



HOLY SPIRIT
COMFORTER, CONVICTER, COUNSELOR

PENTECOST

Confirmation Sunday
May 20, 2018

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

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

Pastor Ben Squires

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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 Diver – 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

Elders:
Comm/Asst. Elder:

Acolytes:

Ushers:

Greeters:

Fellowship:

May Altar Guild:

May Counters:

8:00 a.m.

Mike Bandman

OPEN

Jeremy Leicht, **OPEN**

Donald Heidlauf, Tony Young

Clint & Sam McDonald,

Chuck & Julie Johnson

Freehling/Hessel Study Table

Diane Mundrick

Mary Kay Ams

10:45 a.m.

Bob Souza

Randy Gifford

Ruth Ziegler, Lily Freehling

George Bruszer, Scott Mundrick

Sue Schmidtke,

The Bill Ratzburg Family

Deborah Wuethrick

Joan Blasko

TODAY'S FLOWERS ARE PROVIDED BY:

The Confirmation class and
the single rose on the altar is in memory of LeAnna Herstowski's father, LeRoy G. Burandt,
who passed away 5 years ago today.

500TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REFORMATION

This service is compiled from Scripture and the Book of Concord in celebration of
the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation—October 31, 1517.

About the Christ Candle and Altar Candles Today



The Christ Candle was lit on Good Friday, remaining lit through the dark days of crucifixion and burial of Christ, reminding us that death was not victorious. The Christ Candle continued to burn on Easter Morning—the Day of Resurrection. We’ve lit the Christ Candle on the altar each week since in celebration of the same. But last week during our Celebration of the Ascension, the Christ Candle was removed from the altar, as a reminder that Christ ascended into heaven and was hidden from the eyes of the disciples.

Today we begin with the candles unlit, reminding us how the disciples waited 10 days until the Holy Spirit was sent to them on Pentecost. The acolytes will return with the Christ Candle and then light the altar candles during the Pentecost reading.

Opening Hymn

Holy, Holy, Holy

LSB 507 sts. 1–4



1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!
2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore Thee,
3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though the dark - ness hide Thee,
4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!



Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to Thee;
Cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
Though the eye of sin - ful man Thy glo - ry may not see,
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!
Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore Thee,
On - ly Thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side Thee,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!



God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
Which wert and art and ev - er - more shalt be.
Per - fect in pow'r, in love, and pu - ri - ty.
God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

Invocation and Declaration of the Trinity

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

C: **Amen.**

P: Our churches teach in accordance with the historic Creeds:

C: **That there is one God—**

P: One undivided divine essence,

C: **And that this one God is Trinity—**

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—

P: Three distinct and coeternal persons of the same divine essence.

C: **And we believe that the Holy Scriptures truly testify to this. Amen.¹**

Acclamation

Hail Thee, Festival Day

LSB 489, ref.-p

All

Pentecost Hail thee, fes - ti - val day! Blest day to be hal - lowed for - ev - er;
Day when the Ho - ly Ghost Shone in the world with His grace. grace.

Verse for Pentecost Day

Liturgical Text

P: Alleluia. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful.

C: **Come, Holy Spirit. Alleluia.**

P: And kindle in them the fire of your love. Alleluia.

C: **Come, Holy Spirit. Alleluia.**

P: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful. Alleluia. Amen.

The Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1–21 (ESV)

¹When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. ⁴And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

⁵Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. ⁶And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. ⁷And they were amazed and astonished, saying, “Are not all these who are speaking

¹ Apology of the Augsburg Confession, Part I, ¶ 1-2.

Galileans? ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? ⁹Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, ¹¹both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.” ¹²And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” ¹³But others mocking said, “They are filled with new wine.”

¹⁴But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. ¹⁵For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. ¹⁶But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷“And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; ¹⁸even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.

¹⁹“And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; ²⁰the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day.

²¹“And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

P: This is the Good News of the Holy Spirit.

C: Praise to You, O Spirit.

