



16th Sunday after Pentecost

September 12, 2021



Welcome to Bethel Lutheran Church

We are glad you are here with us, whether in-person or via Zoom, and we pray God will be real to you as you worship. Bethel is a Reconciling in Christ congregation. Knowing God loves all creation and holds us all, we welcome you. We welcome everyone and honor the rich diversity and giftedness that age, sexual orientation, race, belief, emotional and physical health, gender identity, marital status and station in life bring to the Bethel family and our relationships.

Communion

We will celebrate Holy Communion together via zoom -- a temporary practice during this time of forced social distancing. Please have bread/cracker(s) and a cup of wine/grape juice ready, if you and those with you would like to participate. If you do not have access to wine/grape juice, you may receive Communion without the cup – Christ is present in the bread, as Jesus said, “I am the bread of Life.”

Prelude

Call to Worship (based on Psalm 116)

Gracious is the Lord, making relationships right; for our God is merciful.

The Lord protects the vulnerable; when I was brought low, God saved me.

Return to your rest, O my soul, for the Lord has dealt bountifully with you.

For God has delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling.

Praise the Lord!

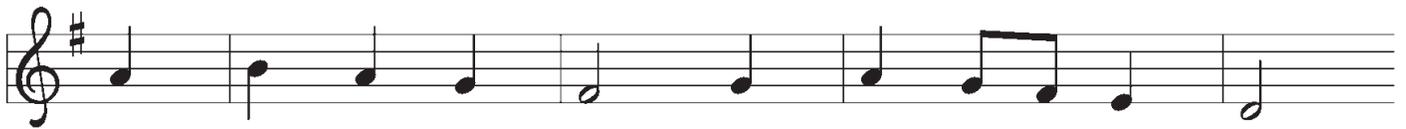


Hymn

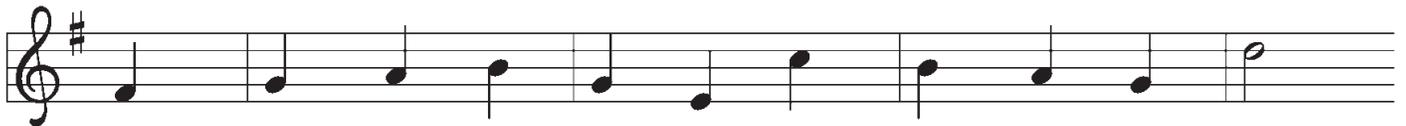
Oh, Worship the King, verses 1, 3 & 4



1 Oh, wor - ship the King, all - glo - rious a - bove.
2 The earth with its store of won - ders un - told,
3 Your boun - ti - ful care what tongue can re - cite?
4 Frail chil - dren of dust, and fee - ble as frail,
5 O mea - sure - less might, in - ef - fa - ble love,



Oh, grate - ful - ly sing God's pow - er and love;
Al - might - y, your pow'r has found - ed of old;
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light,
in you do we trust, nor find you to fail;
while an - gels de - light to hymn you a - bove,



our shield and de - fend - er, the An - cient of Days,
es - tab - lished it fast by a change - less de - cree,
it streams from the hills, it de - scends to the plain,
your mer - cies, how ten - der, how firm to the end,
the hum - bler cre - a - tion, though fee - ble their lays,



pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor, and gird - ed with praise.
and round it has cast, like a man - tle, the sea.
and sweet - ly dis - tills in the dew and the rain.
our mak - er, de - fend - er, re - deem - er, and friend.
with true ad - o - ra - tion shall sing to your praise.



