

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

4500 East Hampden Avenue | Cherry Hills Village, CO 80113
www.Bethany-Denver.org | 303.758.2820

Easter 5



10:00am
April 28, 2024

THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT BETHANY'S 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!
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ As we gather this morning, we acknowledge the **Cheyenne, Ute, and Očhéthi Šakówiŋ** (oh-chey-tee shah-koh-ween) tribes on whose lands we live and learn. We give gratitude to the indigenous peoples who nourished these lands, and who remain among us even today in the midst of the broken agreements that are mourned.
- ◆ **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!
- ◆ **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:** 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.
 - ⇒ **Staffed Nursery:** For directions to our Nursery, staffed by Ms. Michele, a Licensed Elementary Teacher with a specialization in Early Childhood Education, please speak with an usher.
 - ⇒ **Infant Nursing Nook:** There is an infant nursing nook outside the Chapel.

+ WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS +

Prelude

Be Thou My Vision

arr. Matthew Compton

Welcome to Worship

Pastor Gary Sandberg

See what love God has given to us,
that we should be called Children of God.

Song of Praise

All Are Welcome

ELW 641

1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
Refrain
Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
All are wel - come,
all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

A Time of Confession

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

God's Gift of Forgiveness

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Gathering Song

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

ELW 392



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter,
2 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans are we left in
3 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of heav - en, here on earth our



his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the
sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! he is near us; faith be -
food, our stay; Al - le - lu - ia! here the sin - ful flee to



vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful
lieves, nor ques - tions how. Though the cloud from sight re -
you from day to day. In - ter - ces - sor, friend of



Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus
ceived him when the for - ty days were o'er, shall our
sin - ners, earth's re - deem - er, hear our plea where the



out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."
hearts for - get his prom - ise: "I am with you ev - er - more"?
songs of all the sin - less sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt.

Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887

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

O God,

you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy. Amen.

Anthem

Spirit Boundless

Jubilation Choir, dir. Laura Tribby

Trilby Jordan & Betty Ann Ramseth

*Spirit boundless, all around us; fill, oh fill our world with love.
Holy Spirit, holy flame, come, we ask in Jesus' name.
Let thy light touch every one till on earth God's will is done.
Holy Spirit, holy light, teach us love of truth and right.
Daily battles must be won if on earth God's will be done.
Holy Spirit, lend, we ask, strength for such a mighty task.
That we may work, led by his Son till on earth God's will is done.*

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Kjersti Darlene Huber - Born: March 5, 2024

Parents: Thaddaus Huber and Maren Suny

We gather at these living waters. Throughout history, God's saving action toward God's people has taken place through water. Let us pray:

Most Holy God, you created the seas, rivers, and lakes; you saved Noah and his family from the floods; you led the Israelites through the Red Sea and quenched their thirst with water flowing from a rock. Through the waters of the Jordan River, you proclaimed Jesus your own beloved son and so through these waters of baptism, you proclaim that we, too, are your own beloved children, now and forever. Amen.

Parents, do you wish Kjersti to be baptized into the promises of God?

R: I do.

We make promises and assume responsibilities at baptism. God promises us unconditional love and life forever, and we know that our journey of faith encompasses certain promises so that our lives reflect this love.

Parents, do you promise to: Live with your child among God's faithful people, bring your child to the Lord's table, teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place the holy scriptures in their hands to nurture their faith and prayer life, so that they will know and trust God? **R: I do.**

Parents, sponsors, people of God, do you promise to support and pray for Kjersti's new life in Christ? **R: We do.**

Baptism: Kjersti Darlene, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayer: Sustain Kjersti with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. Amen.

Blessing: Kjersti Darlene, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. Amen.

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven.

Let us welcome our new sibling in Christ!

We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as a member of the body of Christ, child of God's kingdom on earth and in heaven.

Children's Church

Gayle Newell

+ WE ENCOUNTER GOD'S WORD +

Today's Sermon is based on readings from:

Acts 8:26-40

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

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

John 15:1-8

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

Jesus said: ¹“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

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

Sermon

Pastor Gary Sandberg

Song of the Day

In Christ There Is No East or West

ELW 650



- 1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
- 2 In Christ shall true hearts ev-'ry-where their high com-mu-nion find;
- 3 Join hands, dis-ci-ples of the faith, what-e'er your race may be.
- 4 In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north;



but one com-mu-ni-ty of love through-out the whole wide earth.
his ser-vice is the gold-en cord close bind-ing hu-man-kind.
All chil-dren of the liv-ing God are sure-ly kin to me.
all Christ-ly souls are one in him through-out the whole wide earth.

Text: John Oxenham, 1852–1941, alt.

Music: MCKEE, African American spiritual; adapt. Harry T. Burleigh, 1866–1949

A Statement of Our Faith

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 *(music will play underneath the prayers)*

Gathered into one, by the power of the Holy Spirit, let us lift our hearts in prayer...

