



“Seven Stanzas at Easter” – Stanza 4

let us walk through  
the door

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

**May 12, 2019**

**(Mother’s Day)**

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**BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL**

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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

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### ***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.

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### ***SERVING TODAY***

#### ***Sunday 8:00AM***

***Elders:*** Mike Bandman  
***Comm/Asst. Elder:*** JJ Jones  
***Acolytes:*** Jeremy Leicht / Griffin Pavletic  
***Lay Readers:*** Ted & Margie Tatgenhorst  
***Ushers:*** Christie Kozlik, John Kozlik  
***Greeters:*** Novacek Family, Cindy Offerdahl  
***Fellowship:*** Squires & Elders  
***May Altar Guild:*** Diane Mundrick  
***May Counters:*** Dave and Cheryl Ross

#### ***Sunday 10:45AM***

Randy Gifford  
Bob Souza  
Cameron Fleming / Amanda Adams  
Diane Mundrick, Lori Hoonstra  
Scott Mundrick, Jay Souza  
Kruse Family, Maiore Family  
Debbie Wuethrick

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### ***ALTAR FLOWERS ARE PROVIDED BY:***

Linda Anderson in celebration of Mary Kay Anderson's birthday, and the Swanson family in celebration of the graduating seniors.

# In Today's Prayers

*If you have something you'd like added,  
please go to one of the Prayer Stands,  
write down your request, & put in the plastic rack.*



In our weekly Worship Prayers, we lift up praises, thanksgivings, requests, and concerns to our Lord. In order to help us pray to God about the wholeness of our lives in the world, we have a schedule for when we will focus on specific areas for prayer. Any immediate needs will always take priority, but in general, we will follow this schedule. Please note that this means on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month, Pastor will speak the names of everyone on our health concerns list, but on other Sundays, this will be lifted up only as a general prayer for health and healing.

## **Our District Partners**

Northern Illinois District  
Concordia University—Chicago

Walcamp—outdoor ministry  
Lutheran Church Charities

## **Our Seminaries**

Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne  
and Bethel member, Jacob Stoltzman, who is in his 2nd year  
Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

## **Congregation: Discipleship**

Help us continue to see what it means to have a “heart life,” daily lives for Jesus

## **Our Loved Ones in the Armed Forces** *Let Pastor know if you have someone to add.*

Victoria Wuethrick, Bethel member, Air Force  
Lt. Colonel Michael Ridley, USAF, Minot AFB, ND – Steve Best’s brother  
Jason Lucker, Navy, had been at Great Lakes, now in school in Virginia  
Marshall King, Army—son of Deb Pellettiere’s friend  
David Mrnak, Army—Deb Pellettiere’s friend’s future son-in-law  
Allison Luzwick, Lt., Navy—Great Lakes  
Bradley Abbitt, Army—Susan Squires’ cousin  
Steven Furman, Air Force—Margie Tatgenhorst’s nephew  
Andrew Waala, Air Force—Brian & Sherri Waala’s son  
Jonathan Grana, Navy, stationed in Bahrain—Shelly Adams’ cousin

# ***THE EXPLORE GOD LITURGY***

Worship in a traditional order drawing on the themes of  
the Explore God questions (underlined in the liturgy) and related passages from the Bible.

**Anthem**      **8 AM**  
**10:45 AM**

**“Lord, I Want to Know You”**  
**“Mothers Are Important”**

**Junior Choir**  
**Cherub Choir**

## **Opening Hymn      *The Saints in Christ Are One in Every Place***

LSB 838



1 The saints in Christ                    are    one in    ev - 'ry place  
2 In chains for Christ!                    His    pris'n - ers love to sing,  
3 To live is Christ,                        for    us, to die is gain;  
4 Lord Je - sus Christ!                    Heav'n's praise let earth re - peat;



To serve the Gos - pel of His cost - ly grace;  
For slaves and free re - joice to praise our King;  
Where then shall be our hun - ger, dan - ger, pain?  
The work that You be - gan, You will com - plete.



From those first days                    to this, our hope the same:  
What though the Church                    on earth still suf - fers wrong?  
Our joy to preach                        good news to rich and poor,  
By grace let ev - 'ry foe be - come Your friend;



The love of Christ, one Lord, one sav - ing name.  
The cross of Christ re - mains our pil - grim song.  
Then be with Christ, to live for - ev - er - more.  
Your day, O Christ, shall dawn and nev - er end.