Contemporary Song

O Praise The Name

Words/Music: Marty Sampson, Benjamin Hastings & Dean Ussher

I cast my mind to Calvary
Where Jesus bled and died for me
I see His wounds, His hands, His feet
My Saviour on that cursed tree

His body bound and drenched in tears
They laid Him down in Joseph's tomb
The entrance sealed by heavy stone
Messiah still and all alone

O praise the Name of the Lord our God
O praise His Name forevermore
For endless days we will sing Your praise
Oh Lord, oh Lord our God

Then on the third at break of dawn
The Son of heaven rose again
O trampled death where is your sting?
The angels roar for Christ the King

O praise the Name of the Lord our God
O praise His Name forevermore
For endless days we will sing Your praise
Oh Lord, oh Lord our God

He shall return in robes of white
The blazing sun shall pierce the night
And I will rise among the saints
My gaze transfixed on Jesus' face

THE WORD

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray together:

Loving Lord, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salving and saving, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that by your Gospel of grace we may turn from our fear and sin, take up our cross, and follow Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One. Amen.

Reading

James 3:1-12

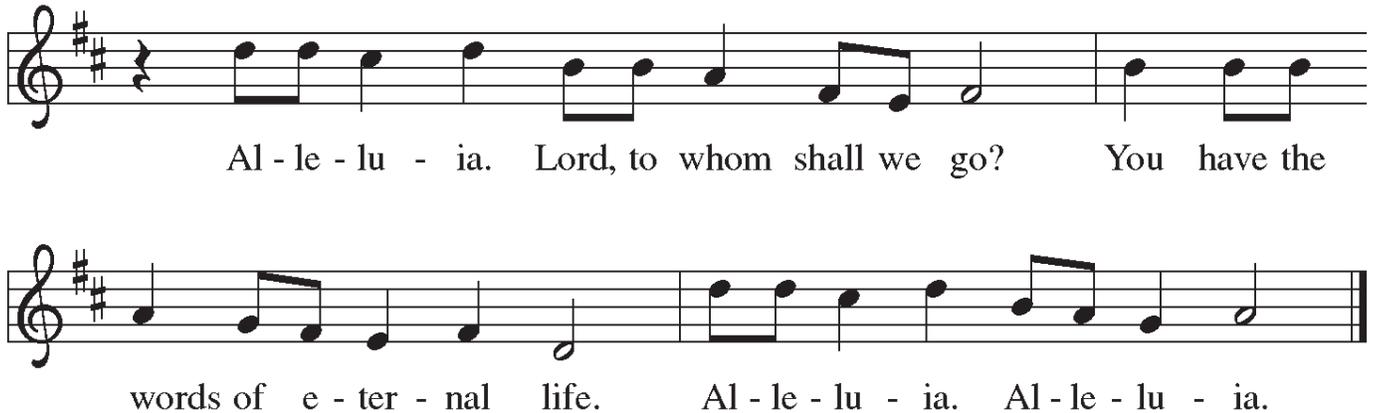
Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.



Gospel Reading

Mark 8:27-38

The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord!

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ!

Children's Time & Blessing for the Opening of the School Year

Sermon



Hymn

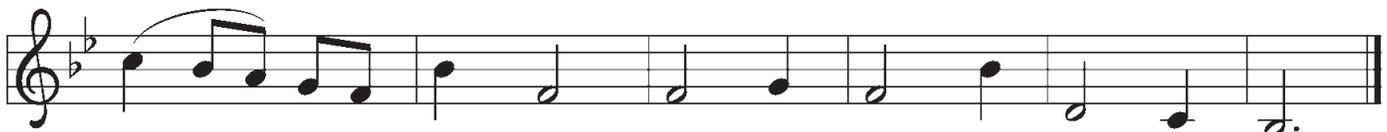
In the Cross of Christ I Glory, verses 1, 2 & 4



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow'r - ing
2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -
3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and
4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the



o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of
ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the
love up - on my way, from the cross the
cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that



sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
cross for - sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.
ra - diance stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.
knows no mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.

Prayers of Intercession

The response to each prayer will be: God, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Offering and Affirmation of Giving (based on Matthew 13:22 and 1 Timothy 6:7-9, 18-19)

Jesus said that the cares of the world and the lure of money and material things can choke the Word in us, so that it yields nothing.

We bring nothing into this world, and we take nothing out of it.

We who call Jesus Lord devote ourselves to resisting greed, which plunges the human heart into ruin, and pierces it with many griefs.

