



In gratitude, Bethel Lutheran Church amplifies God's grace, nourishes all creation, reaches out, and builds community.

- We are a Reconciling in Christ Congregation.
- Why a Public Church? To impact and enhance the community so that everyone feels a sense of love and belonging.

WOMEN OF THE BIBLE:

God as Feminine

**TENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST
AUGUST 2, 2026**

Bethel Lutheran Church - In-person and Online
YouTube: @bethelmpls

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 2, 2026, 10:00AM

We welcome to the Lord's Table all people, without exception, who desire to receive the blessings of Christ's body and blood in this sacramental meal of bread and wine. If you are online, please prepare your own table with bread, wine, and/or a treat for anyone not receiving communion.

Boldface font indicates congregational response.

Worship leaders will indicate when to stand and sit, as you are able.

GATHERING

Gathering Music "Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth" by Sherri Hansen

Welcome and Announcements

Greeting

Wherever you are on your journey of faith, we believe that God meets us here. We gather in the name of the Creator, and of the Savior, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn ACS 971

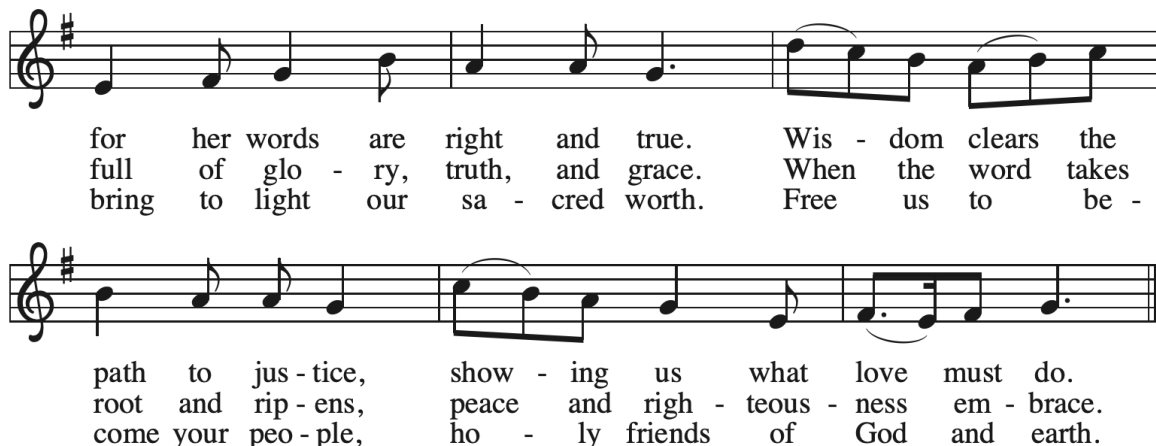
"Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom"



1 Come and seek the ways of Wis-dom, she who danced when
2 Lis - ten to the voice of Wis-dom, cry - ing in the
3 Sis - ter Wis - dom, come, as - sist us; nur - ture all who



earth was new. Fol - low close - ly what she teach - es,
mar - ket - place. Hear the Word made flesh a - mong us,
seek re - birth. Spir - it - guide and close com - pan - ion,



for her words are right and true. Wis - dom clears the
full of glo - ry, truth, and grace. When the word takes
bring to light our sa - cred worth. Free us to be -
path to jus - tice, show - ing us what love must do.
root and rip - ens, peace and righ - teous - ness em - brace.
come your peo - ple, ho - ly friends of God and earth.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: MADELEINE, Donna Kasbohm, b. 1933

Text © 1996 Pilgrim Press. All rights reserved.

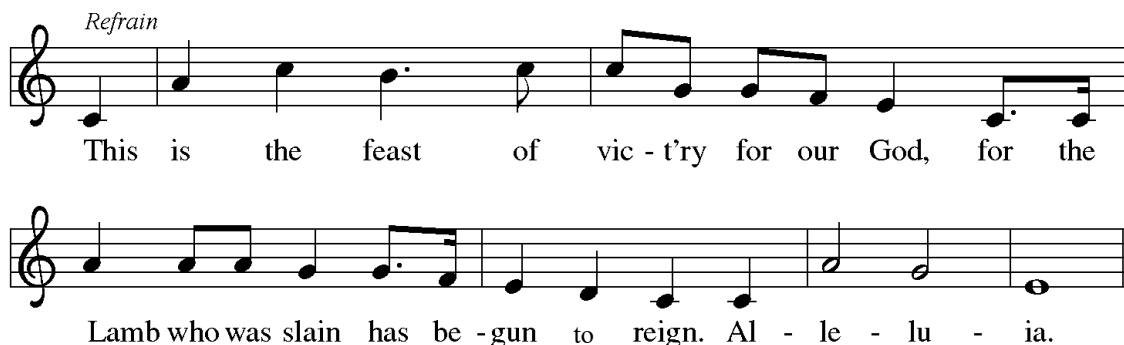
Music © 1997 Pilgrim Press. All rights reserved.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Divine Mother, **wellspring of all life, we open our hearts to Your presence. You who are as soft as the earth and as ancient as the stars, guide us in Your nurturing embrace. Help us to release our fears and trust in Your tender care. Fill us with Your wisdom, and let Your light radiate through us in all that we do. Amen.**

