

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Almighty and eternal God, you know our problems and our weaknesses better than we ourselves. In your love and by your power help us in our confusion and in spite of our weakness, make us firm in faith, through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord

First Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-9

⁷So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

Psalm: Psalm 32:1-7

¹Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

²**Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

³While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.

⁴**For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,” and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

⁶**Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.**

⁷You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

Second Reading: Romans 13:1-10

¹Let every person be subject to the governing authorities; for there is no authority except from God, and those authorities that exist have been instituted by God. ²Therefore whoever resists authority resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. ³For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Do you wish to have no fear of the authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive its approval; ⁴for it is God’s servant for your good. But if you do what is wrong, you should be afraid, for the authority does not bear the sword in vain! It is the servant of God to execute wrath on the wrongdoer. ⁵Therefore one must be subject, not only because of wrath but also because of conscience. ⁶For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are God’s servants, busy with this very thing. ⁷Pay to all what is due them—taxes to whom taxes are due, revenue to whom revenue is due, respect to whom respect is due, honor to whom honor is due. ⁸Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Gospel: Matthew 18:1-20

¹⁸At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” ²He called a child, whom he put among them, ³and said, “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. ⁵Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me. ⁶“If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were fastened around your neck and you were drowned in the depth of the sea.⁷Woe to the world because of stumbling blocks! Occasions for stumbling are bound to come, but woe to the one by whom the stumbling block comes! ⁸“If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to enter life maimed or lame than to have two hands or two feet and to be thrown into the eternal

fire. ⁹And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to enter life with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into the hell of fire. ¹⁰“Take care that you do not despise one of these little ones; for, I tell you, in heaven their angels continually see the face of my Father in heaven. ¹²What do you think? If a shepherd has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? ¹³And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. ¹⁴So it is not the will of your Father in heaven that one of these little ones should be lost.¹⁵“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

Today: September 6 th	Sunday: September 13 th
15 th Sunday after Pentecost	16 th Sunday after Pentecost
9:30-Coffee Fellowship	Time Change back for
10:30-Worship /Communion	Fall
6:00-Bethany Prayer Group	9:30-Coffee Fellowship
Monday: September 7 th	10:30-Worship /Communion
4:00-W/M Mtg	6:00-Bethany Prayer Group
Tuesday: September 8 th	
Tuesday Coffee @ BLC	
Wednesday: September 9 th	
7:00-Council Meeting	

Prayer Concerns: Bethany Lutheran Church members, nursing home residents, storm/flood/fire victims, those suffering any illness, Lucas Sorensen, Myles & Shirley Pedersen, Kelly Gordon, Ireneo Zarzoso, Pastor David Klappenbach, Elaine Anderson, Roger Schulz, Shannon Hersom, Ken & Pat Boughey, Marie Rogers, Jeanette Jardee, Mary Roat, Todd & Elizabeth Wood, Pastor John Mayer, Monica Isom, Eli Honer, Dorothy Sandvig, Gloria Bell, Helen Dodge, Patricia Bentsen. Our youth, parents & teachers, our military & missionaries.

Lectors: Dean Armstrong
Ushers: September 6th-Volunteers
September 13th-Tom & Elaine Anderson
September 20th-Julian Johnsen Family

Acolytes: Bethany Youth

Weekly Budget and Worship
Faith Promise \$406.00 Worship 22

Birthdays: September 6–Marcy Rasmussen;9-Myles Pedersen;11- Becky Baker;
Anniversaries: September 6- Ken & Pat Boughey

Altar Flowers

An asterisk () indicates when to stand (for those who are able)*

PRELUDE / RINGING OF THE BELL	
WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS	
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*HYMN <i>Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us</i>	CH 688
*GREETING	P.57
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*PRAYER OF THE DAY	(bulletin-in unison)
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SERMON <i>Rich Ehlers</i>	
HYMN <i>Blest Be the Tie That Binds</i>	LBW 370
*NICENE CREED	P.64
*PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH	
Leader: "...Lord, in your mercy."	
Response: "hear our prayer."	
THE PEACE	P.66
OFFERING / OFFERTORY	P.66
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DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION	
*POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE	P.72
*BENEDICTION	P.74
*HYMN <i>Earth and All Stars!</i>	LBW 558
*DISMISSAL	



September 6, 2026
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

WORSHIP, LOVE, ACCEPT
TOGETHER IN CHRIST’S NAME

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To our visitors! Welcome to our Sunday Service. We are happy to have you sharing in our worship service and ask for the opportunity to meet you. We invite you to complete the visitor card in front of you. Please come again!

Welcome to our Communion Sunday Service.
All are welcome to receive the Lord's Body and Blood who are baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and believe that Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, is truly present in, with and under the forms of bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. We are happy to have you sharing in our worship service and ask for the opportunity to meet you. We invite you to complete the Communion/Visitor card in front of you. Please come again!