# Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church A Liturgy of Lessons & Hymns The Five Six Solas of the Reformation October 26, 2025



**Pastor** Kim Swenson **Musician** Beth Schulz

**Worship Assistants** 

**Assisting Minister:** Doug Hanson

Reader: Doris Brack
Altar Guild: Pat Petzel
Communion Assistant:

Peggy Hansen

Ushers: Cindy Michalski &

Carol Wehunt

Video Tech: Rick Johnson

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**GATHERING** 

#### **Prelude**

## Welcome

## Thanksqiving for Baptism

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, clothed with Christ's mercy and forgiveness, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism. Holy God, fountain of living water, source of mercy, tender and mighty, you are robed in majesty and splendor. Your steadfast love fills the earth.

As the reformers cried, "Grace alone," we rejoice that in baptism we are claimed as Christ's own. In a world of striving, Christ's grace sets us free.

Your love flows through water. It satisfies the thirst of all living things. It sustains life in this community. It nourishes and delights us. We bless you for these gifts of water: for Green Bay, at the heart of our community, for the Fox River that flows to Lake Michigan, connecting us to oceans and gulfs that touch all the world, a sign of your beauty and delight.

As the reformers held to "Faith alone," we trust Christ's promises. In our anxiety, Christ gives us courage.

Your love flows through water, a sign of your saving power: Noah and the animals survived the flood. Hagar discovered your well. The Israelites escaped through the sea and drank from your gushing rock. Naaman washed and was healed. The Samaritan woman came to the well and was never thirsty again.

As the reformers stood on "Scripture alone," we trust Christ's Word. In a noisy world, Christ's story calls us to hope and justice.

Your love flows through the water of baptism, joined to your life-giving Word. A cleansing flood, a sea of deliverance from death to life, a river that heals and washes sin away, a spring of living water flowing to eternity.

As the reformers centered on "Christ alone," we look to Jesus, crucified and risen. In a hurting world, Christ sends us in love.

Shower us with your Holy Spirit. Fill us with your love. Clothe us and all your people with grace. Make us bold to do justice. Teach us to love mercy. Guide us to walk humbly with you. Let our whole lives bring you glory.

As the reformers lived for "God's glory alone," we dedicate our lives to Christ's service. In a self-centered world, Christ's light shines through us. Amen.

**Gathering Hymn** A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



- 1 A might y for tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
- 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re-
- 3 Though hordes of dev ils fill the land all threat 'ning to de -
- 4 God's Word for ev er shall a bide, no thanks to foes, who



to - rious; ject - ed. vour us, fear it;

he breaks the cruel op pres - sor's and rod But now cham-pion comes to fight, whom a we trem - ble not, un moved we stand; they for God him - self fights side with bv our



glo wins sal - va - tion rious. God him - self lect ed. e pow'r can - not o - ver us. weap-ons of the Spir it.

The old sa - tan - ic foe You ask who this may be? Let this world's ty - rant rage; Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe!
The Lord of hosts is he!
in bat - tle we'll en - gage!
goods, hon - or, child, or spouse,

With craft and dread - ful might Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord, His might is doomed to fail; though life be wrenched a - way,



he arms him - self to fight. God's on - ly Son, a - dored. God's judg-ment must pre - vail! they can - not win the day. On earth he has no e - qual. He holds the field vic - to - rious. One lit - tle word sub - dues him. The king-dom's ours for - ev - er!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship

Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther

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## Prayer of the Day

Grace and peace to you in the name of the who is, and was  $\oplus$ , and is to come. **Amen.** 

Let us pray, Reforming God, you call your church to continually rediscover your Word of life and your promise of grace. As we remember the Solas of the Reformation, reform us by your Spirit, that our lives may support the weary, feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, love one another, and build up the body of Christ. Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

WORD

## Sola Scriptura - Scripture Alone

Luther often turned to the psalmist's words: "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." He said, "The soul can do without anything except the Word of God... but it cannot do without the Word of God." For Luther, when the church strayed, Scripture alone could call us back to Christ. Still today, in a world of noise and confusion, God's Word shines a lamp for our path. It reminds us to welcome the stranger, support one another, and build communities rooted in justice and mercy. As a reforming church, we trust this Word to guide our lives and keep us close to Christ.

