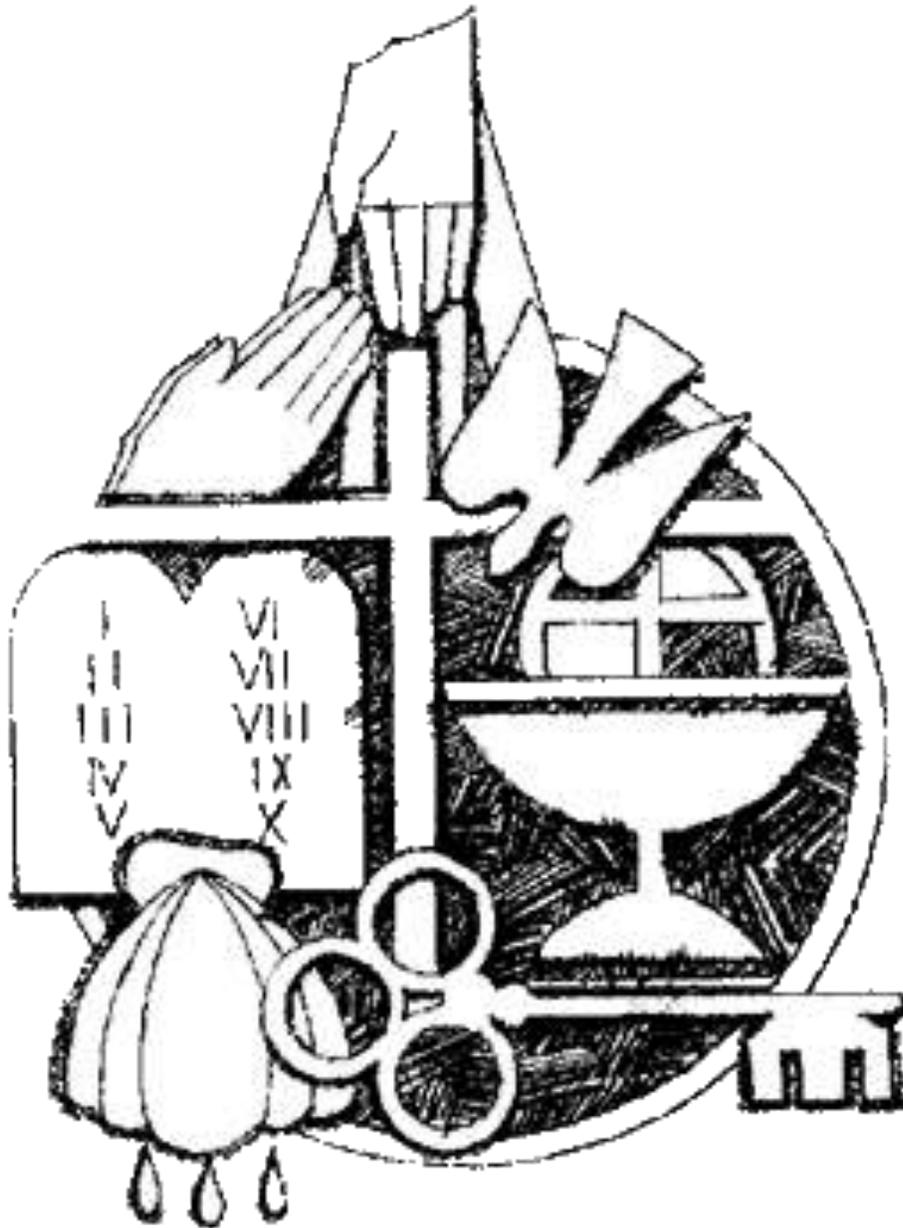


Confirmation Sunday

June 5, 2016



BETHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Joel Kluender

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Preschool Teacher Vicki Fronk

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OPENING HYMN—#596 — *Let Me Be Yours Forever*

STAND

M: The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.
C: And also with you.

DIALOGUE FOR THE COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT INTO OUR LIVES

M: In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

C: The Spirit of God has made me; the breath of the Almighty gives me life.

M: Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?

C: If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

M: **The Lord said, "My Spirit will not contend with man forever."**

C: O Lord, do not rebuke me in your anger or discipline me in your wrath.

M: Be merciful to me, Lord, for I am faint; O Lord, heal me, for my bones are in agony.

C: Turn, O Lord, and deliver me; save me because of your unfailing love.

M: **Jesus said to his disciples, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."**

C: No one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.