We are determined to practice generosity with free hearts, fixing our hope on God and not the uncertainty of wealth.

We desire to be rich in good deeds and willing to share all that we have, laying up for ourselves treasure that will not decay but will shine in the age to come.

For Christ has died. Christ is risen. And Christ will come again!

Donate online at <http://bethelpdx.org/donate/> or by text using Give Plus: (855) 944-1171 or donate by mail.

COMMUNION

Eucharistic Prayer

The pastor will guide you when to take the bread & cup and eat & drink.

Living God, Giver of Life, as your Spirit moved over the waters at creation,

Move over bread and cup and grace our table with your life-giving presence!

As your Spirit filled disciples on the day of Pentecost,

Set our hearts on fire with your love and empower us for ministry through this meal!

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to disciples, saying, Take and eat; this is my body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks; and gave it for all to drink, saying, This cup is the new covenant in my blood, poured out for you and for all people, that sins may be forgiven. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Communion Hymn

What Wondrous Love Is This, W. Walker



SENDING

Announcements

Sending Hymn

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ, verses 1 & 3



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:
2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at the ta - ble he sets the tone,
3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im - man - u - el) ev - 'ry - where!

Refrain



Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

Blessing

Gracious God, Creator, (+) Christ, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Postlude

There Is No Greater Love, Isham Jones

Sharing the Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you always.

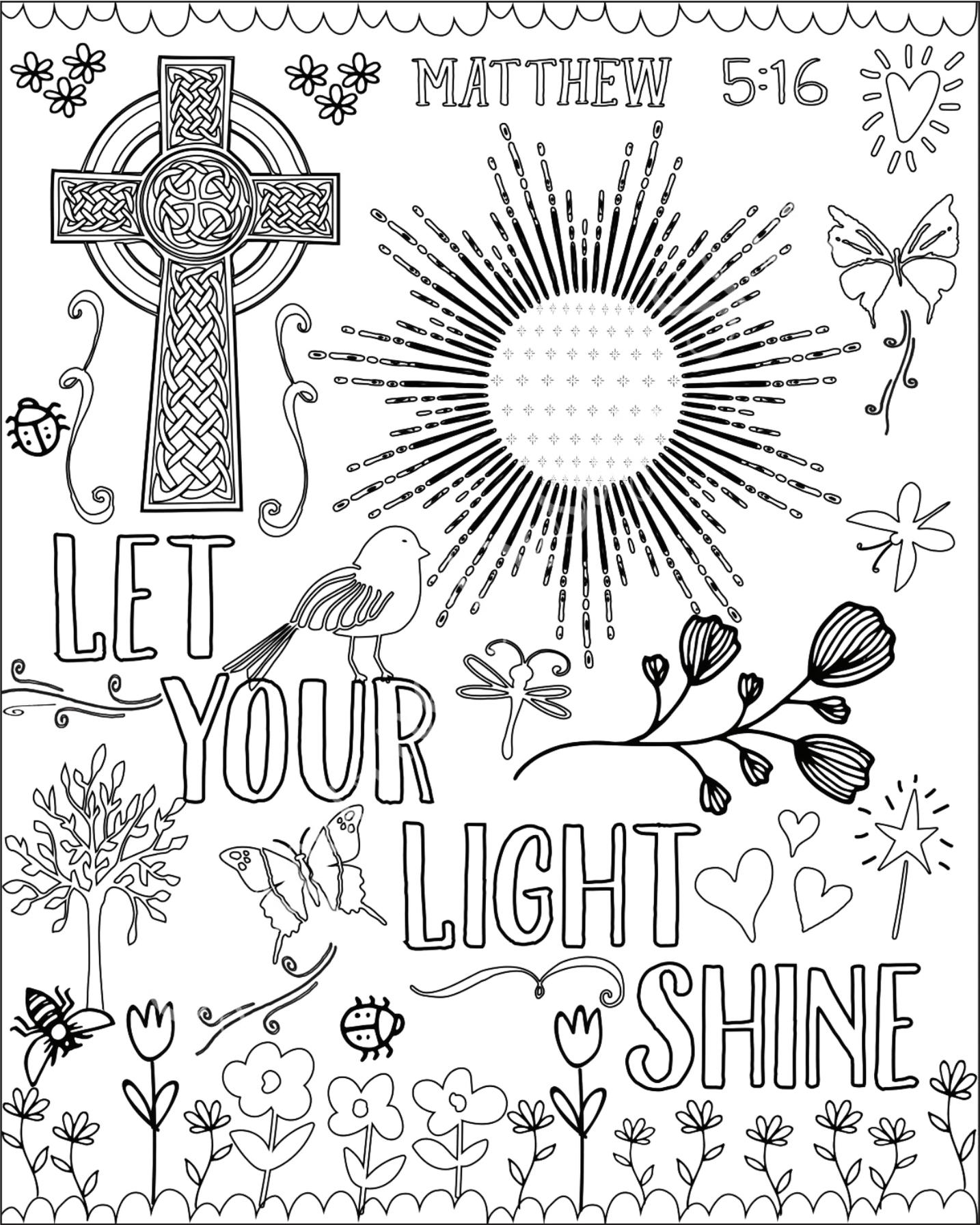
And also with you.

