, Karen Gonzalez. In the book Karen recounts her family's migration from Guatemala to the US. Along her journey she encounters Jesus and begins to follow him.

Copies of the book will be available at the Mission Center for a suggested donation of \$15.

For more information please contact Debra at debra@bethany-denver.org.



Cocina Libre

Let's travel on a culinary journey together!



You are invited to enjoy an international meal, prepared by local, immigrant chefs on **Sunday, March 8th from 11:30am-1:00pm** in Bethany's Fellowship Hall.

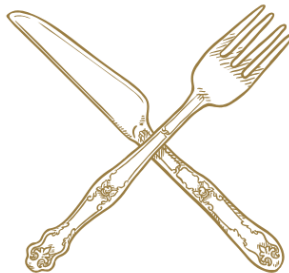
Join Bethany Lutheran Church and the Cocina Libre team, led by DU Associate Professor of Psychology, Dr. Julia Roncoroni.

View a documentary highlighting a few of their stories.

Together we will...



Sign up here by February 26th!



Participate in guided discussions as we share stories of Identity, Belonging, and Purpose.

The cost of the meal is \$25 and childcare will be available.

We hope you'll join in this nourishing experience for your body, mind and spirit!
For more information please contact Deacon Debra at debra@bethany-denver.org



Intention to Give

2026

Completing the Intention to Give form helps our leadership plan for next year's budget and ministry.

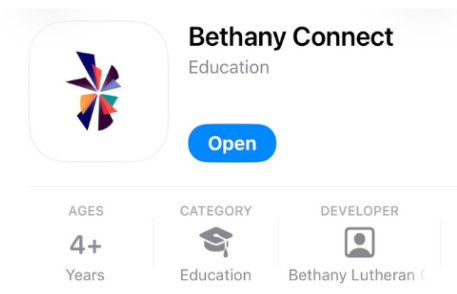
There are many ways to access this form:



Tap the NFC card in the back of the pew and click the first link on the webpage



Click the "give" button on our website, and then click the 2026 Intention to Give link



Open the Bethany Connect Mobile App and click the top link



or just stop by the Mission Center for a physical copy of the Intention to Give Form

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 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 staffed Nursery, please speak with an usher.