

How to Read/Study the Bible

A Sermon Series based on 1 & 2 Timothy

Principle of Interpretation #2: Stick with the Plain & Obvious Meaning of the Text

**19th Sunday after Pentecost
September 25, 2016**

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

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

Pastor Ben Squires

Cell phone: 224-419-5519 or email: pastor@bethelgurnee.org

Website: www.BethelGurnee.org

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays 8:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

Holy Communion: 1st, 3rd, 5th Sunday of the month

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

8:00 a.m.

10:45 a.m.

<i>Elder:</i>	Mike Bandman	Randy Gifford
<i>Comm/Asst. Elder:</i>	Paul DeLassus	Jack Warneke
<i>Acolytes:</i>	Joshua Leicht, Nathan Faitsch	Jessica Chudy
<i>Ushers:</i>	Don Heidlauf, Chuck Johnson,	Lance Rasmussen,
<i>Lay Readers:</i>	Margie & Ted Tatgenhorst	Suzanne Fowler, David Ziegler
<i>Greeters:</i>	Bob & Patty Livingston, Robb Family	Helen Moore, Pellettiere Family
<i>Fellowship:</i>	The Brazda Family	
<i>Sept. Altar Guild:</i>	Becky Anderson	Shari Hoppe
<i>Sept. Counters:</i>	Margie Tatgenhorst	Carol Cook

ALTAR FLOWERS ARE PROVIDED BY:

Mavis Henkel in celebration of God's blessings and
Greg and Shannon Swanson in celebration of their 18th wedding anniversary.

NEHEMIAH SERVICE

Worship in a traditional order that uses portions of the book of Nehemiah.

Opening Hymn

This Is the Day the Lord Has Made

LSB 903



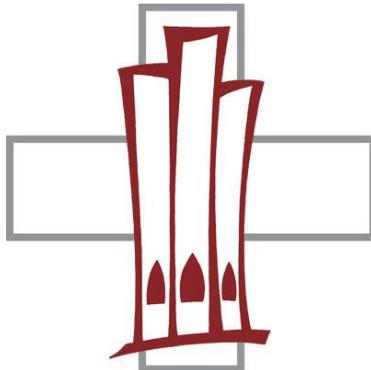
1 This is the day the Lord has made; He calls the
2 To - day He rose and left the dead, And Sa - tan's
3 Ho - san - na to the a - noint - ed King, To Da - vid's
4 Bless - ed is He who comes to us With mes - sag -
5 Ho - san - na in the high - est strains The Church on



hours His own. Let heav'n re - jice, let
em - pire fell; To - day the saints His
ho - ly Son! Help us, O Lord; de -
es of grace; He, in the Lord's name,
earth can raise. The high - est heav'ns, in



earth be glad And praise sur - round the throne.
tri - umphs spread And all His won - ders tell.
scend and bring Sal - va - tion from Your throne.
comes to us To save our fall - en race.
which He reigns, Shall give Him no - bler praise.



Invocation (Based on selections from Nehemiah 8)

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

C: Amen.

P: All the people gathered into the square.

And they told Ezra the scribe,

**C: Bring the Book of the Law of Moses,
Bring the Word of the Lord to us.**

P: And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, and as he opened it all the people stood. Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered,

C: Amen, Amen.

P: They lifted up their hands.

They bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord.

This day is holy to our Lord.

C: The joy of the Lord is our strength. Amen.

Confession and Absolution (Based on selections from Nehemiah 1)

P: O Lord God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love Him and keep His commandments,

C: let Your ear be attentive and Your eyes open, to hear the prayer of Your servants that we now pray before You day and night, confessing the sins we have committed against You. We have acted very corruptly against You and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, and the rules that You commanded.

P: Lord, remember the word that You gave to Your servant Moses, "If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the peoples."

C: But Lord also remember that You promised: "If you return to Me, even though you are outcasts, I will gather you and bring you to the place that I have chosen, to make My Name dwell there."

P: God has indeed heard your prayers and remembers His promise to gather you again to Himself, so that you may dwell with Him for eternity. By His Holy Spirit, you are the Lord's servants and His people, whom God has redeemed by His great power and by His strong hand, by the death and resurrection of His Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Your sins are forgiven in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen! Thanks be to God!

