



7th Sunday after Pentecost

JULY 12, 2026

LESSONS FOR THE DAY

Romans 8:1–11

Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

4500 Hampden Ave, Cherry Hills Village, CO 80113

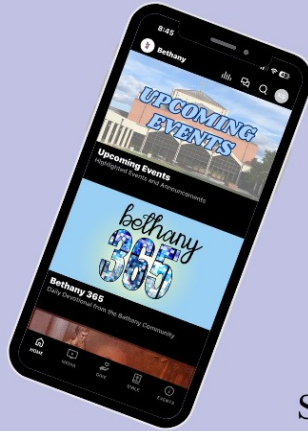
Summer Worship • 9:00 AM • bethany-denver.org

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✠ GATHERING ✠

PRELUDE

Thee We Adore, Eternal Lord!
Holy God, We Praise Your Name

Michael Burkhardt

WELCOME

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Pastor Gary Sandberg



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.**

GATHERING HYMN

Sing to the Lord of Harvest

ELW #694

You are invited to face the cross as it enters.

1 Sing to the Lord of har - vest your songs of love and praise;
 2 God makes the clouds drop fat - ness, the des - erts bloom and spring,
 3 Bring to this sa - cred al - tar the gifts his good-ness gave,



with joy - ful hearts and voic - es your al - le - lu - ias raise;
 the hills leap up in glad - ness, the val - leys laugh and sing.
 the gold - en sheaves of har - vest, the souls Christ died to save.



by him the roll - ing sea - sons in fruit - ful or - der move;
 God fills them with his full - ness, all things with large in - crease,
 Your hearts lay down be - fore him when at his feet you fall,



sing to the Lord of har - vest a joy - ous song of love.
 and crowns the year with good - ness, with plen - ty and with peace.
 and with your lives a - dore him who gave his life for all.

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811–1875, alt.

Music: WIE LIEBLICH IST DER MAIEN, Johann Steurlein, 1546–1613

GREETING*Janet Mortinsen*

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

Leader:



In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

Assembly:



Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy, mer - cy on us all.

Leader:




For the reign of God, and for peace through-out the world, for the




u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord:

Assembly:




Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mercy, mer - cy on us all.

Leader:



For your peo - ple here who have come to give you praise, for the




strength to live your word, let us pray to the Lord:

Assembly:



Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy, mer - cy on us all.

Leader:



Help, save, and de - fend us, O God. A - - - men.

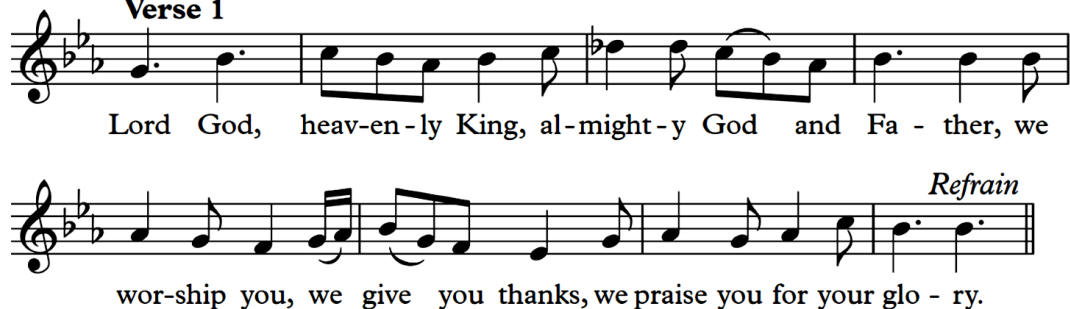
HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain



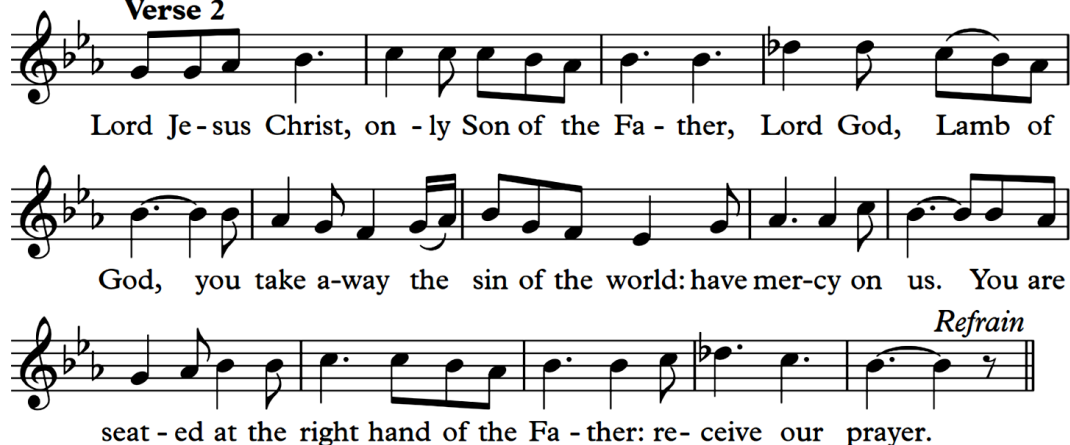
Glo-ry to God, Glo-ry to God, Glo - ry to God in the
high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple, peace to God's peo-ple,
Peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