You may remain on zoom to share the peace and visit with your Bethel Family.

Stewardship of Service	This Week - Sept 12	Next Week - Sept 19
Ministers	All Baptized Members of Bethel	All Baptized Members of Bethel
Pastor	Rev. Dr. Scott Dunfee	Rev. Dr. Scott Dunfee
Music Director	Dr. Kathleen Hollingsworth	Dr. Kathleen Hollingsworth
Zoom Host	Ryan Burghard	Summer Kaplan

Prayer Requested For:	Prayer Concern:	Prayer Contact:
For the world	Prayers for assurance of God's love and healing as we work together during this global pandemic.	Staff
For the People of Bethel Lutheran	May the wisdom and counsel of the Holy Spirit abide within the people of Bethel during this time of change and transition.	Staff
Faith St. John	Healing & support as she undergoes cancer treatment.	Staff
David Gyles	Continued prayers for David & Sandy as David continues to struggle with his lung problems	Bethel Care Team
Joan Barber	Peace and comfort and freedom from discomfort as she begins palliative care.	Pastor Core
Pastor Christine and John Core	Prayers for the Cores after they lost their McKenzie River to a wildfire.	Joann Noll
The Griffin Family	Prayer for Harry as he continues physical therapy & chemo, but is in good spirits.	Staff
Katie Reitel and her Family	Prayers for peace and comfort as Katie is in hospice care with a long battle with brain cancer. She is at home with her husband Matt, her 7-year-old son Teddy, and her mom Liz. Please keep her and family in your prayers during this difficult time.	The Bentleys
Jim Van Dyke	Prayers for Jim after his surgery while he undergoes further treatment for cancer.	Karen Anderson
Cheyenne and Kent Marx, Pastor Glenn's niece & husband	Prayers for Cheyenne and Kent Marx as they live through the consequences of the accident that killed Glenn's nephew Colton.	Karen Anderson
Mitch Fletcher & Family	Prayers for Mitch Fletcher and his family.	Karen Anderson
Miles Bard	Prayers of gratitude for the healing of Miles Bard's broken wrist!	Ronda Bard
Gina Marie	Prayers of healing for Gina Marie as she recovers from injuries at Emanuel Hospital.	Holly Redfern
The Bethel Call Committee	Prayers for clear thinking, compassion, and stamina for the Call Committee!	Rhonda Bard
Mary Hollingsworth (Kathleen's mom)	Prayers of healing for Mary Hollingsworth, recovering from a broken leg	Holly Redfern
Rose Marie (Ray Bard's niece)	Prayers for Rose Marie, in the midst of wildfires and evacuated from her home.	Holly Redfern
Our prayers continue for many among us: for Timothy Collins, Elizabeth, Rob, Jacob Bard, Miles Bard, Patricia Connor.		