Song of Praise

Word of God Speak

VERSE

1. I'm find - ing my - self _ at a loss _ for words, and the fun -
(2. I'm find - ing) my - self _ in the midst _ of You, be - yond the

-ny thing is, it's o - kay. The last thing I need _ is to _
mu - sic, be - yond the noise. All that I need _ is to be _

_ be heard, but to hear _ what You would say. _ Word of God, _ speak. _
_ with You, and in the qui - et hear Your voice. _

CHORUS

_ Would You pour down _ like rain, _ wash - ing my eyes _ to see, _ Your maj -
- es - ty, _ to be still and know _ that You're in _ this place? _ Please let me stay _

_ and rest _ in Your ho - - li - ness. _ Word of God, _ speak. _

- li - ness. _ Word of God, _ speak. I'm find - ing my -

ENDING

- self at a loss _ for words, and the fun -
-ny thing is, it's o - - kay.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray. O Lord, God of truth, Your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light on our path. Give us delight in our study of Holy Scripture. May those who continue to read, mark, and inwardly digest Your Word find in it the food of salvation and the fountain of life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Anthem

“Trust and Obey”

Adult Choir

Readings Note: There is no Gospel selection due to today's focus & theme.

New Testament Reading

Acts 20:17-38 (ESV)

Paul meets with the church leaders in Ephesus, where Timothy will later serve as Pastor.

¹⁷ [Paul] sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him. ¹⁸And when they came to him, he said to them:

“You yourselves know how I lived among you the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, ¹⁹serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews; ²⁰how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, ²¹testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. ²²And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, ²³except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. ²⁴But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. ²⁵And now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom will see my face again. ²⁶Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all of you, ²⁷for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. ²⁸Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. ²⁹I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; ³⁰and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. ³¹Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish everyone with tears. ³²And now I commend you to

God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. ³³I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. ³⁴You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. ³⁵In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

³⁶And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. ³⁷And there was much weeping on the part of all; they embraced Paul and kissed him, ³⁸being sorrowful most of all because of the word he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they accompanied him to the ship.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Children's Message

Series Reading from St. Paul's 1st Letter to Timothy 1 Timothy 3:1-13 (ESV)

¹The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. ²Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, ³not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. ⁴He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, ⁵for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? ⁶He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. ⁷Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

⁸Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. ⁹They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. ¹⁰And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. ¹¹Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. ¹²Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well. ¹³For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

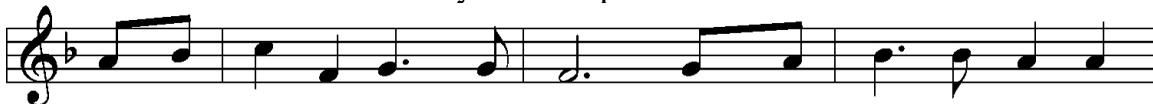
C: Thanks be to God.



1 Speak, O Lord, Your ser - vant lis - tens, Let Your Word to
 2 Oh, what bless - ing to be near You And to lis - ten
 3 Lord, Your words are wa - ters liv - ing When my thirst - ing
 4 As I pray, dear Je - sus, hear me; Let Your words in



me come near; New - born life and spir - it give me,
 to Your voice; Let me ev - er love and hear You,
 spir - it pleads. Lord, Your words are bread life - giv - ing;
 me take root. May Your Spir - it e'er be near me



Let each prom - ise still my fear. Death's dread pow'r, its in - ward
 Let Your Word be now my choice! Man - y hard - ened sin - ners,
 On Your words my spir - it feeds. Lord, Your words will be my
 That I bear a - bun - dant fruit. May I dai - ly sing Your



strife, Wars a - gainst Your Word of life; Fill me, Lord, with
 Lord, Flee in ter - ror at Your Word; But to all who
 light Through death's cold and drea - ry night; Yes, they are my
 praise, From my heart glad an - thems raise, Till my high - est



love's strong fer - vor That I cling to You for - ev - er!
 feel sin's bur - den You give words of peace and par - don.
 sword pre - vail - ing And my cup of joy un - fail - ing!
 praise is giv - en In the end - less joy of heav - en.

Sermon

“Stick with the Plain & Obvious Meaning of the Text”

Offering Preface (Based on selections from Nehemiah 9)

P: You are the Lord, You alone.

C: **You have made heaven, even the highest heavens,
the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them;
and You preserve all of them; and the multitudes of heaven worship You.**

P: You are the Lord, You alone. We remember Your graciousness and blessings to
Your people throughout all generations.

