

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

4500 EAST HAMPDEN AVENUE | CHERRY HILLS VILLAGE, CO 80113 | WWW.BETHANY-DENVER.ORG | 303.758.2820

God's Story, My Story



9:00am Sunday August 17, 2025



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+ WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS +

Prelude

Trumpet Suite
I. Praeludium II. Folk Tune III. Festival Trumpet

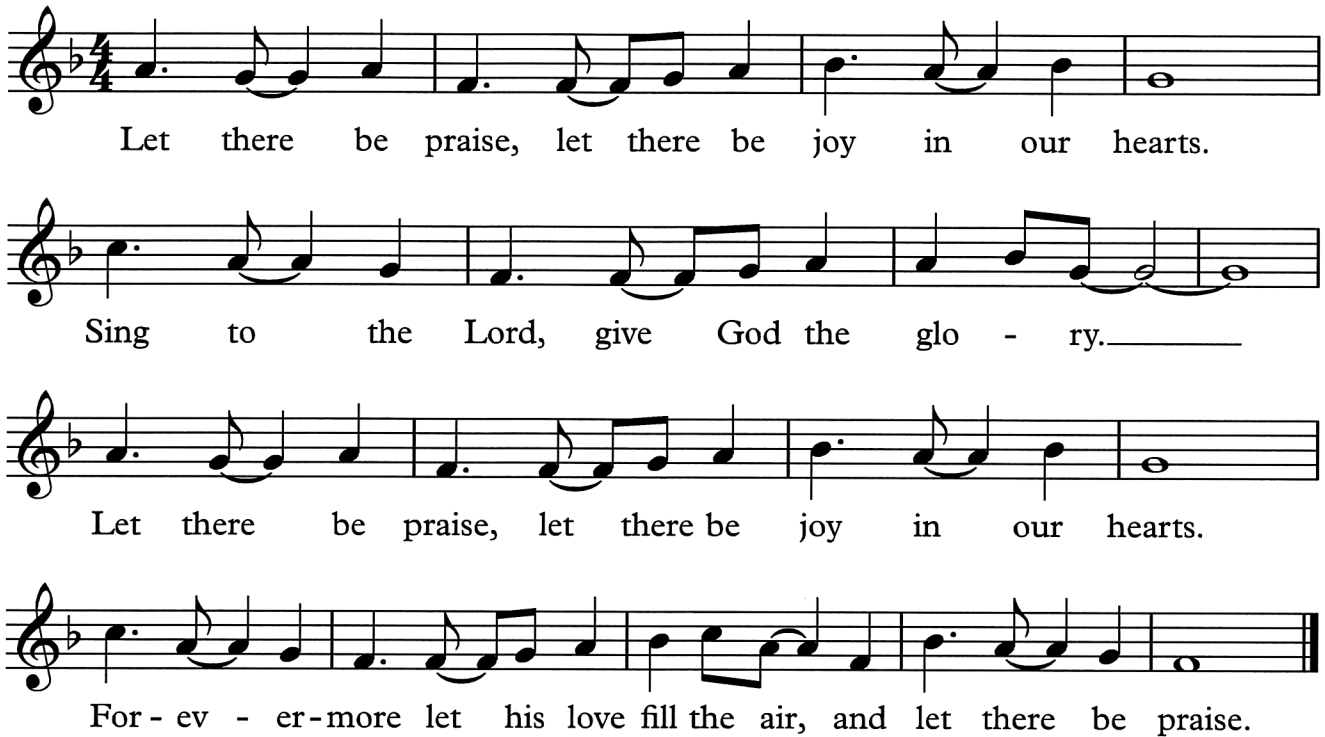
Gordon Young

Welcome to Worship

Deacon Debra Alba

Song of Praise

Let There Be Praise (sung twice)



Let there be praise, let there be joy in our hearts.

Sing to the Lord, give God the glo - ry. _____

Let there be praise, let there be joy in our hearts.

For - ev - er - more let his love fill the air, and let there be praise.

A Time of Confession

Holy and gracious God,

We confess that we have fallen short - in our thoughts, in our words, and in our actions.

We have done things we should not have done, and we have left good things undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not fully loved our neighbors.

We have often taken your gifts for granted. In your mercy, forgive us.

Turn us toward what is good and right, and lead us in the way of Jesus. Amen.

God's Gift of Forgiveness

Dear friends, God does not desire shame or punishment for us. God longs for us to turn away from that which does not give life and truly live. So hear this good news: In Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven - completely and forever - in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Opening Song

My Lord, What a Morning

ELW 438

You are invited to face the cross as it enters.

