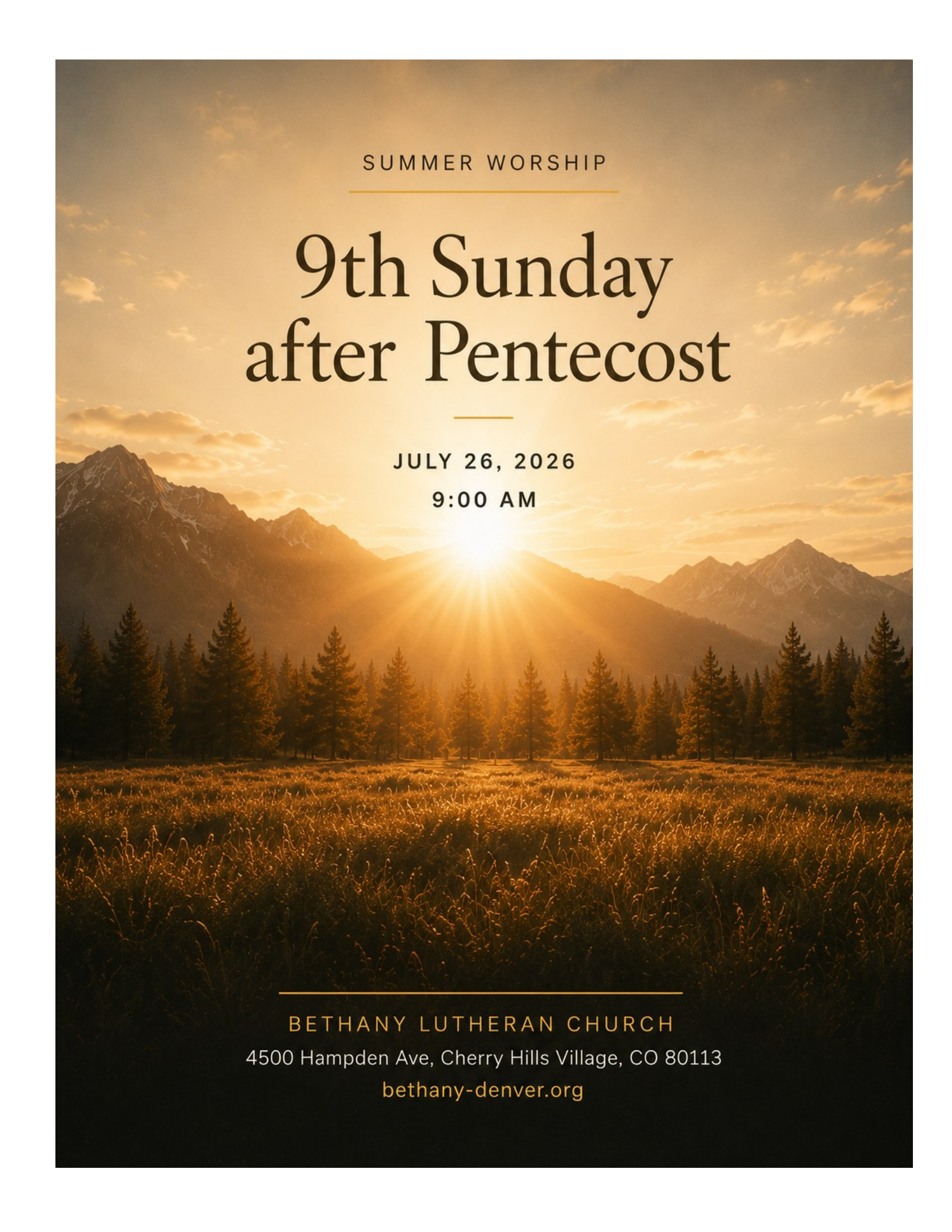




SUMMER WORSHIP

9th Sunday after Pentecost

JULY 26, 2026

9:00 AM

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

4500 Hampden Ave, Cherry Hills Village, CO 80113

bethany-denver.org



Capital Campaign Update: We Are United in Faith!

