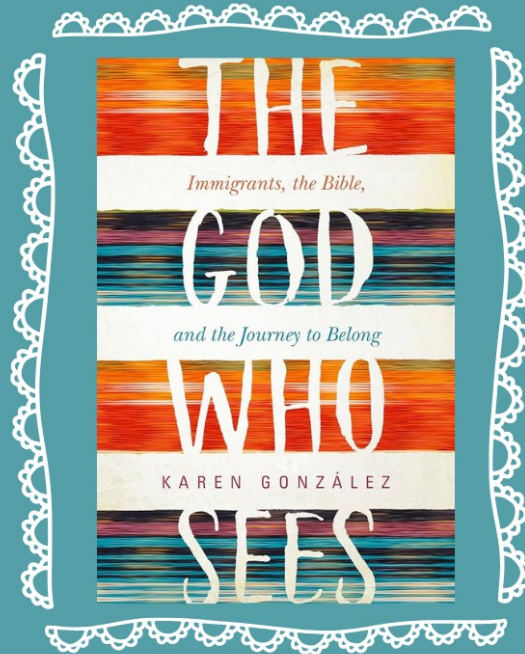
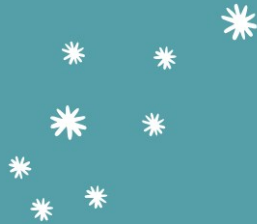
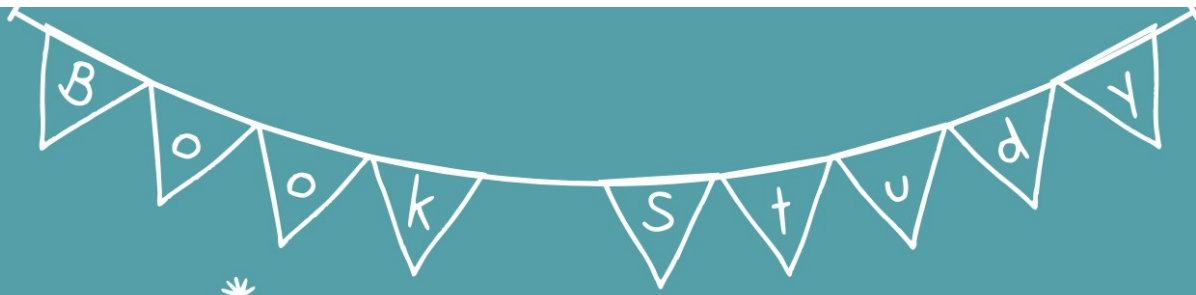


BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



First Sunday in Lent
Restored from Temptation
10:00am February 22, 2026



Bethany's Social Justice Ministry invites you
to an engaging. . .

Book Study

Sunday, February 22nd

11:20am -12:30pm

Room 210

We'll be discussing, "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 Deacon Debra at debra@bethany-denver.org.

+ WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS +

Gathering Music

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

Johann Gottfried Walter

Welcome to Worship

Deacon Debra Alba

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



Song of Praise

Out in the Wilderness

W&P 115



1 Driv - en by the Spir - it out in the wil - der - ness;
driv - en by the Spir - it out in the wil - der - ness;
when the Spir - it says, "Go," you can't say, "No."
You lis - ten for the voice when you're bend - ed low;
driv - en by the Spir - it out in the wil - der - ness.

Text: Jay Beech

Music: OUT IN THE WILDERNESS, Jay Beech

Text and music © 1999 Jay Beech

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

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

ELW 325

You are invited to face the cross as it enters.

1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;
2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

I want Je - sus to walk with me;
in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
when my heart is al - most break - ing,
when my head is bowed in sor - row,

Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: SOJOURNER, African American spiritual

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

Lord God,

our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Children's Sermon

Deacon Debra Alba

Children's Worship

Deacon Debra Alba



2 Tempt-ed bȳ the dēv - il out in the wil - der - ness;
 tempt - ed bȳ the dēv - il out in the wil - der - ness;
 though you try to be strong, it's been so long.
 He whis - pers in your ear and you know he's wrong;
 tempt - ed by the dev - il out in the wil - der - ness.

