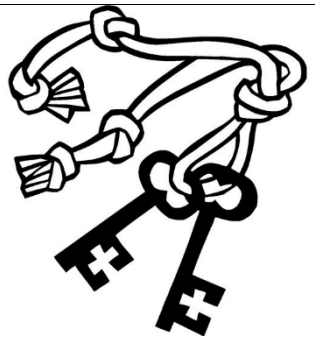
13th Sunday after Pentecost

August 23, 2026

Bethany Lutheran Church

Welcome Visitors.

Please sign our visitor book. There activity bags available for small children, located by the entrance of sanctuary.



GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CALL TO WORSHIP PSALM:138

1 I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods I will sing your praise.

2 **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.**

3 When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me.

4 **All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O LORD, when they have heard the words of your mouth.**

5 They will sing of the ways of the LORD, that great is the glory of the LORD.

6 **The LORD is high, yet cares for the lowly, perceiving the haughty from afar.**

7 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.

8 **You will make good your purpose for me; O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands.**

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

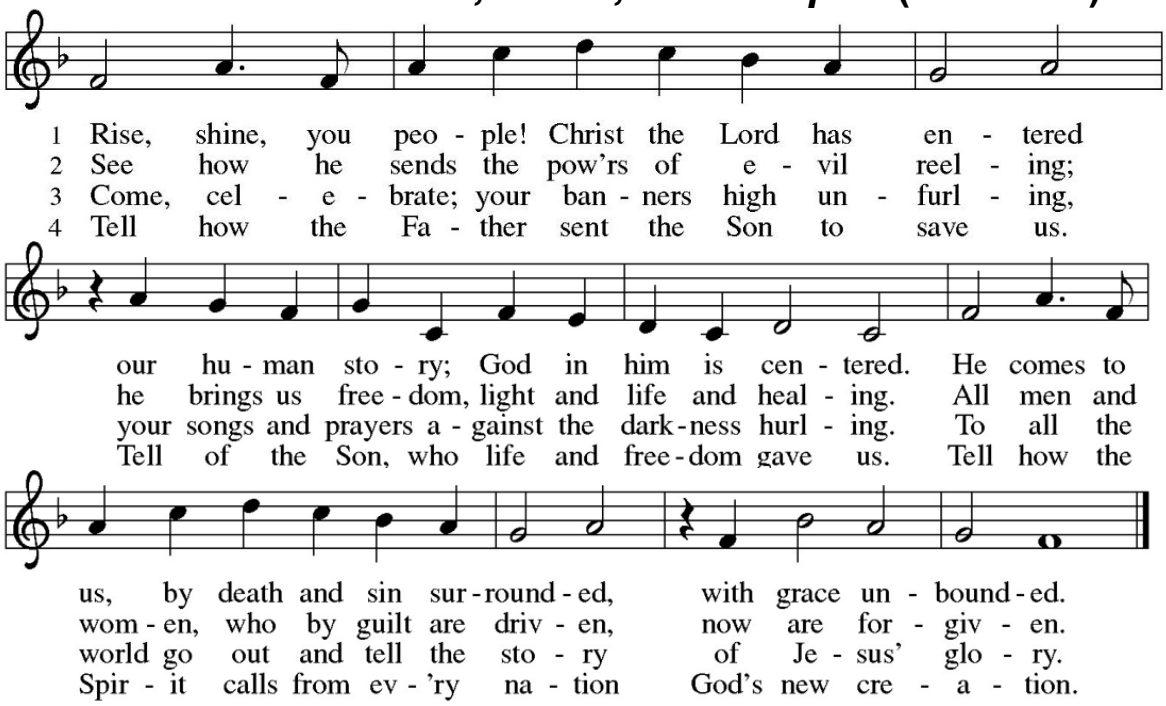
We bless you, almighty God, for the gift of water...Yellow, Lemonweir, Wisconsin, and Mississippi rivers that you provide for our community—
We bless you, O God, for the waters of earth.

We honor you, merciful God, for showering us with water…for the dew that freshens dry places— **We honor you, O God, for the waters you send.**

We glorify you, gracious God, for the waters of baptism…Spirit, for the water that bathes the church universal— the Orthodox, Roman Catholics, Protestants, Pentecostals, Evangelicals, independents—
We glorify you, O God, for the waters of baptism.

