

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

First Sunday in Lent - Temptation



Traditional Worship Service

February 22, 2026

8:30am



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.

✠ GATHERING ✠

PRELUDE

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

Johann Gottfried Walter

WELCOME

Pastor Nate Preisinger

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.

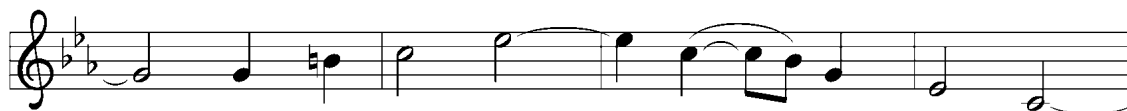
In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the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



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

Pastor Gary Sandberg

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.



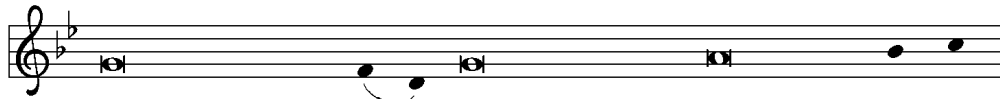
Lord, have mer - cy.



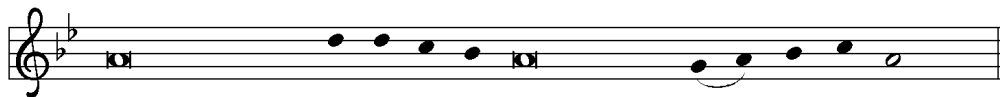
For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



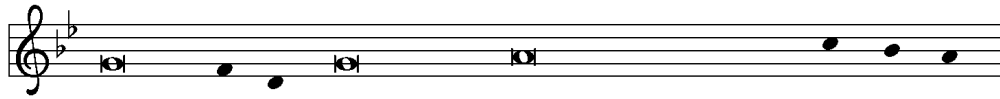
For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of



God, and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



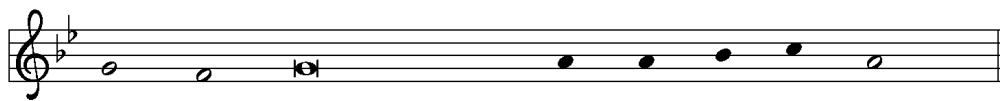
For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and



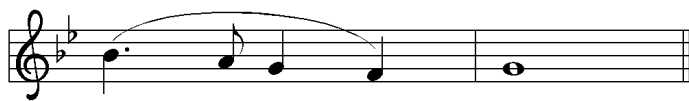
praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

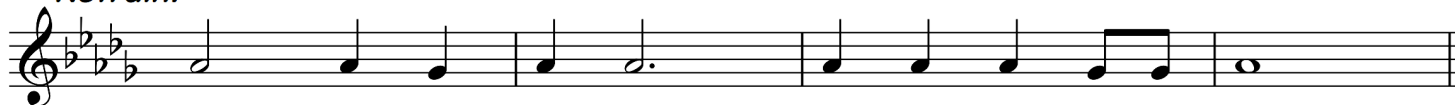


Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

Refrain:



Mer - cy em - bra - ces those who trust in the Lord.

¹ Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

² Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

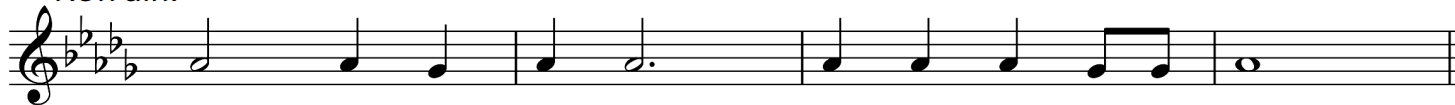
³ While I kept silent, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.

⁴ For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

⁶ Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you;
at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.

Refrain:



Mer - cy em - bra - ces those who trust in the Lord.

⁷ You are a hiding place for me;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

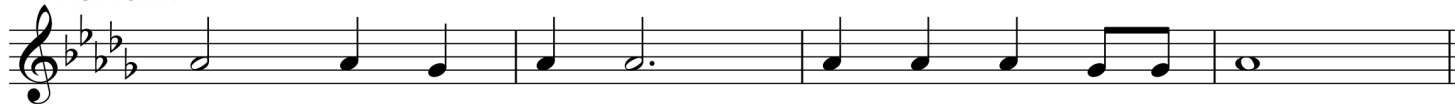
⁸ I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

⁹ Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding,
whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle,
else it will not stay near you.

¹⁰ Many are the torments of the wicked,
but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD.

¹¹ Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

Refrain:



Mer - cy em - bra - ces those who trust in the Lord.

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, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

FIRST LESSON

Romans 5:12-19

Annell Weissenbuehler

Through Adam's disobedience, humanity came under bondage to sin and death, from which we cannot free ourselves. In Christ's obedient death, God graciously showers on us the free gift of liberation and life.