Verse 1



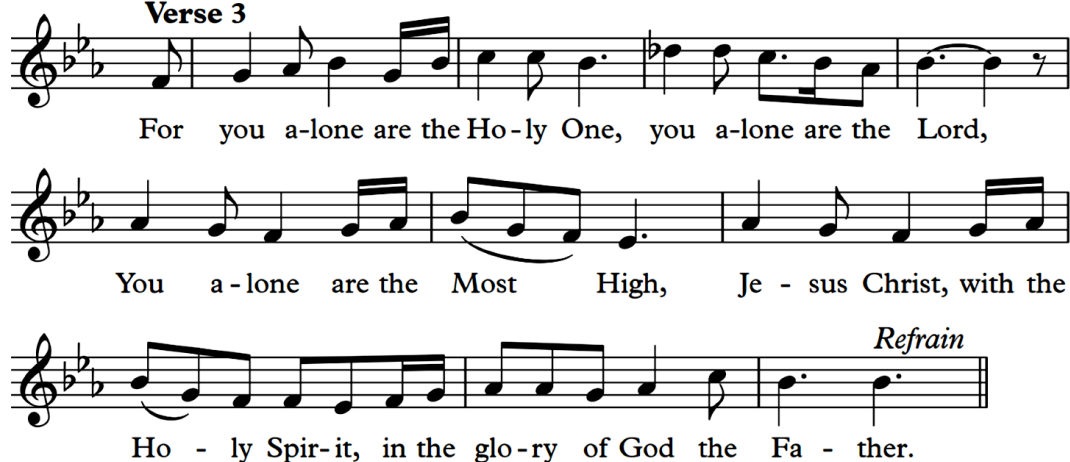
Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa - ther, we
wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Verse 2



Lord Je-sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of
God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us. You are
seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re- ceive our prayer.

Verse 3



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,
You a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the
Ho - ly Spir-it, in the glo-ry of God the Fa - ther.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Janet Mortinsen

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

CHILDREN’S SERMON

Kate Souther

CHILDREN’S WORSHIP

Kate Souther

✠ WORD ✠

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Vicky Daub

Dear Lord, may the scriptures we read today ground us in the joy of the resurrection, that we might grow in God’s grace. May we find opportunity to live out your Gospel message as we share this good news with the world. **Amen.**

LESSON

Romans 8:1-11

There is no condemnation for those who live in Christ. God sent Christ to accomplish what the law was unable to do: condemn sin and free us from its death-dealing ways. The Spirit now empowers proper actions and values in our lives and gives us the promise of resurrected life.

¹ Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³ For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶ To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law—indeed, it cannot, ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Lord to whom shall we
 go? For you have the words, you have the words, the
 words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

In Matthew's gospel, both Jesus and his disciples "sow the seed" of God's word by proclaiming the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near." Now, in a memorable parable, Jesus explains why this good news produces different results in those who hear.

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

¹ That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶ But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ If you have ears, hear!"

¹⁸ "Hear, then, the parable of the sower. ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³ But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

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

SERMON

Pastor Gary Sandberg



1 As rain from the clouds will your word come to earth,
 2 As grain that is scat - tered your word has been sown
 3 As rays of the sun shall your word light the world,



as snow from the heav - ens re - fresh - ing the land.
 on rocks and on road - ways, in good earth and sand.
 a - wak - ing and warm - ing and heal - ing our land.



Then soft - en our soil that the good seed may grow
 Make fer - tile our soil that the good seed may grow
 Then shine in our hearts that the good seed may grow



and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.
 and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.
 and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.



We praise you, our God, for the dew of your word;
 We praise you, our God, for the seed of your word;
 We praise you, our God, for the light of your word;



we thank you, good gar - d'ner, for your ten - der toil.
 we thank you, good gar - d'ner, for your ten - der toil.
 we thank you, good gar - d'ner, for your ten - der toil.



