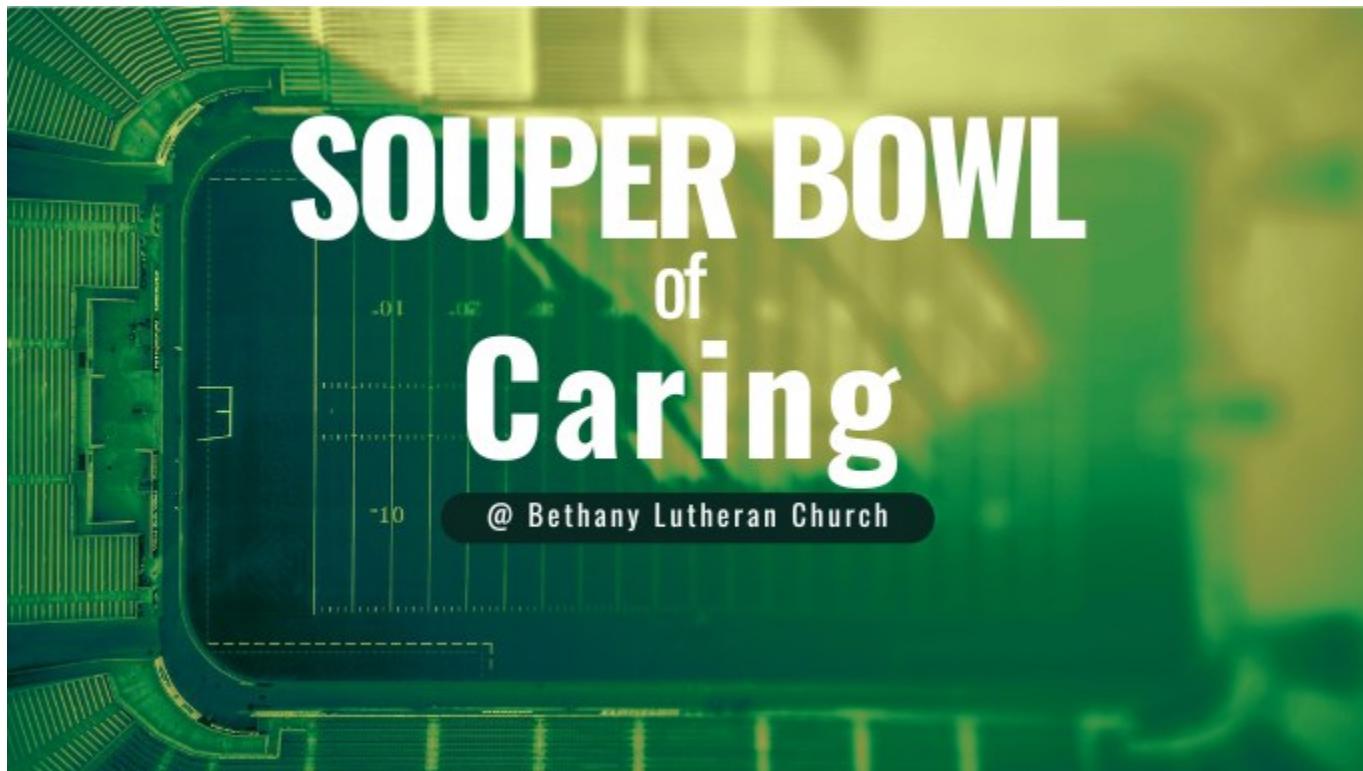


BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

TACKLE HUNGER

8:30AM TRADITIONAL SERVICE
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.