Refrain



My Lord, what a morn-ing; my Lord, what a morn - ing; oh,



my Lord, what a morn-ing, when the stars be - gin to fall.



- 1 You will hear the trum - pet sound,
- 2 You will hear the sin - ner cry, to wake the na-tions un - der - ground,
- 3 You will hear the Chris-tian shout,



Refrain

look-ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be - gin to fall.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: BURLEIGH, African American spiritual

Greeting

Deacon Debra Alba

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

God of History,

you call us to be your people, and you call us into your story. Continue to guide us through all that life brings, that we will see where our stories are constantly intertwined. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Children's Sermon

Children's Worship

Deacon Debra Alba

We Prepare to Hear God's Word

Let There Be Praise



+ WE ENCOUNTER GOD'S WORD +

Genesis 12:1-3

Paul Rodeck

¹ Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

1 Samuel 16:11-13

¹¹ Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here." ¹² He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him, for this is the one." ¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

John 16:19-22

The Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

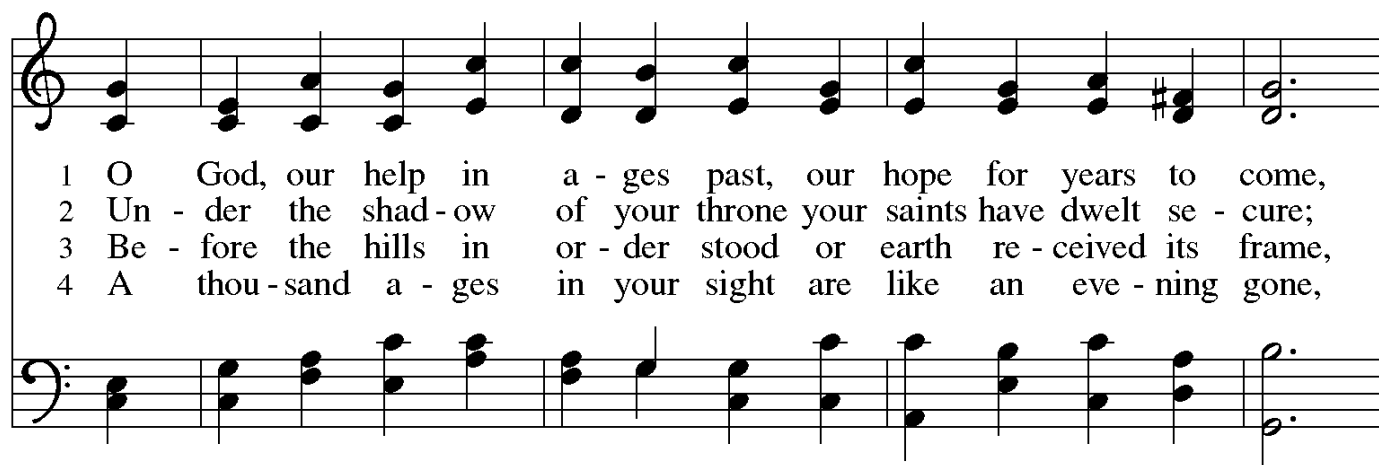
¹⁹ Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, "Are you discussing among yourselves what I meant when I said, 'A little while, and you will no longer see me, and again a little while, and you will see me'?" ²⁰ Very truly, I tell you, you will weep and mourn, but the world will rejoice; you will have pain, but your pain will turn into joy. ²¹ When a woman is in labor, she has pain because her hour has come. But when her child is born, she no longer remembers the anguish because of the joy of having brought a human being into the world. ²² So you have pain now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.