This is the Feast

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the
Lamb who was slain has be - gun to reign. Al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be



peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and



Refrain
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are God's This is the feast of



vic - t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun to reign. Al -



le - lu - ia. 2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and



join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



Final refrain
This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the



WORD

Lesson

Isaiah 66:7-14

This lesson from Isaiah comes in the final chapter when God promises to reunite the whole nation of Israel (Zion). Isaiah uses feminine imagery as God promises to take care of God's people as a mother takes care of her newborn.

Before Zion was in labour she gave birth; before her pain came upon her she delivered a son. Who has heard of such a thing? Who has seen such things? Shall a land be born in one day? Shall a nation be delivered in one moment? Yet as soon as Zion was in labour she delivered her children. Shall I open the womb and not deliver? says the LORD; shall I, the one who delivers, shut the womb? says your God. Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her, all you who love her; rejoice with her in joy, all you who mourn over her—that you may nurse and be satisfied from her consoling breast; that you may drink deeply with delight from her glorious bosom. For thus says the LORD: I will extend prosperity to her like a river, and the wealth of the nations like an overflowing stream; and you shall nurse and be carried on her arm, and dandled on her knees. **As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.** You shall see, and your heart shall rejoice; your bodies shall flourish like the grass; **and it shall be known that the hand of the LORD is with her servants,** and her indignation is against her enemies.

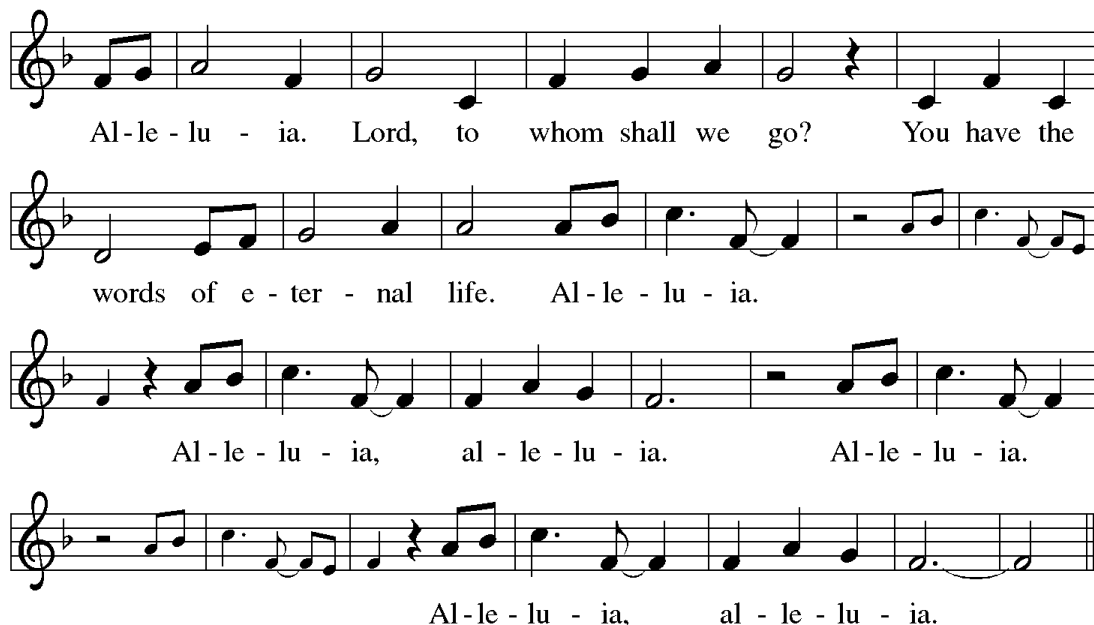
[Pronouns have been changed in this reading to look at God as feminine.]