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## **Invocation – Our Purpose is Found in God**

Ecclesiastes 2:11, 3:14

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

P: When we take a good look at everything we've done, looking at all the sweat and hard work, if we're honest, we see nothing but smoke. Smoke and spitting into the wind. There is nothing to any of it.

**C: Does life have a purpose?**

P: It may seem like life has no purpose when we're chasing after our own desires. But the works of God are wonderful.

**C: They endure forever;**

P: nothing can be added to them,

**C: nothing can be taken away from His works.**

P: God has done them, so we worship Him and find our purpose in Him. **C: Amen.**

## **Confession & Absolution – In Our Despair, We Find That God is Real** James 1:6; Jude 20-25

P: When we see our own sinfulness, we actually might hope that there is no God, because we expect that a holy God would condemn our unworthiness. When we see the sinfulness of the world, we cannot believe there is a God, because how could a holy, loving God allow this world to continue to exist as it is? In despair over this, we ask:

**C: Is God real?**

P: We doubt that God is real, and we are like waves of the sea that are driven and tossed by the wind.—But then we hear that the God of the Bible has compassion on our struggles of faith. He says:

**C: “Have mercy on those who doubt.”**

P: God the Father encourages us to build one another up in our most holy faith,

**C: instead of pushing aside those who doubt.**

P: God the Son calls on us to support one another as we wait for His mercy that leads to eternal life,

**C: instead of growing impatient with the endless troubles in the world.**

P: God the Holy Spirit sends us out to save those caught in the fire of sin, and show mercy to others, being careful not to be trapped ourselves by their sin. And we know that we ourselves need this same rescue assistance from others.

**C: Now to him who is able to keep us from stumbling in our faith and actions,**

P: and to present you blameless before the presence of His glory with great joy,

**C: to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord,**

P: be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority,

**C: before all time and now and forever. Amen.**

P: In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

**Song of Praise**

**Shine, Jesus, Shine**



1. Lord, the light of Your love is shin - ing, in the midst of the dark-ness, shin - ing;  
 3. As we gaze on Your king - ly bright-ness, so our fac - es dis - play Your like - ness;



Je - sus, Light of the world, shine up - on us, set us free by the  
 Ev - er chang - ing from glo - ry to glo - ry, mir - rored here may our



truth You now bring us. Shine on me, shine on  
 lives tell Your sto - ry. Shine on me, shine on



me. Shine, Je - sus, shine, fill this land with the  
 me.



Fa - ther's glo - ry; Blaze Spir - it, blaze, set our hearts on



fire. Flow, riv - er, flow, flood the na - tions with



grace and mer - cy; Send forth Your word, Lord, and let there be



light.

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

P: Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

### **The Word of God – His Uniquely, Reliable Word**

*Psalm 1:2-3*

P: We often may struggle to believe that we have the true words of God. We ask:

**C: *Is the Bible reliable?***

P: We acknowledge this struggle, and we admit that we'll never find an adequate answer to all of our questions. Yet, the Bible reveals a unique God who brings salvation to us by grace—as a pure gift. No other spiritual book in the world teaches about divine mysteries like this. The hope and love and comfort that come from knowing salvation is a gift from God leads us to say:

**C: *My delight is in the Word of the LORD.***

*I am like a tree planted by streams of water,  
bearing fresh fruit every month,  
Never dropping a leaf,  
always in blossom.*

P: Hear now this life-giving Word of God.

### **Holy Gospel**

### **John 10:22–30 (ESV)**

<sup>22</sup>At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter, <sup>23</sup>and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. <sup>24</sup>So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.” <sup>25</sup>Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name bear witness about me, <sup>26</sup>but you do not believe because you are not part of my flock. <sup>27</sup>My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup>I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup>My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand. <sup>30</sup>I and the Father are one.”

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## **Epistle (New Testament Letter)**

## **Revelation 7:9–17 (ESV)**

<sup>9</sup>After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, <sup>10</sup>and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” <sup>11</sup>And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, <sup>12</sup>saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

<sup>13</sup>Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?” <sup>14</sup>I said to him, “Sir, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

<sup>15</sup>“Therefore they are before the throne of God,  
and serve him day and night in his temple;  
and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.

<sup>16</sup>They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore;  
the sun shall not strike them,  
nor any scorching heat.

