

*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 sing aloud a song of thanksgiving
 All: and recount all of God's wonderful deeds.

*Morning Prayer

***Hymn** *We Gather Together* Ph-559

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Sometimes it sounds too hard: deny ourselves, take up our crosses, lose our lives? Forgive us, Savior, but we'd rather you do it for us. Forgive us, Christ, but we are overwhelmed with what you ask of us. We long to see you come in glory, but fear the road we must take. Have mercy on our weakness. Be patient with our stumbling. Do not leave us behind, even when we are slow to follow, and lead us in your ways of peace. *(Pause for a few moments of silent reflection and personal confession.)* ...through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Christ does not abandon us, but died for us, was raised for us, and loves us still. This is the good news that prevails! In Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, we are forgiven!

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 Exodus 3:1-15

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

Thanks be to God.

Responsive Psalm Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b

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: Israel came into Egypt, and Jacob became a sojourner in the land of Ham.

All: **The LORD made the people of Israel very fruitful, more numerous than their enemies,**

Second Lesson Romans 12:9-21

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

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Lesson Matthew 16:21-28

Reading ends: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

We Respond to God's Word

*Hymn *Beneath the Cross of Jesus* PH-92

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Response: hear our prayer.

We Leave to Serve God

*Benediction

*Congregational Response *Song of Hope* PH-432

Postlude

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today's worship leaders: Pastor David Coffin; Robin Bostrom, 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. 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 30

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

Next Sunday, September 6

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

We thank Pastor David for leading worship for us this morning!

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.

Kathy Meyer's new address is:

The Highlands

607 Highland Dr. Room 104

Decorah, IA 52101

Rev. Lori L. Kleppe, Pastor

208 N. Vine St.

West Union, IA 52175

563-422-3238 (O)

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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.**

**14th Sunday after Pentecost
August 23, 2026**