

THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



SEPTEMBER 18, 2022

+ The Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost +

September 18, 2022

10:00 a.m.

*The responses of the assembly appear in **bold** type.*

As we are invited today to consider what it means to be managers (rather than owners) of all that we have, it is crucial to recall that we are bought with a price. “Christ Jesus, himself human, . . . gave himself a ransom for all.” Apart from the generosity of God we have nothing—we are nothing. By God’s gracious favor we have everything we need.

“ELW” refers to Evangelical Lutheran Worship, the cranberry-colored book in the pew racks.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Voluntary in G minor, Op. 5 no. 9
Largo – Allegro (Fugue)
Music of John Stanley (1713-1786)

PROCESSIONAL

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty
UNSER HERRSCHER

ELW #533

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

ELW page 94

GLORIA

Glory to God

Assisting minister

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

All

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.

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.

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. A-men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God be with you.

And also with you.

O God, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The assembly is seated at the conclusion of the Prayer of the Day.

PRESENTATION OF THE BIBLES

WORD

God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching, and song

FIRST READING

Amos 8:4-7

Warnings to those who trample on the needy and poor

Amos was called by God to prophesy in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Peace and prosperity in Israel led to corrupt business practices and oppression of the poor. The prophet declares that God will not tolerate such a situation.

A reading from Amos.

Hear this, you that trample on the needy, and bring ruin on the poor of the land, saying, “When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain; and the sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale? We will make the ephah small and the shekel great, and practice deceit with false balances, buying the poor for silver and the needy with a pair of sandals, and selling the sweepings of the wheat.”

The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.



Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants / of the LORD;
praise the name / of the LORD.

**Let the name of the / LORD be blessed,
from this time forth for / evermore.**

From the rising of the sun to its / going down
let the name of the / LORD be praised.

**High above all nations / is the LORD,
whose glory is a-/bove the heavens.**

Who is like the LORD our God, who sits en-/throned on high
but stoops to behold the heavens / and the earth?

**The LORD takes up the weak out / of the dust
and lifts up the poor / from the ashes.**

The LORD sets them / with the nobles,
with the nobles of the / chosen people.

**The LORD makes the woman of a / childless house
to be a joyful moth-/ er of children.**

SECOND READING

1 Timothy 2:1-7

One God, one mediator—Christ Jesus—who gave himself for all people

The Pastoral Epistles offer insight into how early Christians understood many practical matters, such as church administration and worship. The church's focused prayer for others is an expression of the single-minded passion God has toward us in Jesus.

A reading from First Timothy.

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for rulers and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself a ransom for all—this was attested at the right time.

For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

The assembly welcomes the Gospel by standing at the instrumental introduction.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

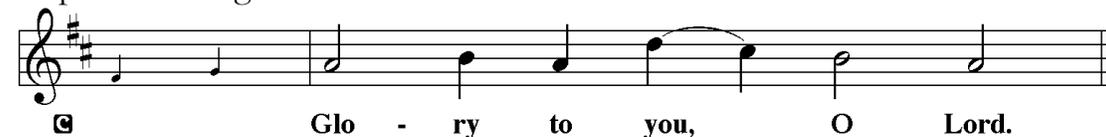
HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 16:1–13

A shrewd manager: faithful in little, faithful in much; serving God/wealth

Jesus tells the curious story of a dishonest man who cheats his employer and then is commended by him for having acted so shrewdly. Jesus wonders why his own followers are less creative and diligent in their stewardship given that they are managers of a far more valuable household.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

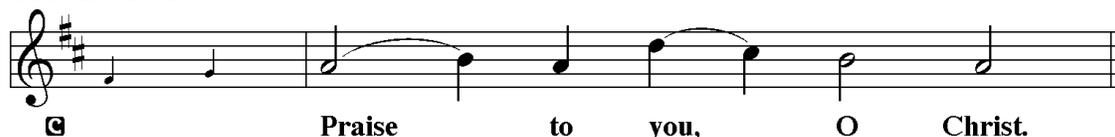
Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager; and charges were brought against him that this man was squandering his property. So the rich man summoned the manager and said to him, ‘What is this I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.’

Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master has taken the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, the manager asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ The debtor answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ Then the manager asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ That debtor replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ And the master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

“Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own?

No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

The Gospel of the Lord.



Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY *All Depends on Our Possessing*
ALLES IST AN GOTTES SEGEN

ELW #589

1. All 2. High voices 3. All, **in harmony** 4. Low voices 5. All

High voices = soprano/alto Low voices = tenor/bass

CREED

**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 INTERCESSION

As scattered grains of wheat are gathered together into one bread, so let us gather our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of God's good creation.

A brief silence.

O God, rich in mercy, fill your church with righteousness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness. Empower the baptized by your Spirit to be rich in good works and ready to share. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Protect the earth and its creatures. Provide water, food, shelter, and favorable habitats, especially for endangered species. Preserve threatened ice caps, glaciers, parks, and beaches. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Increase justice in nations, local governments, and courtrooms. Guide lawyers and those who hold public office to act with compassion and discernment (local authorities may be named). God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Give food to the hungry. Set the captives free. Lift up those who are bowed down. Watch over the stranger. Tend to those who are ill especially Jack, Dorothy, Katie, Daniel, Rudolph, Mark, Dorothy, Brittany, Jeri, Linda, Mary, David, Julie, Nick, Anna, Evonne, Ronald, Meredith, Katie, Joe, Michael, Marcie, and Anne-Marie. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Enliven our praise. Inspire musicians, artists, poets, and all who create beauty in this place (those who plan and lead worship may be named). God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Enfold the saints who have died in the arms of your loving care. Grant that the holy angels accompany us and bring us to eternal life with them in the light of your presence. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Gathered together in the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit, gracious God, we offer these and all our prayers to you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

The presiding minister greets the assembly with the peace of Christ, the people responding “**And also with you.**”

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ’s peace. After greeting one another, the assembly is seated.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

ELW # 883

Fantasia on the Old Hundredth Psalm Tune [Psalm 100]

Setting by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Composed for the Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

in Westminster Abbey on Tuesday, 2 June 1953.

1. All High voices 3. All 4. Low voices 5. All

All rise for the final stanza.

High voices = soprano/alto

Low voices = tenor/bass

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God,

for the greening earth given for all, for the talents we are given to share, and for this bread and wine. Transform us to be the body of Christ, that, feasting on this food and drink, our lives may reflect your generosity; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

You are welcome at God's table. If you believe that here Christ is truly present in, with and under the elements of bread and wine, and you have partaken in a home congregation or perceive the welcome of Christ to this table, you are welcome to receive. Children of God who do not commune are invited to come forward for the blessing. Grape juice (the darker colored liquid) is provided in the tray of individual cups for those who prefer this alternative. Follow the instructions of the ushers as they direct you to the two stations on either side of the sanctuary to receive the bread and the wine, making your way back to your seat by the center aisle.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

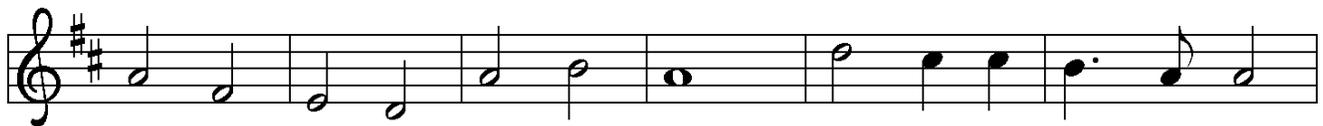
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (SANCTUS)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



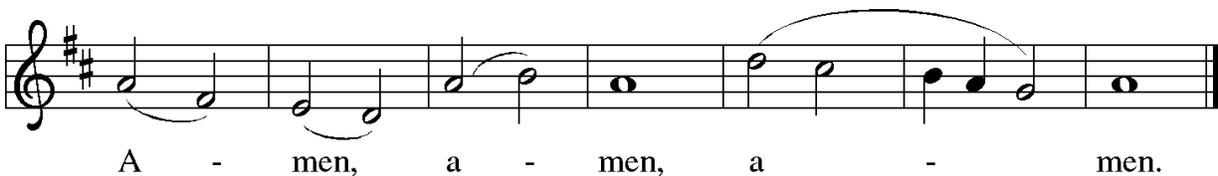
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all. In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.



THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The presiding minister invites the assembly to Christ's table, where all are welcome. The assembly is seated.

LAMB OF GOD (AGNUS DEI)



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 MEDITATION from *Sinfonia*
II. Menuet
Music of George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

COMMUNION ANTHEM *My Eyes for Beauty Pine*
Music of Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

My eyes for beauty pine,
My soul for Goddës grace:
No other care nor hope is mine;
To heaven I turn my face.

One splendour thence is shed
from all the stars above:
'Tis named when God's name is said,
'Tis Love, 'tis heavenly Love.

And every gentle heart
that burns with true desire,
Is lit from eyes that mirror part
of that celestial fire.

Robert Bridges (1844-1930)

COMMUNION HYMN *By Your Hand You Feed Your People*
CAMROSE

ELW #469

The assembly stands for the Table Blessing.

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

POSTCOMMUNION *Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise*

ELW #207

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of blessing,
at this table we have seen you face to face,
and in the gift of Christ's body and blood,
our hearts have been refreshed.
Send us now to shine with your goodness
and bear witness to the one we have received:
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN *Savior, Again to Your Dear Name*
ELLERS

ELW #534

DISMISSAL

You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.
Go in peace. Share the good news.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Voluntary no. 1 in D*
Larghetto – Vivace (on the Trumpet stops)
Music of William Boyce (1711-1777)

* * *

Dr. Mager will be away next Sunday. He will return on October 2. Our guest organist in the interim will be Matt Bear.

Organ and choral music for this service is by the English composers. It is offered in memory of Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, who died on September 8.

John Stanley (1713-1786) was a contemporary of George Frideric Handel, and his music bears Handel's influence. Stanley is particularly significant as a composer for the organ, and is remarkable in that he enjoyed a productive musical career despite having suffered blindness from the age of two. Stanley composed some thirty voluntaries, in three volumes. This morning's prelude is from his Opus 5 collection, dating from 1748. As the name implies, a *voluntary* is a free-form piece which typically alternates slow then fast tempi.

The communion meditation is by **George Frideric Handel**. Born on February 23, 1685, in the German city of Halle, he studied opera and the cantata in Italy, and later took up residence in London, where he became a naturalized English citizen. Handel spent much of his career in the service of English royalty and the aristocracy. Handel was not only an organist, harpsichordist, conductor, and impresario, but was also the most distinguished opera composer of his day. Following the decline of [Italian] opera in England, he adjusted to the change in public tastes by producing some of the great English oratorios, including the ubiquitous *Messiah*. He died in London on April 14, 1759, and is buried in Westminster Abbey.

Our postlude is by Handel's younger English contemporary and colleague, **William Boyce**. Born in London in 1711, Boyce was a composer of sacred music, orchestral works, masques, sonatas, and keyboard music, in the Handelian Baroque style. He studied with Dr. Maurice Greene, and later received a doctorate at Oxford. He was appointed Master of the King's Musick in 1755, and Organist to the Chapel Royal in 1758. A decade later, he was forced to give up his organist duties because of increasing deafness, and he retired to the London suburb of Kensington to devote himself to editing the *Cathedral Music* series, a compendium of Anglican church music dedicated to preserving the works of significant English composers such as Tallis, Morley, Gibbons, Byrd, Purcell, and others. Boyce died in 1777, and his body was interred at London's historic Saint Paul's Cathedral, where he once served as a boy chorister.

