

13th 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: Let the people of Bethel say,
All: If the Lord had not been on our side, where
would we be?

*Morning Prayer

*Hymn Lift Every Voice and Sing Ph-563

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, When faced with earthly powers that
seem overwhelming, we crumble. We fear this world.
We fear losing our status, our stability, our station more
than we fear you. Forgive our shortcomings and teach
us to trust in you when we take a risk for what we know
is right. (Pause for a few moments of silent reflection and
personal confession.) ...through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

If God was not on our side, we could not stand in the
judgment. But God is with us, steadfast and faithful, as
we seek to live in peace. In the name of Jesus Christ, we
are forgiven! 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 Exodus 1:8-2:10

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

Responsive Psalm Psalm 138

One: I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my
whole heart; before the gods I will sing your
praise.
All: I will bow down toward your holy temple and
praise your name, because of your
steadfast love and faithfulness; for you have
glorified your name and your word above all
things.
One: When I called, you answered me; you increased
my strength within me.
All: All the rulers of the earth will praise you,
O LORD, when they have heard the words of
your mouth.
One: They will sing of the ways of the LORD, that
great is the glory of the LORD.
All: The LORD is high, yet cares for the lowly,
perceiving the haughty from afar.
One: Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep
me safe; you stretch forth your hand against
the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall
save me.
All: You will make good your purpose for me;
O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do
not abandon the works of your hands.

Second Lesson Romans 12:1-8

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

Gospel Lesson Matthew 16:13-20

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

Sermon

We Respond to God’s Word

*Hymn All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name PH-142

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 Lead On, O King Eternal PH-447

We Leave to Serve God

*Benediction

*Congregational Response Song of Hope PH-432

Postlude

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today's worship leaders: Pastor Lori Kleppe;
Julie Aanes, 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 23

10:00 a.m. – Morning Worship

Fellowship following

Thursday, August 27

9:30 a.m. Sewing Circle

Next Sunday, August 30

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

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

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.



Blessing to your new grandson Pastor Lori and Gregg.

Rev. Lori L. Kleppe, Pastor
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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.

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August 23, 2026