

Bethel Lutheran Church
607 6th Street N., Wahpeton, North Dakota 58075
(701) 642-4472 Fax: (701) 642-2477
<http://bethelwahpeton.com> www.eandsynod.org

Bethel Lutheran Mission Statement

Bethel Lutheran Church is a community of believers called by God to invite all people into a living relationship with Jesus Christ, build them up in the faith, and send them out to be witnesses in word and deed to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

COME AS YOU ARE...

What does it mean when the pastor welcomes us to worship? It means Bethel Lutheran Church family extends a special welcome to those who are single, married, or divorced. It means we want to welcome the filthy rich as well as the dirt poor and all in-between. We want to welcome those children who are crying or soon will be. It means you are welcome if you can sing like an angel or plan to lip synch your way through every hymn. You are welcome here if you're "just browsing," just woke up or just got out of jail. We don't care if you're more Lutheran than Old Martin or haven't been to worship in who knows how long. We extend a special welcome to those who are over 60 but have not grown up yet as well as to teenagers who are growing up too fast. We welcome soccer moms, NASCAR dads, starving artists, tree-huggers, latte-sippers, vegetarians, and junk-food eaters. We welcome those who are in recovery or still addicted. We welcome you if you're having problems or you're down in the dumps or if you don't like "organized religion" because we've been there too. If you blew all your offering money at the casino, you are welcome here. We offer a special welcome to those who think the earth is flat, work too hard, don't work, can't spell, or because Grandma is in town and guilted you into going to worship. We welcome those who are inked, pierced or both. We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved down your throat as a kid or got lost in traffic and wound up here by mistake. We follow a strange and wonderful Lord who welcomes everyone so we at Bethel strive to do the same.

In other words... **WE WELCOME YOU!**
♥BE.THE.Love

In Service Today

Pastors: Rev. Julé Ballinger; Rev. Erika Buller; Rev. Jim Gustafson
Ministers: All baptized members of Christ's Church
Organist: Karen Hendrickson
Ushers: Randy & Jean Hoerer; Geri Coyne
Reader: Perry Miller
Coffee Hour: Missy Klose; Dennis & VonDaLee Grandalen

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Sunday, 9:00 — 181 11:00— 79 Wednesday, 6:45 pm —195

Next Week's Readings: John 19:1-16a & Psalm 146
<http://bethelwahpeton.com/sermons/>



March 11, 2018

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Hymn "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" ELW #803

Greeting

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you

Litany:

L: We all know the story well.

C: Each character stands for something.

L: Everyone knows what a Judas is.

C: Everyone remembers Peter's denials.

L: And the name Pontius Pilate is familiar.

C: From the vantage point of two thousand years, we can look at the story as we would a play, and see the arc of events, the actors, the conflict.

L: It seems inevitable, that no participant could have rewritten the script - not even Jesus himself.

C: Pilate decided not to decide, and so Jesus was condemned.

L: Jesus' tragedy played out on Calvary, and Barabbas the criminal was set free.

C: Pilate did not use the power he had to stop Jesus' crucifixion.

L: But again, was this all destiny? Did it all have to happen this way?

C: And if so, where does this leave the players?

L: Judas had to betray, Peter had to deny, Pilate had to wash his hands of the whole thing.

C: And Jesus had to die.

L: And while God allowed them all their free will, God knew the eventual outcome.

C: The death of God's son.

L: But God also knew the glorious events of Easter morning.

C: A time when every tear would be wiped away.

L: God immersed God's own self in our humanity, in good times and bad.

C: The Creator's ultimate gift of love to the creation.

L: And God emerged victorious over sin and death.

C: And so can we. And so will we.

L: And God's love remains steadfast for us all.

C: Even the Judases. Even the Pilates.

L: They too are offered mercy and redemption.

C: By our limitlessly loving God.

All: Thanks be to God!

***Prayer of the Day**

L: God of all truth, **your thoughts are well beyond our own.**

Challenge us to look beyond our narrow assumptions, into a wider vision of how the world could be. For the sake of Jesus Christ,

Amen.

WORD

READING:

Psalm 145:10-13

Children's Message

Pastor Jim Gustafson

Special Music

Bethel Bells

Gospel Acclamation

"Return to the Lord"

pg 151

C: Glory to you, O Lord (After Gospel is announced)

GOSPEL:

John 18:28-40

C: Praise to you, O Christ (After conclusion of Gospel)

The Lord's Prayer

All: 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.

SENDING

Benediction

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord. Be the love.

C: Thanks be to God.

Hymn

"Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart"

ELW#873

Postlude

Remember to Pray for . . .

Grieving:

Family and friends of Fern Anderson

Healing:

Adam Loepp	Lynn Rovig	Martha Manikowske
Cora Lovdokken	Dale DeVries	Inez Eckre
Dale Johnson	David Luna	Dave Kocher
Deloris Compson	Emma Streyle	Yoshiko Tollefson
Jamie Hendrickson	Connie Sletten	Chuck Kaim
Bill Braun	Jeff Homes	Pam Hendrickson
Paul Nelson	Linda Kocher	Sharon Wixo
Steven Retzlaff	Anne Retzlaff	Warren Retzlaff
Al Romereim	Neal Folstad	Wynne Hendrickson

Gary Miller (brother of Lois Perkins)

Jacob Peterman (friends to many)

Sara Henderson (sister of Randy Hoerer)

Preston Young

Pat Holdeman (sister of Cyndy Gustafson)

Bill Woehrmann (brother of Judy Oren)

Kathryn Bernotas (mother of Tom Bernotas)

Jan Townsend

Karen Knudson (mother of Wanda Sherven)

Cameron Nelson (grandson of Charlie & Jan Bellmore)

Amelia Rossow (granddaughter of Pam Braun)

Leslie Cose (sister-in-law of Jean & Randy Hoerer)

Robert Weise (brother in law of Char Oehlke)

Jim Oliver (brother in law of Darren Prochnow)

Serving in the Military: **Major Joseph (Joe) Zabaldano** – Kuwait (son-in-law of Gail and Harvey Link)

**Altar flowers
In memory of Walt Nosek
Given by Norma Nosek**



Message Pastor Jim Gustafson

Hymn of the Day *“Lead On, O King Eternal”* ELW #805

Offering (received during the hymn)
(The “noisy offering” will benefit the Food Pantry)

Offertory *“We Are an Offering”* ELW #692

Sacrament of Holy Baptism
Joseph Phillip Lampl Hagen
Parents: Brad Hagen & Shila Lampl

Profession of Faith

P: With the whole church, let us confess our faith. Do you believe in
God
the Father?

All: **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and
earth.**

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

All: **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.**

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

All: **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**

WELCOME

P: Let us welcome the newly baptized.

Welcome by the Congregation:

**C: We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we
share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing
God’s creative and redeeming word to all the world**

HYMN *“Jesus Loves Me!”* ELW #595

Prayers of the People

Message Pastor Jim Gustafson

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