Choral selections are by two stalwarts of the twentieth-century English tradition: **Ralph Vaughan Williams** (1872-1958) and his younger friend and colleague, **Herbert Howells** (1892-1983). These composers have given us significant works in the sacred repertoire, often inspired by English literature and historic music and hymnody, but also reflecting the turbulent time in which they lived. Vaughan Williams left us a number of magnificent hymns, including *For All the Saints* (ELW # 422); *Hail Thee, Festival Day* (ELW # 394); and *Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life* (ELW # 816), with words by the Jacobean pastor and metaphysical poet, George Herbert. Howells is the composer of *All My Hope on God is Founded* (ELW # 757), whose tune – *MICHAEL* – is named for his son, who died of polio at the age of nine.

Last Sunday's opening song, *God's Work, Our Hands*: We inadvertently omitted the credits for **last week's entrance hymn**, specially composed for the occasion of a new season dedicated to the theme of "God's work, our hands." The words are by Wayne L. Wold (© 2019 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress.) The text was sung to the melody, *EARTH AND ALL STARS*, by David N. Johnson (1922-1987). Thanks to Deb Grupe for bringing this hymn to our attention.

In Our Prayer Continually:

We pray for **Jack Williamson** (father of **Jennifer Williamson**) who has dementia. May him and his family find support in learning to find joy in the new.

We pray for the stepmother of Jennifer Williamson who will have hip surgery today.

We give thanks for the life and faith of **Dorothy Bauer**. May God bring comfort and peace to her daughter Jayne Moentmann and all her family and friends.

We give thanks for the life of **Katie Hautamaki** (friend of **Linda Bristol**) who passed peacefully in her sleep on August 21. May God bring comfort and peace to her friends and family.

We pray for **Daniel Crews** (friend of **Roy Ledbetter** and **Tom Dewey**) as he recovers from a serious medical issue.

We pray for God's comfort and peace for **Rudolph Mueller** who is now under hospice care.

We pray for **Mark Doerries** (close friend and colleague of **Dr. Mager**), as he continues to contend with a cancer diagnosis.

We pray for **Dorothy Bauer** (former member of Bethel and mother of **Jayne Moentmann**). She was diagnosed with dementia and has been moved to Memory Care at Breeze Park.

We pray for **Brittany** (niece of **Ann and Bob Mottl**) for her continued healing as she begins radiation treatments that will be followed by five months of chemotherapy.

We give thanks for **Jeri Montalto** (sister of **Jody Kluender**) as she has continued improvement and feels very well.

We pray for God's comfort and strength to be with **Mary Baker Findley** (sister of **Vicki Baker Lottes**) with stage 4 cancer and her husband **David Findley** whose Alzheimer's is progressing rapidly.

We pray for **Julie Murthy** (cousin of **Emily Pelcak**) as she starts her battle with cancer.

We pray for strength and wisdom for **Nick Peppes** (colleague of **Gail Heyne Hafer**) who is facing personal challenges.

We pray for God's continued healing and strength for **Anna** (**Roy Ledbetter's** daughter) as she resumes medical treatment for an on-going health issue.

We pray for God's strength to be with **Evonne Simmons** as she lives with chronic illness.

We give thanks for **Ronald Thompson's** (stepbrother of **Kristin Soifer**) recovery from the injury he sustained in a fall, and pray for him as he continues to face chronic illness.

We pray for healing and hope to be with **Meredith Sallee** (sister of **Katy Koontz**) during her treatment for cancer.

We pray for **Joe Whelan** (stepson to **Tim Gutknecht**) who is dealing with a genetic condition.

We pray for **Michael Moentmann** who lives with chronic illness.

We continue our prayers for **Marcie Dowell** as she lives with a heart condition. May God's peace comfort her during this time.

We pray for **Anne-Marie Bogdan** (sister of Nathan Schroeder) as she lives with long-standing health conditions. May God's comfort and strength be with her and her family.

Cover artwork: *The parable of the Shrewd Manager*, anonymous engraving, 17th century German.

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Bethel Announcements

Breadbreakers Anew for Fall 2022

(This message is NOT for folks who have already signed up for Breadbreakers this fall!)