<sup>17</sup>For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd,  
and he will guide them to springs of living water,  
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## ***The Word of God – God’s Mission for Whole Wide World***

*Isaiah 49:6*

P: When we hear that Jesus said He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and no one comes to God the Father except through Him, we find ourselves asking:

**C: Is Christianity too narrow?**

P: But in the Scriptures, we see that God always had in mind to save the whole wide world, His entire Creation. He said to His Son, the Messiah, the Christ: “That’s too small a thing for You, just to recover and round up the people of Israel.”

**C: God the Father said to our Savior Jesus:**

***“I will make you as a light for the nations,  
so that my salvation becomes global!”***

P: Hear now the wide-reaching Gospel of God.

## **Reading from the History of the Early Church**

**Acts 20:17–35 (ESV)**

<sup>17</sup>Now from Miletus [Paul] sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him. <sup>18</sup>And 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, <sup>19</sup>servicing the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews; <sup>20</sup>how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, <sup>21</sup>testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>22</sup>And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, <sup>23</sup>except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. <sup>24</sup>But 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. <sup>25</sup>And now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom will see my face again. <sup>26</sup>Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all of you, <sup>27</sup>for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. <sup>28</sup>Pay 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. <sup>29</sup>I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; <sup>30</sup>and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. <sup>31</sup>Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish everyone with tears. <sup>32</sup>And 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. <sup>33</sup>I coveted no one’s silver or gold or apparel. <sup>34</sup>You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. <sup>35</sup>In 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.’”

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **Children’s Message**

**Hymn of the Day****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.

**Sermon "Seven Stanzas at Easter: Stanza 4 – let us walk through the door"**

Let us not mock God with metaphor,  
 analogy, sidestepping, transcendence;  
 making of the event a parable, a sign painted in the  
 faded credulity of earlier ages:  
 let us walk through the door.

Full poem on pages 14–15

**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.

## Offertory

## Jesus Loves Me

LSB 588

(we join in singing as the offerings are brought forward to the altar)

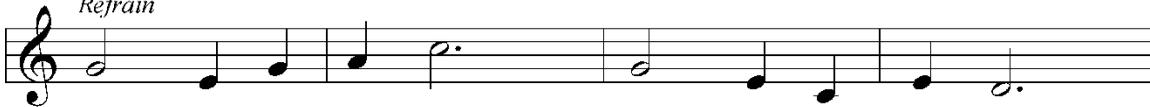


1 Je - sus loves me! This I know, For the Bi - ble tells me so.  
2 Je - sus loves me! He who died Heav-en's gates to o - pen wide.



Lit - tle ones to Him be-long; They are weak, but He is strong.  
He has washed a - way my sin, Lets His lit - tle child come in.

*Refrain*



Yes, Je - sus loves me! Yes, Je - sus loves me!



Yes, Je - sus loves me! The Bi - ble tells me so.

## Prayers of the Church – Praying to God Who Knows Our Suffering

Psalm 13:1-2,5; 1 Peter 5:7

P: We come before God with our prayers—thanksgivings, rejoicing, and praises, but also our pains and sufferings. Our God is big enough for us to ask:

**C: Why does God allow pain and suffering?**

P: The Psalmist prayed: “How long, O Lord? Will You forget me forever?”

**C: How long will You hide Your face from me?”**

P: But God also invites you to cast all your anxieties on Him, because He cares for you.

**C: We have trusted in His steadfast love;  
Our hearts shall rejoice in His salvation.**

P: Let us pray.

### **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 (Blessing)**

Psalm 103:1-2

P: Bless the LORD, O my soul,

C: **and all that is within me, bless His holy Name!**

P: Bless the LORD, O my soul,

C: **don't forget a single blessing,  
don't forget His answers to all of my heart's desires.**

P: In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

## **Closing Hymn**

### **For All the Faithful Women**

LSB 855 sts. 1, 3-4



1 For all the faith-ful wom - en Who served in days of old,  
3 O God, for saints and ser - vants, Those named and those un - known  
△ 4 All praise to God the Fa - ther! All praise to Christ the Son!



To You shall thanks be giv - en; To all, their sto - ry told.  
In whom through all the a - ges Your light of glo - ry shone,  
All praise the Ho - ly Spir - it, Who binds the Church in one!