Dear Bethany Family,

Thank you for your strong support of Bethany's United in Faith (UIF) Capital Campaign. Thanks to your generosity, we have received over 350 commitments totaling nearly \$5.8 million, with just under \$1 million already received toward those goals. We deeply appreciate this giving alongside your ongoing support for Bethany's General Fund.

If you have not yet made a commitment, it is not too late to join us this summer! Every gift strengthens Bethany's ministry, and you can submit your commitment card to the office or online at any time. Our Facilities Team and Church Council are currently prioritizing projects to align our timeline with this funding.

Timeline and Fulfillment Details

The UIF campaign runs from June 2026 to June 2029. You can fulfill your pledge with a one-time gift or multiple payments over this three-year window. This timeline allows you to spread gifts across four separate tax years (2026–2029). If making recurring payments, we kindly ask that you begin this year (2026) so we can confidently launch our first phase of projects.

You can fulfill your commitment in the way that best suits your household:

- **By Check:** Payable to Bethany with "UIF Campaign" in the memo line.
- **Online/App:** Give digitally through our Subsplash app and choose "United in Faith."
- **Stocks:** Transferring appreciated stock offers great tax benefits. Transfer instructions can be found for download on the *Bethany Giving* page on the website. Contact giving@bethany-denver.org with any questions and for broker instructions.
- **IRA RMD:** If taking Required Minimum Distributions, you can direct a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) to Bethany to fulfill your pledge and reduce your taxable income. Contact giving@bethany-denver.org to coordinate.

Thank you for your faith and partnership as we build the future of Bethany together!

With gratitude,

Stephanie Davy
United in Faith Chair

✠ GATHERING ✠

PRELUDE

Fanfare and Processional

Keith Chapman

WELCOME

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

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

God of Grace and God of Glory

ELW #705

You are invited to face the cross as it enters.



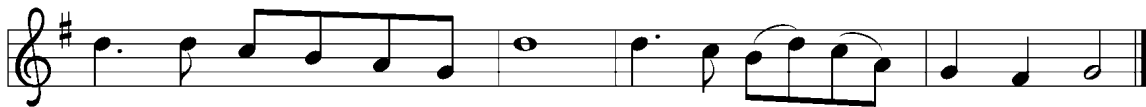
1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -
3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to -
4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils



pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;
sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us
your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion



bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,



for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.
serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878–1969

Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

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

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.

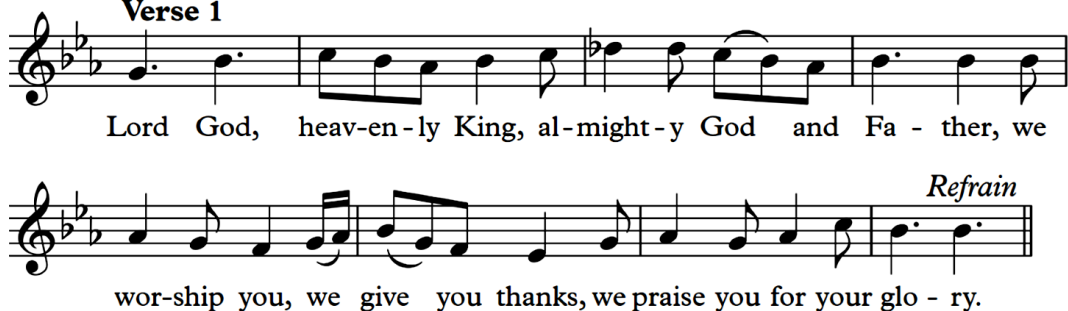
HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain



