

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 you are welcomed to worship at Bethel? It means Bethel Lutheran Church family extends a special welcome to those who are single, married or divorced. It means 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 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

Today in Service:

Pastor: Pastor Amy Eisenmann
Director of Youth and Family Ministries: Lisa Bassingthwaite
Director of Volunteer and Hospitality Ministries: Joyce Johnson
Choir & Handbell Director: Linda Palmer
Ministers: All baptized members of Christ's Church

This Week

Organist: Mary Jane Pauly
Ushers:
Readers: Connie Foster
Soundboard: Linda Miller and Larry Bethel
Coffee/Treats:
Altar Flowers:
Eternal Candle: Suzanne Pehl – in memory of Terry Pehl

CCLI LICENSE #1262078

Sunday, December 29, 2024

10 am Service

1st Sunday after Christmas-Lessons & Laughter

Our service for today, is a bit different than what we do on a typical Sunday.

Today, as we continue our Christmas celebration, we do so with a service that focuses on the joy,

laughter, and hope of the season. This morning, we get to listen, sing, and find God's spirit in playful connection. Together we are going to practice joy, trusting that God is here in our midst, and goes with us out into the world. Welcome to worship and may you find joy and hope in this place!



Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Finding Joy Together

Call to Worship

We have named our joy out loud and it is clear-

God is in our joy.

God is in this room.

We have reason to celebrate.

Let us worship God together.

Thanks be to God for the bright hope of this new day.

Opening Song

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

ELW 836

Prayer of Confession & Forgiveness

Joyful God, you told us that in order to enter the kingdom of heaven, we should be like children.

We confess that it can be hard to practice unhindered joy, lean into laughter, release our cynicism, and open ourselves to delight.

Forgive us when we are so focused on the bad that we miss the good. Forgive us for hearing the Christmas story and not telling all we meet. Open our hearts to the delight that you are sowing in our lives. With gratitude we pray, Amen.

Friends, hear and believe the good news of the gospel: God sees your hurts and heals your brokenness. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus, you are set free to live a life of love and hope and joy.

Thanks be to God. Amen!

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray together...**God of laughter, we know you speak to us in the quiet. We also trust that when we sing and dance and laugh, you are speaking. Open our ears. and hearts to what you are saying. Meet us in this joy. Meet us in this delight. Meet us in the hope of this Christmas season and reveal the wisdom we need to hear today. With hearts full of gratitude, we pray, we laugh, and we listen. Amen.**

Listen for Joy

First Readings

Luke 2:10, Isaiah 9:2-3

Sing for Joy

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

ELW 289

Practice Joy

Kids Talk

Pastor Amy

“Sharing the Good News with Great Joy”

Listen for Joy

Second Readings

Matthew 2:10, Psalm 148

Sing for Joy

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!”

ELW 288

Practice Joy

Joy Found in Community

Listen for Joy

Third Readings

Luke 2:10, Isaiah 9:2-3

Sing for Joy

“Joy to the World”

ELW 267

Practice Joy

Joy Found in Prayer & Giving

Sending with Joy

“Go, Tell it on the Mountain”

ELW 290

Benediction & Dismissal

Family of faith, as you leave this place, may you be quick to laugh and quick to hope. May you look for reasons to be grateful. May you extend a hand to your neighbor and find God in every moment of joy. For unto you a child is born. That is good news! So go in peace trusting in the promise. And as you go in peace, go with joy.

Thanks be to God, and we will!

Postlude