

# From Closed to Open

about Change in Their Lives    Week #2



It means questioning your own worldview  
and contemplating a Christian perspective.

**Thursday, July 27, and Sunday, July 30, 2017**

---

**BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL**

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

Pastor Ben Squires

Website: [www.BethelGurnee.org](http://www.BethelGurnee.org)

---

## **Praise & Thanksgiving**

Our 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday prayer time is dedicated to PRAISING and THANKING God. Use the sheets provided, write down your PRAISE, and then tape it to the communion rail (tape pieces provided at rail). You may add your Praise anytime or during Offering. Pastor will read the Praises during the Prayers of the Church today. Other requests can be submitted on attendance cards to be included in future Prayer Lists.

# 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.

### ***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.***

#### ***Sunday 9:00 a.m.***

<b><i>Elder:</i></b>	JJ Jones	Bob Souza
<b><i>Comm/Asst. Elder:</i></b>	Monte Stoltzman	Al Diercks
<b><i>Acolytes:</i></b>	Mineva Freehling, Allyson Adams	Tanner Swanson, Hunter Kregel
<b><i>Ushers:</i></b>	Tera Redman, <b>OPEN</b>	Dave Hoffmeister, John Schultz, <b>OPEN</b>
<b><i>Lay Readers:</i></b>	Bob & Linda Piepenbrink	Dave Hoffmeister, Diane Sanders
<b><i>Greeters:</i></b>	Warren & Kathy Regnier, Souza Family	Kazarian Family, Maiore Family
<b><i>July Altar Guild:</i></b>	Diane Rogala	Diane Sanders
<b><i>July Counters:</i></b>	David and Cheryl Ross	

---

### ***TODAY'S FLOWERS ARE PROVIDED BY:***

Claudine and Jose Rayos in celebration of their wedding anniversary.

## GENEROSITY SERVICE

A service celebrating God's generosity to us—especially in His generous salvation offered as a gift to us in Jesus Christ. May that generosity transform us.

### Opening Hymn

### God Himself Is Present

LSB 907



1 God Him - self is pres - ent: Let us now a - dore Him  
2 God Him - self is pres - ent: Hear the harps re - sound - ing;  
3 Fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, Pu - ri - fy my spir - it,



And with awe ap - pear be - fore Him. God is in His  
See the hosts the throne sur - round - ing. "Ho - ly, ho - ly,  
Trust - ing on - ly in Your mer - it. Like the ho - ly



tem - ple; All with - in keep si - lence; Hum - bly kneel in  
ho - ly!" Hear the hymn as - cend - ing, Songs of saints and  
an - gels, Wor - ship - ing be - fore You, May I cease - less -



deep - est rev - 'rence. He a - lone On His throne  
an - gels blend - ing. Bow Your ear To us here:  
ly a - dore You. Let Your will Ev - er still



Is our God and Sav - ior; Praise His name for - ev - er!  
Hear, O Christ, the prais - es That Your Church now rais - es.  
Rule Your Church ter - res - trial As the hosts ce - les - tial.

### Invocation

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

C: Amen.

**Generosity Praises** based on 1 Cor. 2:12; 2 Cor. 9:11; Prov. 11:25; Rom. 12:6,8; James 1:17

P: We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God,

**C: that we may understand what God has freely given us.**

P: You will be made rich in every way

**C: so that you can be generous on every occasion.**

P: A generous person will prosper;

**C: The one who refreshes others will also be refreshed.**

P: We have different gifts, according to the grace,  
the gift of God, given to us. If it is encouraging,

**C: let him encourage;**

P: if it is contributing to the needs of others,

**C: let him give generously;**

P: if it is leadership, **C: let him lead diligently;**

P: if it is showing mercy, **C: let him do it cheerfully.**

P: Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above,

**C: coming down from the Father of lights. Amen.**

**Confession and Absolution (Forgiveness)** based on Titus 3:3-7

P: Confess—admit your sin before the Lord and before one another.

**C: In our sinful condition, we were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another.**

P: But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared,

**C: He saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done,**

P: but because of his mercy.