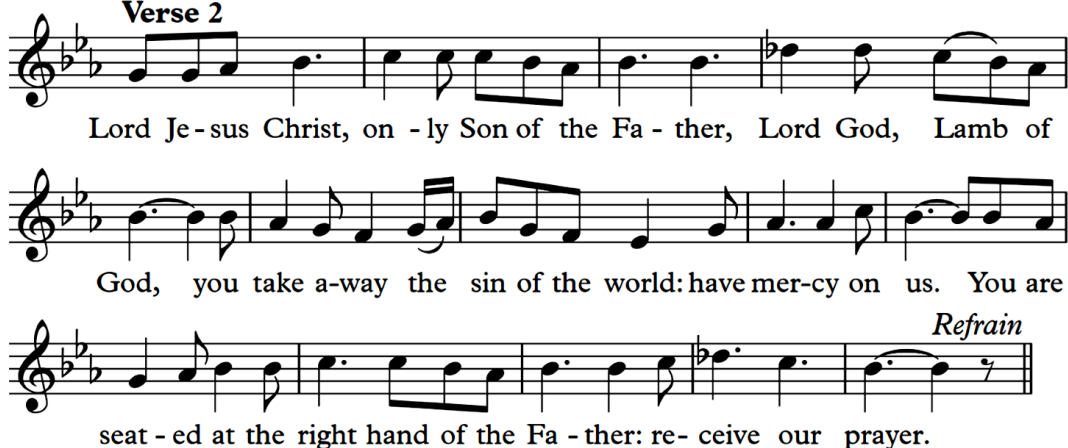
Glo-ry to God, Glo-ry to God, Glo - ry to God in the
high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple, peace to God's peo-ple,
Peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

Verse 1



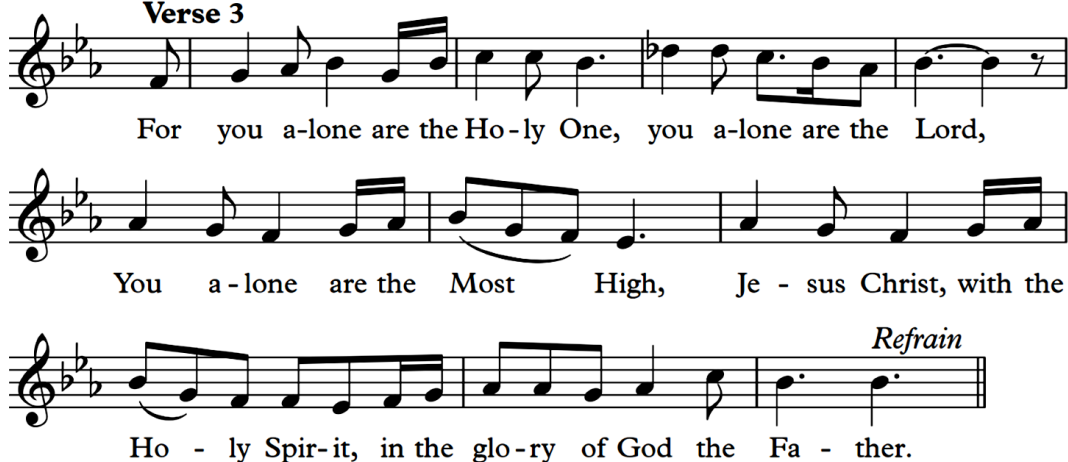
Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa - ther, we
wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

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

Pastor Gary Sandberg

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Crosby James Buckley - Born: April 6, 2026
Parents: Dan and Eden Buckley

Lucy Marie Goldstein - Born: September 11, 2025
Parents: Taylor and Christine Goldstein

We gather at these living waters. Throughout history, God's saving action toward God's people has taken place through water. Let us pray:

Most Holy God, you created the seas, rivers, and lakes; you saved Noah and his family from the floods; you led the Israelites through the Red Sea and quenched their thirst with water flowing from a rock. Through the waters of the Jordan River, you proclaimed Jesus your own beloved son and so through these waters of baptism, you proclaim that we, too, are your own beloved children, now and forever. Amen.

Parents, do you wish Crosby and Lucy to be baptized into the promises of God?

R: I do.

We make promises and assume responsibilities at baptism. God promises us unconditional love and life forever, and we know that our journey of faith encompasses certain promises so that our lives reflect this love.

Parents, do you promise to: Live with your children among God's faithful people, bring your children to the Lord's table, teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place the holy scriptures in their hands to nurture their faith and prayer life, so that they will know and trust God?

R: I do.

Parents, sponsors, people of God, do you promise to support and pray for Crosby and Lucy's new lives in Christ?

R: We do.

Baptism: Crosby James / Lucy Marie, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Prayer: God of new life, sustain Crosby / Lucy with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

Blessing: Crosby James / Lucy Marie, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen.**

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven.

