

8th Sunday after Pentecost

*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: Come by here, our Lord,
All: come by here.

*Morning Prayer

*Hymn *Baptized In Water* Ph-492

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Ever-present God, there is no place where you are not with us. You see us at our worst and at our best. There is much we would hide from you—the ways we harm your creation, the ways we mistreat others, the ways we turn away when we should turn toward. Even as you know us, forgive us. Guide our thoughts, our words, our actions, that you may delight in us as we delight in you. *(Pause for a few moments of silent reflection and personal confession.)* ...through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Beloved, hear the good news: God knows us and forgives us and leads us in the way of everlasting life. 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 Genesis 28:10-19a
Reading ends: Keep these words in your heart. The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.
Thanks be to God.

Responsive Psalm Psalm 86:11-17
One: Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart to revere your name.
All: I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart, and glorify your name forevermore.
One: For great is your love toward me; you have delivered me from the pit of death.
All: The arrogant rise up against me, O God, and a band of violent people seeks my life; they have not set you before their eyes.
One: But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.
All: Turn to me and have mercy on me; give your strength to your servant, and save the child of your handmaid. Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame; because you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.

Second Lesson Romans 8:12-25
Reading ends: Keep these words in your heart. The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Lesson Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
Reading ends: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

We Respond to God’s Word

*Hymn *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart* PH-326

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
The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church’s mission. His human life involves the church in the common life of all people. His service to men and women commits the church to work for every form of human well-being. His suffering makes the church sensitive to all human suffering so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of persons in every kind of need. His crucifixion discloses to the church God’s judgment on the inhumanity that marks human relations, and the awful consequences of the church’s own complicity in injustice. In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming, the church sees the promise of God’s renewal of human life in society and of God’s victory over all wrong. The church follows this pattern in the form of its life and in the method of its action. So to live and serve is to confess Christ as Lord.

Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.32–33

*Hymn *Love Divine, All Love Excelling* PH-376

We Leave to Serve God

*Charge and Blessing
*Congregational Response *Song of Hope* PH-432

Postlude

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today's worship leaders: Pastor Lori Kleppe;
Julie Aanes, Lay Leader; and 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.

THIS WEEK AT BETHEL

Today, July 19

10:00 a.m. – Morning Worship

Fellowship following

Thursday, July 23

9:30 a.m. Sewing Circle

Next Sunday, July 26

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

Diaconate received their quarterly offering following
worship on Sunday, July 12th and raised \$258.00. We
appreciate your generous support of our mission within
Bethel Church.

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), Baby
McCoy, and John Falb.

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

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. If helpful, servers may come to you in the pew.
- We are so glad you are worshiping with us this
morning. If your schedule allows, please join us for a
time of fellowship following the service.

Church World Service is asking for donations that will
be collected at Synod School the last week of July. If
you would like to contribute items for the kits or make a
donation of money for supplies to be purchased, there is
a display in the fellowship hall of the three kits with the
list of requested supplies. Please take care when
purchasing items as many need to be fragrance-free.

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

**8th Sunday after Pentecost
July 19, 2026**