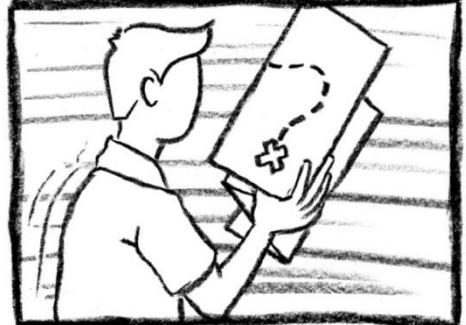


The Pathway to Faith
2017 Summer Sermon Series

From Meandering to Seeking **Week #1**



**Needing to lean into the journey and
purposefully seek final answers.**

Thursday, August 3, and Sunday, August 6, 2017

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

5110 Grand Avenue, Gurnee, Illinois 60031 – (847) 244-9647

Pastor Ben Squires

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The Pathway to Faith

2017 Summer Sermon Series



This series of sermons will tie in with the GO! Prayer Room emphasis on the five thresholds to faith—the steps that someone goes through from unbelief to discipleship. These sermons will help us reflect on how God is at work in the people around us and the ways He can use us—even in small ways, like being a Christian friend who can be trusted by a non-Christian.



This series focus is inspired by *Once Was Lost* by Don Everts & Doug Schaupp. If you would like to read along, please let an Elder or Pastor know today, and we can get you a copy. Pastor is inviting readers to share their thoughts, questions, and stories that come to mind as they read.

Shifts Along the Pathway (and sermon dates)

- From Mistrust to Trust (June 1/4 & June 8/11)
- From Complacent to Curious (June 22/25 & June 29/July 2)
- From Closed to Open about Change in Their Life (July 20/23 & July 27/30)
- From Meandering to Seeking (August 3/6 & August 10/13)
- From Lost to Found (August 17/20 & August 24/27)

Why Learn about the Pathway to Faith? (Evert & Schaupp, p. 25)

- Frees us to learn about what others are experiencing
- Recognizes the mysterious nature of the Spirit at work in someone
- Moves us from activism (i.e.:pushy) to a humble place of wonder & prayer
- Allows us to appreciate the organic, unique way God works in each person
- Leads us to empathize with our friends & where they are on the pathway

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Thursday 6:30 p.m. & Sunday 9:00 a.m.

Holy Communion: 1st, 3rd, 5th Sundays and the Thursday prior
Becky Lanzito & Karen Leicht - Organists, Ann Souza - Music Director,
Mandi Stilson – Choir/New Music Accompanist

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

We are pleased you chose to be with us in worship today, and pray the Lord blesses you as he has blessed us with your presence. Our goal is to help people find the right place for them to hear God's word and serve His mission. We'd love to support you in that spiritual journey. Please take a moment to complete an attendance card and place it in the Offering plate or give to an usher. This card will help us connect with you.

HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord's Supper is celebrated according to the Lutheran Confessions based on the teaching Jesus gave his disciples and us that he is truly present in this meal. Confident that our sins are forgiven, we experience our oneness with him and each other as he gathers us at his table. His true body and blood, given and shed for us, we share in this meal as he invites in Matthew 26:26-28, "Take and eat; this is My Body ... This is My Blood..." Baptized Christians sharing these beliefs are invited to receive Communion. All others are invited to the altar rail for a blessing. Wine can be taken by common chalice, individual cup, or by dipping your wafer into the chalice. Please address questions to the Elders or the Pastor. ***Non-alcoholic wine is in purple-colored cups.***

NURSERY

We have two rooms available for your use. When the service is in the sanctuary, the nursery is down the hall just past the restrooms. If the service is held in the gym, the nursery is in the youth room at the far end of the gym.

SERVING TODAY

Thursday 6:30 p.m.

Elder: Mike Bandman
Comm/Asst. Elder: Bob Souza
Acolytes: Lauren Best, Nathan Faitsch
Ushers: Don Heidlauf, ***OPEN***
Lay Readers: Claudine Rayos, Norm Balliet
Greeters: Fleming Family

August Altar Guild: Margie Tatgenhorst
August Counters: Morrie & Carol Cook

Sunday 9:00 a.m.

JJ Jones
OPEN
Katie Kreamer, Lily Erwin
John Schultz, ***OPEN***
Kelley Dörner, Diane Boehm
Susan & Paul Boardman,
OPEN
Dawn Werfelmann

TODAY'S FLOWERS ARE PROVIDED BY:

PSALM SERVICE

This service uses portions of the Psalms as the parts of the liturgy.
The Psalms are the hymnbook of the Bible and help us form our worship today.