Let us welcome our new siblings in Christ!

We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as members of the body of Christ, children of God's kingdom on earth and in heaven.

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP

Kate Souther

✠ WORD ✠

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Jean Scott

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

1 Kings 3:5-12

Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of his enemies, God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well.

⁵ At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I should give you." ⁶ And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷ And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹ Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?"

¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹ God said to him, "Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after 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 13:31-33, 44-52

Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.

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

³¹ Jesus put before the crowds another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

³³ He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

⁴⁴ "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ "Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." ⁵² And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

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

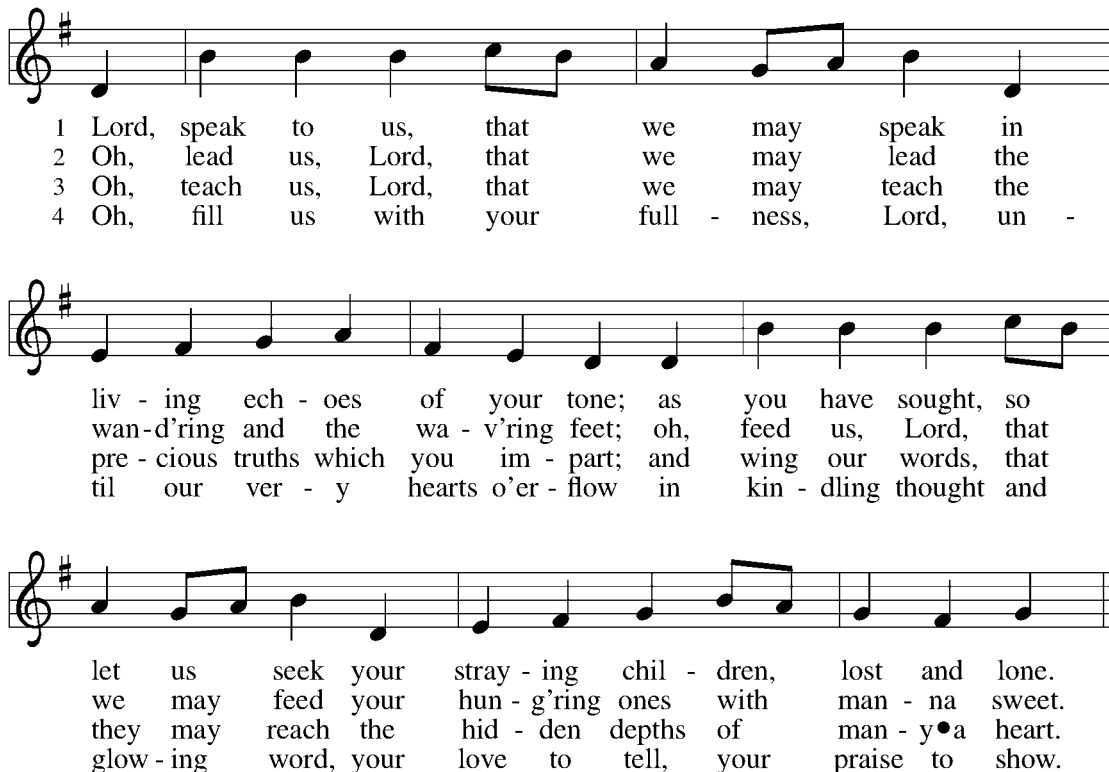
SERMON

Deacon Debra Alba

HYMN OF THE DAY

Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak

ELW #676



1 Lord, speak to us, that we may speak in
2 Oh, lead us, Lord, that we may lead the
3 Oh, teach us, Lord, that we may teach the
4 Oh, fill us with your full - ness, Lord, un -

liv - ing ech - oes of your tone; as you have sought, so
wan-d'ring and the wa - v'ring feet; oh, feed us, Lord, that
pre - cious truths which you im - part; and wing our words, that
til our ver - y hearts o'er - flow in kin - dling thought and

let us seek your stray - ing chil - dren, lost and lone.
we may feed your hun - g'ring ones with man - na sweet.
they may reach the hid - den depths of man - y a heart.
glow - ing word, your love to tell, your praise to show.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879, alt.
Music: CANONBURY, Robert Schumann, 1810-1856

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.