Acclamation

Hail Thee, Festival Day

LSB 489, ref.-p

All

Pentecost Hail thee, fes - ti - val day! Blest day to be hal - lowed for - ev - er;
 Day when the Ho - ly Ghost Shone in the world with His grace. grace.

Confession (Admission) of Sin and Absolution (Forgiveness)

P: We believe, teach, and confess that the distinction between law and Gospel is to be kept in the Church with great diligence as a particularly brilliant light, so that the Word of God may be divided rightly. The law is a divine doctrine which teaches what is right and God-pleasing

C: *and which condemns everything that is sinful and contrary to God's will.*²

P: Since the fall of Adam all people are conceived and born in sin.

C: *No one by nature is able to have true fear of God and true faith in God.*

P: This inborn sickness and hereditary sin condemns and brings the eternal wrath of God on all those who are not born again through Baptism and the Holy Spirit.³

C: *This is the essence of a genuinely Christian life, to acknowledge that we are sinners and to pray for grace. Amen.*⁴

P: The crowd at Pentecost—confronted with their sin—they asked the Apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” Having heard the condemnation of our sin in the Law of God, we find ourselves asking the same question. For this, we turn to the Gospel which teaches what we are to believe:

C: *Christ has satisfied and paid for all guilt, without any merit of our own, and has won the forgiveness of sins and eternal life for us.*

P: This Gospel is a comforting and joyful message which comforts our consciences terrified by the law, points us only to the merit of Christ, and raises us up again by the delightful proclamation of God’s grace and favor.⁵ According to this Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, and in His stead, I forgive you your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: *Amen.*

² Formula of Concord, Epitome, V, ¶ 1-2.

³ Augsburg Confession, II, ¶ 1-2.

⁴ Large Catechism, Part V, Exhortation, ¶ 9.

⁵ Formula of Concord, Epitome, V, ¶ 4,6.

Response of Thanksgiving for the Absolution

LSB 500 st. 1



1 Cre - a - tor Spir - it, by whose aid The world's foun - da - tions
first were laid, Come, vis - it ev - 'ry hum - ble mind; Come,
pour Your joys on hu - man - kind; From sin and sor - row
set us free; May we Your liv - ing tem - ples be.

Greeting and Collect (Prayer of the Day)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. O God, on this day You once taught the hearts of Your faithful people by sending them the light of Your Holy Spirit. Grant us in our day by the same Spirit to have a right understanding in all things and evermore to rejoice in His holy consolation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Acknowledgements

This service is based on Morning Prayer & Matins in *Lutheran Service Book*.

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Anthem**“Gracious Spirit, Dwell With Me”****Adult Choir**

- Use the anthem’s music and words to help you to meditate on God’s Word and His truth for you today. Maintain this as meditative time.

Gracious Spirit, dwell with me, I would gracious be;
 Help me now thy grace to see, I would be like thee;
 And, with words that help and heal, thy life would mine reveal;
 And, with actions bold and meek, For Christ, my Savior, speak.

Truthful Spirit, dwell with me, I would truthful be;
 Help me now thy truth to see, I would be like thee;
 And, with wisdom kind and clear, thy life in mine appear;
 And, with actions brotherly, Speak Christ’s sincerity.

Holy Spirit, dwell with me, I would holy be;
 Show thy mercy tenderly, Make me more like thee;
 Separate from sin, I would And Cherish all things good,
 And whatever I can be Give him who gave me thee.

Mighty Spirit, dwell me, I would mighty be;
 Help me now thy pow’r to see, I would be like thee;
 ‘Gainst all weapons hell can wield, be thou my strength and shield;
 Let thy word my weapon be, Lord, Thine the victory!
 Gracious Spirit, dwell with me, I would be like thee!

Our Confession of Faith Regarding the Scriptures

P: We believe, teach, and confess that the only measure to which all doctrines and teachers are to be evaluated and judged are:

C: the prophetic and apostolic writings of the Old and New Testaments,

P: As it is written in Psalm 119,

C: “Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

P: We believe, teach, and confess that this faith

is not a mere knowledge of the stories about Christ, **C: but it is God’s gift.**

P: By this gift we rightly recognize Christ as

C: our Redeemer in the Word of the Gospel.