We worship you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, almighty, merciful, and gracious. Well of forgiveness, you revive us, Cup of cold water, you refresh us, Pool of rebirth, you renew us. **To you comes the worship of all your people, now and forever. Amen.**

GATHERING SONG *Rise, Shine, You People!* (ELW 665)



Text: Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt.
Music: WOJTKIEWIECZ, Dale Wood, 1934–2003
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GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, **with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 51:1-6

A reading from Isaiah.

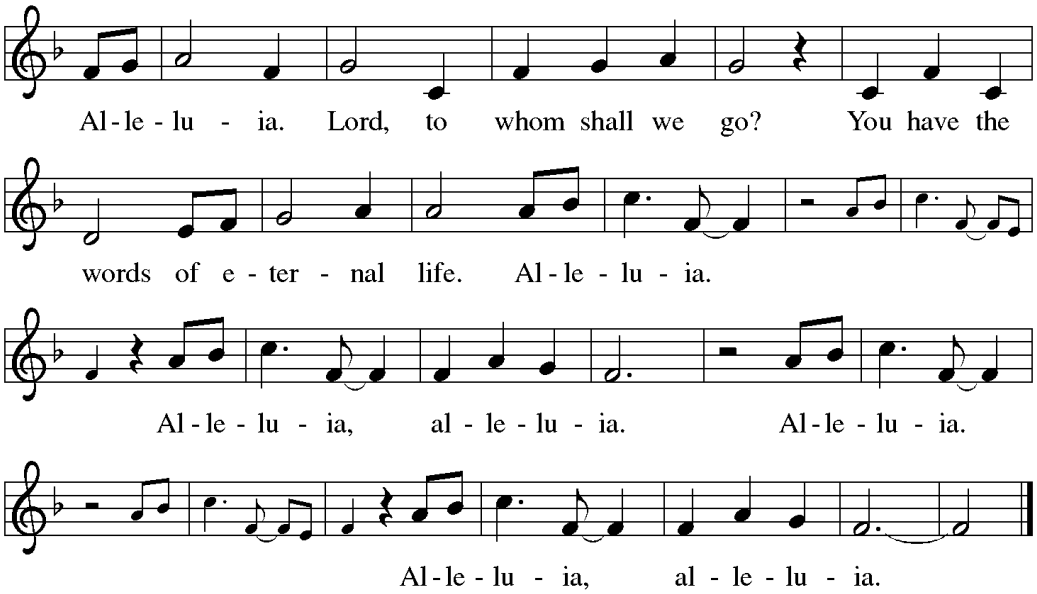
[1] Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the LORD. Look to the
rock from which you were hewn and to the quarry from which you were dug.[2] Look to
Abraham your father and to Sarah, who bore you, for he was but one when I called
him, but I blessed him and made him many.[3] For the LORD will comfort Zion; he will
comfort all her waste places and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the
garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice
of song.[4] Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation, for a teaching will
go out from me and my justice for a light to the peoples.[5] I will bring near my
deliverance swiftly; my salvation has gone out, and my arms will rule the peoples; the
coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope.[6] Lift up your eyes to the heavens
and look at the earth beneath, for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will

wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats, but my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended.
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: Romans 12:1-8

A reading from Romans.
[1] I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. [2] Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. [3] For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. [4] For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, [5] so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. [6] We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; [7] ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; [8] the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 188)