- ♦ **Congregation Picnic & Directory Photos: Aug 2**
- ♦ **Aspen Acres Wild Fire Relief**

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.



*This is my story. This is my song.
From the heights of heaven's glory, to the depths of earth's despair,
Came a love song in the darkness; came a song beyond compare.
And from a humble stable, God sang his lullaby,
A song of peace, a song of joy, the music of the skies.
This shall be my alleluia. This shall be my highest praise.
Let my every word and deed proclaim it. Let me sing it all my days.
This shall be my benediction. This shall be my dying phrase.
This shall be my alleluia. Jesus is my song of grace.
From the golden streets of heaven, to the shores of Galilee,
came a love song for all people; the music of eternity.
And from a wooden cross, God sang his song of grace,
and filled the world with the sound of hope, and everlasting praise.*

CHILDREN RETURN TO THE SANCTUARY

✠ **MEAL** ✠

INVITATION 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.

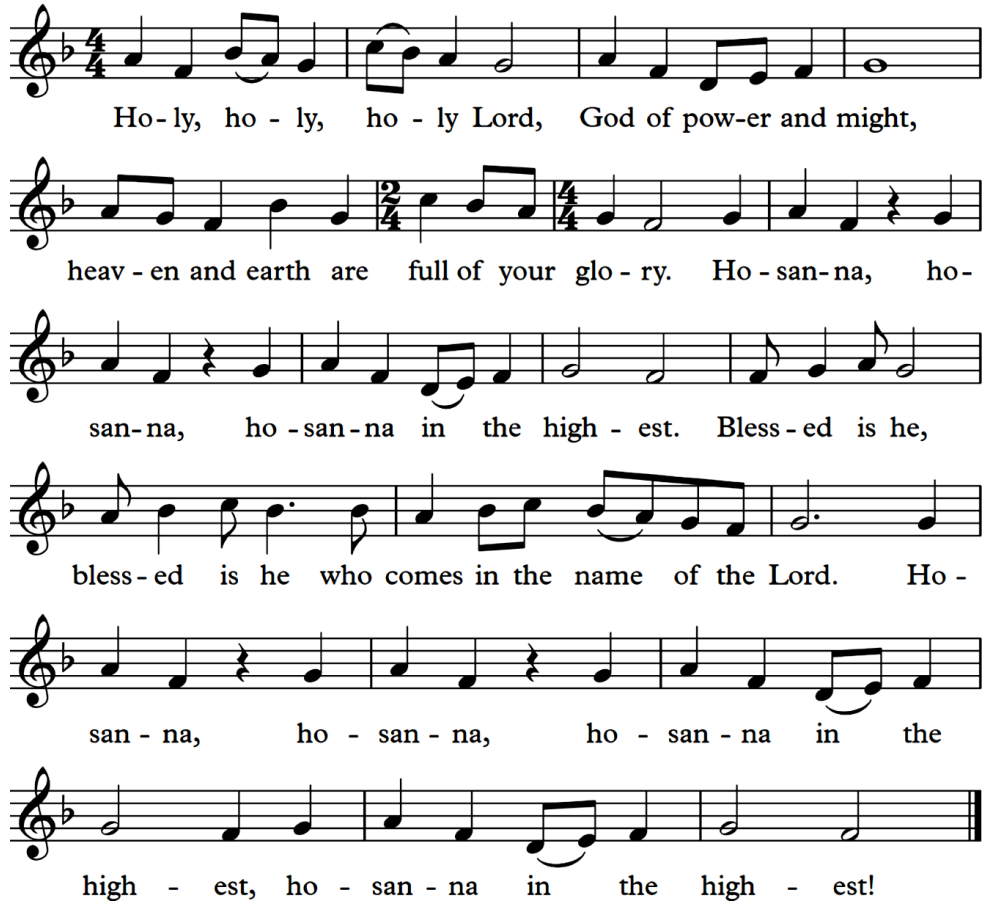
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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, 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