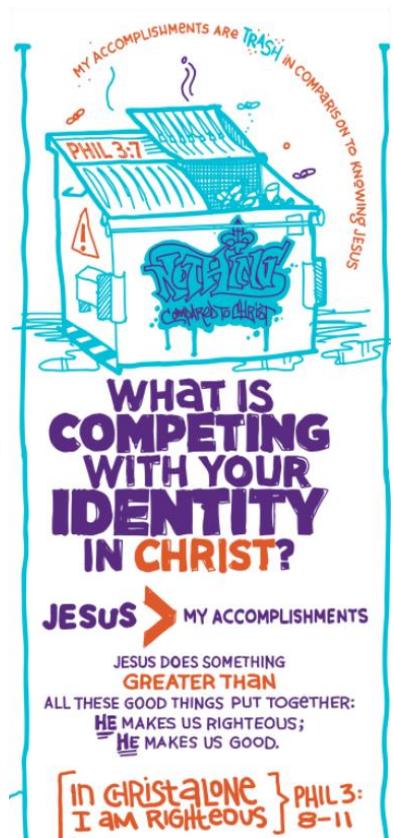
C: **You have kept Your promise, for You are righteous. Amen.**

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.

Faith Story: National Youth Gathering

In July, Bethel sent 12 youth and 5 adults together to the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod National Youth Gathering in New Orleans. This every 3rd year event isn't just an exciting opportunity to be with 25,000 other Christians; it's also an opportunity for God to encourage and grow disciples in the faith. We've asked our youth to share their Faith Stories each week through October 9. This week's stories tie in with the Gathering's 2nd day theme: **"What is Competing with your Identity in Christ?"**



Offertory Prayer

P: Gracious God, your love for us is revealed in the gifts of Jesus and the Holy Spirit. You call us to make these gifts evident in our lives. Receive and bless this offering as a symbol of our thanksgiving and as a sign of our commitment to be prophetic witnesses of your love and mercy. In the Name of Jesus, we pray.

C: **Amen.**

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.

Confession of Faith

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.

Nicene Creed

Benedicamus Domino (“Let us bless, the Lord”) & Benediction (Blessing)

P: Rise up and bless the Lord your God *(Based on Nehemiah 9:5 & Psalm 126:3,6)*
from everlasting to everlasting.

C: ***Blessed be Your glorious name, O Lord;
Your Name is exalted above all blessing and praise.***

P: The Lord has done great things for us;
Those who come before the Lord weeping
shall now go with shouts of joy,
because of the Lord’s great mercy, love, and strength.
In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: ***Amen.***

Closing Hymn

Spread the Reign of God the Lord

LSB 830



1 Spread the reign of God the Lord, Spo - ken, writ - ten, might - y Word;
2 Tell how God the Fa - ther's will Made the world, up - holds it still,
3 Tell of our Re - deem - er's grace, Who, to save our hu - man race
4 Tell of God the Spir - it giv'n Now to guide us on to heav'n,



Ev - 'ry - where His crea - tures call To His heav'n - ly ban - quet hall.
How His own dear Son He gave Us from sin and death to save.
And to pay re - bel - lion's price, Gave Him - self as sac - ri - fice.
Strong and ho - ly, just and true, Work - ing both to will and do.

5 Enter, mighty Word, the field;
Ripe the promise of its yield.
But the reapers, oh, how few
For the work there is to do!

6 Lord of harvest, great and kind,
Rouse to action heart and mind;
Let the gath'ring nations all
See Your light and heed Your call.

Announcements

Acknowledgements

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Bethel Auction Basket Items Needed



Friday, October 28th
Holiday Inn – Gurnee

As in the past, Bethel will be providing an auction item for the Love INC auction. Bethel's "Food and Fun" basket has done so well the last two years we will do it again for our donation. We are looking for items to add to the gift basket that relate to this theme - examples: favorite restaurant gift card, bowling gift card, movie gift cards, favorite item found around our area such as a special olive oil, a homemade related item. Use your imagination! You may also give a cash donation for us to purchase items. All items need to be in the church office by **October 2**. Contact Carol Cook (carol@bethelgurnee.org) if you have any questions.

Tickets for the event can be purchased on the Love INC website - loveinclakecounty.org.