## Reading: Psalm 119: 105-112

- <sup>105</sup> Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
- <sup>106</sup>I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to observe your righteous ordinances.
- <sup>107</sup>I am severely afflicted; give me life, O LORD, according to your word.
- <sup>108</sup> Accept my offerings of praise, O LORD, and teach me your ordinances.
- <sup>109</sup> I hold my life in my hand continually, but I do not forget your law.
- The wicked have laid a snare for me, but I do not stray from your precepts.
- 111 Your decrees are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart.
- <sup>112</sup>I incline my heart to perform your statutes forever, to the end.

## Hymn

## Thy Word Is a Lamp



Text: Amy Grant, b. 1960 Music: THY WORD, Michael W. Smith, b. 1957; arr. Keith Phillips 0 1984 Meadowgreen Music Co./ Bug and Bear Music, admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing

## Sola Fide - Faith Alone

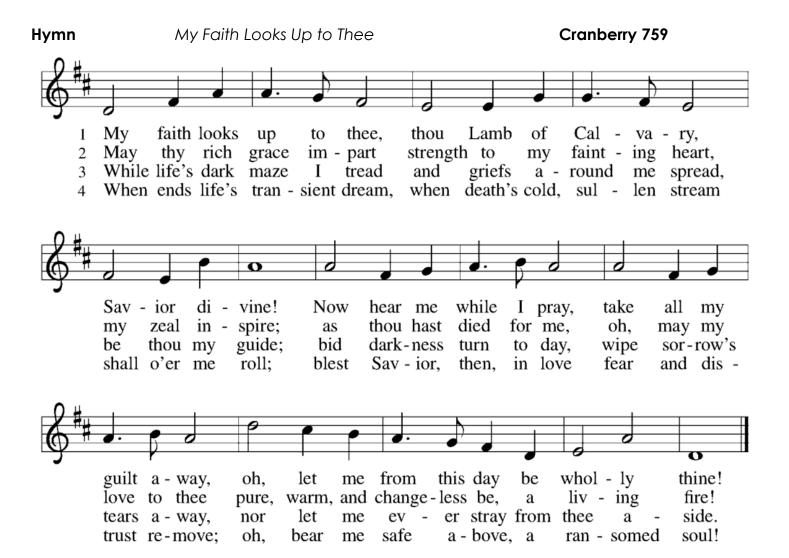
With Paul, Luther discovered that we are justified not by law but through faith. He called faith "a living, daring confidence in God's grace — so sure and certain one would stake one's life on it a thousand times" (LW 35:370). That trust still reforms us — freeing us from fear, giving courage to love, and strength to welcome our neighbors. In a world of anxiety and division, faith alone anchors

us in Christ's cross-shaped love and sends us with hope into a world still being made new.

## Reading: Romans 3:21–28

<sup>21</sup> But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, <sup>22</sup> the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, <sup>23</sup> since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; <sup>24</sup> they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup> whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; <sup>26</sup> it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.

<sup>27</sup> Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. <sup>28</sup> For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.



Text: Ray Palmer, 1808-1887

Music: OLIVET, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

## Sola Gratia - Grace Alone

Luther proclaimed: "We are saved by God's grace alone, without any merit of our own, through faith in Jesus Christ" (Small Catechism). Isaiah echoes: "Come, all who thirst, without money, without price." Grace reforms how we live and how we see one another. Not by wealth, status, or success, but by God's gift we are named and claimed. Grace frees us to feed the hungry, love without condition, and lift up those who feel they have no place. As a reforming church, we embody this gift for our community and our world.

#### Reading: Isaiah 55:1-13

<sup>1</sup>Hear, everyone who thirsts; come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

- <sup>2</sup>Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread and your earnings for that which does not satisfy?
- Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.
- <sup>3</sup>Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.
- I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.
- <sup>4</sup>See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples.
- <sup>5</sup> Now you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.
- <sup>6</sup>Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near;
- <sup>7</sup>let the wicked forsake their way and the unrighteous their thoughts;
- let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
- <sup>8</sup> For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.
- <sup>9</sup> For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.
- <sup>10</sup> For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout,
  - giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
- 11 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty,
- but it shall accomplish that which I purpose and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.
- <sup>12</sup> For you shall go out in joy and be led back in peace;

the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song,

and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

<sup>13</sup> Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle, and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,

for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.