P: We trust that only by His obedience, and by grace,

C: we have forgiveness of sins,

P: are regarded as holy and righteous by God the Father,

C: and shall be saved eternally.⁶

P: Hear now the Word of the Lord.

⁶ Formula of Concord, Epitome, 0, ¶ 1; III, ¶ 6.

Holy Gospel

John 15:26–27; 16:4b–15 (ESV)

[And Jesus said]: ²⁶“But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. ²⁷And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning....

⁴“I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. ⁵But now I am going to him who sent me, and none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ ⁶But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. ⁷Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; ¹¹concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

¹²“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”

P: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: Thanks be to God.

Confession of Faith

3rd Article of the Apostles’ Creed and Luther’s explanation

P: What do you believe about the Holy Spirit?

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

P: What does this mean?

C: I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.



1 O day of rest and glad - ness, O day of joy and light,
 2 This day at earth's cre - a - tion The light first had its birth;
 3 This day, God's peo - ple meet - ing, His Ho - ly Scrip - ture hear;
 4 That light our hope sus - tain - ing, We walk the pil - grim way,



O balm of care and sad - ness, Most beau - ti - ful, most bright;
 This day for our sal - va - tion Christ rose from depths of earth;
 His liv - ing pres - ence greet - ing, Through bread and wine made near.
 At length our rest at - tain - ing, Our end - less Sab - bath day.



This day the high and low - ly, Through a - ges joined to bless,
 This day our Lord vic - to - rious The Spir - it sent from heav'n,
 We jour - ney on, be - liev - ing, Re - newed with heav'n - ly might,
 We sing to Thee our prais - es, O Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son;



Sing, "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly," The tri - une God con - fess.
 And thus this day most glo - rious A three - fold light was giv'n.
 From grace more grace re - ceiv - ing, On this blest day of light.
 The Church her voice up - rais - es To Thee, blest Three in One.

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Sermon

"Conviction Day"

John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15

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.

(8AM) Offertory ("Go, My Children" – page 12)

followed by the Prayers of the Church

(10:45) Prayers

Rite of Confirmation (10:45)

We celebrate Confirmation—

our students publicly confirming that they indeed believe in Jesus.

They are His disciples through the grace of God granting them faith in Jesus.

Allyson Adams

Lily Erwin

Nathan Faitsch

Hillary Fleming

Jacob Herstowski

Katherine Kreamer

Logan Rosenthal

Samuel Squires

*Assisting with the Rite of Confirmation: **Stephanie Bunnell**, Lay Coach*

*Thank you also for our other Lay Coaches from this year, **Jose Rayos & Don Wuethrick***

CONFIRMATION VOW & BLESSING

Do you understand the gifts which God gave you in your Baptism?

Do you reject the devil and his works and all his ways?

Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty...Jesus Christ, His only Son...
the Holy Spirit?

Do you intend to continue in the Christian faith, to be committed to the
Church throughout your life?

Will you suffer, even to the point of death, rather than denying Christ?

Do you believe the Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God and do you believe that the
Small Catechism accurately teaches what the Scriptures say?

Do you desire to be a member of the Lutheran Church and of this congregation?

Do you intend faithfully to live your life according to God's Word, to hear God's Word and
receive the Lord's Supper and to remain true to God in your faith, your words and your
actions?

Are you asking to be shepherded (cared for) in your faith
and committing to encourage others in their faith in Jesus?

Will you serve in and support the work of this congregation in the mission of God?

Do you confess that you are a disciple, a follower of Jesus?

May you grow in the wisdom of God, seek the Lord in prayer, receive His strength
and always have the hope of eternal life, in the Name of the Father and of
the Son and of the Holy Spirit.



(8AM) Offertory

(10:45) Response Verse *Go, My Children, with My Blessing*

LSB 922 st. 1

1 Go, My chil-dren, with My bless - ing, Nev - er a - lone.
Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you; You are My own. In My
love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you Mine for - ev - er.
Go, My chil-dren, with My bless-ing— You are My own.

