

4th Sunday of Easter

*Indicates that all who are able are invited to stand.

Bold type invites the people to respond.

PH by hymns denotes the large hymnal &

STF is the blue soft sided hymnal.

We Gather to Worship God

Prelude

Lighting the Candles and Ringing of the Bell

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship:

One: We have been through much, but the Lord has been with us, and so we find peace and give thanks.

All: **The Lord is our shepherd; we have everything we need.**

One: Through shadow and light, through death and birth, through grief and joy, we have never been alone. We rest in that truth.

All: **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our lives, and we shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

*Morning Prayer

*Hymn *The Church's One Foundation* Ph-442

Thanksgiving for Baptism

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

O Lord our God...

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of community, you call us to a world radically different from what we are used to. You ask us to lay aside our ideas of "mine" and "yours." You show us a life where goods are shared, where all are loved, and faithfulness is shown through generosity. But we cling to our possessions, trusting them more than we trust you. Forgive us, merciful God. Help us to truly believe in your just and peaceful realm and to work to make it so. (Pause for a few moments of silent reflection and personal confession.)...through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds we have been healed. **For we were going astray like sheep, but now we have returned to the shepherd and guardian of our souls.** Thanks be to God!

Words of Peace

Since we have received the peace of Christ, let us share that peace with one another. The peace Christ be with you all! And also with you.

*Congregational Response *Glory Be to the Father* PH-579

We Listen For God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson

Acts 2:42-47

Reading ends: This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved. Thanks be to God.

Responsive Psalm

Psalm 23

One: The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

All: **The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**

One: You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

All: **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

One: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

All: **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

Second Lesson

1 Peter 2:19-25

Reading ends: This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Lesson

John 10:1-10

Reading ends: This is the Gospel of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Sermon

We Respond to God's Word

*Hymn *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us* PH-387

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Response: hear our prayer.

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Offering

Thank you for your gifts of financial support of Bethel's ministries which may be placed in the offering plate near the main entrance to the sanctuary either before or following worship.

*Congregational Response

Doxology

*Prayer of Thanksgiving/Dedication

*Affirmation of Faith

New life in Christ takes shape in a community in which people know that God loves and accepts them in spite of what they are. They therefore accept themselves and love others, knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand, except God's grace.

Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.22

*Hymn *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today* PH-123

We Leave to Serve God

*Charge and Blessing

*Congregational Response *Song of Hope* PH-432

Postlude

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today's worship leaders: Rev. Lori Kleppe;
Stephen Bartenhagen, Lay Leader; Linda Johansen
Musician.

Pastor Kleppe would welcome visiting you in your home
or at a coffee shop in town. Her contact information is
563-380-8187 or lori.kleppe@gmail.com

Beverages are available in the narthex and may be
enjoyed during worship. You are invited to help
yourself.

Members and friends of Bethel who seek healing and
wholeness in their lives are kept in prayer during worship.
Today we are remembering – Cathy Bemiss, Teri Brockway,
Don Durscher, Sarah Updegraff Murray, Kirk Bruso, Rose
Marie Knight (Julie Larson's mom), Darwin Schrage, Mike
Schroyer.

Stoney Brook – Kate Ewing, Kathy Meyer
Good Samaritan Center – Peggi Pape
Eastern Star Decorah – Doyle Gorden
Maple Crest – Tex Heyer
Copper Creek – Sandy Schnor

THIS WEEK AT BETHEL

Today, April 26

10:00 a.m. – Morning Worship w/Noisy Bucket offering
Fellowship following

Wednesday, April 29

1:30 p.m. Planning Ahead with Pastor Lori
Next Sunday, May 3

10:00 a.m. – Morning Worship w/the Lord's Supper
Fellowship following

Welcome to Worship at Bethel Presbyterian Church!

- The order of service is found in your bulletin and projected on the screen.
- An * shows the time when the congregation stands. If it is more comfortable to remain seated, please do so.
- Restrooms are found on each level of the church. An usher will help you find your way. Fully accessible restrooms are located in the basement.
- A nursery room is available but we welcome hearing the sound of small children.
- Communion is offered on most first Sundays of the month. All are welcome to receive the elements of the meal. An usher will invite you forward or servers may come to you in the pew.
- We are so glad you are worshipping with us this morning. If your schedule allows, please join us for a time of fellowship following the service.

Upcoming Opportunities

***April 29 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.** Now What? Funeral, Graveside, or Celebration of Life? Join Lori as she helps you outline the manner in which you would like to have friends and family gather at the end of your life.

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BETHEL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
A People and a Place where God is made Known



**Welcome to worship at
Bethel Presbyterian Church,
where everyone is welcome.**

**4th Sunday in Easter
April 26, 2026**