

# BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



# DAY OF PENTECOST

9:00AM MAY 24, 2026

RAINBOW TRAIL LUTHERAN CAMP



# Day Camp at Bethany!

**June 22-26**

**Registration is now OPEN!**

**Pre School: 9am-12pm - \$90**

**Elementary: 9am-2pm - \$120**

**Helpers (6th grade - adult) are invited to join in the fun!**

**Scholarships are available!**

Registration fee includes a camp t-shirt.

If you have any questions, please contact Deacon Debra at [debra@bethany-denver.org](mailto:debra@bethany-denver.org)



**Reserve your spots now!**



# + WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS +

Prelude

Festive Intrada

Paul Fey

Welcome to Worship

Pastor Nate Preisinger

Song of Praise

Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading

ELW 401



1 Gra - cious Spir - it, heed our plead - ing, fash - ion us all a - new.



It's your lead - ing that we're need - ing, help us to fol - low you.

*Refrain*



Come, come, come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.



Come, come, come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.

Text: Wilson Niwagila; tr. Howard S. Olson, b. 1922

Music: NIOOKWEIU, ROHO MWEMA, Wilson Niwagila

English and Swahili text and music © Lutheran Theological College, Makumira, Tanzania, admin. Augsburg Fortress

## A Time of Confession

Holy and gracious God,

**We confess that we have fallen short - in our thoughts, in our words, and in our actions.**

**We have done things we should not have done, and we have left good things undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not fully loved our neighbors.**

**We have often taken your gifts for granted. In your mercy, forgive us.**

**Turn us toward what is good and right, and lead us in the way of Jesus. Amen.**

## God's Gift of Forgiveness

Dear friends, God does not desire shame or punishment for us. God longs for us to turn away from that which does not give life and truly live. So hear this good news: In Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven - completely and forever - in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

## Opening Song

## O Day Full of Grace

ELW 627

You are invited to face the cross as it enters.



1 O day full of grace that now we see ap - pear - ing on  
2 O day full of grace, O bless - ed time, our Lord on the  
3 For Christ bore our sins, and not his own, when he on the  
4 God came to us then at Pen - te - cost, the Spir - it new



earth's ho - ri - zon, bring light from our God that we may  
earth ar - riv - ing; then came to the world that light sub -  
cross was hang - ing; and then he a - rose and moved the  
life re - veal - ing, that we might no more in death be



be a - bun - dant in joy this sea - son. God, shine for us  
lime, great joy for us all re - triev - ing; for Je - sus all  
stone, that we, un - to him be - long - ing, might join with an -  
lost, its pow'r o - ver us dis - pel - ling. This flame will the



now in this dark place; your name on our hearts em - bla - zon.  
mor - tals did em - brace, all shame and des - pair re - mov - ing.  
gel - ic hosts to raise our voic - es in end - less sing - ing.  
mark of sin ef - face and bring to us all true heal - ing.

Text: Scandinavian folk hymn; tr. Gerald Thorson, 1921–2001, alt.  
Music: DEN SIGNEDE DAG, Christoph E. F. Weyse, 1774–1842  
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

## Greeting

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

O God,

on this day you open the hearts of your faithful people by sending into us your Holy Spirit. Direct us by the light of that Spirit, that we may have a right judgment in all things and rejoice at all times in your peace, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord. Amen

## Children's Sermon

Deacon Debra Alba

## Children's Worship

Kate Souther, Addison Andrix

## We Prepare to Hear God's Word

Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading

ELW 401



2 Come to teach us, come to nourish those who believe in Christ.



Bless the faithful, may they flourish, strengthened by grace unpriced.

*Refrain*



Come, come, come, Holy Spirit, come.



Come, come, come, Holy Spirit, come.

Text: Wilson Niwagila; tr. Howard S. Olson, b. 1922

Music: NJOOKWETU, ROHO MWEMA, Wilson Niwagila

English and Swahili text and music © Lutheran Theological College, Makumira, Tanzania, admin. Augsburg Fortress

## + WE ENCOUNTER GOD'S WORD +

Today's Sermon is based on readings from:

**Acts 2:1-21**

*Jean Scott*

<sup>1</sup> When the day of Pentecost had come, the apostles were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup> And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. <sup>4</sup> All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

<sup>5</sup> Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup> And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. <sup>7</sup> Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" <sup>8</sup> And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? <sup>9</sup> Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup> Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, <sup>11</sup> Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." <sup>12</sup> All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" <sup>13</sup> But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

<sup>14</sup> But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. <sup>15</sup> Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. <sup>16</sup> No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

<sup>17</sup> 'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. <sup>18</sup> Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. <sup>19</sup> And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. <sup>20</sup> The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. <sup>21</sup> Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.' "

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

**John 20:19-23**

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

<sup>19</sup> When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup> When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

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

**Sermon**

*Deacon Debra Alba*

**Sermon Notes**



1 Ho - ly Spir - it, truth di - vine, dawn up - on this soul of mine;  
 2 Ho - ly Spir - it, love di - vine, glow with - in this heart of mine;  
 3 Ho - ly Spir - it, pow'r di - vine, for - ti - fy this will of mine;  
 4 Ho - ly Spir - it, peace di - vine, still this rest - less heart of mine;  
 5 Ho - ly Spir - it, right di - vine, king with - in my con - science reign;



breath of God and in - ward light, wake my spir - it, clear my sight.  
 kin - dle ev - 'ry high de - sire; purge me with your ho - ly fire.  
 by your will I strong - ly live, brave - ly bear, and no - bly strive.  
 speak to calm this toss - ing sea, stayed in your tran - quil - i - ty.  
 be my guide, and I shall be firm - ly bound, for - ev - er free.