Opening Hymn

In Thee Is Gladness

LSB 818



1 In Thee is glad - ness A - mid all sad - ness, Je - sus,
2 Since He is ours, _____ We fear no pow - ers, Not of



sun - shine of my heart. By Thee are giv - en The gifts of
earth nor sin nor death. He sees and bless - es In worst dis -



heav - en, Thou the true Re - deem - er art. Our souls Thou
tress - es; He can change them with a breath. Where-fore the



wak - est, Our bonds Thou break - est; Who trusts Thee sure - ly Has built se -
sto - ry Tell of His glo - ry With hearts and voic - es; All heav'n re -



cure - ly; He stands for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia! Our hearts are
joic - es In Him for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia! We shout for



pin - ing To see Thy shin - ing, Dy - ing or liv - ing
glad - ness, Tri - umph o'er sad - ness, Love Him and praise Him



To Thee are cleav - ing; Naught can us sev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!
And still shall raise Him Glad hymns for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!

Invocation and Call to Worship (Based on Psalm 92)

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: O Lord, it does us good to give you thanks,

C: to fill our lungs with the name of the Most High,

P: To start the morning off with good news of your love,

C: and to close the day with thanks for your faithfulness,

P: You made us find joy in what you have done, O LORD.

C: We will sing joyfully about the works of your hands.

P: How spectacular are your works, O LORD!

C: How very deep are your thoughts!

Confession and Absolution (Based on Isaiah 55 and Psalm 130)

P: The Lord's thoughts are not your thoughts,

neither are your ways the Lord's ways.

Seek the Lord while he may be found;

call upon him while he is near;

let the sinners abandon their ways,

and the unrighteous turn away from their thoughts;

Return to the Lord, for he will have compassion on you,

Return to our God, for he will forgive generously.

C: Yes, let us return to the Lord and confess our sin.

P: Out of the pit we call you, Lord;

C: please, Lord, hear us;

P: Though our voices are faint let them reach your ears

C: and touch your heart of mercy.

P: Lord, if you keep a tally of all our sins,

C: then who could survive?

P: But Lord, you have the power to forgive;

C: So we worship and honor you.

P: His word is our only hope;

C: We wait on the Lord, we wait in our souls,

P: eager as any watchman waits for the morning.

(Silence for reflection on personal sins and need for forgiveness).

P: You wait for the Lord, because his love for you will never run out,
 and because he has the power to set you free;
 Only he will save you from your sins,
 Only he has sent his son to die for you
 and rise again to give you new life.
 Your sins are forgiven in the Name of the Father
 and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Song of Praise

Seek Ye First



1 Seek ye first the king - dom of God, And His
 2 Ask and it shall be giv - en un - to you, Seek and
 3 Man does not live by bread a - lone, But by



right - teous - ness. And all these things shall be
 ye shall find, Knock and the door shall be
 ev - 'ry word That pro - ceeds from the



add - ed un - to you! Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!
 o - pened un - to you, Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!
 mouth of the Lord, Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

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Collect (Prayer of the Day)

P: Let us pray. O God of all the nations of the earth: Remember the multitudes who have been created in your image but have not known the redeeming work of our Savior Jesus Christ. You sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere who are wandering may seek after you and find you, pour out Your Spirit upon them and bring them into your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 55:1–5 (ESV)

[And the LORD declares]:

¹“Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;
and he who has no money, come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.

³Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live;
and I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.

⁴Behold, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.

⁵Behold, you shall call a nation that you do not know,
and a nation that did not know you shall run to you,
because of the LORD your God, and of the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.”

L: This is the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Epistle (New Testament Letter)

Romans 9:1–5 (ESV)

[Paul wrote]: 'I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit—²that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. ³For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh. ⁴They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. ⁵To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.

L: This is the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 14:13–21 (ESV)

¹³Now when Jesus heard [about the death of John the Baptist], he withdrew from there in a boat to a desolate place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns.

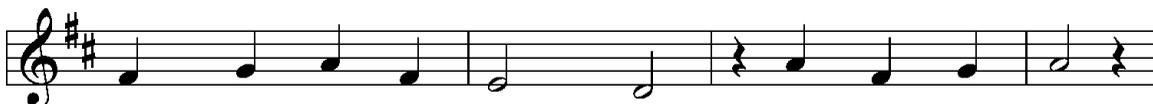
¹⁴When [Jesus] went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick. ¹⁵Now when it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a desolate place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” ¹⁶But Jesus said, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” ¹⁷They said to him, “We have only five loaves here and two fish.” ¹⁸And he said, “Bring them here to me.” ¹⁹Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass, and taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. ²¹And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.