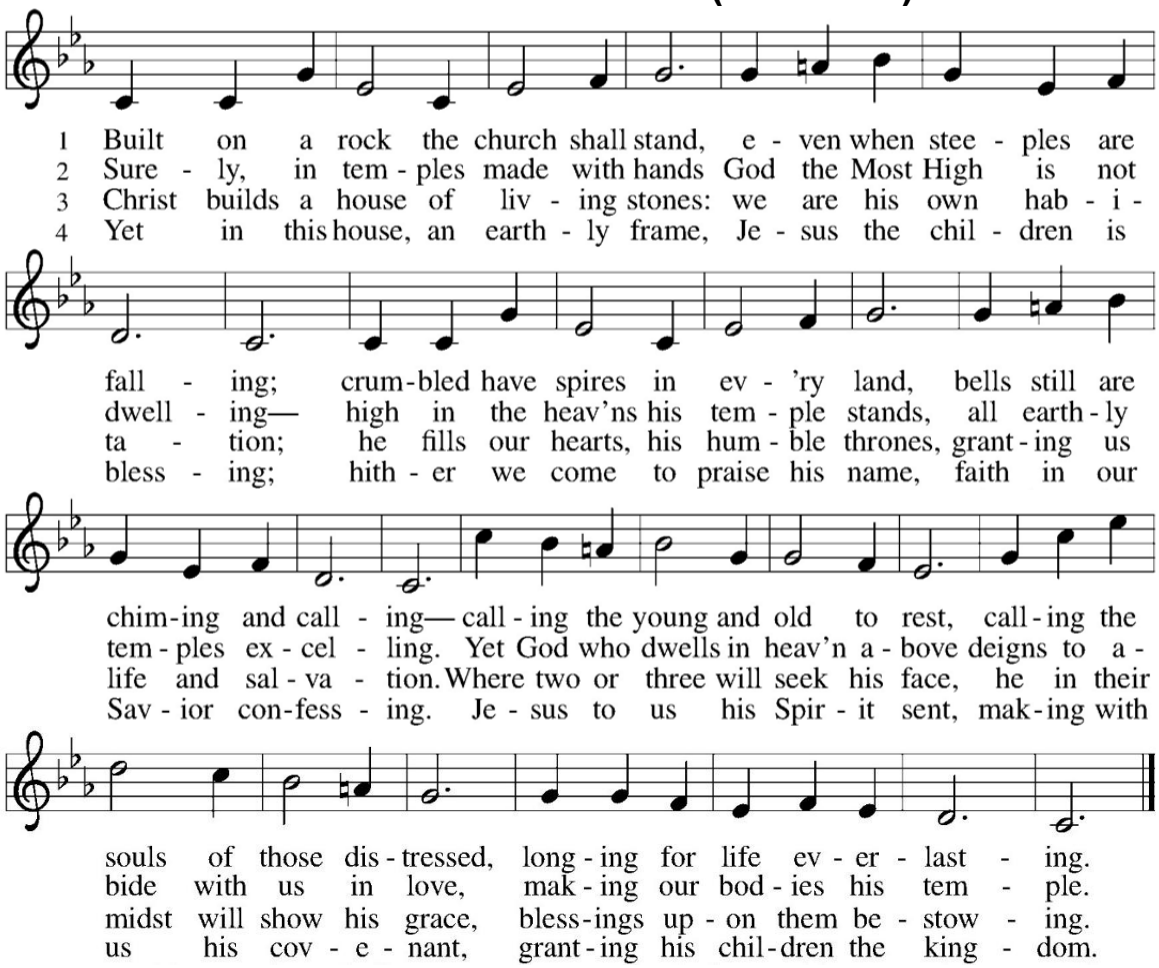


GOSPEL: Matthew 16:13-20

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**
[13] Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" [14] And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." [15] He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" [16] Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." [17] And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon, son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. [18] And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. [19] I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven,

and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." [20] Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah. The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *Built on a Rock* (ELW 652)

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. Carl Doving, 1867–1937, adapt.
Music: KIRKEN DEN ER ET GAMMEL HUS, Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812–1887
Text © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