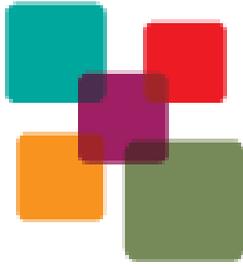
They served with strength and glad - ness In tasks Your wis - dom gave.  
We of - fer glad thanks-giv - ing And fer - vent prayer we raise  
With saints who went be - fore us, With saints who wit - ness still,



To You their lives bore wit - ness, Pro - claimed Your pow'r to save.  
That, faith - ful in Your ser - vice, Our lives may sing Your praise.  
We sing glad Al - le - lu - ias And strive to do Your will.

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## **Announcements**



# SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCOVERY

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equip to serve

Thank you to all those who have discovered the gifts they've been given by God. If you have not had the chance to take the Spiritual Gifts Discovery assessment, it's not too late. Please let Katrina Johns know and she will send you the link to take it online or stop by her office and take a paper assessment from the table there. Just remember to drop it off when you are finished so she can score your results.

For those that have taken the assessment, please stop by Katrina's office to pick up your "Top 3" packet. She is also available to go over your results with you, just stop in!

What are some ways in which you can use your spiritual gifts in your everyday life? At work? While out running errands? Doing yardwork? Walking the dog? Katrina is eager to hear your thoughts! If you don't catch her on Sunday morning, drop her a note at [Katrina@BethelGurnee.org](mailto:Katrina@BethelGurnee.org) or call 224-623-0800.

#### **Acknowledgements**

This liturgy arranged and written by the Rev. Dr. Benjamin C. Squires.

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# “Seven Stanzas at Easter”

## by John Updike

Make no mistake: if He rose at all  
it was as His body;  
if the cells' dissolution did not reverse, the molecules  
reknit, the amino acids rekindle,  
the Church will fall.

It was not as the flowers,  
each soft Spring recurrent;  
it was not as His Spirit in the mouths and fuddled  
eyes of the eleven apostles;  
it was as His flesh: ours.

The same hinged thumbs and toes,  
the same valved heart  
that-pierced-died, withered, paused, and then  
regathered out of enduring Might  
new strength to enclose.

Let us not mock God with metaphor,  
analogy, sidestepping, transcendence;  
making of the event a parable, a sign painted in the  
faded credulity of earlier ages:  
let us walk through the door.

The stone is rolled back, not papier-mâché,  
not a stone in a story,  
but the vast rock of materiality that in the slow  
grinding of time will eclipse for each of us  
the wide light of day.

And if we will have an angel at the tomb,  
make it a real angel,  
weighty with Max Planck's quanta, vivid with hair,  
opaque in the dawn light, robed in real linen  
spun on a definite loom.

Let us not seek to make it less monstrous,  
for our own convenience, our own sense of beauty,  
lest, awakened in one unthinkable hour, we are  
embarrassed by the miracle,  
and crushed by remonstrance.



This poem was written by John Updike (1932-2009) for a religious arts festival sponsored by the Clifton Lutheran Church, of Marblehead, Massachusetts, in 1960. It can be found in Updike's poetry collection titled *Telephone Poles and Other Poems* (New York: Alfred A Knopp).

# 2019 Vacation Bible School

## New VBS Format

### Weekend and Weekdays



### Weekend - VBS for preschool to 8th grade!

- June 21 (Friday)** 5:00 p.m.—7:30 p.m. Family meal will be served.  
Followed by a Bible story, Bible challenge, and games.
- June 22 (Saturday)** 9:00 a.m.—2:30 p.m. Lunch and snacks will be provided.  
There will be Bible story, Bible challenge, games, and crafts.
- June 23 (Sunday)** 9:00 a.m.—Worship - VBS celebration will follow the service.

Parents and high school students who are not involved as VBS staff are encouraged to take part in a service project such as making blankets, quilts, etc. that could be donated to PADS, Love INC, or A Safe Place. Materials will be available both days.

### Weekday - VBS for preschool to 1st grade!

**June 24 - June 26,** 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. Snacks will be served.

**Volunteers** To participate as a volunteer you must be entering 9th grade. Check out the bulletin board in the hall by the fellowship hall to see volunteer opportunities.

**Registration** Please register at: <https://tinyurl.com/2019BethelVBS>.

If you have questions, please see Carla Thompson, Diane Sanders, ([VBS@bethelgurnee.org](mailto:VBS@bethelgurnee.org)) or our Equipping Coordinator, Katrina Johns ([katrina@bethelgurnee.org](mailto:katrina@bethelgurnee.org)).