Text: Samuel Longfellow, 1819–1892  
 Music: SONG 13, Orlando Gibbons, 1583–1625

**A Statement of Our Faith** (*Apostles' Creed*)

*Deacon Debra Alba*

**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**

*Pastor Nate Preisinger*

To fill out your digital connection card, go to [www.tinyurl.com/BethanyConnect](http://www.tinyurl.com/BethanyConnect).

- ◆ **Town Hall & Annual Meeting**
- ◆ **United in Faith campaign:** still receiving your intention cards
- ◆ **Vacation Bible School/Day Camp:** June 22-26, Register Now!

## YTD Financial Update (July – April)

March receipts exceeded budget by \$65k. Our YTD income results reflect a positive variance compared to an anticipated shortfall of \$168k as reflected in the table below.

	YTD Actuals	YTD Budget	Variance
Receipts	\$1,787,147	\$1,619,945	\$167,202
Expenses	\$1,778,849	\$1,788,461	(\$9,612)
Income/(Loss)	\$25,174	(\$168,516)	\$193,690

## + WE WORSHIP GOD WITH OUR OFFERINGS +

### 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 as they are passed



### Offering Music

Praise His Holy Name!

Keith Hampton

Chancel Choir, dir. Kirk Schjodt

*Sing till the power of the Lord come down. Shout Hallelujah! Praise his holy name!  
Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me;  
I once was lost, but now I'm found, was blind, but now I see.  
Jesus, Jesus, how I love thee! Shout Hallelujah! Praise his holy name!  
Must Jesus bear the cross alone and all the world go free?  
No, there's a cross for everyone and there's a cross for me.*

### 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 God 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

Bethany welcomes all to receive the body and blood of Christ in Holy Communion. An usher will direct you forward where you can receive communion by dipping the bread into the wine, or pick up a pre-packaged communion set or a gluten-free communion set from the tray in front of your seating area. Groups are welcome to visit a communion station together. Those who are not receiving communion are invited to cross their arms across their chests to receive a blessing.

## Communion Distribution

### Communion Music

The Lord Bless You and Keep You

Peter C. Lutkin

Chancel Choir, dir. Kirk Schjodt

*The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord lift his countenance upon you, and give you peace.*

*The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you. Amen.*

## Communion Song

Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song

ELW 403



1 Like the mur - mur of the dove's song, like the chal - lenge of her  
2 To the mem - bers of Christ's bod - y, to the branch - es of the  
3 With the heal - ing of di - vi - sion, with the cease - less voice of



flight, like the vig - or of the wind's rush, like the  
vine, to the church in faith as - sem - bled, to our  
prayer, with the pow'r to love and wit - ness, with the



new flame's ea - ger might: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.  
midst as gift and sign: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.  
peace be - yond com - pare: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: BRIDEGROOM, Peter Cutts, b. 1937

Text © 1982 Hope Publishing Company.

Music © 1969 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## Table Blessing

# + GOD SENDS US TO SERVE +

## Sending Invitation and Blessing

Deacon Debra Alba

### Song of Sending

Now Thank We All Our God

ELW 840

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



1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,  
2 Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,  
3 All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,



who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;  
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,  
the Son, and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven,



who, from our mothers' arms, has blest us on our way  
and keep us all in grace, and guide us when perplexed,  
the one eternal God, whom earth and heav'n adore;



with countless gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.  
and free us from all harm in this world and the next.  
for thus it was, is now, and shall be ever more.

Text: Martin Rinkhart, 1586–1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878  
Music: NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