EST. 1974



DONATE NOW!



world hunger

❖ GATHERING ❖

PRELUDE

Partita on Ebenezer

John A. Behnke

Dave Ellison, Guest Organist

WELCOME

Pastor Gary Sandberg

CONFSSION 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.**

GATHERING HYMN

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

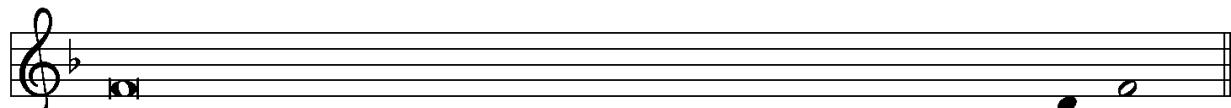
Pastor Nate Preisinger

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.

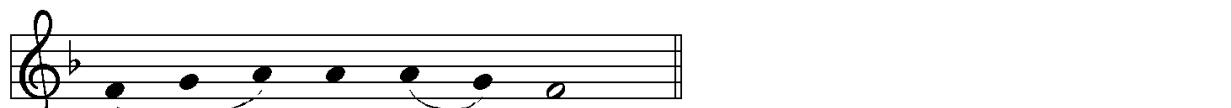
KYRIE



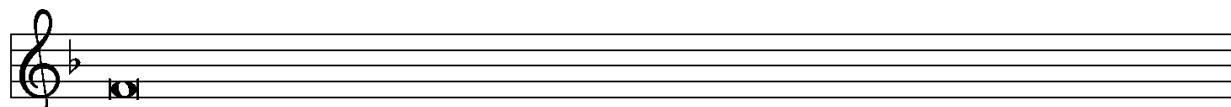
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



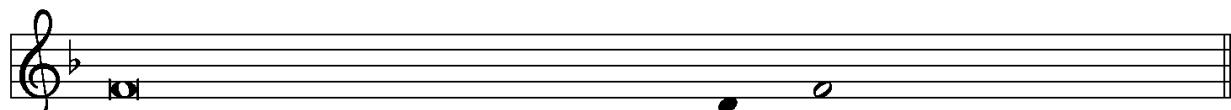
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



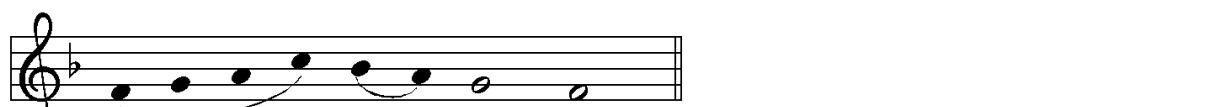
Lord, have mer - cy.



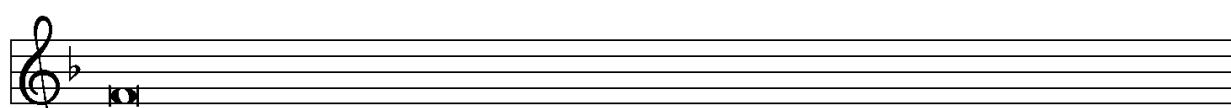
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



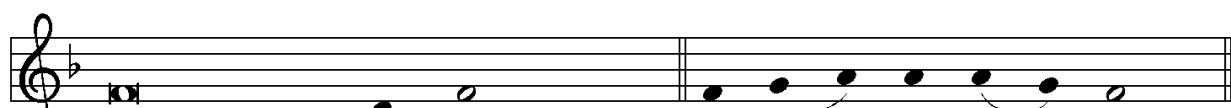
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



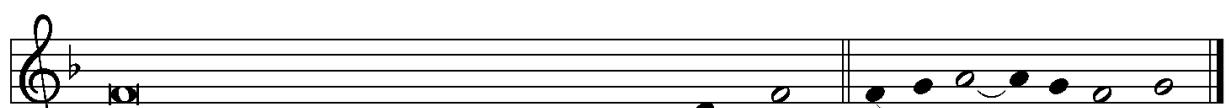
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

Assisting minister

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

All

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,

we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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. **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 58:6-12

Marie Friedemann

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.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

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.**

SERMON

Deacon Debra Alba

HYMN OF THE DAY**I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light**

ELW #815



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
2 I want to see . . . the brightness of God. I want to
3 I'm looking for . . . the coming 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.