M: The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor.

C: There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.

M: Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

C: Come, Holy Spirit! Fill the hearts of your faithful people, and kindle in us the fire of your love. Alleluia!

HYMN OF PRAISE (*The Gloria*) — #263 — *All Glory Be to God on High*

M: Let us pray.

Holy Spirit, God and Lord, come to us this joyful day with your sevenfold gift of grace. Rekindle in our hearts the holy fire of your love that in a true and living faith we may tell abroad the glory of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Father, one God, now and forever.



Please be seated.

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 40:25-31 (NIV 1984)

²⁵ "To whom will you compare me?
Or who is my equal?" says the Holy One.

26 Lift your eyes and look to the heavens:
 Who created all these?
 He who brings out the starry host one by one,
 and calls them each by name.
 Because of his great power and mighty strength,
 not one of them is missing.

27 Why do you say, O Jacob,
 and complain, O Israel,
 "My way is hidden from the LORD;
 my cause is disregarded by my God"?

28 Do you not know?
 Have you not heard?
 The LORD is the everlasting God,
 the Creator of the ends of the earth.
 He will not grow tired or weary,
 and his understanding no one can fathom.

29 He gives strength to the weary
 and increases the power of the weak.

30 Even youths grow tired and weary,
 and young men stumble and fall;

31 but those who hope in the LORD
 will renew their strength.
 They will soar on wings like eagles;
 they will run and not grow weary,
 they will walk and not be faint.

PSALM OF THE DAY — *Psalm 63* — *The congregation sings the refrain below with the pastor, and the pastor sings the verses solo.*

REFRAIN (Sung by the pastor and congregation)

In the morn-ing I will sing, I will
 sing glad songs to you, I will sing glad songs of praise to
 you. I will sing glad songs of praise to you.

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VERSES (Sung by the pastor)

1. *O God, you are my God; for you I long...*

2. *For your love is better than life...*

3. *On my bed, I remember you...*

SECOND LESSON

2 Peter 3:17,18 (NIV)

¹⁷Therefore, dear friends, since you have been forewarned, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of the lawless and fall from your secure position. ¹⁸But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

VERSE OF THE DAY (Isaiah 6:3b)

Alleluia. Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory! Alleluia.

STAND

GOSPEL

John 3:1-17 (HCSB)

¹There was a man from the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ²This man came to Him at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher, for no one could perform these signs You do unless God were with him."

³Jesus replied, "I assure you: Unless someone is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

⁴"But how can anyone be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked Him. "Can he enter his mother's womb a second time and be born?"

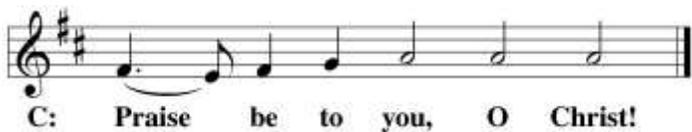
⁵Jesus answered, "I assure you: Unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh, and whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be amazed that I told you that you must be born again. ⁸The wind blows where it pleases, and you hear its sound, but you don't know where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

⁹"How can these things be?" asked Nicodemus.

¹⁰"Are you a teacher of Israel and don't know these things?" Jesus replied. ¹¹"I assure you: We speak what We know and We testify to what We have seen, but you do not accept Our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about things that happen on earth and you don't believe, how will you believe if I tell you about things of heaven? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the One who descended from heaven—the Son of Man. ¹⁴Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵so that everyone who believes in Him will have eternal life.

¹⁶"For God loved the world in this way: He gave His One and Only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send His Son into the world that He might condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



BE SEATED

HYMN OF THE DAY — #752 — *In Christ Alone* (see p. 11)

SERMON (2 Peter 3:17,18)

"Never Stop Growing"

STAND

CONFESSION OF FAITH — *Luther's Explanation of the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed*

C: I believe that I cannot by my own thinking or choosing 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 fully forgives all sins to me and 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.

BE SEATED

OFFERING

RITE OF CONFIRMATION

ADDRESS BY PASTOR

CONFIRMANDS' PROFESSION OF FAITH

M: Sean and Jacob, do you this day, in the presence of God and of this congregation, acknowledge that in Baptism, God gave you forgiveness of sins, life and salvation?

R: I do.

M: Do you reject the devil along with his lies and empty promises?

R: I do.

M: Do you believe in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit?

R: Yes,

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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.

M: Do you believe all the books of the Bible to be the inspired Word of God?

