

*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: O taste and see:
 All: God is good.

*Morning Prayer

***Hymn *Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty* Ph-482**

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of all goodness, We do not want to face all that is in our own hearts. We want to focus on the good—on the love, the compassion, the care—and ignore the bad—the greed, the envy, the cruelty. But before you, God, we must face it. Forgive all the ways we have let evil take hold in our hearts. Cleanse us. Help us face our own demons, and empower us to live a Christlike life. (*Pause for a few moments of silent reflection and personal confession.*) ...through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

We have been disobedient to God, but we have received mercy. Let us live our lives as those transformed by the abundant mercy of 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.

We Listen For God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson Genesis 45:1-15

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

Responsive Psalm Psalm 133

One: How good and how pleasant it is, when kindred live together in unity!

All: It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down upon the beard, upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar of his robe.

One: It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the hills of Zion. For there the LORD has commanded the blessing, life forevermore.

Second Lesson Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

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

Gospel Lesson Matthew 15(10-20) 21-28

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

Sermon

We Respond to God's Word

*Hymn *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound* PH-280

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.

*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.

We Leave to Serve God

*Benediction

*Congregational Response *Song of Hope* PH-432

Postlude

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today's worship leaders: Pastor Lori Kleppe;
Gregg Kleppe, 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, August 16

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

Thursday, August 20

10:00 a.m. Bible Study at Bethel

Next Sunday, August 23

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, and Ken Popenhagen.

Stoney Brook – Kate Ewing (now on Hospice)

The Highlands – Kathy Meyer

Good Samaritan Center – Peggi Pape

Eastern Star Decorah – Doyle Gorden

Maple Crest – Tex Heyer

Copper Creek – Sandy Schnor

John O. Falb's Celebration of Life will be held on August
21st in Florida. It will be live-streamed at Bethel at
noon. Please help us let others know of this opportunity.
There will be a coffee and dessert reception following.

Session has approved a special offering to support
people and businesses affected by the devastating fire
at Agri-Star Industries. We will receive donations from
now until September 6th. Please make checks payable
to Bethel and add Postville Fire Relief in the memo
section. May they feel God's love through our gifts.

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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.**

**12th Sunday after Pentecost
August 16, 2026**