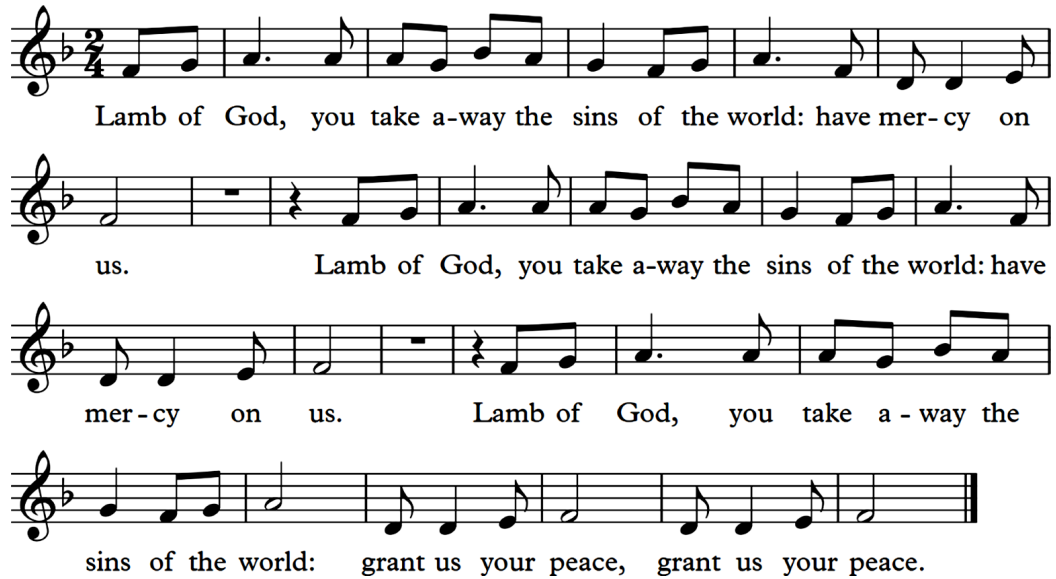
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the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

There is a Green Hill Far Away

arr. Joseph M. Martin

Kirk & Becca Schjodt

*There is a green hill far away, outside a city wall,
Where Christ the Lord was crucified, who died to save us all.
For God so loved the world, he gave his only Son.
And on that green hill far away, he shed his precious blood.
We may not know, we cannot tell what pains he had to bear.
But we believe it was for us he hung and suffered there.*

COMMUNION HYMN

Come with Us, O Blessed Jesus

ELW #501



Come with us, O bless-ed Je-sus, with us ev-er-more to be.
And, in leav-ing now thine al-tar, let us nev-er-more leave thee!
Let thy bright ce-les-tial cho-rus nev-er cease the heav'n-ly strain;
but in us, thy lov-ing chil-dren, come with peace, good will to reign.