R: I do.

M: Do you believe that the teaching of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, as you have learned to know it from Luther's Small Catechism, is faithful and true to the Word of God?

R: I do.

M: Do you intend to continue firmly in the Christian faith and to endure all things, even death, than fall away from it?

R: I do, and I ask God to help me.

M: Do you intend to faithfully conform all of your life to the teachings of God's Word, to be faithful in the use of Word and Sacrament, and in faith and action remain true to God — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, as long as you live?

R: I do, and I ask God to help me.

M: Since it is God alone who enables us both to will and to do his good pleasure, it is right for us, dear friends in Christ, to call upon him for Sean and Jacob, that he would graciously complete the good work which he has begun in them. Let us, therefore, bow our heads and pray:

M: Lord Jesus, author and perfecter of our faith, in mercy you joined Sean and Jacob to your Church when they were born again of water and the Spirit. In mercy you taught them your saving truth. Grant that they may offer themselves as living sacrifices to you as their spiritual act of worship. Transform them by the renewing of their mind so that they will not conform to the pattern of this world. Help all of us live in love and harmony with one another and to work together in serving you. Keep us united in your Spirit, and bring us at last to your eternal kingdom, where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

STAND

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Gracious God and Father, we praise you for the countless blessings, which we receive from your hand: the beauties of creation and the bounties of the earth, the joy of life and the pleasure of friendship, the good of work and the gift of rest, the privilege to share happiness and sorrow with one another. Above all we praise and thank you **for your saving Word and for your Son's body and blood, which you give us to eat and to drink in the sacrament.** Through these means of grace, you send the Holy Spirit into our hearts and unite us to Jesus and to the whole Christian Church on earth.

C: Strengthen us through this heavenly food; increase our trust in Christ and our love for one another.

M: Great God and Lord, without your continuing help we easily waver in our faith, lose courage, and grow careless in our watchfulness. The times and days are perilous. Give us strength to face the evils of each day with fresh confidence. Open our lips to speak of your grace, and move us to use the gifts that you give us to share your Word of salvation with all people. Protect and prosper the family, the school, the government, and all good institutions that you have established for the benefit of society. Remember in mercy those who are sick and suffering, and bring your healing to troubled homes and lives.

C: Move us to pray for those in need and to heal them with deeds of kindness.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: Now, eternal God and Father, keep us in the saving faith and so enable us to overcome all things through our Lord Jesus Christ.

LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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.

THE SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.



C: We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He made his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Sanctus



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.



You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.



I will give you thanks, for you have be - come my sal -



va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

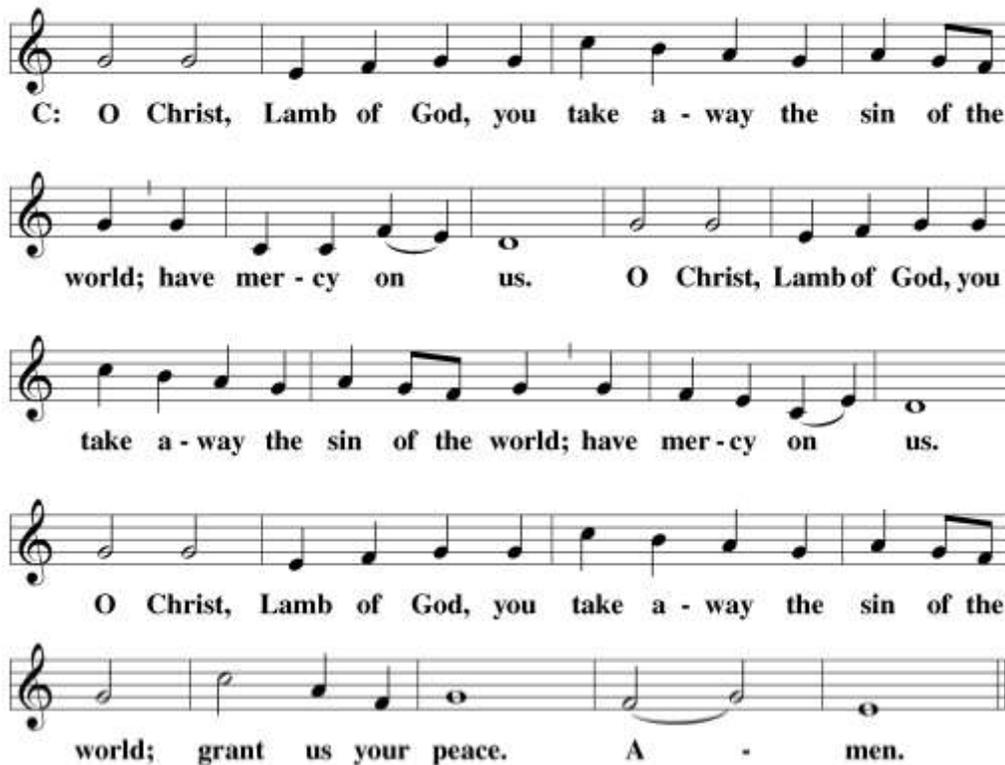
Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.