[Bethel News: w://us18.campaign-archive.com/home/?u=de62ac9195b867478ad8a19cd&id=b3b3a27814](https://us18.campaign-archive.com/home/?u=de62ac9195b867478ad8a19cd&id=b3b3a27814)



NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Full news online [bethelpdx.org/weekly news](http://bethelpdx.org/weekly-news)

9/25 Oregon Synod Day of Learning

9/10 Updates from the Call Committee

9/03 Letter from Your Interim Pastor

9/03 Oregon Synod article on Wildfires that includes the Cores

9/03 September Birthdays

Updates from the Call Committee

September 9, 2021

Bishop Laurie Larson Caesar and the Oregon Synod have great expectations of Bethel's transition to calling a new pastor—see details in the synodical booklet *Congregations in Transition: Discerning our Future Together*, linked [HERE*](#). Prayerful discernment is key, so please take time to pray for Bethel's call process in your family prayers (get the kids involved!), in every worship service, in committee and team meetings, and in your deepest wrestling with angels.

Bethel has made our pastoral transition and discernment process public via the ELCA website. Already, pastors open to a parish call can access our Ministry Site Profile (MSP), our Reflections, and Bethel's statistical trends.

How do we look? Recollecting the plea made by Robert Burns in a famous churchly address (O, wad some Power the giftie gie us To see oursels as others see us!), we want to make sure you know what information is available and where we are in the discernment process.

The Transition Team worked all spring to complete a late draft of the MSP, including an Addendum of narratives that did not fit the prescribed format, and a collection of Reflections. Those were presented to the Bethel Church Council on May 5. Final details were added after consultation with Pr. Scott Dunfee, the Treasurers, and other collaborators.

The penultimate draft of the MSP packet was distributed to the congregation ahead of a Special Congregational Meeting held on August 15.

At that meeting, Council presented a slate of Call Committee members that was approved unanimously:

- Ronda Bard (chair)
- Ryan Burghard
- Jarred Burdick
- Cate Milburn
- Andrew Van Dyke
- Jamie Vandenberg

Ronda updated the MSP to include contact information for the Committee Chair and the date of congregational approval and submitted the final MSP packet via the ELCA MSP upload site on August 27.

The uploaded MSP was approved for posting by Bishop Laurie Larson Caesar, Oregon Synod ELCA, on September 1. A copy of the final version of the MSP is available to Bethel members and FOBs via Ronda Bard's Google Drive account at [THIS LINK*](#). If you detest working with Google Drive, I can send you a .pdf file of the MSP packet!

All open positions for ELCA Rostered Clergy are publicly available [HERE](#). Simply entering and searching the city name of Portland takes you to a list of three open positions, two in Portland OR and one in Portland, Indiana (who knew?!) Click on our favorite open position to arrive at a summary of the Bethel situation.

The link to Bethel's Statistical Trends Report does not always work, so I have made that document available on my Google Drive account, linked [HERE*](#). If you want a .pdf file of that report emailed to you, let me know at ronda.bard@gmail.com.

The synodical administrator assigned to guide our call process is Juan Carlos La Puente, Assistant to the Bishop. Juan Carlos will have a phone conversation with Ronda on Monday, September 13. After that introduction, he will meet with the Call Committee to begin this last stage in our discernment process.

So... the Spirit is working! Pray hard for the Committee, the Synod, the Bishop, Juan Carlos, Pr. Scott, the Bethel Church Council, pastoral candidates, all the Friends of Bethel, and for YOURSELF and our beloved congregation. May God bless the call process and keep our eyes open for gifts and possibilities and a few surprises!

Ronda Bard

503.307.5706
ronda.bard@gmail.com

**Please access the online version to view links.*



September Birthdays

- 4** Brady Burdick
- 4** Karen Carpenter
- 13** Ray Bard
- 14** Cate Milburn
- 15** Emily Noll
- 17** Brezdan Dunnigan
- 25** Miriam Moody Burghard