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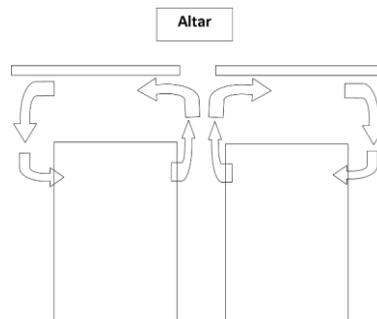
The Lord's Supper: What We Believe

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

P: We believe, teach, and confess that in the Holy Supper

**C: *the body and blood of Christ are truly present
and that they are truly given and received with the bread and wine.***⁷

P: It is the Word of God that makes and sets this Sacrament apart.

So it is not mere bread and wine, but it is:

C: *The body and blood of Christ.*⁸

P: And we believe, teach, and confess that
we will not receive the Holy Supper to our condemnation,

**C: *no matter how weak our faith,
as long as we retain a living faith.***

P: Christ instituted this Supper especially for Christians who are
weak in faith but repent of their sins,

C: *to grant us comfort and strengthen our weak faith.*⁹

P: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom
You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and
be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us
by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

C: *Amen.*

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.")

⁷ Formula of Concord, Epitome, VII, ¶ 6.

⁸ Large Catechism, Part 5, ¶ 10.

⁹ Formula of Concord, Epitome, VII, ¶ 19.

Use the distribution time to prepare yourself for communion, sing the hymns as prayers, pray for your brothers & sisters in Christ, and maintain this as meditative time.

First Distribution Hymn

O Day Full of Grace

LSB 503



1 O day full of grace that now we see Ap - pear - ing on
2 O day full of grace, O bless - ed time, Our Lord on the
3 For Christ bore our sins, and not His own, When He on the
4 God came to us then at Pen - te - cost, His Spir - it new



earth's ho - ri - zon, Bring light from our God that we may be
earth ar - riv - ing; Then came to the world that light sub - lime,
cross was hang - ing; And then He a - rose and moved the stone
life re - veal - ing, That we might no more from Him be lost,



Re - plete in His joy this sea - son. God, shine for us
Great joy for us all re - triev - ing; For Je - sus all
That we, un - to Him be - long - ing, Might join with an -
All dark - ness for us dis - pel - ling. His flame will the



now in this dark place; Your name on our hearts em - bla - zon.
mor - tals did em - brace, All dark - ness and shame re - mov - ing.
gel - ic hosts to raise Our voic - es in end - less sing - ing.
mark of sin ef - face And bring to us all His heal - ing.

- 5 When we on that final journey go
That Christ is for us preparing,
We'll gather in song, our hearts aglow,
All joy of the heavens sharing,
And walk in the light of God's own place,
With angels His name adoring.

Second Distribution Hymn**Holy Spirit, Light Divine**

LSB 496



1 Ho - ly Spir - it, light di - vine, Shine up - on this heart of mine;
 2 Let me see my Sav - ior's face, Let me all His beau - ties trace;
 3 Ho - ly Spir - it, pow'r di - vine, Cleanse this guilt - y heart of mine;
 4 Ho - ly Spir - it, joy di - vine, Cheer this sad - dened heart of mine;
 5 Ho - ly Spir - it, all di - vine, Dwell with - in this heart of mine;



Chase the shades of night a - way, Turn the dark - ness in - to day.
 Show those glo - rious truths to me Which are on - ly known to Thee.
 In Thy mer - cy pit - y me, From sin's bond - age set me free.
 Yield a sa - cred, set - tled peace, Let it grow and still in - crease.
 Cast down ev - 'ry i - dol throne, Reign su - preme, and reign a - lone.

Common Dismissal

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

C: **Amen.**

Post-Communion Prayer

P: Let us pray. In these last days, You have poured out Your Holy Spirit on Your Church so that Your sons and daughters might proclaim the wonders of Your salvation in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Pour out Your Holy Spirit upon Your gathered people this day, who have faithfully received the body and blood of Your Son, so that we may go forth to proclaim His salvation to the ends of the earth.

