

9th 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: Enter God’s gates with praise and thanksgiving.
All: We order our footsteps according to God’s word.

*Morning Prayer

*Hymn Lift High the Cross Ph-371

Thanksgiving for Baptism
Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession
Spirit, intercede . . . when we fall short of your glory, when we do not deserve your promises, when we do not act like those who have been called your family. Spirit, intercede . . . when our words wound, when our silence speaks volumes, when our actions are a far cry from what you would have us do. Spirit, intercede . . . break forth into our lives, forming us into the image of your Son, that we might never feel separate from you again. (Pause for a few moments of silent reflection and personal confession.) ...through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness
Beloved, hear this good news: God is for us. Not even our sins can separate us from the love of God. Glory be to God for this grace and mercy!

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 29:15-28

Reading ends: Keep these words in your heart. The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.
Thanks be to God.

Responsive Psalm Psalm 105:1-11

One: Give thanks to the LORD and call upon God’s name; make known the deeds of the LORD among the peoples.
All: Sing to the LORD, sing praises, and speak of all God’s marvelous works.
One: Glory in God’s holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.
All: Search for the strength of the LORD; continually seek God’s face.
One: Remember the marvels God has done, the wonders and the judgments of God’s mouth,
All: O offspring of Abraham, God’s servant, O children of Jacob, God’s chosen ones.
One: The LORD is our God, whose judgments prevail in all the world,
All: who has always been mindful of the covenant, the promise made for a thousand generations:
One: the covenant made with Abraham, the oath sworn to Isaac,
All: which God established as a statute for Jacob, an everlasting covenant for Israel,
One: saying, “To you will I give the land of Canaan to be your allotted inheritance.” Hallelujah!

Second Lesson Romans 8:26-39

Reading ends: Keep these words in your heart. The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Lesson Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

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

Sermon

We Respond to God’s Word

*Hymn Be Thou My Vision PH-339

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 *More Love to Thee, O Christ* PH-359

We Leave to Serve God

*Charge and Blessing

*Congregational Response *Song of Hope* PH-432

Postlude

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today's worship leaders: Pastor Lori Kleppe;
LeAnn Popenhagen, Lay Leader; and Farrah Fritz,
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. Children's "Busy Bags" are also found in the
narthex.

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.

THIS WEEK AT BETHEL

Today, July 26

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

Next Sunday, August 2

10:00 a.m. – Morning Worship
Fellowship following

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, John Falb and Ken Popenhagen.

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

You're invited to celebrate PW Gives Day-July 31!

This day is set aside each year for individuals and PW
groups to celebrate and support all that Presbyterian
Women makes possible. For PW Gives Day 2026,
prayerfully consider the legacies that you have inherited
and consider the ways you can strengthen the legacies
you hope to build for tomorrow's Presbyterian Women.

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

**9th Sunday after Pentecost
July 26, 2026**