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

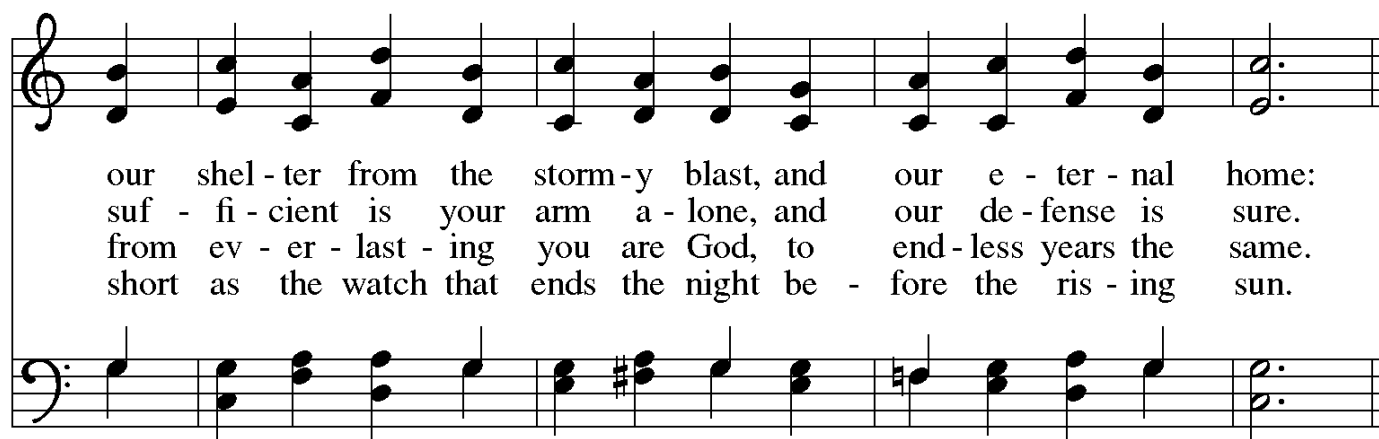
Song of the Day

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

ELW 632



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,
4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,



our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

A Statement of Our Faith (*Apostles' Creed*)

Pastor Nate Preisinger

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

We Share God's Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

Please share a blessing of peace with others around you. After sharing the Peace, please be seated.

Abundantly Bethany

To fill out your digital connection card, go to www.tinyurl.com/BethanyConnect.

- ♦ New Children's Ministry Team
- ♦ Bishop Meghan guest preacher 8/24
- ♦ Fall Worship Schedule begins 9/7

+ WE WORSHIP GOD WITH OUR OFFERINGS +

Bethany Financial Update - June 30 marked the end of Bethany's fiscal year for 2024-2025. Thank you all for your generosity! We were able to close the large deficit we were seeing as we headed into Q4. Our total contributions for the year were \$2,068,835 with expenses totaling \$2,230,971. We ended the year with a net loss of \$47,000. Thank you again for helping us end the year strong! The strong end of the year has propelled us to a strong start for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. Contributions for the month of July totaled \$101,000!

OFFERING

You can give in the following ways; Thank you for your gifts!

- On our **website**, find the GIVE button in the header or under the Get Involved tab at **Bethany-Denver.org**
- Through **Subsplash** - Use your phone's camera to scan this **QR Code**
- **Mail** in your check to the office (4500 E. Hampden Ave. Cherry Hills Village, CO 80113)
- Sunday mornings, drop your offering in the silver plate at the doors as you exit



Offering Music

Emerson Clark, cello; Heather Clark, piano

O Divine Redeemer

Charles Gonoud

Children Return to the Sanctuary

+ THE COMMUNITY MEAL +

Invitation to The Communion Table

Pastor Nate Preisinger

Celebration of Holy Communion

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 God thanks and praise.

Blessing of the Bread and Wine

The Lord's Prayer (*Ecumenical translation*)

**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.**

Communion Instruction

Bethany welcomes all to receive the body and blood of Christ in Holy Communion. An usher will direct you forward where you can receive communion by dipping the bread into the wine, or pick up a pre-packaged communion set or a gluten-free communion set from the tray in front of your seating area. Groups are welcome to visit a communion station together. Those who are not receiving communion are invited to cross their arms across their chests to receive a blessing.

Communion Distribution

Communion Music

Emerson Clark, cello; Heather Clark, piano

Amazing Grace

Traditional

Communion Song

As the Grains of Wheat

ELW 465

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were



gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from



all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.



1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when



Refrain

may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Table Blessing

+ GOD SENDS US TO SERVE +

Blessing for the School Year

Pastor Gary Sandberg

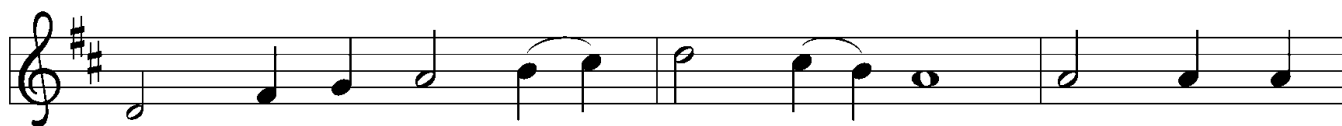
Sending Blessing

Song of Sending

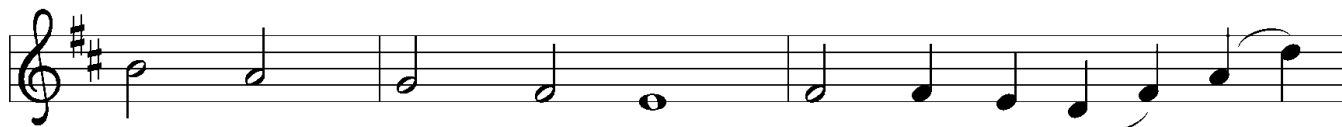
Jesus Shall Reign

ELW 434

You are invited to face the cross as it recedes to the center.