O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

Agnus Dei



BE SEATED

DISTRIBUTION (During the distribution, we will sing hymn #311 — *Soul, Adorn Yourself With Gladness*)

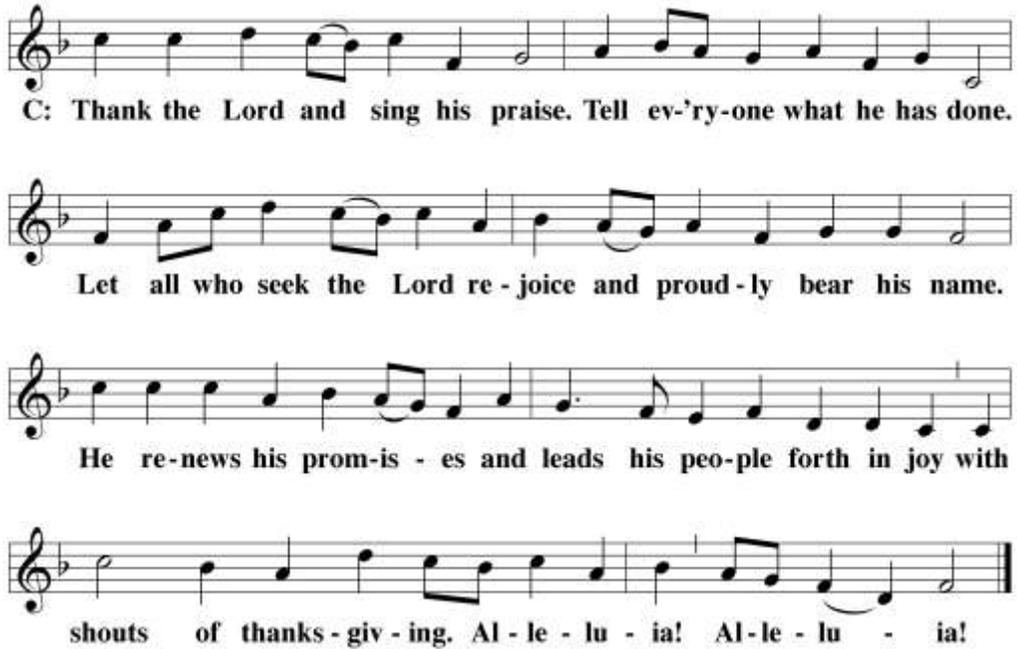
To our visitors: Bethany follows the historical practice of the Christian church called *close communion*. This means that we invite to our communion table those who are members of our close fellowship and who agree with us on all of the teachings of God's Word. For this reason, we ask that only those who are members of Bethany or of our sister congregations of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod come forward to receive the Sacrament.

If you are not a member of Bethany, but would like to pursue becoming a member, please speak to Pastor Kluender following the service. Thank you!

THANKSGIVING

STAND

THANK THE LORD



C: Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.
Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.
He re-news his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with
shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

M: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.



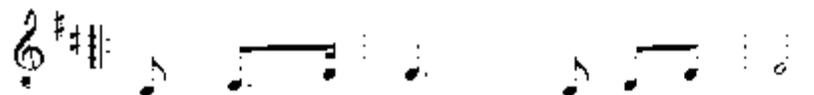
C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

CLOSING HYMN — #369 — *Beautiful Savior*

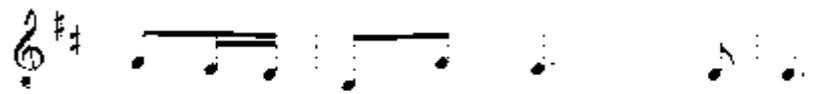
God bless you Sean and
Jacob!