We bless you, best farm - er, for hun - dred - fold yield,
 We bless you, best farm - er, for hun - dred - fold yield,
 We bless you, best farm - er, for hun - dred - fold yield,



for har - vest of grace in our once - bar - ren soil.
 for har - vest of grace in our once - bar - ren soil.
 for har - vest of grace in our once - bar - ren soil.

APOSTLES' CREED

Janet Mortinsen

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

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

- ◆ **Photo Directory**
- ◆ **Bible Study**
- ◆ **Youth / Women's Events**

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 **BethanyConnect (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)
- Unlock your phone, hold near **NFC card** (on pew back), and wait for the notification to appear
- **On Sundays**, drop your offering in the silver plates as they are passed.



OFFERING MUSIC

He That Keepeth Israel

Adolphe Schlösser

Matthew Eschliman, tenor

*He that keepeth Israel, slumbers not nor sleeps.
He will give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.
Put thy trust in him and call upon him, for his ears are open to thy prayers.*

CHILDREN RETURN TO THE SANCTUARY

✠ MEAL ✠

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

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, ho -
san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he,
bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

BLESSING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

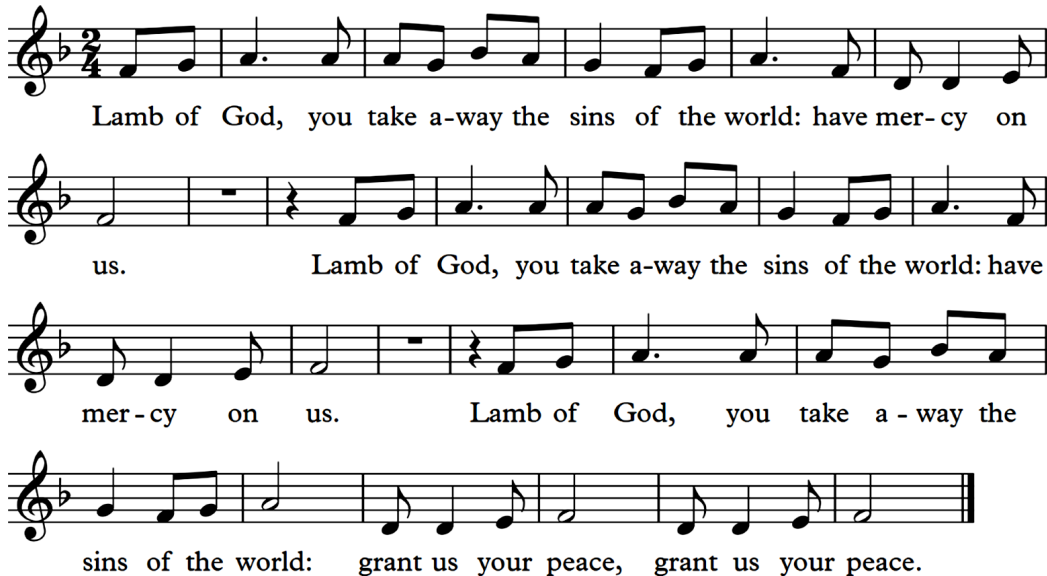
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

COMMUNION 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

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world: have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world: have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: grant us your peace, grant us your peace.

COMMUNION MUSIC

If with All Your Hearts from "Elijah"

Felix Mendelssohn

Matthew Eschlman, tenor

*If with all your hearts ye truly seek me, ye shall ever surely find me, thus saith the Lord.
Oh! That I knew where I might find him, that I might even come before his presence!
If with all your hearts ye truly seek me, ye shall ever surely find me, thus saith our God.*

COMMUNION HYMN

Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast

ELW #516



- 1 Al-might - y God, your word is cast like seed in - to the ground;
- 2 Let not the sly sa - tan - ic foe this ho - ly seed re - move,
- 3 Let not the world's de - ceit - ful cares the ris - ing plant de - stroy,
- 4 So when the pre - cious seed is sown, life - giv - ing grace be - stow,



now let the dew of heav'n de - scend and righ - teous fruits a - bound.
 but give it root in ev - 'ry heart to bring forth fruits of love.
 but let it yield a hun - dred - fold the fruits of peace and joy.
 that all whose souls the truth re - ceive its sav - ing pow'r may know.

Text: John Cawood, 1775–1852, alt.