**C: He saved us through the washing of rebirth—**

P: Your baptism into the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**C: He saved us through the renewal by the Holy Spirit—**

P: The Spirit He poured out on you generously through Jesus Christ our Savior,

**C: So that, now we are made right in God's eyes,**

P: You are justified by his grace, a free gift to you through God's generosity. You are forgiven, made right, justified in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen! Now we inherit all the riches of the kingdom of God as His children.**

P: You inherit the gift of the hope of eternal life through Jesus Christ.

**C: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**Song of Praise**

**Brothers and Sisters in Christ**



1 Sing al - le - lu - ia! A - men! \_\_\_\_\_ Let your prayers\_ and  
2 Man walked a - lone and in need \_\_\_\_\_ With-out faith, hope or  
3 Lord, teach us how to pro - claim \_\_\_\_\_ All your good-ness, your



prais-es as - cend. \_\_\_\_\_ Lift up your voic-es and sing \_\_\_\_\_ To our  
prom-ise or creed; \_\_\_\_\_ Wan-der - ing, aim-less-ly lost, \_\_\_\_\_ Un-a -  
love and your name! \_\_\_\_\_ Lord, teach us how to for - give \_\_\_\_\_ And in



Lord God, our Sav-ior and King! \_\_\_\_\_ Here brought to-geth-er by  
ware of the stag-ger-ing cost; \_\_\_\_\_ That God in his mer-cy would  
love, teach us, Lord, how to live. \_\_\_\_\_ Rais-ing our voic-es in



grace \_\_\_\_\_ We are gath-ered as friends in this place. \_\_\_\_\_ }  
save \_\_\_\_\_ All his peo-ple from death and the grave. \_\_\_\_\_ } And as -  
song, \_\_\_\_\_ Help us tell all the world we be - long. \_\_\_\_\_ }



sem-bled as one, In the name of the Son, Lift-ing hearts, lift-ing



hands, Cel-e - brat-ing as friends, And pro-claim-ing the Lord, All our



prais-es af - ford. We are broth-ers and sis - ters in Christ. \_\_\_\_\_

### **Greeting and Collect (Prayer of the Day)**

P: The Lord be with you.   **C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. O most Holy Father, our God, worthy of all our love, in mercy You reconcile us poor sinners to be made holy in Your sight through Your Son, Jesus. Bring these same bright beams of Your divine grace to shine into the lives of our family, friends, and neighbors, opening them to change in their lives, so that they may also be fully reconciled to You, 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 40:1–3 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup>I waited patiently for the LORD;

he inclined to me and heard my cry.

<sup>2</sup>He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog,  
and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.

<sup>3</sup>He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.

Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD.

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

### **Epistle (New Testament Reading)**

**1 Thessalonians 5:14–24 (ESV)**

<sup>14</sup>And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. <sup>15</sup>See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. <sup>16</sup>Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup>Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>Do not despise prophecies, <sup>21</sup>but test everything; hold fast what is good. <sup>22</sup>Abstain from every form of evil.

<sup>23</sup>Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup>He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

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

### **Holy Gospel**

**Luke 7:18–23 (ESV)**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 7th chapter.   **C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>18</sup>The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, <sup>19</sup>calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” <sup>20</sup>And when the men had come to him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?’” <sup>21</sup>In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and

evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. <sup>22</sup>And he answered them, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. <sup>23</sup>And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: *Praise to You, O Christ.*

**Hymn of the Day**

**How Can I Thank You, Lord**

LSB 703



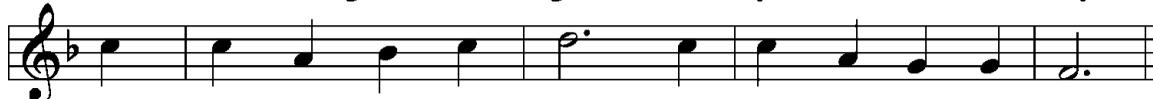
1 How can I thank You, Lord, For all Your lov - ing - kind - ness,  
 2 It is Your work a - lone That I am now con - vert - ed;  
 3 Lord, You have raised me up To joy and ex - ul - ta - tion  
 4 Grant that Your Spir - it's help To me be al - ways giv - en



That You have pa - tient - ly Borne with me in my blind - ness!  
 O'er Sa - tan's work in me You have Your pow'r as - sert - ed.  
 And clear - ly shown the way That leads me to sal - va - tion.  
 Lest I should fall a - gain And lose the way to heav - en.