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

Deacon Debra Alba

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

- ♦ Lenten Mentoring for Confirmation Students
- ♦ Souper Bowl of Caring: TODAY
- ♦ Two Social Justice Committee Events
- ♦ 2026 Intention of Giving (Pledge)

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), and wait for the notification to appear

OFFERING MUSIC

Chancel Choir, dir. Kirk Schjodt

I'm Gonna Sing 'Til the Spirit Moves in My Heart

Moses Hogan

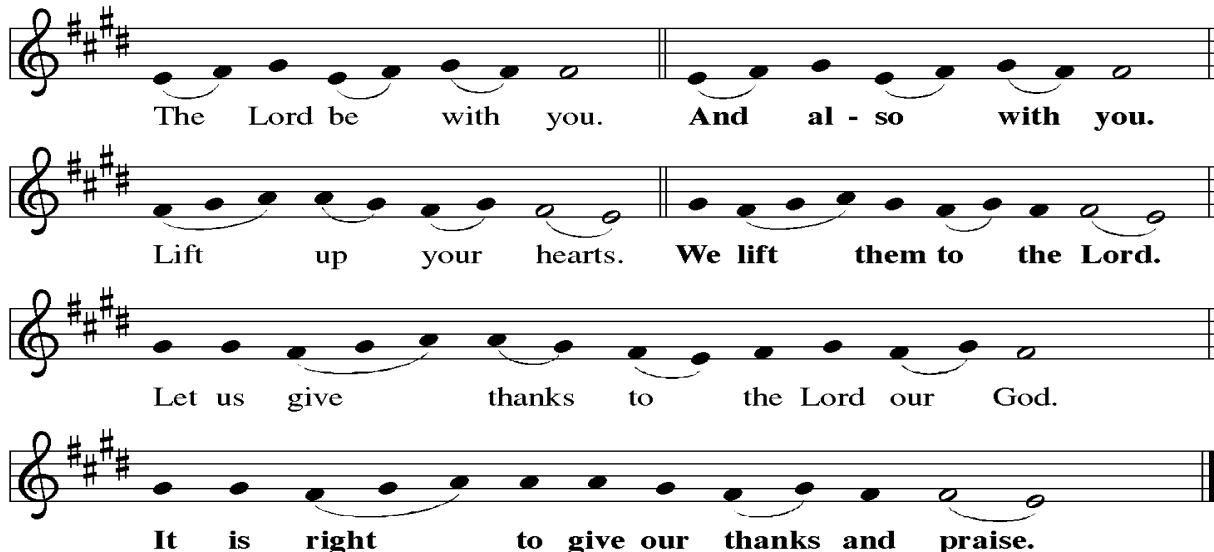
*I'm gonna sing 'til the spirit moves in my heart. I'm gonna sing 'til Jesus comes.
It was grace that brought me. It was grace that taught me.
It was grace that kept me. And it's grace that will lead me home.
Can't you feel the spirit movin'.
I'm gonna shout 'til the spirit moves in my heart. I'm gonna shout 'til Jesus comes.*

❖ Meal ❖

WELCOME TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Pastor Gary Sandberg

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION



The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...
...we praise your name and join in their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