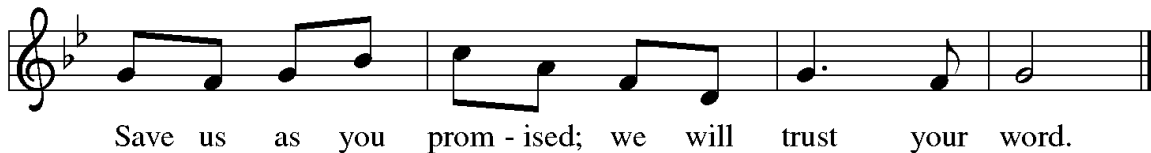
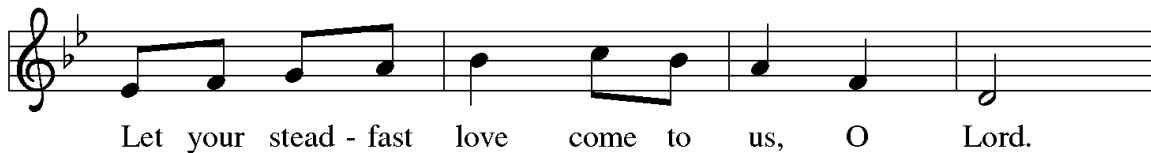
¹² Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned ¹³ for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴ Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus experiences anew the temptations that Israel faced in the wilderness. As the Son of God, he endures the testing of the evil one.

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.**

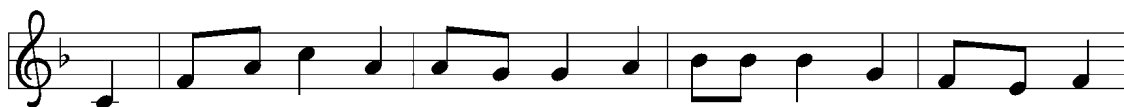
SERMON

Pastor Gary Sandberg

HYMN OF THE DAY

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

ELW #596



1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je-sus' blood and righ-teous-ness;
2 Whendark-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

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

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), and wait for the notification to appear



OFFERING MUSIC

Shut De Do

Rancy Stonehill

Chancel Choir, dir. Kirk Schjodt

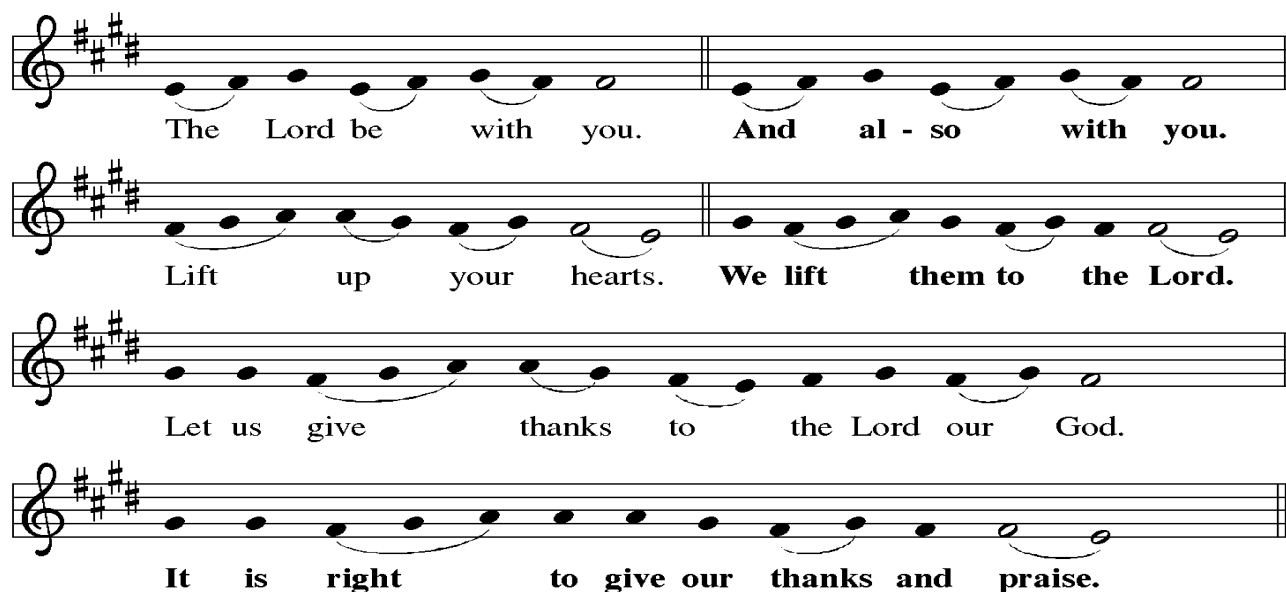
*"Shut de do," keep out the devil. "Shut de do," keep the devil in the night.
"Shut de do," keep out the devil. Light the candle, everything's alright.
Every little thing is gonna be all right. Don't worry, no, don't you worry now.*

✠ Meal ✠

WELCOME TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Pastor Nate Preisinger

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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 - er and

might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est, 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, 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, grant us peace.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Christ Atoned for Our Transgressions

Johann Ernst Eberlin

Chancel Choir, dir. Kirk Schjodt

*Christ atoned for our transgressions, to save mankind. With bitter anguish on the cross he suffered.
For this love the Father over all has raised him. His name shall be exalted, above all names praised forever.*

COMMUNION HYMN

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

✠ Sending ✠

BENEDICTION*Pastor Gary Sandberg*

SENDING HYMN**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**

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>.
- ♦ **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. 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.

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.