C: **Amen.**

Proclamation

Liturgical Text; Psalm 68:3

P: The Spirit of the Lord fills the world. Alleluia.

C: **The righteous shall be glad.**

P: They shall exult before God;

C: **they shall be jubilant with joy! Alleluia.**

Benediction (Blessing)

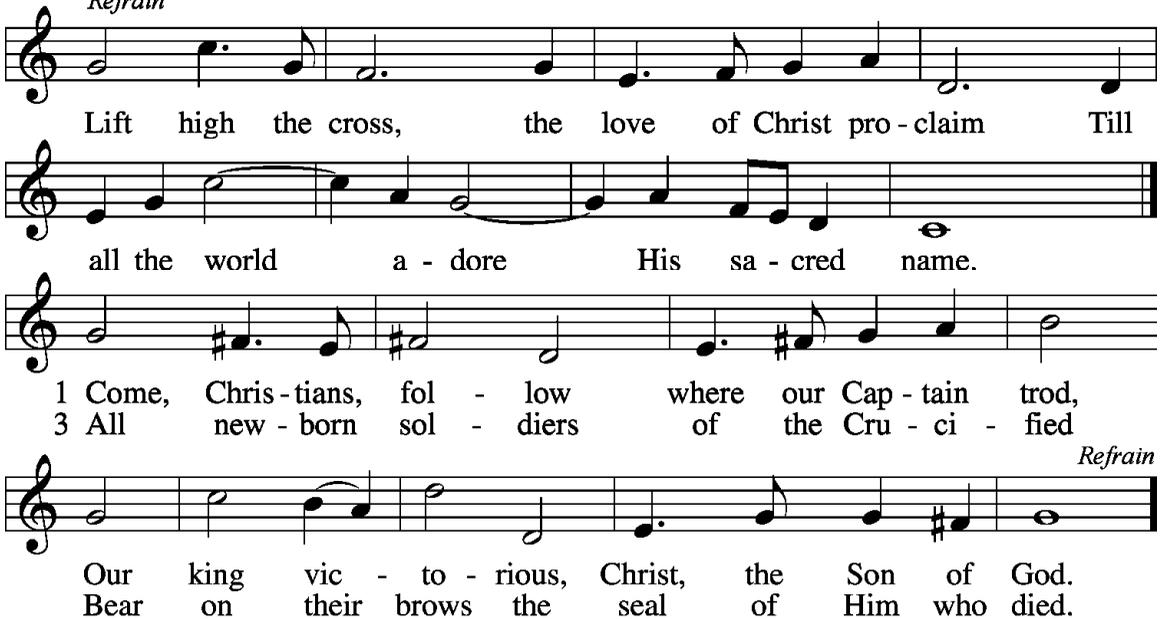
P: The Lord grant you His Fatherly mercy through Jesus Christ giving you forgiveness of sin and all things pertaining to life and godliness, sending you His Holy Spirit so that He may rule your hearts and you may serve Him in holiness and thanksgiving.

C: **Amen.**

Closing Hymn
Refrain

Lift High the Cross

LSB 837 sts. ref, 1, 3, 6



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro-claim Till
all the world a-dore His sa-cred name.

1 Come, Chris-tians, fol-low where our Cap-tain trod,
3 All new-born sol-diers of the Cru-ci-fied

Refrain
Our king vic-tor-ious, Christ, the Son of God.
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died.

6 So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory! **Refrain**

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Announcements

500th Anniversary of the Reformation Liturgy is Drawn from the Book of Concord

“Concordia comes from two Latin words meaning ‘with’ and ‘heart.’ It describes a commitment to the truth so strong and so deep, it is as if those who share it have a single heart beat. The Book of Concord contains documents which Christians from the fourth to the 16th century A.D. explained what they believed and taught on the basis of the Holy Scriptures. It includes, first, the three creeds which originated in the ancient church, the Apostles’ Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the Athanasian Creed. It contains, secondly, the Reformation writings known as the Augsburg Confession, the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Smalcald Articles, the Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope, Luther’s Small and Large Catechisms, and the Formula of Concord.”¹⁰



¹⁰ Introduction/Overview, *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions—A Reader’s Edition*, pp. 9,13.