Music: ST. FLAVIAN, J. Day, *Psalter*, 1562**TABLE BLESSING**

✠ SENDING ✠

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN

On What Has Now Been Sown

ELW #550

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



1 On what has now been sown your bless-ing Lord, be - stow; the
2 To you our wants are known, from you are all our pow'rs; ac -
3 Oh, grant that each of us, now met be - fore you here, may



pow'r is yours a - lone to make it sprout and grow. O Lord, in
cept what is your own and par-don what is ours. Our prais - es,
meet to - geth - er thus when you and yours ap - pear, and fol - low



grace the har - vest raise, and yours a - lone shall be the praise!
Lord, and prayers re - ceive and to your word a bless - ing give.
you to heav'n, our home. E'en so, A - men! Lord Je - sus, come!

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.

Music: DARWALL'S 148TH, John Darwall, 1731–1789

DISMISSAL

As we go forth into the week ahead we remember our calling as the people of Bethany.

Together we will:

Worship and encounter a God who loves us;

Embrace healthy dialogue that promotes unity over division;

Respond to the needs of the world through generosity and action.

With this as our mission, go in peace, serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

Michael Burkhardt

Things To Know About News & Events

- ◆ **Photo Directory:** All Bethany members are encouraged to participate in an online church directory to be compiled and published in the Fall. Individual and family photos will be taken in the Chapel before (8:00am - 8:45am) and after (10:15 am - 11:00am) the service on the following Sundays: **TODAY, Aug 2** and on Wednesday, **Sep 2**.
- ◆ **Adult Bible Study:** Pastor Gary will lead a Bible study after worship **TODAY**, 10:20am in Room 210 - Hidden Growth, How Jesus used Seeds in Parables.
- ◆ **Summer Food Drive:** Every **Sunday through Sep 6** we'll collect food to support the IFCS no-cost food market. **Jul 5 - 26** please bring boxes of cereal (all kinds). They can always use other items too such as peanut butter and jelly, canned fruits and vegetables, crackers, snack bars, etc. 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.
- ◆ **Bethany Foundation Scholarships:** Available to students attending Lutheran colleges. Lutheran colleges offer a smaller class size, like-minded students and staff who serve as mentors helping students grow in faith and education. Consider a Lutheran college for your higher education. For more information please see the Bethany Foundation tab on Bethany-denver.org. The deadline for the application is **Jul 15**.
- ◆ **Middle School & High School Bird Call & Pickleball:** Middle and high school students are invited to join in for an evening of food, fun, and fellowship! High school students will meet on **Wednesday, Jul 15**, and middle school students will meet on **Wednesday, Jul 22**, both from 5:30–7:30pm. We'll gather at the Southeast Entrance of Bethany, walk together to Birdcall for dinner, and then return to the church for pickleball. There is no cost to attend, and friends are always welcome! Please RSVP through the Bethany Connect app or on the Bethany website. Please contact Addison@Bethany-Denver.org with any questions!
- ◆ **Women of Bethany (WOB) Fellowship:** **Saturday, Jul 18**, 4:30pm. Sharon Boell has graciously offered her beautiful back yard. Please bring either a salad or appetizer. Dessert and drinks are covered. If you have not yet had a chance to join, please know that everyone is welcome and sign-ups are online!
- ◆ **Habitat for Humanity Metro Denver volunteers needed:** **Saturday, Jul 18**, 8:30am-3:30pm, painting at Production Shop; **Saturday, Aug 22**, 10:00am-2:00pm, Aurora ReStore; **Saturday, Sep 26**, 7:50am–3:30pm, Griffith Station Homes. Register to volunteer at <https://vhub.at/HolyHammers>. Contact Kevin Dempsey for questions at kmdmpsy@aol.com
- ◆ **United In Faith Monthly Update:** In June the Campus Operations & Facilities team orchestrated critical assessments, met with Cherry Hills Village and invited additional participation from the congregation. In July, with the benefit of a 3 year forecast for campaign proceeds, we will begin laying out a workplan with the uninterrupted operations of Bethany as a top priority. Maintenance Reserve and UIF Use of Proceeds policies are being finalized and each month the Executive Council will review the recommendations of the team and provide approvals when necessary. Progress and outcomes will then be shared with the congregation and periodically, opportunities for broader input will be incorporated into the workplan. Watch for exterior improvements later this summer and for a campus-wide de-cluttering initiative!



bethany

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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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:** 9:00am One worship service in the summer - Memorial Day weekend thru Labor Day weekend. Worship style may be Traditional - follows traditional Lutheran liturgy or 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.
- ◆ **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 friendly staffed Nursery, please speak with an Usher.