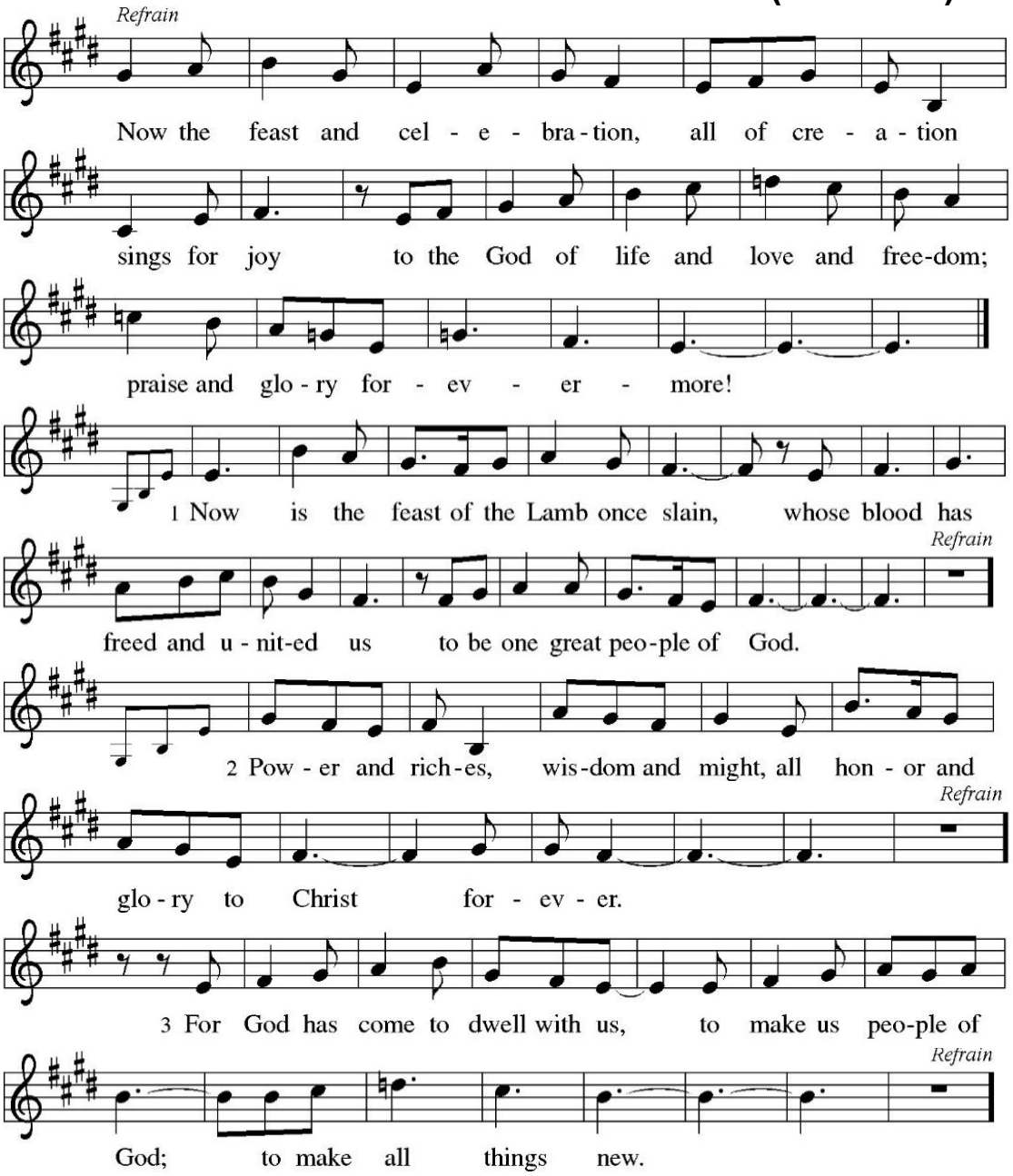
PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each prayer petition ends: *Merciful God,* ***receive our prayer.***

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also, with you.**

THANKSGIVING

OFFERING *Now the Feast and Celebration* (ELW 167)

Text and music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Text and music © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
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THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Holy God, our Maker, our Healer, our Teacher, your magnificent creation springs forth from your Word. All that has life and breath praises your name. For your Word that sustains the earth, we thank you, O God. **We thank you, O God.**

You sent us Jesus, your Word, to renew the world. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, preached your mercy, and called us to faith. For your Word in our Lord Christ, we praise you, O God. **We praise you, O God.**

Nourish us with the Spirit of your Word, that we may grow in grace, bearing the fruits of redemption, and sharing your strength and beauty with all the world. For your Word in our lives, we entreat you, O God. **We entreat you, O God.**

Accept our thanksgiving and receive our prayer, for the sake of your living Word, Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be 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 trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