"For I know the plans I have
for you," declares the LORD,
"plans to prosper you and not
to harm you, plans to give
you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:11



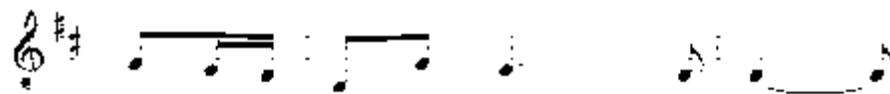
1 In Christ a - lone my hope is found.
 2 In Christ a - lone— who took on flesh,
 3 There in the ground his bod - y lay,
 4 No guilt in life, no fear in death,



He is my light, my strength, my song;
 Full - ness of God in help - less babe.
 Light of the world by dark - ness slain;
 This is the pow'r of Christ in me:



This cur - ner - stone, this sol - id ground,
 This gift of love and right - eous - ness,
 Then burst - ing forth in glo - rious day
 From life's first cry to li - nal breath,



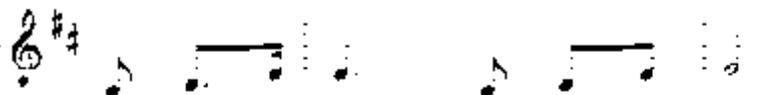
Firm through the fier - est drought and storm,
 Scorned by the ones he came to save,
 Up from the grave he rose a - gain!
 Je - sus com - mands my des - tin - y.



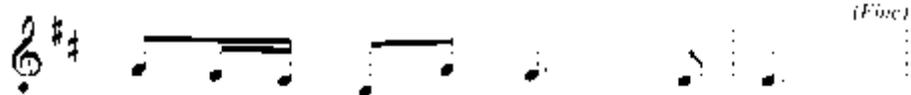
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
 Till on that cross, as Je - sus died,
 And as he stands in vic - tor - y,
 No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man



When fears are stilled, when striv - ings cease!
 The wrath of God was sat - is - fied;
 Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
 Can ev - er pluck me from his hand!



My Com - for - ter, my all in all,
 For ev 'ry sin on him was laid,
 For I am his and he is mine—
 Till he re - turns or calls me home,



Here in the love of Christ I stand.
 Here in the death of Christ I live.
 Bought with the pre - cious blood of Christ.
 Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

(Fine)

News And Notes

WELCOME!

Welcome to worship! We consider it a privilege to have you worship with us today. Guests, if there is anything we can do to make your worship more meaningful, please do not hesitate to ask us. Pastor, the ushers, and all members of our Bethany family stand ready to serve you. May the Lord bless your worship!

THANKS TO THOSE WHO SERVE

A special "thank you" to those who served their Lord by serving us this morning, our violinists, our organist, and our ushers. Thank you for edifying and beautifying our worship with your service.

CONFIRMATION CELEBRATION CAKE FOLLOWING WORSHIP TODAY

Following our worship this morning, everyone is invited downstairs to enjoy cake to celebrate the confirmation of Sean and Jacob. Please join us ... there is lots of cake to eat!

FELLOWSHIP AT THE KLUENDER HOME THIS SATURDAY, JUNE 11th

On Saturday, June 11th, all of Bethany is invited to join the Kluenders and their family to celebrate Hannah's graduation with food and fellowship from 4:00—7:00 PM at the parsonage. We look forward to seeing you there! Everyone is invited!

VBS AND WEST DEER COMMUNITY DAYS VOLUNTEERS

If you are willing to help with either of these outreach opportunities and have not yet signed up on the signup sheets in the narthex, please do so ASAP so we can begin to assign shifts and tasks each event. We are thankful for the help already pledged, but we can always use more.

2016 PASTORAL VISITS

Pastor Kluender will be scheduling home visits with all Bethany members this summer and early fall, and if you would like to have "first dibs," feel free to speak with him about when your visit could be scheduled. Otherwise, expect to receive a call from Pastor to have a visit scheduled sometime between now and mid-fall.

LAST WEEK'S STEWARDSHIP OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

In last Sunday's worship, 42 people were fed and strengthened by the Word of God.

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY...

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
6 <i>Pastor At Michigan District Convention</i>	7 <i>NO Bible Study</i> <i>Pastor At Michigan District Convention</i>	8 <i>Pastor At Michigan District Convention</i>	9	10	11 <i>Food & Fellowship at the Kluender Home (Parsonage) 4:00-7:00 PM</i>	12 <i>9:00 Bible Hour 10:30a Worship</i>
<i>Serving next Sunday: Altar: Stadler; Greeters: Stern; Ushers: Team C</i>						