Word of God. **Word of Life.**

Children's Message

Children and the young at heart are invited to the front of the sanctuary.

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, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel

Luke 1:39-56

The Gospel continues according to Luke, the first chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, **'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.** And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. **And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'** And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for she has looked with favour on the lowliness of her servant. **Surely, from now on all generations will call me**

blested; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is her name. The Lord's mercy is for those who fear God from generation to generation. She has shown strength with her arm; the Lord has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. The Lord has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; she has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. **She has helped her servant Israel, in remembrance of God's mercy, according to the promises made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.'** And Mary remained with Elizabeth for about three months and then Mary returned to her home

[Pronouns have been changed in this reading to look at God as feminine.]

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day ELW 735

"Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth"



1 Moth - er - ing God, you gave me birth in the bright
 2 Moth - er - ing Christ, you took my form, of - fer - ing
 3 Moth - er - ing Spir - it, nur - t'ring one, in arms of



morn - ing of this world. Cre - a - tor, source of ev - 'ry
 me your food of light, grain . . . of life, and grape of
 pa - tience hold me close, so that in faith I root and



breath, you are my rain, my wind, my sun.
 love, your ver - y bod - y for my peace.
 grow un - til I flow'r, un - til I know.

A New Creed

We are not alone. We live in God's world.

We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect to Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

A New Creed is an affirmation of faith adopted at the 23rd General Council, United Church of Canada in 1968. Used as property of public domain

Prayer Updates

Prayers of the People

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silence.

Each petition ends with a response:

Lord, receive our prayer, **and in your love, answer.**

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

Peace

The peace of Jesus is with you always. **And also with you.**

Offering

For checks and cash offerings, please place them in the offering plate at the back of the sanctuary. For members, if you are making a cash donation, place it in an envelope with your name on it. For online giving through Square, scan the QR code. To pay with PayPal, please visit our website: Bethel-mpls.org.

*Online worshipers, please send checks directly to:
Bethel Lutheran 4120 17th Ave S, Mpls, MN 55407
Thank you for your generosity!*



Offering Prayer

Let us pray. Creator God, **in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and your creation provides us with an abundance of what we need. Let our gifts of all kinds and our labor contribute to the building of a beloved community that welcomes all people, that sees all people, and that works for justice for all people. Amen.**

MEAL

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

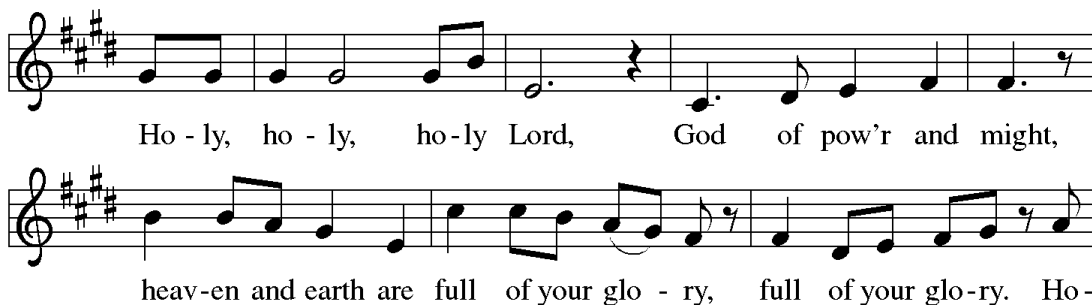
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

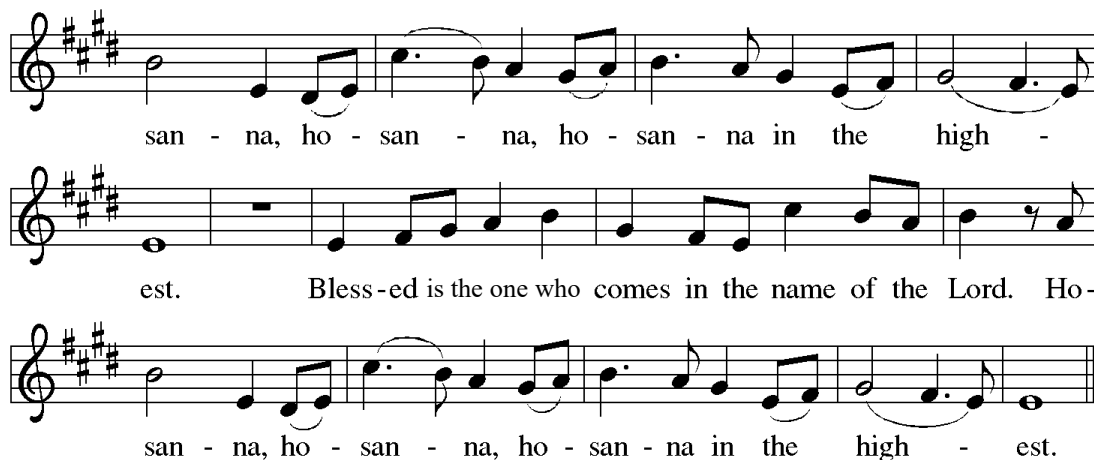
Let us give thanks to our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -



Words of Institution

For as often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the mystery of faith, that **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Lord's Prayer

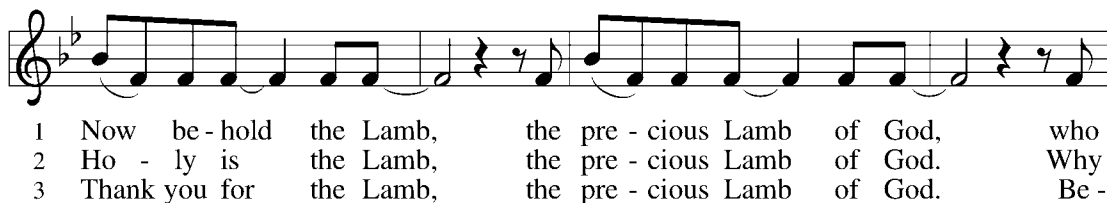
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Communion Hymn ELW 341

"Now Behold the Lamb"





bore all my sin, that I may live a - gain: the pre-cious Lamb of God.
you love me so, Lord, I shall nev - er know; the pre-cious Lamb of God.
cause of your grace I can fin - ish the race; the pre-cious Lamb of God.

Text: Kirk Franklin, b. 1970

Music: NOW BEHOLD THE LAMB, Kirk Franklin

Text and music © 1996 Lilly Mack Music. Used by permission.

Communion Hymn ACS 1015

"As a Mother Comforts Her Child"



As a moth-er com-forts her child, so God will com - fort you.



As a hen gath-ers her brood, so Christ will gath - er you.



As a wise one coun-sels her friend, so the Spir-it will coun-sel you.



The Trin - i - ty of love will be with you.

Text: Brian Wentzel, b. 1979

Music: TRINITY OF LOVE, Brian Wentzel

Text and music © 2018 Augsburg Fortress

Communion Hymn ELW 484

"You Satisfy the Hungry Heart"

Refrain



You sat - is - fy the hun - gry heart with gift of fin - est wheat.



Come give to us, O sav - ing Lord, the bread of life to eat.



- 1 As when the shep-herd calls his sheep, they know and heed his voice;
- 2 With joy - ful lips we sing to you our praise and grat - i - tude
- 3 Is not the cup we bless and share the blood of Christ out-poured?
- 4 The mys - t'ry of your pres-ence, Lord, no mor - tal tongue can tell:
- 5 You give your-self to us, O Lord; then self - less let us be,

Refrain



so when you call your fam-'ly, Lord, we fol - low and re - joice.
that you should count us wor - thy, Lord, to share this heav'n - ly food.
Do not one cup, one loaf, de - clare our one - ness in the Lord?
whom all the world can - not con - tain comes in our hearts to dwell.
to serve each oth - er in your name in truth and char - i - ty.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997

Music: BICENTENNIAL, Robert E. Kreutz, 1922–1996

Text and music © 1977 Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Post Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthens you in faith, holds you in God's grace, forgives your sins, and empowers you to love all others.

Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray. God of all, **you gathered us into one through this holy meal.**
Grant that we might go out into the world filled with your grace and love so
that we might serve others. In your many names we pray. Amen.

SENDING

Benediction

Our Mother of Compassion nourishes your soul. Feel the deep, unfailing love of Christ, who bears you as a mother bears her child. Go now in the grace and comfort of her eternal embrace. **Amen.**

(From Julian of Norwich)

Sending Hymn ELW 543

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”



- 1 “Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
- 2 “Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
- 3 “Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.
- 4 “I the Lord will bless and keep you, and give you peace.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.
I the Lord will smile up - on you, and give you peace.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here his ten - der com - fort stilled you.
I the Lord will be your Fa - ther, Sav - ior, Com - fort - er and Broth - er.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own.”
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.”
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free.”
Go, my chil - dren, I will keep you, and give you peace.”