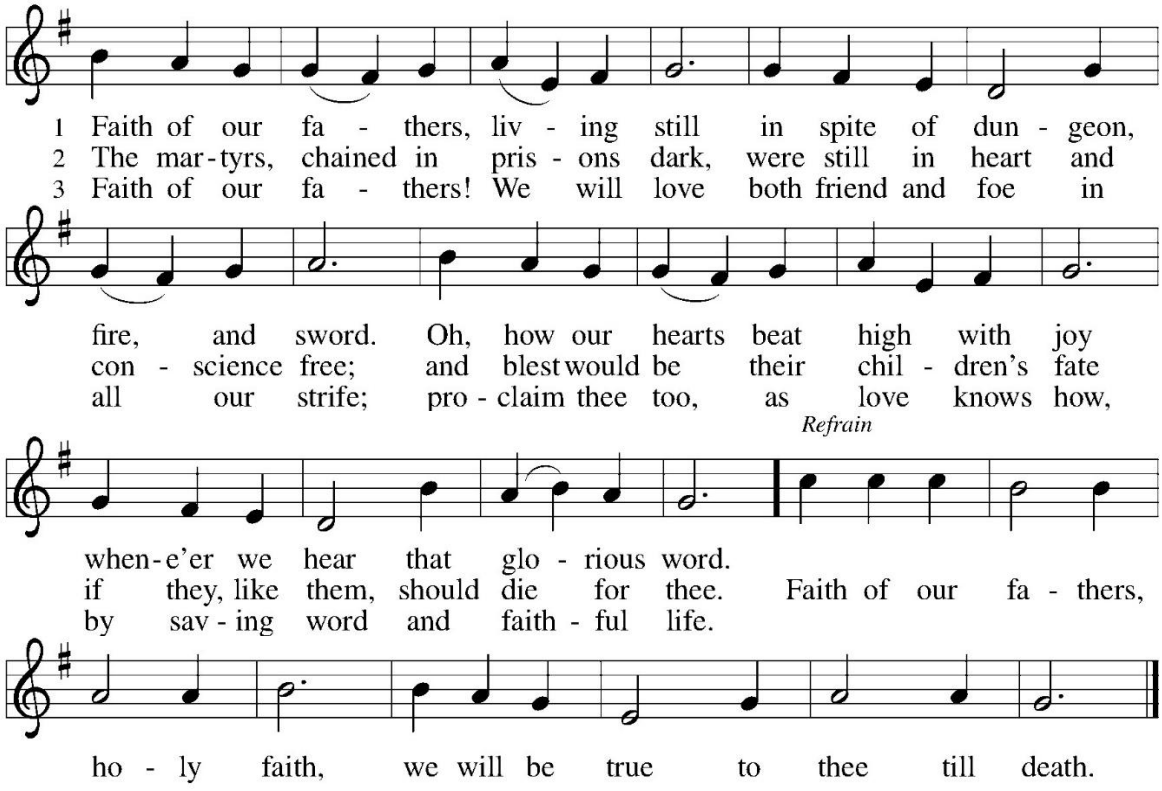
SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

SENDING SONG *Faith of Our Fathers* (ELW 812)



Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814–1863, alt.
Music: ST. CATHERINE, Henri F. Hemy, 1818–1888; James G. Walton, 1821–1905, refrain

DISMISSAL

We go, renewed and fed to create life-giving relationships **through worship, outreach and service. Thanks be to God.**

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Worship on Sunday morning is recorded on Facebook from the 9AM service.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Ladies, please check out the notice on the W-ELCA bulletin board for an opportunity to attend a contemporary Christian concert in Reedsburg on Sat., Oct 24th @ 7:00 pm.
- Sunday, August 30th – Back to School Blessing.
- September 5th – Joint Worship @ Bethany
- September 13th Grandparents Day Celebration
- September 20th – Sunday School Starts with the Creation.
- We have Kwik Trip Script cards for sale. Choose between Gas or Food cards.
- August Food Pantry items – Peanut Butter, Jelly/Jam, Granola Bars, Juice Boxes.
- Items for our Baby Care Kits can be placed in the clear tote in the coat room. Please note the posted changes that Lutheran World Relief has requested. Thanks.
- Health Kits are in need of towels, big bar soap, nail clippers and individual toothbrushes.
- Quilters could use full or queen flat sheets. Thank you.
- A Lions Glass box is in the Bethany Narthex for disposal of old eyeglasses.
- Wednesday 9 am - Quilting
- Tuesday AA meetings 6:30 pm @ East Lemonweir/ Thursday 6:30 pm @ Bethany

Prayers of Concern:

Prayers for those who cannot worship with us today.

Prayers for those who have loss family and friends, especially the family and friends of Marian LaFortune.

Prayers for those who serve to protect others.

Prayers for Sonja Haske, Shirley Wehman, Joel Lingl (Galen's Brother), Mike Schultz, Shawna (Tim Parker's Sister), Sandy Hempel, Amy Andres Peterson (daughter of Tom & Roxanne Andres), Holly Berry, Dean Allard, Kalie Geitner (Galen & Janenne Lingl), Katie & Doug Johnson, Becky Bailey, Fred Wehman, Steve Werth, Ken Adams, Jordan Wehman, Tommy Paulson (Vanessa Lucas's Brother), John Preston, Garry Olson, Yvonne Olson, Jacob Sorenson, Mickie (Ron & Patti Thompson), Fran Benson, Landon LaBerge, Marilyn Wetley, and others we silently name.

Electronic giving is available via Vanco, using this QR Code: