

Bethel Lutheran Church
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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. Erika Buller; Rev. Jim Gustafson;
Interim: Pastor Mark Asleson
Ministers: All baptized members of Christ's Church
Organist: Stacy Owens
Ushers: Corrine Romereim; Daryl Eberhardt
Reader: Katie Erickson
Coffee: Norma Nosek; Linda Palmer

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Sunday, 9:00 — 134 11:00-83



January 13, 2019

PRAISE MOMENTS

WELCOME

CONFESSION *(Please stand as you are able. Speak in unison)* Lord, God of all life, we have tried to build our own world and run it by our own rules. Greed has determined our goals and selfishness has programmed our priorities. The walls we have built around our existence have grown higher and higher so that we no longer see the light of day. God of all life, we desire to see Your world and to live in Your kingdom. Help us to see our sin and turn away from its attraction. Help us to destroy the walls of defensiveness and self-centeredness and build bridges of forgiveness and mutual concern. Your kingdom come, now for us in this life, and the next. Amen.

Absolution (*Leader*) God is the God of all life and created the world out of great love. God's good news for us today is that Jesus' death and resurrection has established a new kingdom, a new place for us to live, a new world of hope and forgiveness where the walls have come down and the bridges are in place. We are free to move about this new kingdom because our sin is forgiven and our lives can be different than they were before. The cross of Christ is the center of this kingdom as we live out our lives in daily struggle with the hard issues of life. The God of all of life loves us with an everlasting love and gives us new power to live our lives with praise and thanksgiving.

SONG OF CELEBRATION

"Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty" ELW #413

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: The Lord be with you.

Congregation: AND ALSO WITH YOU.

(In unison) Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity. Grant us grace to awaken to your divine indwelling which resides in all of life. And draw us into union with you. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Bethel Bells

SCRIPTURE READING: Exodus 8: 1-10

SONG OF RESPONSE *"Lord of All Hopefulness"* ELW #765

THE HOLY GOSPEL Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22

MESSAGE "One More Night with the Frogs" **Pastor Blair Anderson**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(In unison. Please stand as you are able)

We believe in God, the Creator of all things, the source of all goodness and love.

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's son, who lived as a servant of all, was crucified, died and was buried for our sin that we might be free and know the joy of life. He was raised on the third day and ascended to heaven, and will come again in power and glory to judge both the living and the dead.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the power of God at work inside of us.

We believe in the church of God, the people of faith throughout the world.

We believe that our sin is forgiven and that we will live together with God for now throughout eternity. Amen.

RECEIVING OF OFFERINGS & NOISY OFFERING

OFFERTORY *(Please stand as you are able)*

"We Give Thee but Thine Own" v.1 ELW #686

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(In unison)*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION *(Please stand as you are able)*

CLOSING SONG *"On Our Way Rejoicing"* ELW #537

Remember to Pray for . . .

Healing:

Laurie Stiller
Linda Church
Mickie Byrd's friends and family
Leslie Close
Randy Hoerer
Linda Grochow

Linda Church- (Friend of Janice Ellingson)

Carroll Family

Family of Eric Kath-(Nephew of Brenda Prochnow)

Jeremiah Dick- (Nephew of Jeff & Eileen Hage)

Nursing Home Residents & Shut-Ins; Richland & Wilkin County Jail In-mates