Text: Jonathan Rundman, b. 1971

Music: BY GRACE, Nathan Houge, b. 1977, and Jonathan Rundman

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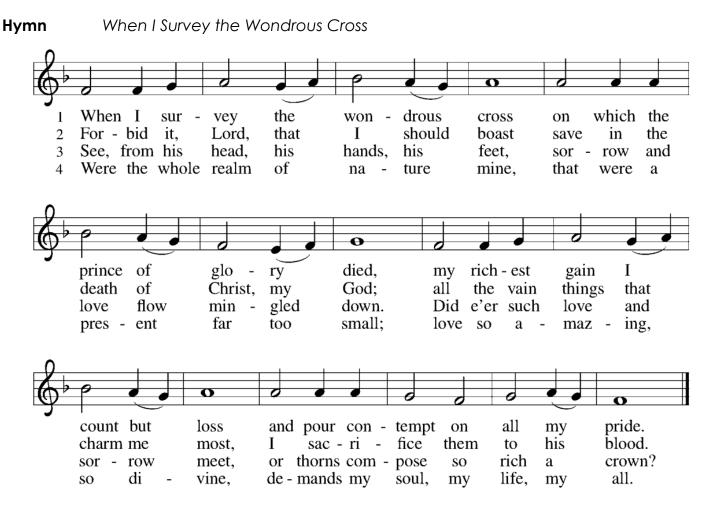
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## Solus Christus - Christ Alone

Luther called Paul's letter to the Galatians his 'beloved Katie von Bora,' because he clung to it like a spouse. Here Paul proclaims: 'I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.' Luther explained, 'The gospel does not tell us what we are to do, but proclaims what Christ has done for us' (LW 35:119, Commentary on Galatians). For us, Christ alone is the center of faith and life. In Christ, we learn how to love, how to welcome, how to build community in a world that too often breaks people apart. The cross does not remove us from suffering — it shows us that Christ is already there, standing with us. As a reforming church, we follow Christ's way of compassion and courage in our daily lives.

## Reading: Galatians 2:19-21

<sup>19</sup> For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ, <sup>20</sup> and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. <sup>21</sup> I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died for nothing.



Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Music: HAMBURG, Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

## Soli Deo Gloria - To God Alone Be the Glory

Luther reminded us: "God does not need your good works, but your neighbor does." Jesus calls us to let our light shine, so that others may see and give glory to God. At baptism we proclaim that glory belongs to God alone. We live into this when love becomes action: supporting the weary, feeding the hungry, welcoming the outcast, and building community together. In a self-centered world, God's glory is revealed as Christ's light shines through us. As a reforming church, we dedicate our lives to God's glory by serving the good of our neighbors.

## Reading: Matthew 5:13–16

<sup>13</sup> "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

<sup>14</sup> "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. <sup>15</sup>People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

**Hymn** God of Grace and God of Glory



Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878-1969

Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873-1932

# Sola Reformationis - By the Reformation Alone

This "sixth sola" was never on the Reformers' list, yet it is the Spirit that holds all five together and moves us still. For five hundred years the church has sung: Scripture, Faith, Grace, Christ, and Glory to God. But we are tempted to grow comfortable, to settle in place, to resist change. When we do, we risk losing the very Spirit who brought the church to life. We need Scripture's lamp, Faith's daring trust, Grace's gift, Christ's love, and Glory to God's call — and

the courage to let these truths keep making us new in the unchanging love of God for all people. Let us proclaim that Spirit of Reformation together in song.

Hymn of the Solas, by Rev. Kara Shaw

tune: Erhalt Uns, Herr, by Martin Luther meter: 8.8.8.8, "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"

#### Verse 1

Scripture alone shall be our guide, a lamp to shine both clear and bright. When voices tempt or turn aside, God's Word still shows the way of light.

#### Verse 2

Faith alone, baptism's holy seed, a gift from God that sets us free. It grows to meet our every need, and roots us in Christ's victory.

#### Verse 3

Grace alone the reformers cried, God's gift of love, unearned, unpriced. Still leads the church and is our guide, the world's one hope is grace in Christ.

#### Verse 4

Christ alone gives the world its worth, unmasks our lies, unveil our greed.
When systems fail this broken earth,
Christ brings the healing all hearts need.

#### Verse 5

Glory to God alone we seek, our lives made free to serve and care. Support, feed, welcome, week by week, God's Spirit spreads glory everywhere

#### Verse 6

Reformation alone will succeed, the Spirit moves, our hearts are stirred. When comfort calls and heart concede, reform us through your Holy Word.

## **Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,

creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.\*

On the third day he rose again;

he ascended into heaven,

he is seated at the right hand of the Father,

and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic church,

the communion of saints.

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

#### Prayers of the People

Trusting in God's reforming Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need. After each petition, I will say, "Lord, receive our prayer," and you are invited to respond, "By grace alone."