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -
2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es
3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue dwell on his
4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - 'ners
5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar



ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from
throng to crown his head; his name like sweet per -
love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es
leap to lose their chains, the wea - ry find e -
hon - ors to our king; an - gels de - scend with



shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
fume shall rise with ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.
songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.

Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

Dismissal

Pastor Gary Sandberg

As we go forth into the week ahead we remember our calling as the people of Bethany.

Together we will:

Worship and encounter a God who loves us;

Embrace healthy dialogue that promotes unity over division;

Respond to the needs of the world through generosity and action.

With this as our mission, go in peace, serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Toccata on “Duke Street”

Gilbert M. Martin

Things To Know About News & Events

- ♦ **New Children's Ministry Team:** Would you consider being a part of this dynamic, mission-driven team whose primary goal will be to help children fall in love with Jesus? The first team meeting will be **TODAY**, 10:20-11:30am or **Wednesday, Aug 20**, 6:00-7:00pm, both in Room 210. Contact Deacon Debra at Debra@Bethany-Denver.org if you'd like to receive more information or to express your interest.
- ♦ Next **Sunday, Aug 24**, Bishop Meghan Johnson Aelabouni will be our guest preacher! Bishop Meghan has served as the Bishop of the Rocky Mountain Synod for the past year. Join in welcoming her to Bethany next week!
- ♦ Starting **Sunday Sept 7**, we will move to two worship services. Our Traditional Service will be held at 8:30am and our Casual Blended Service will be held at 10:00am
- ♦ **Food Collection:** In **August**, we're collecting peanut butter, and all kinds of jelly, crackers, and cereal for the Integrated Family Community Services (IFCS) free food market. The 16 oz jars of peanut butter is preferable over larger containers, but any size is welcome. Bring your items to the Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings all of August. Cash donations can be made using the Give button on Bethany's website.
- ♦ **Family Promise:** Bethany will participate again in Family Promise at Christ the Savior Lutheran Church in Aurora the week of **Aug 17-23**. Family Promise provides shelter, food and job-hunting assistance for homeless families in the Denver Metro Area. Please consider volunteering as a van driver, an overnight host, or helping with dinner the night of Aug 17. For more information, please call Jean Scott at 303-756-2106.
- ♦ **Vitalant Blood Drive:** Vitalant will be here for a blood drive on Wednesday, **Aug 20**, from 10:00am-2:00pm, in the Fellowship Hall. To schedule an appointment, please either call Vitalant at 303-363-2300 or visit www.vitalant.org and use site code 0377. If you have any questions, please email Janet Mortinsen at janet@bethany-denver.org. Thank you in advance!
- ♦ **Attention Kitchen Volunteers:** All kitchen volunteers are requested to attend one of two scheduled meetings to go over guidelines that will need to be followed. Please plan to attend either of these meetings in the Fellowship Hall: **Wednesday, Aug 20** at 3:00pm or **Sunday, Aug 24** at 10:20am. Please contact Gayle Newell with any questions - Gayle@Bethany-Denver.org or 303-758-2820.
- ♦ **Women of Bethany:** Potluck Picnic, Pat Wallingford's house, **Saturday, Aug 23**, 11:00am. Shredded BBQ pork sliders, beverages and dessert will be provided. Please bring something to share. RSVP by Tuesday, Aug 19. Address and directions will be sent to those who sign up. All are welcome. Join the WOB e-mail group list by contacting Lizza Aalto at taalto@aol.com or Marilyn Narveson at msnarv73@gmail.com.
- ♦ **Joyful Noise Summer Choir:** **Sunday, Aug 24**, 8:00am rehearsal in the choir loft, 9:00am sing during the service. All singers are invited to participate in our summer "pick-up" choir. Inviting all current and future choir members and anyone who would like to sing, even if just this one time. Help us "Make a Joyful Noise!"
- ♦ **Minding Your Balance class:** **Tuesdays, Sept 2 - 30**, 1:00pm-2:15pm, Room 412. Good balance is necessary for daily activities which is essential to maintaining independence. There are steps you can take to improve and maintain balance. Susan Chandler from Denver Ki-Aikido will be offering a 5 week "Minding Your Balance" series at Bethany. Cost for the series is \$75. Space is limited so please sign up online at www.bethany-denver.org at the Bethany News Link by **Aug 26**. **Please plan to pay the instructor directly at the first class.** For questions, contact Janet Mortinsen at Janet@Bethany-Denver.org.
- ♦ **Annual Fall Bethany Open House:** Mark your calendars for **Wednesday, Aug 27**, 5:30-7:30pm. There will be food, games, bounce houses, and lots of information about activities at Bethany for the upcoming program year. Invite a friend and introduce them to all Bethany has to offer!
- ♦ **Bethany Foundation scholarships and grants:** **Scholarships** are available to students attending Lutheran colleges. Lutheran colleges offer a smaller class size, like minded students and staff who serve as mentors helping students grow in faith and education. Consider a Lutheran college for your higher education. Send questions to Office@Bethany-Denver.org. **Grants** are awarded to charitable Christian organizations, as well as those "who are doing the work of Christ", however not for Capital Campaigns. If you are an advocate for a non-profit organization that could be served by a grant from the Foundation, please encourage your non-profit to apply for funds. Grant applications must be received by **Sep 15**. Form is on the website under Resources, then Foundation. For questions email Foundation@Bethany-Denver.org.
- ♦ **Nametags are in!:** Look for yours on the table in the Fellowship Hall today!

THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT WORSHIP

- ♦ **Welcome to Bethany!** If you have questions or would like to consider making Bethany your church home, visit our website, Bethany-Denver.org, or stop by the Newcomer Nook after worship. The pastoral team, consisting of Pastor Gary Sandberg (he/him), Pastor Nate Preisinger (he/him), Deacon Debra Alba (she/her) and Director of Pastoral Care Janet Mortinsen (she/her), is available to speak with you.
- ♦ Bethany Lutheran Church values people of diverse race, sexual identity, ethnicity, and political affiliation. **All are welcome at Bethany Lutheran Church** and this community is enriched because you are here. We are together for good!
- ♦ **Sunday Worship services:** 9:00am One worship service in the summer - Memorial Day weekend thru Labor Day weekend. Worship style may be Traditional - follows traditional Lutheran liturgy or Blended – a flow of worship that includes the elements of Lutheran worship with music that spans multiple genres and brings some creative ways to engage the theme of the day.
- ♦ **Participating in Worship:** There will be times during worship when you are invited to stand, but if it is more comfortable or more meaningful for you to remain seated, please feel free to do so.
- ♦ **Communion Statement:** Everyone gathered for worship is invited to take part in Communion. Jesus did not place any barriers around who received communion and neither does Bethany.
- ♦ **Hearing Assistance Device:** Please see the Sound Tech in the A/V booth at the rear of the Sanctuary if you need a hearing assistance device.
- ♦ **Worship Servants:** Thank you to all the A/V team, Ushers, Communion Servers, Altar Guild, Musicians, Embrace Volunteers and Sacristans for your work to greet people and make worship happen. We always welcome Worship Servants - go to www.signupschedule.com/Bethany to sign up!
- ♦ You are welcome to bring beverages into the Sanctuary but please use a covered container. And enjoy your food outside the Sanctuary (although we understand small children may need snacks!).
- ♦ **Children at Bethany:** Children and youth are a blessing from God and we love having children in the Sanctuary! Additionally, we offer several options for children and families to feel comfortable in a variety of spaces on Sunday mornings:
 - ⇒ **Fidget Station:** We know that all of God's children (young and old) are wonderfully and fearfully made in the image of God. And, at Bethany, ALL are welcome to worship. Available outside the Sanctuary's north doors is a Fidget Station. Children and adults are invited to use these fidgets and art supplies to aid in your spiritual growth and presence in worship. Please return items to the station when you are finished.
 - ⇒ **Busy Bags:** Near the Sanctuary doors you will find premade bags perfect for littles. Grab one on the way in and return it on the way out.
 - ⇒ **Nursery:** For directions to our Nursery, please speak with an usher. You are welcome to use it with your child.

Today's flowers in front of the pulpit were given by Paul Rodeck in memory of his mother, Barbara, who passed away July 6, 2025.