When dead in man - y sins And tres - pass - es I lay,  
 Your mer - cy and Your grace That rise a - fresh each morn  
 My sins are washed a - way; For this I thank You, Lord.  
 Grant that He give me strength In my in - fir - mi - ty;



I kin - dled, ho - ly God, Your an - ger ev - 'ry day.  
 Have turned my ston - y heart In - to a heart new - born.  
 Now with my heart and soul All e - vil I ab - hor.  
 May He re - new my heart To serve You will - ing - ly.

5 O Father, God of love,  
 Now hear my supplication;  
 O Savior, Son of God,  
 Accept my adoration;

O Holy Spirit, be  
 My ever faithful guide  
 That I may serve You here  
 And there with You abide.

## Sermon

**Offering Preface** based on King David's prayer in 1 Chronicles 29:10-14

P: Praise be to you, O Lord, God of our father Israel, from everlasting to everlasting.

C: **Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power  
and the glory and the majesty and the splendor,  
for everything in heaven and earth is yours.**

P: Yours, O Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all.

C: **Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things.**

P: In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all.

C: **Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name.**

P: But who are we that we should be able to give as generously as this?

C: **Everything comes from you,  
and we have given you only what comes from your hand. Amen.**

## Offering

**(Sunday) Offertory Take My Life and Let it Be**

LSB 783 sts. 1, 4, 6

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



1 Take my life and let it be Con-se - crat - ed, Lord, to Thee;  
4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, Not a mite would I with - hold;



Take my mo - ments and my days, Let them flow in cease-less praise.  
Take my in - tel - lect and use Ev - 'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour  
At Thy feet its treasure store;  
Take myself, and I will be  
Ever, only, all for Thee.



## **Prayers**

—Pastor offers the Praises & Thanksgivings that have been posted.

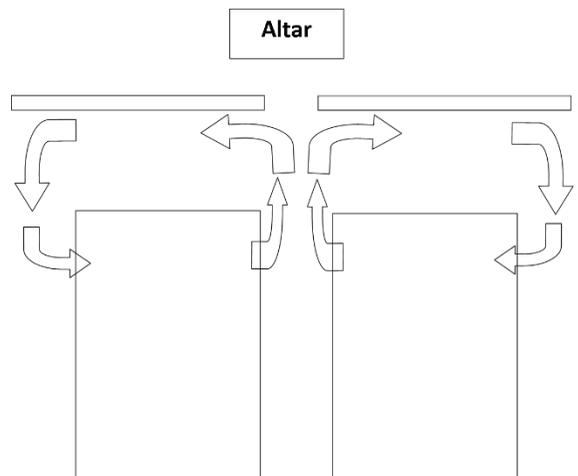
### ***The Lord's Supper: What We Believe***

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.



## ***Preparation for the Lord's Supper & Lord's Prayer***

LSB 290, 203, & others

P: I will go to the altar of God,

**C: to God, my exceeding joy.**

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C: who made heaven and earth.**

P: Since we are gathered to receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, and in His incredible generosity shown to us in the death of His only Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. In perfect love for us Jesus Christ our God and Lord became incarnate, died, and rose for our sake. He bestows the benefits of His redeeming work on us as He places His body and blood into our mouths in the Sacrament of the Altar. As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P: We pray: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So 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****How Firm a Foundation**

LSB 728



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,  
 2 "Fear not! I am with you, O be not dis - mayed,  
 3 "The soul that on Je - sus has leaned for re - pose,  
 4 "When through fi - ery tri - als your path - way will lie,



Is laid for your faith in His ex - cel - lent Word!  
 For I am your God and will still give you aid;  
 I will not, I will not, de - sert to his foes;  
 My grace, all - suf - fi - cient, will be your sup - ply.



What more can He say than to you He has said  
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
 That soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,  
 The flames will not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign



Who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?  
 Up - held by My righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand.  
 I'll nev - er, no nev - er, no nev - er, for - sake!  
 Your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine.

5 "Throughout all their lifetime My people will prove  
 My sov'reign, eternal, unchangeable love;  
 And then, when gray hairs will their temples adorn,  
 Like lambs they will still in My bosom be borne."

**Second Distribution Hymn**

**Precious Lord, Take My Hand**

LSB 739



1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, Lead me on, let me stand;  
2 When my way grows drear, Pre - cious Lord, lin - ger near,  
3 When the dark - ness ap - pears And the night draws near



I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.  
When my life is al - most gone,  
And the day is al - most gone,

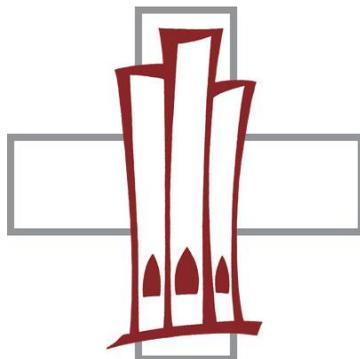


Through the storm, through the night, Lead me on to the light.  
Hear my cry, hear my call; Hold my hand lest I fall.  
At the riv - er I stand; Guide my feet, hold my hand,



Take my hand, pre - cious Lord; lead me home.  
Take my hand, pre - cious Lord; lead me home.  
Take my hand, pre - cious Lord; lead me home.

© 1938 Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp.; admin. Alfred Music. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License .NET, no. 100013448.



### **Common Dismissal**

P: Now may this true body and blood. . .and give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

### **Generosity Praises** based on Psalm 106:1-5,47-48

P: Praise the Lord. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

**C: his love endures forever.**

P: Who can proclaim the mighty acts of the Lord or fully declare his praise?

**C: Remember us, O Lord, when you show favor to your people,  
come to our aid when you save them,**

P: that we may enjoy the prosperity of your chosen ones,  
that we may share in the joy of your nation

**C: So we may join your inheritance in giving praise.**

P: Save us, O Lord our God,

**C: and gather us from the nations,**

P: So that we may give thanks to your holy name and glory in your praise.

**C: Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting.**

P: Let all the people say, "Amen! Praise the Lord."

**C: Amen! Praise the Lord.**

### **Benediction**

P: The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
bless and preserve you.

**C: Amen.**



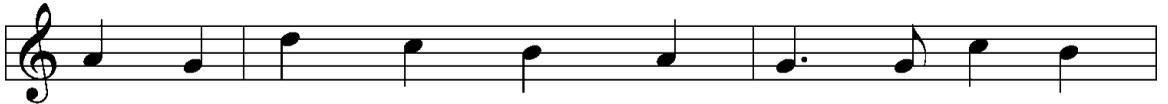
**Closing Hymn**

**My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less**

LSB 575



1 My hope is built on noth - ing less Than Je - sus'  
2 When dark - ness veils His love - ly face, I rest on  
3 His oath, His cov - e - nant and blood Sup - port me  
4 When He shall come with trum - pet sound, Oh, may I



blood and righ - teous - ness; No mer - it of my  
His un - chang - ing grace; In ev - 'ry high and  
in the rag - ing flood; When ev - 'ry earth - ly  
then in Him be found, Clothed in His righ - teous -



own I claim But whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.  
storm - y gale My an - chor holds with - in the veil.  
prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.  
ness a - lone, Re - deemed to stand be - fore His throne!

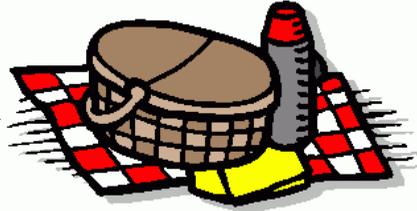
*Refrain*



On Christ, the sol-id rock, I stand; All oth-er ground is sink-ing sand.

**Announcements**

**You're  
Invited!!!**



# Church Picnic

**Save the Date - Sunday, August 20th**

Bethel's church picnic will be held at Viking Park in Gurnee. Mark your calendar, clear your schedules, bring the whole family out and enjoy a few hours with our Bethel family. Come ready to have a fun day!

*Watch for more information in the August Big Buzz.*

#### **Acknowledgements**

Used by permission: LSB Hymn License .NET, no. 000013448.  
Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2006 Concordia Publishing House.  
Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version*,  
copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers.  
Used by permission. All rights reserved.