## 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

A Festive Trumpet Tune

Gilbert M. Martin

## Things To Know About News & Events

- ◆ **Summer Office Hours:** Bethany's office will be open during the Summer Monday - Wednesday, 9:00am-4:00pm and Thursday - Friday 9:00am-3:00pm.
- ◆ **Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp Work Weekend:** Bethany's annual work weekend is **May 29-31**. Spend a beautiful weekend in the mountains preparing the camp for the summer season. This is a great weekend for families since many projects such as landscaping and painting are kid friendly. Lodging and delicious food provided. Bring sleeping gear for cabins and be ready to have lots of fun! Register on the Bethany Connect app or Bethany News on the website. Please contact Susan Pfabe-Wiggans at [susanpw4@gmail.com](mailto:susanpw4@gmail.com) for more information.
- ◆ **Habitat for Humanity Metro Denver/Holy Hammers Volunteers Needed: Saturday, May 30, 8:50am-4:30pm, Griffith Station Homes, 8407 W 52nd Ave, Arvada, Saturday, Jun 20, 7:50 am – 3:30 pm | Griffith Station Homes, New Construction Site | 8407 W 52nd Ave, Arvada.** Register to volunteer at <https://vhub.at/HolyHammers>. Contact Kevin Dempsey for questions at [kmdmpsy@aol.com](mailto:kmdmpsy@aol.com).
- ◆ **Town Hall & Annual Meeting:** The meeting of Bethany Lutheran Church & the Bethany Foundation is scheduled for 10:00am on **Sunday, Jun 7** in the Sanctuary. The items for voting will include the adopting of a budget for fiscal year 2026-2027 and the election of new Council members, Foundation members, and other elected positions. Members of the Council are holding a Town Hall meeting on **Sunday, May 31** at 10:20am in Room 312 so that more extensive conversation can be held around these issues before the meeting.
- ◆ **Summer Food Drive:** Starting **Sunday, May 31** through Sunday, Sep 6 we'll collect food to support the IFCS no-cost food market. For May 31 - Jun 28 please bring cereal. Each subsequent month will have different foods though they can always use other items too (such as peanut butter and jelly, canned fruits and vegetables, crackers, snack bars, etc.). Donations can be dropped off in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings or, if you'd prefer to make a cash donation, please use the Give button on Bethany's website and select IFCS in the drop-down menu. Thank you for your steady commitment to help fight hunger in our community!
- ◆ **Volunteers needed:** Christ the Savior Lutheran Church will host Family Promise the week of **Jun 7-14**. Family Promise is an organization that keeps families together in times of homelessness or unemployment. Several people of Bethany participate in providing food, meeting transportation needs, or as overnight hosts. Please contact Jean Scott at 303 756-2106 if you are interested in participating.
- ◆ **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 at the ad for the event on Bethany News on our website.
- ◆ **Volunteers needed:** Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp is looking for adult volunteers to assist the head cook and assistant cook in the kitchen for one week this summer. Would you like to spend a week in the mountains serving the Lord and an awesome group of kids and staff? Volunteer with the kitchen crew and enjoy a beautiful week at Rainbow Trail! If you are interested in serving please contact Dave at [daveg@rainbowtrail.org](mailto:daveg@rainbowtrail.org). No previous cook experience necessary! Just a servant heart and hands to help.

For more information and to see other announcements, please sign up for the email blasts by contacting the office - 303.758.2820, or visit [www.Bethany-Denver.org/Bethany-news/](http://www.Bethany-Denver.org/Bethany-news/)

## THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT WORSHIP

- ◆ **Welcome to Bethany!** If you have questions or would like to consider making Bethany your church home, visit our website, Bethany-Denver.org, or stop by the Newcomer Nook after worship. The pastoral team, consisting of Pastor Gary Sandberg (he/him), Pastor Nate Preisinger (he/him), Deacon Debra Alba (she/ her) and Director of Pastoral Care Janet Mortinsen (she/her), is available to speak with you.
- ◆ Bethany Lutheran Church values people of diverse race, sexual identity, ethnicity, and political affiliation. **All are welcome at Bethany Lutheran Church** and this community is enriched because you are here. We are together for good!
- ◆ **Sunday Worship services:** 8:30am Traditional - worship follows traditional Lutheran liturgy. 10:00am Casual Blended- a flow of worship that includes the elements of Lutheran worship with music that spans multiple genres and brings some creative ways to engage the theme of the day. Worship leaders are generally dressed more casually.
- ◆ **Participating in Worship:** There will be times during worship when you are invited to stand, but if it is more comfortable or more meaningful for you to remain seated, please feel free to do so.
- ◆ **Communion Statement:** Everyone gathered for worship is invited to take part in Communion. Jesus did not place any barriers around who received communion and neither does Bethany.
- ◆ **Safety:** Bethany Lutheran Church is committed to maintaining a safe and welcoming environment for everyone. If at any time you feel uncomfortable, unsafe or have concerns, please speak with one of our staff or designated leaders. We are here to listen and to support you.
- ◆ **Hearing Assistance Device:** Please see the Sound Tech in the A/V booth at the rear of the Sanctuary if you need a hearing assistance device.
- ◆ **Worship Servants:** Thank you to all the A/V team, Ushers, Communion Servers, Altar Guild, Musicians, Embrace Volunteers and Sacristans for your work to greet people and make worship happen. We always welcome Worship Servants - go to [www.signupschedule.com/Bethany](http://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 friendly staffed Nursery, please speak with an Usher.

**The flowers in front of the pulpit today were given by Suzanne and Werner Boos (pronounced "Bose") for the 25th (Silver Wedding Anniversary) of Michael and Deborah Neff.**