It has been suggested that some Bethel members might be interested in a “Breadbreakers-style” group gathering that would happen during daytime hours. Think gathering for lunch, rather than dinner! If you are interested in joining such a group, please let Sue Flesch know, either via phone (314-862-4490) or email (susancflesch@gmail.com).

Communication from the Bethel Call Committee

The Call Committee is sharing this opportunity for any Bethel member who wishes to suggest the name of a potential candidate to be considered as the next pastor of Bethel. A specific form is available for this purpose. If you have a person you would like to suggest, please contact Sue Flesch via email at susancflesch@gmail.com to receive a copy of the form. It would be preferable for these forms to be completed by **September 20**. Thanks!

Bethel’s 3rd Annual Drive-up Diaper Drop

It costs around \$100 each month to diaper a baby. Let’s help! Bethel Kids and Bethel Youth will greet you in the parking lot on Saturday, September 24 with your donation of diapers for Diaper Need Awareness Week between 10:30 and 11:30 am. You may also bring them to church on September 25. All diapers will be delivered on October 1 to the St. Louis Area Diaper Bank. Larger diaper sizes (5, 6, 7) and pullups are generally the most-needed items. Wipes are also gratefully accepted. Can we make it to 5,000 diapers?

God’s Work. Our Hands

Part One is over, but you can see photos in the narthex (posted on the easel). And if you wish, you can still give “Tees to Totes” a try. T-shirts and instructions are on the table in the narthex.

Covenant House

One of our *God’s Work. Our Hands* projects involves a collection of personal hygiene and other items for teens and young adults who are living at St. Louis’s Covenant House. See the poster in the narthex by the GWOH table and grab a shopping list. We will still accept donations this week. Leave them on the table in the narthex.

Ushers Needed

We are setting up the fall schedule for ushers and are looking for volunteers to usher one Sunday a month. If you are willing to do so, please contact Carrie Costantin at cac6811@gmail.com or 314-413-8155.

Adult Forum Kickoff Date Sunday, October 9th

Adult Forum is resuming at its normally scheduled time of 8:45 am on Sunday mornings. Our first session is scheduled for October 9th. Please mark your calendars and stay tuned for more information about that morning’s session.

*Have Something for the Bethel Connection, Bulletin, Website, Narthex Information Board, or Facebook?
Email it to submissions@bethelstl.org by 9 a.m. Monday morning.*

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Celebrant & Preacher	The Rev. Merle Brockhoff
Assisting Minister	Silias Johnson
Steward	Jody Kluender
First Lector and Communion Assistant	Malinda Walter
Second Lector and Communion Assistant	Pastor Roy Ledbetter
Musicians	Bethel Chancel Choir Dr. Stephen Mager, organist and music director
Audio-Visual Engineers	Sherman Lee Brittany Upchurch



7001 Forsyth Boulevard, St. Louis, MO 63105
Office Hours Mon-Fri 10 a.m.-2 p.m. (314) 863-3112

The Rev. Merle Brockhoff, Interim Pastor
Stephen Mager, DM, Organist and Music Director
The Rev. Tina Reyes (she/her/ella), Campus Pastor, LuMin St. Louis
Deb Grupe, Director of Child, Youth, and Family Ministry
Eric Townsley, Custodian, custodian@bethelstl.org
Anna Burkemper, Church Administrator, office@bethelstl.org

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation (a welcoming ministry to persons of all sexual orientations,
gender identities, and gender expressions)
and A Green Congregation (for being stewards of the earth)
In Covenant with Lutheran Campus Ministry (LuMin), lcmstl.org

Have a prayer request? Email it to prayers@bethelstl.org anytime.

Note that the information you send to this address will get shared with a number of people who will be praying for you as well as the Sunday Holy Communion bulletin.

In support of our goal of being a caring, inclusive, Christ-centered community, we

- ❖ care for God's creation
- ❖ promote the non-violence of Christ and care for those who suffer
- ❖ participate in the Spirit toward a global religious community