Through Scripture alone we hear your living Word. Reform us daily, O God, and bless ministries near and far. May your Word equip all people to serve with justice, compassion, and belonging. Lord, receive our prayer, **By grace alone.** 

Through faith alone we trust your promises. Deepen courage in times of doubt, strengthen our shared witness, and be with those who serve in our nation's military and with all veterans. May faith sustain them with hope, healing, and courage.

Lord, receive our prayer, By grace alone.

Through grace alone we receive your mercy. Provide for those who hunger or live in need, bless the Resurrection Food Pantry and all who feed, support, welcome, and build community. Extend your grace to those who grieve, surrounding them with your comfort. Lord, receive our prayer, **By grace alone.** 

Through Christ alone we know your love. Draw near to those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. Let Christ's cross remind them that you are with them in sorrow and will carry them toward new life.

Lord, receive our prayer, By grace alone.

For what else do the people of God pray?

Silent and spoken prayers are invited

Through God's glory alone we are set free for service. In families, schools, workplaces, and neighborhoods, let our actions shine with love. We give thanks for moments of joy and celebration, that all we do may bring you praise. Lord, receive our prayer, **By grace alone**.

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.** 

#### Peace

The peace of Christ be always with you. And also with you.

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

**MEAL** 

## Offering

# Offering Prayer

Let us pray, God of grace, you have given us everything through Christ alone. Receive what we bring today by faith: our gifts, our hearts, our lives, that they may shine with your glory.

Amen.

## The Great Thanksgiving,

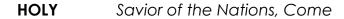
The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is our duty and delight that we should everywhere and always offer thanks and praise to you, O God, through Jesus Christ who calls us to follow his way of humble service and love. And so, with the church on earth, all creation and the host of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:





Praise we sing to Chr-ist the Lord, vir-gin's son, in -car-nate Word!



To the ho-ly Trin-i - ty praise we sing e - ter-nal-ly.

Mighty God, Gracious Lord, Generous Creator

You abundantly give us everything we have and everything we need:

Shoes and clothing, work and home, family and friends,

food and drink, all the necessities for this body and this life.

You protect us from danger and preserve us from evil.

And all this is done out of pure goodness and mercy without any merit or worthiness on my own part.

For this we owe God thanks and praise. This is most certainly true!

Into our world of sin you sent your only Son begotten in eternity, yet true human being born of Mary and yet Lord of all.

Jesus purchased and freed us from sin, from death, and from the power of the devil not with perishable things like gold and silver but by his own holy and precious blood.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given 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, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Christ is risen from the dead and lives and rules eternally.

Christ has done all this in order that I may belong to him, live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and blessedness.

This is most certainly true!

Since we cannot by our own understanding or strength come to believe in Jesus Christ our Lord or come to him, Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit to call us through the Gospel. Enlighten us through her gifts, make us holy, and keep us in true faith along with the whole Church.

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and place until the last day when the Holy Spirit will raise me and all the dead and will give to me and all believers in Christ eternal life!

All glory and honor is yours, O God, O Living One, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church now and forever.

Amen. This is most certainly true!

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The Lord's Prayer
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Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

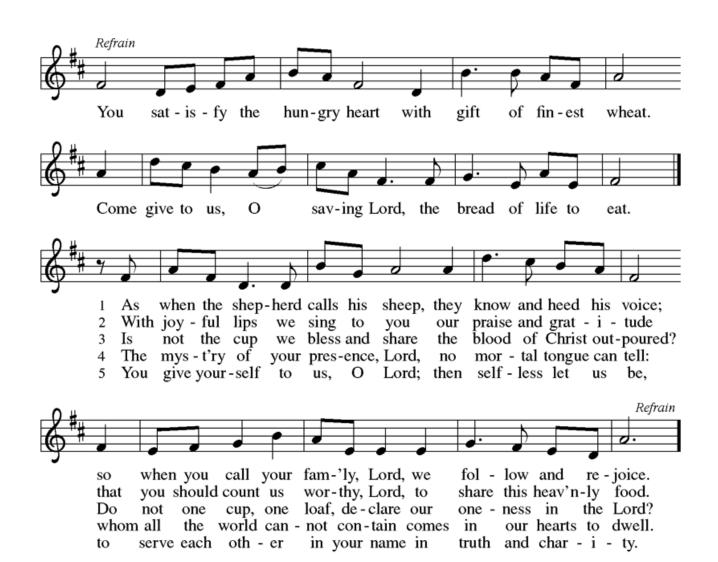
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

**Communion Hymn** 

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

Cranberry 484



Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997 Music: BICENTENNIAL, Robert E. Kreutz, 1922–1996 Text and music © 1977 Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

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God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

SENDING

#### **Announcements**

## **Blessing**

People of God, you are re-formed and always reforming.