BLESSING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

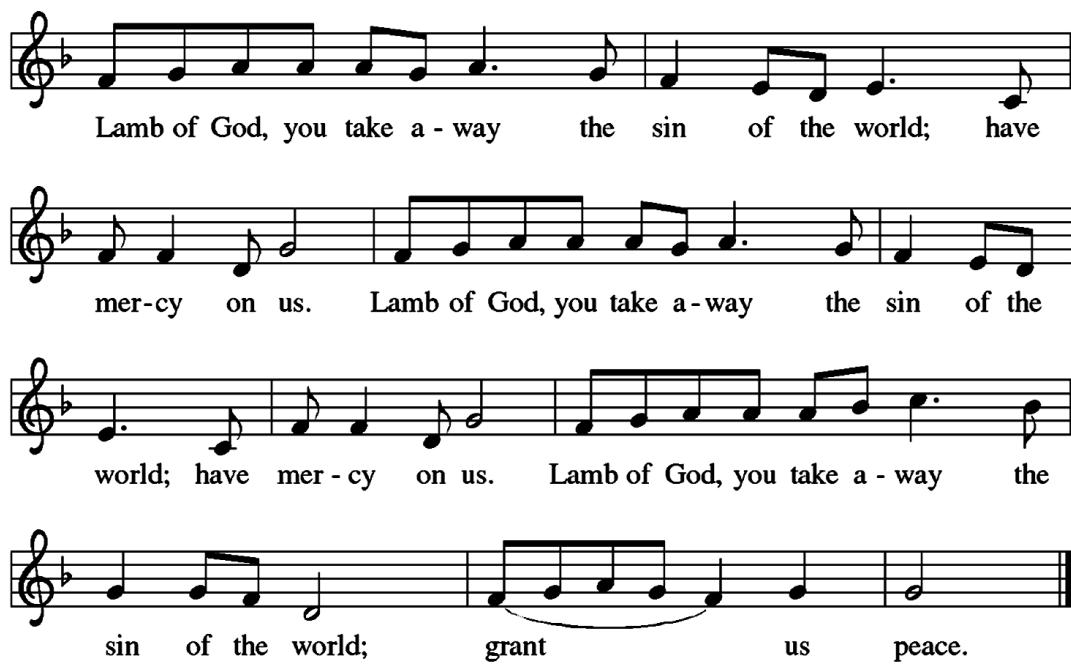
THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 DISTRIBUTION

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.

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Chancel Choir, Dir. Kirk Schjodt

*Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.
Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.
Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.
Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.
Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.
Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.
Exsultemus et in ipso jucundemur.
Timeamus et amemus Deum vivum.
Timeamus et amemus Deum vivum.
Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero.
Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero.
Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero.*

Ubi Caritas

Ola Gjeilo

*Where charity and love are, God is there.
Where charity and love are, God is there.
Where charity and love are, God is there.
The love of Christ has gathered us together.
The love of Christ has gathered us together.
The love of Christ has gathered us together.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Let us revere and love the living God.
Let us revere and love the living God.
And from a sincere heart let us love one another.
And from a sincere heart let us love one another.
And from a sincere heart let us love one another.*

COMMUNION HYMN**Let Justice Flow Like Streams**

ELW #717

1 Let jus - tice flow like streams of spar - kling 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**✖ Sending ✎****BENEDICTION***Deacon Debra Alba*

SENDING HYMN**Thy Strong Word***You are invited to face the cross as it recesses to the center.*

ELW #511

Text: Martin H. Franzmann, 1907–1976
 Music: EBENEZER, Thomas J. Williams, 1869–1944
 Text © 1969 Concordia Publishing House

DISMISSAL*Deacon Debra Alba*

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:** 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!
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **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 Deacon 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 Deacon 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 10:00am for games, puzzles and conversation followed by a chapel service at 11:30am. A chef prepared lunch is ready at 12:00pm. At least once per month, there is a special program. Here's what's coming up in the next week: **Feb 10** - The HIP Replacements band will be performing for us. Contact Janet Mortinsen if you would like to be on the email list or if you have questions.





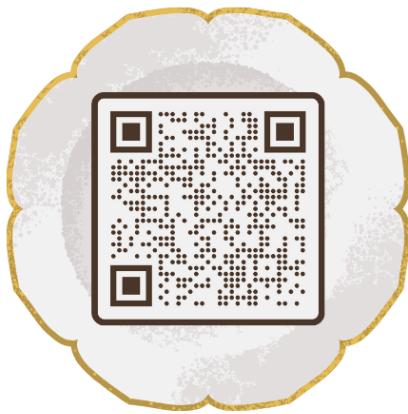
Cocina Libre

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.



Sign up here by February 26th!



Together we will...



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

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.