TABLE BLESSING

✠ SENDING ✠

BENEDICTION

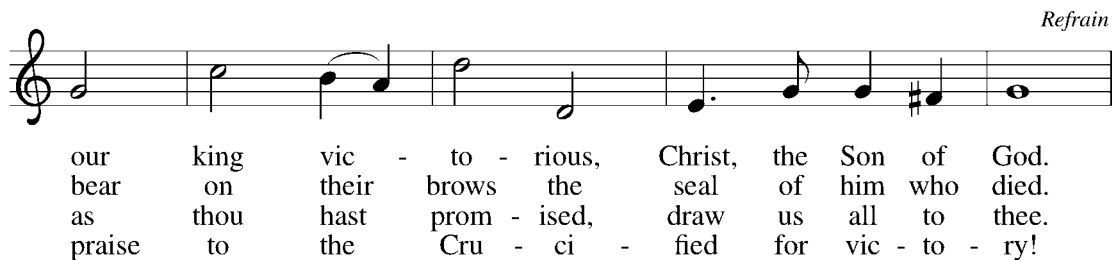
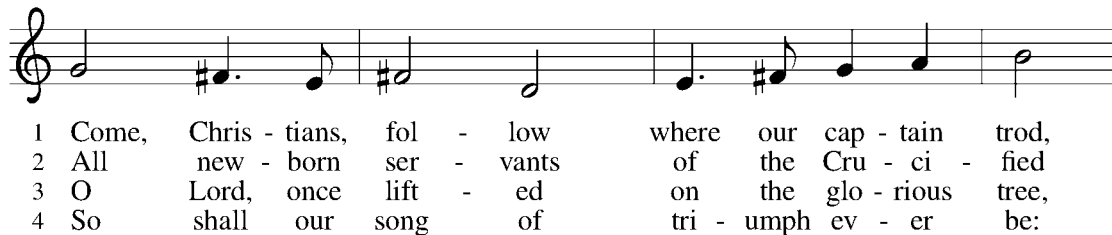
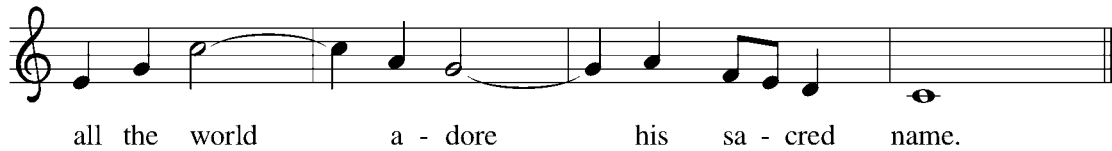
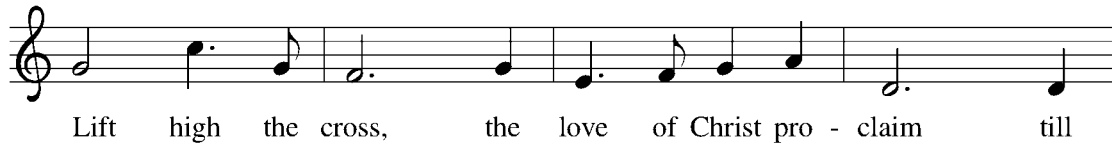
Deacon Debra Alba

SENDING HYMN

Lift High the Cross

ELW #660

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



Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956

Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947

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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

Finale from Symphony IV

Charles-Marie Widor

Things To Know About News & Events

- ♦ **Staff Transitions:** Sarah Hulslander will be retiring on **Aug 4**. We are so grateful for the faithful ministry Sarah has provided for many years to Bethany. While she will remain a member at Bethany, her role in the office and on Sunday mornings will end. Sarah's last day of staffing the Mission Center is **TODAY**. We are delighted to announce the hiring of an Office Administrator for Bethany. Yvonne Wilken will join our staff on Aug 1. Yvonne brings tremendous experience from many aspects of church life, most recently as synod minister for administration with the office of the bishop of the Rocky Mountain Synod. We welcome Yvonne to our team and look forward to the years ahead.
- ♦ **Congregation Picnic:** Please come to an early BBQ lunch right after the 9:00am service on **Sunday, Aug 2**. We'll enjoy hamburgers, hotdogs and extras in celebration of Colorado's 150th and the US' 250th!
- ♦ **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 Sunday **Aug 2** and on Wednesday, **Sep 2** (4:30pm-6:30pm). Can't make it? Send individual head shot photos to Directory@Bethany-Denver.org.
- ♦ **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.
- ♦ **Habitat for Humanity Metro Denver volunteers needed:** **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.

Aspen Acres Fire Relief

Bethany Lutheran Church and its' Outreach Ministry Council members have been in conversations with ELCA churches, community groups and United Way of Southern Colorado in Pueblo to understand current relief efforts related to the Aspen Acres fire. We are organizing an effort to collect needed supplies and deliver them on July 29 to the United Way distribution and collection center in Pueblo. We need volunteers to deliver the supplies and volunteer at the Pueblo United Way center for 2-4 hours that day before returning home to Denver. Sign up on the website.

The supplies of highest priority are as follows:

- Cleaning Supplies (Clorox wipes, laundry detergent, dish soap)
- Cleaning gloves & rubber gloves
- Face masks (N95)
- Ziploc bags
- 55 gallon trash bags
- Work gloves
- Non-perishable/prepackaged meals, snacks
- Gatorade
- New, packaged underwear (all ages & sizes)
- New, packaged socks (all ages & sizes)
- Hygiene products (shampoo, soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant)
- New bath towels & washcloths

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.