Go with the gifts of the Reformation:

Through Scripture alone, may Christ's Word

be a lamp to your feet and a light to your path.

Through faith alone, may you trust God's promises and live with courage.

Through grace alone, may you rest in God's gift and share that grace freely.

Through Christ alone, may you see God in the cross and bring love to places of suffering.

To God's glory alone, may your light shine — supporting the weary, feeding the hungry, welcoming the stranger, loving your neighbors, and building community for the sake of the world God loves.

And the blessing of the holy and life-giving Trinity, ± the Eternal Source, the Living Word, and the Spirit of Renewal be with you and remain with you, today and always. **Amen.** 

Sending Hymn Built on a Rock vs1,3,5



- Built on a rock the church shall stand, e ven when stee ples are
- 2 Sure ly, in tem ples made with hands God the Most High is not
- 3 Christ builds a house of liv ing stones: we are his own hab i -
- 4 Yet in this house, an earth ly frame, Je sus the chil dren is
- 5 Through all the pass ing years, O Lord, grant that, when church bells are



fall - ing; dwell - ing ta - tion; bless - ing;

ing,

ring

crum-bled have spires in bells still are ev - 'ry land, tem - ple stands, the heav'ns his all earth - ly high in fills our hearts, his hum - ble thrones, grant - ing he praise his name, hith - er faith in we come to man - y hear your Word, who here this to may come



chim-ing and call - ing—call - ing the young and old to rest, call - ing the tem - ples ex - cel - ling. Yet God who dwells in heav'n a - bove deigns to a - life and sal - va - tion. Where two or three will seek his face, he in their Sav - ior con-fess - ing. Je - sus to us his Spir - it sent, mak-ing with prom-ise is bring - ing: "I know my own, my own know me; you, not the



souls of those dis-tressed bide with us in love, midst will show his grace, us his cov - e - nant, world, my face shall see; long - ing for life ev - er - last - ing. mak - ing our bod - ies his tem - ple. bless-ings up - on them be - stow - ing. grant - ing his chil-dren the king - dom. my peace I leave with you. A - men."

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. Carl Doving, 1867–1937, adapt. Music: KIRKEN DEN ER ET GAMMEL HUS, Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812–1887 Text © 1958 Service Book and Hymnal, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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#### Dismissal

Go in grace alone, in faith alone, in Christ alone, guided by Scripture alone, to the glory of God alone! **Thanks be to God.** 

#### **Postlude**

## **Funding for Mission & Budget**

Monthly Receipts through 10/21/25 \$10,068.30 Monthly Budget Expenses: \$20,033.00 YTD Receipts through 9/30/25: \$174,202.00

## **Bethel Weekly**

<u>Fill the Wagon:</u> was another huge success! 221 pounds of food were delivered to the Resurrection food pantry. Way to go everyone! Watch for another shopping list next month.

**BBB's:** Will meet at 6:30 on Tuesday October 28th at Gayle Peot's home.

<u>Trunk or Treat:</u> will be October 31st from 4:00-6:00pm. Please sign-up in the hallway if you want to attend. Decorate your vehicle and park it in the parking lot and hand out candy to our neighborhood Trick or Treaters. Don't be nervous if you are not really creative, keep it simple and come join the fun.

<u>All Saints Sunday:</u> is November 2nd. Please see the sign-up sheet in the hallway to add anyone to the Saints to remember.

<u>Special Fellowship:</u> on November 9th after worship as a special thank you to Tori Russett for her time as choir director. If you are unable to attend, there is a basket for cards in the lounge.

**Thank You Card Collection**: to thank Diane Meinel for her years as music director. Please drop off any thank you cards in the basket in the lounge so that we can send them to her.

<u>Poinsettia Order Forms:</u> are now available in the lounge and the office. Please return them as soon as possible. All orders have to be received by November 23rd.

**EPH:** Ecumenical Partnership for Housing will hold its second annual **Grace & Gratitude Gathering** on Thursday, November 20<sup>th</sup> from 5:00pm-8:00pm at Stadium View Traditions Event Hall. This event is a wonderful opportunity to come together as a community and enjoy a casual evening out while making a difference for families facing homelessness in Brown County. There is more information on the bulletin board in the Hallway.

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