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919

Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh

Text © 1983 Jaroslav J. Vajda

Dismissal

Go forth with courage, loving God and serving neighbors. **Thanks be to God!**

Sending Music “Allein Gott in der Höh sei Her” by Andreas Nikolaus Vetter

Ministers:	All Believers	Musician:	Anne Phillips
Presiding Minister:	Rev. Brenda Froisland	Sacristy:	Stephanie Johnson
Assisting Minister:	Ann Allison	Ushers:	Sarah and Doug Psick
Lector:	Norma Lanning	Live Streaming:	Gene Rodi and Ted Allison
Cantor:	Kristin Cleary	Hospitality:	Romell White
Music Director:	Bernie Asher	Altar Guild:	Barb Saunders and Barb Wandberg

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BETHEL'S **FREE** rally sunday SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP AT 10AM
OR AFTER AT 11AM FOR:

- **FREE PICNIC**
- **SERVICE PROJECT**
- **AND MORE!**

Help us put together school bags
filled with school supplies for
Lutheran World Relief to distribute.

More details to come!

**This event is FREE and open to the public.
ALL ARE WELCOME!**



BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
4120 17th Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN
bethel-mpls.org | 612-724-3693



BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH *Scholarships* APPLICATIONS

Bethel wants to encourage and support those who are seeking higher education.

Applications for the 2026-2027 school year are due on August 5, 2026.

Applications can be found on our website: bethel-mpls.org/education

Applicants must be entering their second year of post-high-school study.

For more information on our scholarship program or to apply,
please contact the office:

612-724-3693 or bethel@bethel-mpls.org

Apply Now!



PRAYER

list...

PRAY FOR BETHEL MEMBERS

Jan Walker	Laurel Jorgensen
Marilyn Newborg	Gloria Condon
Alice Evenson	Hundt Family
Stella Warwick	Puckett Family
Christopher Rodi	Darrell Dahl
Dave and Libby Krogh	Walker Family
Larissa Hoover	Warwick Family
Leonard Phillips	Pikkarainen Family
David and Sue	Gert Carlson
Dorumsgaard Ayers	Joyce Hughes

MORE PEOPLE OF GOD

- People struggling with mental illness and their loved ones
- Victims of natural and human disasters
- People in war-torn places
- Black, Brown, Indigenous, and Asian Lives
- People without homes
- Refugees, Migrants and Asylum Seekers
- People affected by gun violence

MEMBERS, RELATIVES AND FRIENDS IN THE SERVICE

Katrel Bishop (Pr B's nephew)
Adam Froisland (Pr B's nephew)

PRAY FOR OUR RELATIVES AND FRIENDS

Martin/Harne family (Pr B's relatives)
Ivy Potratz (Susan Johnson's stepmom)
Sherri Johnson (friend of Bethel)
Kris Hayes (Ann Allison's sister)
Marvin (Bryan Mann-Entzel's father)
Virginia (Jerry Johnson's mom)
Bill (Barb Wandberg's brother)
Lennon (Cole and Bryan's niece)
Beth (Dan Hauge's sister)
Andrea and Sage (Candy Hickenbotham's family)
Ethylmae Ross (Gloria Condon's aunt)
Ian (Pr B's friend)
Eric (Pr B's and Mary's family friend)
Julian (Jan Walker's friend)
Kristian (Pr B's friend)
Steve (Pr B's brother)
Michael (Marilyn Newborg's brother)
Donovan (Angel Cannon's father)
Rita (Sharon Phillips' friend)
Calvin (Angel Cannon's godfather)
Wayne (Karen Warwick's dad)
Trent and Michelle (Norma's family)
Darlene (Jeff Alberts' mom)
Susan (Mike Condon's sister)
John (Kathy Hundt's brother-in-law)

Blessings to Mike Greer, former member, at the death of his wife Noreen.

BETHEL'S MISSION PARTNERS

- ◆ReconcilingWorks ◆Casa de Oracion - Pentecostal
- ◆Mpls Area Synod ◆Nokomis Healthy Seniors ◆CANMN
- ◆Iglesia Evangelica Luz Alas Naciones ◆Iglesia Evangelica La Voz de Dios
- ◆Bancroft Neighborhood Association ◆Bread of Life Deaf Lutheran Church (BOLD)