Text: Jay Beech

Music: OUT IN THE WILDERNESS, Jay Beech

Text and music © 1999 Jay Beech

+ WE ENCOUNTER GOD'S WORD +

Today's Sermon is based on readings from:

Romans 5:12-19

Wesley Pomeroy

¹² Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned ¹³ for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴ Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come.

¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. ¹⁶ And the gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification. ¹⁷ If, because of the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

¹⁸ Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. ¹⁹ For just as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so through the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

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

Matthew 4:1-11

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

¹ Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. ² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” ⁴ But he answered, “It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,’
and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ ”

⁷ Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, ⁹ and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰

Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.’ ”

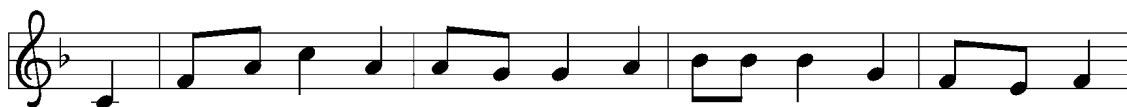
¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

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

Sermon

Pastor Gary Sandberg

Sermon Notes



1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je-sus' blood and righ-teous-ness;
 2 When dark-ness veils his love-ly face, I rest on his un - chang-ing grace;
 3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus - tain me in the rag - ing flood;
 4 When he shall come with trum-pet sound, oh, may I then in him be found,



no mer-it of my own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 in ev-'ry high and storm - y gale my an - chor holds with-in the veil.
 when all sup-ports are washed a-way, he then is all my hope and stay.
 clothed in his righ-teous-ness a-lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

Refrain



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is



sink - ing sand, all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Text: Edward Mote, 1797–1874, alt.

Music: THE SOLID ROCK, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

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.

+ WE WORSHIP GOD WITH OUR OFFERINGS +

Abundantly Bethany

Pastor Nate Preisinger

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

- ♦ **Lent: Labyrinth and Service of Lament**
- ♦ **Two Social Justice Committee Events**
- ♦ **Bethany Retreat: May 1-3**

YTD Financial Update (July – January)

Budgeted Income	Budgeted Expenses
\$1,056,795	\$1,257,726
Actual Income	Actual Expenses
\$1,151,289	\$1,271,825

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

Still My Soul Be Still

Keith & Kristyn Getty, Stuart Townend

Sounds of Praise, dir. Paula Wills

*Still, my soul, be still, and do not fear though winds of change may rage tomorrow.
God is at your side; no longer dread the fires of unexpected sorrow.
God, You are my God, and I will trust in You and not be shaken.
Lord of peace, renew a steadfast spirit within me to rest in You alone.
Still, my soul, be still, do not be moved by lesser lights and fleeting shadows.
Hold on to His ways, with shield of faith against temptation's flaming arrows.
Still, my soul, be still, do not forsake the truth you learned in the beginning.
Wait upon the Lord, and hope will rise as stars appear when day is dimming.
God, You are my God, and I will trust in You and not be shaken.
Lord of peace, renew a steadfast spirit within me to rest in You alone.
To rest in You alone.*

Children Return to the Sanctuary

+ THE COMMUNITY MEAL +

Invitation to The Communion Table

Pastor Nate Preisinger

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.**

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

Abide

Aaron Keyes, Aaron Williams, & Jake Faube

Sounds of Praise, dir. Paula Wills

For my waking breath, for my daily bread, I depend on You, I depend on You.

For the sun to rise, for my sleep at night, I depend on You, I depend on You.

You're the way, the truth and the life, you're the well that never runs dry.

I'm the branch and You are the vine. Draw me close and teach me to abide.

Where the Spirit leads, as I'm following, I depend on You, I depend on You.

For the victories still in front of me, I depend on You, I depend on You.

When I pass through death, as I enter rest, I depend on You, I depend on You.

For eternal life, to be raised with Christ, I depend on You, I depend on You.