1 Seek where you may To find a way That
 2 Seek whom you may To be your stay, None
 3 Seek Him a - lone Who did a - tone, Who
 4 My heart's de - light, My crown most bright, O



leads to your sal - va - tion. My heart is stilled,
 can re - deem his broth - er. All help - ers failed;
 did your souls de - liv - er. O seek Him first,
 Christ, my joy for - ev - er. Not wealth nor pride



On Christ I build, He is the one foun - da - tion.
 This man pre - vailed, The God-man and none oth - er,
 All you who thirst For grace that fails you nev - er.
 Nor for-tune's tide Our bonds of love shall sev - er.



His Word is sure, His works en - dure; He o - ver - throws
 Our Ser-vant-King Of whom we sing. We're jus - ti - fied
 In ev - 'ry need Seek Him in - deed; To ev - 'ry heart
 You are my Lord; Your pre - cious Word Shall guide my way



All e - vil foes; Through Him I more than con - quer.
 Be - cause He died, The guilt - y be - ing guilt - less.
 He will im - part His bless - ings with - out mea - sure.
 And help me stay For - ev - er in Your pres - ence.

Sermon

Confession of Faith

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.—And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And he will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.—And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Offering & Prayer Requests

In addition to the prayer requests already received, Pastor will pause here to see if there are additional requests. Prayers can be thanksgivings, joy, requests for yourself, or requests for others.

Offertory

We Give Thee But Thine Own

LSB 781 sts. 1-2

(Sung as the offerings are brought forward to the altar)



1 We give Thee but Thine own, What - e'er the gift may be;
2 May we Thy boun - ties thus As stew - ards true re - ceive



All that we have is Thine a - lone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.
And glad - ly, as Thou bless - est us, To Thee our first-fruits give!

Prayers

The Lord's Supper: What We Believe

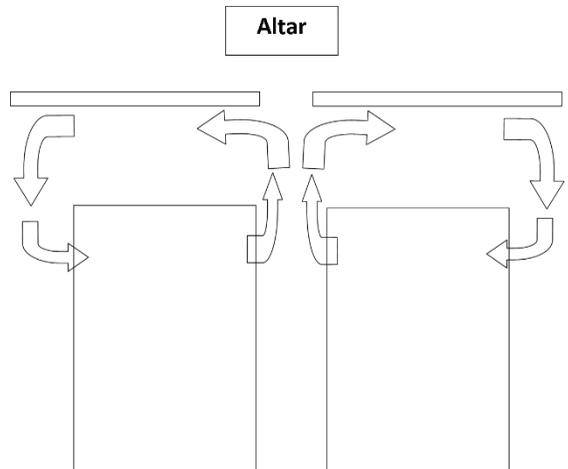
All Christians who are baptized and have been instructed are invited to receive Communion with us if you believe as we do—that the bread is the body of Christ, and the wine is the blood of Christ, truly present for us for the forgiveness of our sins.

If this is a new teaching to you, or if this is different than you believe, we ask that you wait to commune until we've had a further chance to talk. We invite those who are not communing to come to the rail, cross your arms, and receive a blessing from the Lord.



Communion Distribution

- Pastor distributes the bread, and the Elders distribute the wine—with individual cups or common cup. The individual trays also contain alcohol-removed wine in the center of each tray in the purple cups.
- Each side will be ushered from the center aisle to the communion rail, row by row, starting with the front.
- Go to the rail on your side of the sanctuary, filling in starting with the outside wall towards the center.
- Once you have received the elements, you may remain at the rail for prayer and leave at your own pace.
- Return to your seat using the outside aisle.
- Use the distribution time to prepare yourself for communion, sing the hymns as prayers to God, and maintain this as meditative time.



Preparation for the Lord's Supper

(Based on Psalm 98)

P: Sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things;
His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for him.

**C: *The LORD has made His salvation known
and revealed His righteousness to the nations.***

P: He has remembered His love and His faithfulness to the house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

**C: *Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth,
burst into jubilant song with music;***

P: make music to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and the sound of singing,
with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn—
shout for joy before the LORD, the King.

The Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

All: 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.

Words of Institution

Pax Domini (The Peace of the Lord)

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

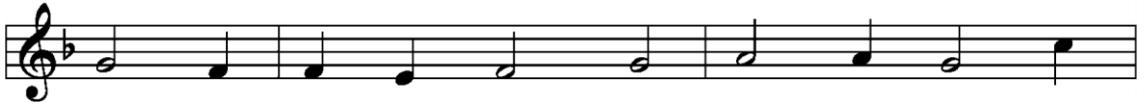
C: *And also with you.*

(We greet one another in peace saying "God's peace" or "The Lord be with you.")

