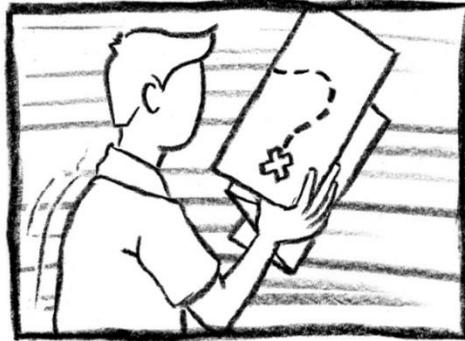


From Meandering to Seeking

Week #2

THE PATHWAY TO FAITH
2017 Summer Sermon Series



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

Thursday, August 10, and Sunday, August 13, 2017

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

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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 & Schaup, 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.

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.

Sunday 9:00 a.m.

<i>Elder:</i>	Mike Bandman	JJ Jones
<i>Comm/Asst. Elder:</i>	OPEN	Jack Warneke
<i>Acolytes:</i>	OPEN , Joshua Leicht	Jessica Chudy, Ellie Maag
<i>Ushers:</i>	Morrie Cook, OPEN	John Schultz, Tyler Flowers
<i>Lay Readers:</i>	Margie & Ted Tatgenhorst	Al Diercks, Tony Young
<i>Greeters:</i>	OPEN	Kevin & Holli Boivin, Chudy Family
<i>August Altar Guild:</i>	Margie Tatgenhorst	Dawn Werfelmann
<i>August Counters:</i>	Morrie & Carol Cook	

ALTAR FLOWERS ARE PROVIDED BY:

Craig Johnsen in memory of his wife Donna Wheeler Johnsen, and the Rasmussen, Souza, and Kazarian families in memory of Mark Souza.

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.

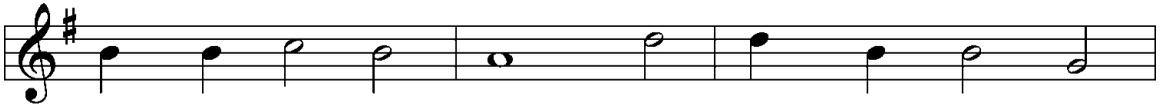
Opening Hymn

Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

LSB 528



1 Oh, for a thou - sand tongues to sing My
2 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, As -
3 Je - sus! The name that charms our fears, That
4 He breaks the pow'r of can - celed sin; He
5 Look un - to Him, ye na - tions; own Your



great Re - deem - er's praise, The glo - ries of my
sist me to pro - claim, To spread through all the
bids our sor - rows cease; 'Tis mu - sic in the
sets the pris - 'ner free. His blood can make the
God, ye fall - en race. Look and be saved through



God and King, The tri - umphs of His grace!
earth a - broad, The hon - ors of Thy name.
sin - ner's ears, 'Tis life and health and peace.
foul - est clean; His blood a - vails for me.
faith a - lone, Be jus - ti - fied by grace.

- 6 See all your sins on Jesus laid;
The Lamb of God was slain.
His soul was once an off'ring made
For ev'ry soul of man.
- 7 To God all glory, praise, and love
Be now and ever giv'n
By saints below and saints above,
The Church in earth and heav'n.

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



righ - 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.**

Psalm Reading

Psalm 18:1–6 (ESV)

¹I love you, O LORD, my strength.

²The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer,
my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge,
my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

³I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies.

⁴The cords of death encompassed me; the torrents of destruction assailed me;
⁵the cords of Sheol entangled me; the snares of death confronted me.

⁶In my distress I called upon the LORD; to my God I cried for help.

From his temple he heard my voice, and my cry to him reached his ears.

L: This is the Word of the Lord **C: Thanks be to God.**

Epistle (New Testament Letter)

Romans 10:8–17 (ESV)

⁸But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. ¹¹For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. ¹³For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

¹⁴But how are they to call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? ¹⁵And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” ¹⁶But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?” ¹⁷So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

L: This is the Word of the Lord **C: Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

Matthew 7:24–29 (ESV)

[And Jesus said]: 24“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. 26And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. 27And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”

28And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, 29for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

Hymn of the Day

How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds

LSB 524



1 How sweet the name of Je - sus sounds In
2 It makes the wound - ed spir - it whole And
3 Dear name! The rock on which I build, My
4 O Je - sus, shep - herd, guard - ian, friend, My



a be - liev - er's ear! It soothes our sor - rows,
calms the heart's un - rest; 'Tis man - na to the
shield and hid - ing place; My nev - er - fail - ing
Proph - et, Priest, and King, My Lord, my life, my



heals our wounds, And drives a - way our fear.
hun - gry soul And to the wea - ry, rest.
trea - sury filled With bound - less stores of grace.
way, my end, Ac - cept the praise I bring.

5 How weak the effort of my heart,
How cold my warmest thought!
But when I see Thee as Thou art,
I'll praise Thee as I ought.

6 Till then I would Thy love proclaim
With ev'ry fleeting breath;
And may the music of Thy name
Refresh my soul in death!

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

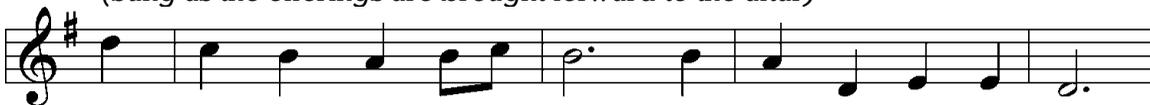
In addition to the prayer requests already received, Pastor will pause here to see if there are additional requests. Prayers can be thanksgivings, joy, requests for yourself, or requests for others.

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 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.

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

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

LSB 686



1 Come, Thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, Tune my heart to
 2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer, Hith - er by Thy
 3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or Dai - ly I'm con -
 4 Oh, that day when freed from sin - ning, I shall see Thy



sing Thy grace; Streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing,
 help I've come; And I hope, by Thy good plea - sure,
 strained to be; Let that grace now like a fet - ter
 love - ly face; Clothed then in the blood - washed lin - en,



Call for songs of loud - est praise. While the hope of end - less
 Safe - ly to ar - rive at home. Je - sus sought me when a
 Bind my wan - d'ring heart to Thee: Prone to wan - der, Lord, I
 How I'll sing Thy won - drous grace! Come, my Lord, no long - er



glo - ry Fills my heart with joy and love, Teach me
 strang - er, Wan - d'ring from the fold of God; He, to
 feel it; Prone to leave the God I love. Here's my
 tar - ry; Take my ran - som'd soul a - way; Send Thine



ev - er to a - dore Thee; May I still Thy good - ness prove.
 res - cue me from dan - ger, In - ter - posed His pre - cious blood.
 heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts a - bove.
 an - gels soon to car - ry Me to realms of end - less day.



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!



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