Communion Song

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

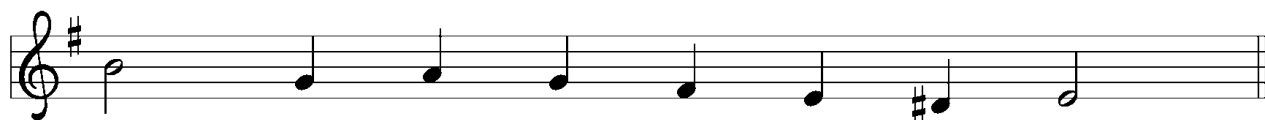
ELW 517



1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your word; curb those who
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and



by de - ceit or sword would wrest the king - dom from your Son
Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your ho - ly church, that we
u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal strife



and bring to naught all he has done.
may sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
and lead us out of death to life.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

Table Blessing

+ GOD SENDS US TO SERVE +

Benediction

Pastor Gary Sandberg

Song of Sending

Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow

ELW 327

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

1 Through the night of doubt and sor - row, on - ward
2 One the light of God's own pres - ence on the

goes the pil - grim band, sing - ing songs of ex - pec -
ran - somed peo - ple shed, chas - ing far the gloom and

ta - tion, march - ing to the prom - ised land. Clear be -
ter - ror, bright - 'ning all the path we tread. One the

fore us through the dark - ness gleams and burns the
ob - ject of our jour - ney, one the faith which

guid - ing light; pil - grim clasps the hand of
nev - er tires, one the ear - nest look - ing

pil - grim step - ping fear - less through the night.
for - ward, one the hope our God in - spires.

Text: Bernhardt S. Ingemann, 1789–1862; tr. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924, alt.
Music: EBENEZER, Thomas J. Williams, 1869–1944

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

The God of Abraham Praise

Michael Burkhardt

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

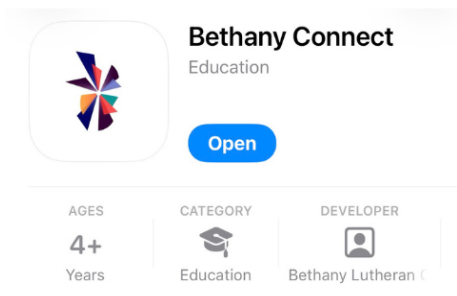
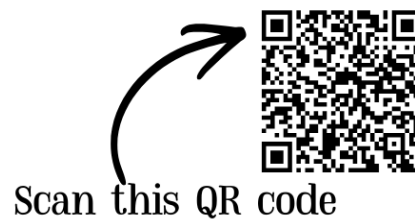
There are many ways to access this form:



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

Lent at Bethany: Reconciled & Restored

Finding healing, hope, and rest in God.

Prayer Labyrinth

Throughout Lent, our indoor Prayer Labyrinth (in room 412) will be open for personal reflection. Walk slowly, breathe deeply, and use this quiet time to pray, think, or simply rest. (Dates and times are printed at bethany-denver.org/lent)

Lenten Bible Study

Wednesdays in Lent • 6:00–7:00 p.m.
A relaxed, open conversation around Scripture and real life. No homework, no prior Bible experience needed—just come as you are.
Drop in any week during Lent.

Services of Lament

This Lent, we're creating space to bring our heavy hearts before God. You're invited to two Services of Lament and Prayer for Our Nation and World on **February 22 and March 22, from 11:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.** in the Chapel. These simple, quiet services will offer scripture, silence, and guided prayer as we lift up the pain of the world and the burdens we're carrying personally.

Holy Week

Mark your calendar for our upcoming Holy Week services and events.



3/29	8:30 AM, 10 AM	Palm Sunday
4/2	7 PM	Maundy Thursday
4/3	12 PM, 7 PM	Good Friday
4/4	4:15 PM	Easter Egg Hunt
4/4	5 PM	Early Easter Service
4/5	8 AM, 9:30 AM, 11 AM	Easter Worship

All are welcome.