First Distribution Hymn "As Surely as I Live," God Said LSB 614, sts. 1-2,5-8; tune: 580



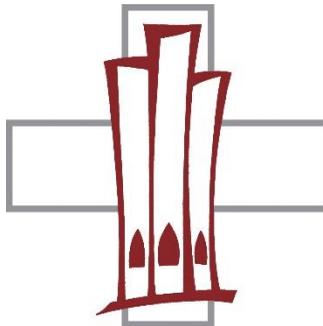
1 "As sure - ly as I live," God said, "I would not
 2 And so our Lord gave this com - mand: "Go forth and
 5 The words which ab - so - lu - tion give Are His who
 6 When min - i - sters lay on their hands, Ab - solved by
 7 All praise to You, O Christ, shall be For ab - so
 8 Praise God the Fa - ther and the Son And Ho - ly



see the sin - ner dead. I want him turned from
 preach in ev - 'ry land; Be - stow on all My
 died that we might live; The min - i - ster whom
 Christ the sin - ner stands; He who by grace the
 - lu - tion full and free, In which You show Your
 Spir - it, Three in One, As was, is now, and



er - ror's ways, Re - pen - tant, liv - ing end - less days."
 par - d'ning grace Who will re - pent and mend their ways.
 Christ has sent Is but His hum - ble in - stru - ment.
 Word be - lieves The pur - chase of His blood re - ceives.
 rich - est grace; From false in - dul - gence guard our race.
 so shall be World with - out end, e - ter - nal - ly!



Second Distribution Hymn**Your Table I Approach**

LSB 628



1 Your ta - ble I ap - proach; Dear Sav - ior, hear my prayer.
 2 Lord, I con - fess my sins And mourn their wretch - ed bands;
 3 Your bod - y and Your blood, Once slain and shed for me,
 4 Search not how this takes place, This won - drous mys - ter - y;



Let not an un - re - pen - tant heart Prove hurt - ful to me there.
 A con - trite heart is sure to find For - give - ness at Your hands.
 Are tak - en at Your ta - ble, Lord, In blest re - al - i - ty.
 God can ac - com - plish vast - ly more Than what we think could be.

- 5 O grant, most blessèd Lord,
 That earth and hell combined
 May not about this sacrament
 Raise doubt within my mind.
- 6 Oh, may I never fail
 To thank You day and night
 For Your true body and true blood,
 O God, my peace and light.

Common Dismissal

P: Now may this true body and true blood of our Lord...

C: **Amen.**

Thanksgiving Prayer

P: Let us pray: Lord Jesus Christ, we give you praise this day for all of your blessings, especially for giving us your body and blood. Keep us through this meal to always be under your care. Watch over us as we go throughout the day, so that we may never wander from your way. This we pray in your name, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Benediction (Based on Psalm 67 and Numbers 6)

P: God is good to us, he is blessing us,

C: **The face of God is shining down on us,**

P: Let the peoples praise You, O God;

C: **Let all the peoples praise You.**

P: Oh, let the nations be glad and sing for joy!

C: **God, our own God, shall bless us.**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

O Jesus, King Most Wonderful

LSB 554 sts. 1, 3-4



1 O Je - sus, King most won - der - ful!
3 O Je - sus, light of all be - low,
4 May ev - 'ry heart con - fess Your name,



O Con - quer - or re - nowned! O Source of peace in -
The fount of life and fire, Sur - pass - ing all the
For - ev - er You a - dore, And, seek - ing You, it -



ef - fa - ble, In whom all joys are found:
joys we know, All that we can de - sire:
self in - flame To seek You more and more!

Announcements



Bethel's Annual Church Picnic

Sunday, August 20 ~ 11:30 a.m.

Viking Park Summer Kitchen - Old Grand Ave., Gurnee

Mark your calendar, clear your schedules, bring the whole family out and enjoy a few hours with our Bethel family. There will be games and activities for all ages. The grill will be filled with hamburgers, brats and hot dogs. Cups, plates, napkins, utensils, and drinks will be provided. A sign up sheet will be posted in the back of church on which you can choose to bring side dishes or dessert.

There are nice restrooms located nearby as is a playground. There are picnic tables for eating, but if you are more comfortable sitting in a lawn chair, you can bring one.

Looking forward to seeing you at Viking Park on August 20!



Acknowledgements

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