Celebrating President Dan Gilbert's Retirement

TODAY with Gifts to ¡Enviando!



Pastor Dan Gilbert has served faithfully for 12 years as the Northern Illinois District President of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. He is retiring as his term ends at the end of May. He has led the NID forward in focusing on mission through the emphasis of “New Starts. . .New Believers”—encouraging congregation, including Bethel, to try something new that will help us connect with people who need to hear the Gospel of Jesus.

Bethel has asked President Gilbert and his wife, Jan, to visit us today. We invited him to share a few words at both services, and we will honor his retirement by gathering a special offering today and May 24/27 to go towards an initiative that is dear to his heart: *¡Enviando!*

The Church Council is presenting a “challenge” of \$250 from their giving budget, hoping that the congregation will match or exceed that amount in the special offerings. If you would like to contribute, please give cash or checks (Enviando or President Gilbert in the memo line).

On Thursday, May 24, and Sunday, May 27, Pastor Ron Weidler will be with us to preach. Pastor Weidler is the District advocate for *¡Enviando!* and will share with us how God is moving in ministry among the Hispanics of Northern Illinois.



What is *¡Enviando!*?

¡Enviando! is a new initiative for sending Hispanic missionaries into the mission field through The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod’s Northern Illinois District.

What does *¡Enviando!* mean?

Enviando (en-vee-AHN-doh) means SENDING! It’s a strong word with strong conviction for how God’s precious message of salvation must be taken to non-English-speaking people in our communities.

Know the Bible Now

A Visual Intro to the Bible

Summer Sermon Series

People never feel like they know enough about the Bible. No matter if you're new to Christianity, haven't looked at the Bible since Sunday School some 20 years ago, or are in church every week, you still may doubt that you could learn the Bible.

This is one reason that God brings us together in the Church—we need to learn the Bible from each other. We keep encouraging one another to hear the Bible again, to return to it day after day, week after week. It is God's rich fountain of life-giving words.

This summer at Bethel you'll have a unique opportunity to review the major stories of the Bible. Kind of like Sunday School during Worship, each week we'll feature one of the stories that shape God's story of how He brought salvation for His people. Together with the companion book from Concordia Publishing House, this is a time to review those stories, learn new stories (or stories you've forgotten), while also seeing how God speaks to us through His Word to give us confidence and hope now.

Books are available for purchase at Bethel from the Resource Shelves (located between Katrina and Pastor's offices). The suggested donation is \$15, but if you are unable to afford that, we still want you to take a copy for your family.

Summer Worship Schedule

Starts on Thursday, May 24

Thursdays 6:30PM & Sundays 9AM



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Vacation Bible School July 16th -20th

Strap on your life jacket and
get ready for a
rip-roaring river ride with

Splash Canyon: God's Promise on Life's Wild Ride.

VBS Registration is now open!

Visit www.bethelgurnee.org to register online.

Students: Preschool - 5th Grade & **Volunteers:** 6th Grade and up

Volunteers and students are guaranteed
a free t-shirt if they register by June 26th.

Bethel provides our community with a free VBS.



Mission Symbol Banner

to left of the altar in the Gym

Discipleship Initiative

Our mission is calling each other to follow Jesus

Pray-Eat-Love

Our mission of seeking God, building relationships, & sharing the Gospel

Spiritual

Conversations

Build relationships that include sharing our source for hope & life



Discipleship

moving from head knowledge of the faith to "heart life" in Jesus

Care in Community

We will build relationships with those we serve

Park Bench

places to help us build relationships that lead to spiritual conversations

For further explanation, see the posters in the hallways throughout the building or download our Mission Glossary at:

<https://www.bethelgurnee.org/bethel-mission-glossary.html>