Come with questions, with faith, or with none at all. There is space for you here.

www.bethany-denver.org

Things To Know About - News & Events

- ♦ **All Lent Long - Walk the Labyrinth:** As part of your Lenten Spiritual Practice, you are invited to walk the labyrinth downstairs in the Big Room - 412. Hours are posted at www.bethany-denver.org/Lent. Note that the start time is when the doors will be opened and the end time is when the doors will be locked. Please check in and out at the log at the top of the steps. If the SE doors are locked, enter the building through the office door. Call the office (303-758-2820) with any questions.
- ♦ **Service of Lament: TODAY, 11:30am-12:00pm, Chapel.** A space has been created to bring our heavy hearts before God. You're invited to a Service of Lament and Prayer for Our Nation and World today and Mar 22. These simple, quiet services will offer scripture, silence, and guided prayer as we lift up the pain of the world and the burdens we're carrying personally.
- ♦ **Bethany's Social Justice Ministry:** You are invited to participate in a Book Study Sunday, **TODAY, 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.
- ♦ **Outreach: Wednesday, Feb 25, 8:00am-9:00am.** A Public Witness for Immigrant Justice. Join ecumenical and interfaith leaders and communities ONLINE in Washington, DC, for a public witness grounded in worship, moral courage, and solidarity with our neighbors. It will be an opportunity to discern how our community at Bethany is being called to faithful action in this moment. Register for the livestream: <https://forms.office.com/r/gFZ8rQ8cum>
- ♦ **Centering Prayer:** The Thursday evening group meets on Zoom from 6:00pm-7:00pm. Starts in silent prayer for twenty minutes and then a discussion of a book that has been chosen to read together. On **Feb 26**, the new book is *Speaking Christian: Why Christian Words Have Lost Their Power and How They Can Be Restored* by Marcus Borgand. The community is invited to join in! For more information, contact Karen Witt at 303 912-0845 or Jean Scott at 303 519-7061.
- ♦ **Habitat for Humanity Metro Denver/Holy Hammers Volunteers Needed:** Saturday, **Feb 28, 8:30am-3:30pm**, Production Shop, 430 S Navajo St, Denver; Saturday, Mar 21, 10:00am-2:00pm, Arvada ReStore, 5045 N Robb St, Wheat Ridge. Register to volunteer at <https://vhub.at/HolyHammers>. Contact Kevin Dempsey for questions at kmdmpsy@aol.com.
- ♦ **Winter Food Bank Collection Drive:** The food item for collection through February will be boxes of cereal but Sunday, **Mar 1-Apr 12** it will change to canned tuna or chicken. Please place your items in the crates on the table in the Fellowship Hall. If you'd prefer to make a cash donation, these can be made by using the GIVE button on Bethany's website and choosing Integrated Family Community Services in the drop down menu.
- ♦ **Middle School event - Sunday Night Live: Mar 1, 5:00-7:00pm** at Bethany. Special guest - Addison Andrix! 6th-8th graders are invited. There will be pizza, snacks, bounce houses, pickleball, Video Games and more! Come for a great evening of fun and fellowship and the chance to meet Addison, our new Youth Director! Cost: \$5
- ♦ **Family Promise volunteers needed: Week of Mar 1** at Christ the Savior Lutheran Church in Aurora. The purpose of Family Promise is to hold families together in times of need. A group from Bethany will be preparing dinner the night of Mar 3. Volunteers are also needed for driving the van to transport, serving as overnight hosts, and moving beds at the end of the stay. If you would like to volunteer or have any questions, call Jean Scott at 303 519-7061.
- ♦ **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. Not recommended for children under the age of 12. Sign up with this QR code or at the event ad on Bethany News **by Mar 3** to secure your seat!
- ♦ **Save the Date!** All-ages Bethany Retreat will be held at Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp, **May 1-3**, and everyone is invited!
- ♦ **Day Camp registration: June 22-26.** Children (Pre School through 5th grade) and Helpers (6th grade - adult) are invited to join in the fun! Cost is \$90 for Pre School age children and \$120 for elementary children. Register <https://subsplash.com/bethany-denver/lb/ev/+wb3sbhv>.





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

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.