...We continue to speak with God about all that is on our hearts...

(A time for silent prayer)

Into your hands O God, we offer these prayers, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

We Share God’s Peace

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

(Please share a sign of peace with those around you.)

Abundantly Bethany

Executive Council

- ◆ Welcome new worshippers!
- ◆ Youth Greeting
- ◆ Potluck Brunch/Pastor Gary & Karen Sabbatical send-off: TODAY!
- ◆ Holy Hammers 25th Anniversary fundraiser: May 4

+ WE WORSHIP GOD WITH OUR OFFERINGS +

The Offering

All the ways you can give are appearing now on the Illustrator. Please take a moment to offer a gift now to Bethany or to another God pleasing ministry. As you take this time to worship God through our offerings, we enjoy the gift of music. Paper offerings can be left in the silver trays by the doors as you exit the worship space.

Musical Offering

More Love

Mark Miller

Celebration Choir, dir. Laura Tribby

*Four simple words we sing today. With these four words we ought to pray,
and take to heart this sacred phrase: "More love, less hate."*

*It seems so easy on its face. Four words to heal the human race,
and yet we struggle to create more love, less hate.*

For love we stand! More love in this land! Will you join? Come, take my hand!

When fear and violence touch our lives, hate separates, seeks to divide.

Our faith in love won't be denied. More love, less hate.

Just as the night gives way to dawn, justice shines forth before too long.

Until that day we will sing on, "More love, less hate."

Children Return to the Sanctuary

+ THE COMMUNITY MEAL +

Invitation to The Communion Table

Pastor Gary Sandberg

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 our thanks and praise.

Blessing of the Bread and Wine

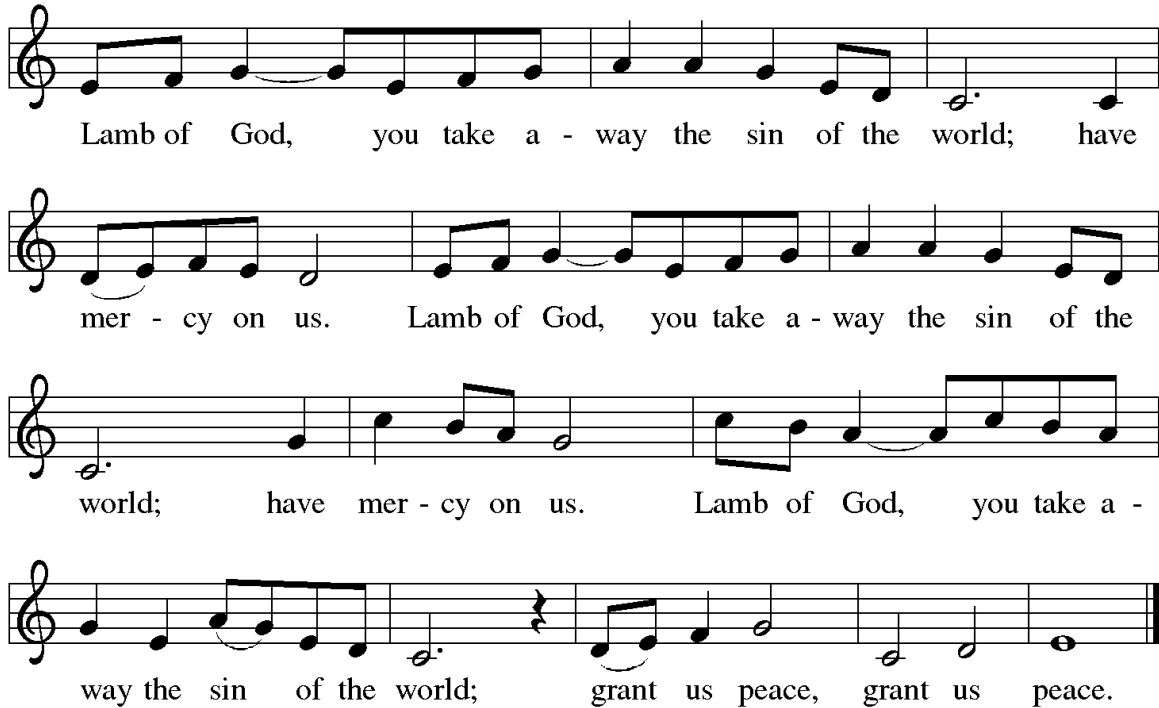
The Lord's Prayer (*Ecumenical translation*)

**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 via intinction, 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.

Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Distribution

Communion Music

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

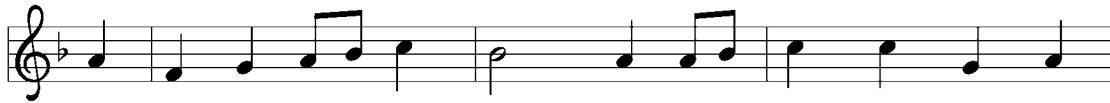
Carillons, dir. Nolan Oltjenbruns

arr. Cathy Moglebust

Communion Hymn

O Bread of Life from Heaven

ELW 480



1 O bread of life from heav - en, O food to pil - grims
2 O fount of grace re - deem - ing, O riv - er ev - er
3 We love you, Je - sus, ten - der, in all your hid - den



giv - en, O man - na from a - bove: feed
stream - ing from Je - sus' wound - ed side: come
splen - dor with - in these means of grace. Oh,



with the bless - ed sweet - ness of your di - vine com -
now, your love be - stow - ing on thirst - ing souls, and
let the veil be riv - en, and our clear eye in



plete - ness the souls that want and need your love.
flow - ing till all are ful - ly sat - is - fied.
heav - en be - hold your glo - ry face to face.

Text: Latin hymn, c. 1661; tr. Hugh T. Henry, 1862–1946, sts. 1, 3; tr. Philip Schaff, 1819–1893, st. 2
Music: O WELT, ICH MUSS DICH LASSEN, Heinrich Isaac, 1450–1517

+ GOD SENDS US TO SERVE +

Blessing

Pastor Gary Sandberg

Blessing and Sending for Pastor Gary and Karen

Song of Sending

On Our Way Rejoicing

ELW 537



1 On our way re - joic - ing glad - ly let us go.
2 Un - to God the Fa - ther joy - ful songs we sing;



Christ our Lord has con - quered; van - quished is the foe.
un - to God the Sav - ior thank - ful hearts we bring;



Christ with - out, our safe - ty; Christ with - in, our joy;
un - to God the Spir - it bow we and a - dore,



who, if we be faith - ful, can our hope de - stroy?
on our way re - joic - ing now and ev - er - more.

Refrain



On our way re - joic - ing; as we for - ward move,



hear - ken to our prais - es, O blest God of love!

Dismissal

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

Trumpet Voluntary

John Stanley

THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT NEWS & EVENTS

- ◆ **Godspeed to Pastor Gary and Karen!** Join in for a Sabbatical Send-Off TODAY during community hour at 11:00am. Please bring a dish for a potluck brunch. Share your good wishes with Pastor Gary and Karen and stay for warm fellowship and a delicious meal. At approximately 11:40am they'll share their plans for the Sabbatical in the Chapel.
- ◆ **Apostles' Creed Milestone Class:** TODAY, 11:20am - 1:30pm in the Great Hall. This class is for children third grade and up and their parents. We will engage in activities to dive deep into each of the three sections of the Apostles' Creed and explore how this belief in God Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer is important to our daily faith.
- ◆ **Jewelry Clean & Check:** Kyra Morgan is a jeweler at Williams Jewelers and will be doing jewelry clean and checks for the congregation. She is available if you have anything that needs to be cleaned or have any questions about jewelry or coins!
- ◆ **Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains:** Annual Gala (Opening Doors, Imaging Futures) on Friday, May 3. Bethany Lutheran Church is sponsoring a table. The Gala is LFS's major fund-raising event that supports programs that provide open doors and new futures in adoption and foster care, in disaster relief, and for refugees, asylees and seniors. If you'd like to attend and support LFSRM, please email a Bethany Gala Committee member - Marie Friedemann (mfriedem@regis.edu), Julie Friedemann (juliefriedemann@msn.com) or Janet Sparling (jsparling01@hotmail.com). Your support of LFSRM is hugely appreciated. See you at the Gala!
- ◆ **Holy Hammers 25th Anniversary Dinner and Celebration:** Saturday, May 4, 5:30-9:00pm at Augustana Lutheran Church, to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Holy Hammers and to raise money for our 2024 home sponsorship and construction (on land leased to Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver by Augustana Lutheran). Augustana Lutheran, a Holy Hammers congregation, has leased land to Habitat for Humanity Metro Denver, and Holy Hammers is sponsoring and building 1 of the 8 homes on that land in 2024. Purchase tickets or donate at <https://www.ticketsignup.io/TicketEvent/>. For more information, contact Kevin Dempsey at kmdmpsy@aol.com or 303-699-1629.
- ◆ **Young Adult Retreat:** May 10-12, Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp, \$100. Have you ever wondered what comes next? What you're supposed to be doing? This has always been a common question for young adults. Join in for a meaningful weekend of exploring how our Christian faith might provide us with new tools for this age-old struggle. You're welcomed to join a community of young adults exploring similar thoughts as we collectively discern God's intentions in our lives. Through Bible study, creative worship, art projects, yoga, personality tests, high ropes adventures, and time in God's beautiful creation we will support each other through the questions we all carry. Connect with Colleen at colleen@bethany-denver.org with questions! Scholarships available!
- ◆ **Holy Hammers/Habitat:** Volunteer opportunities: Saturdays, May 11 & 18 at Mountain View Homes (2101 S Joliet St, Aurora, CO, 80014) 8:50am-4:30pm. Sign up at <http://holyhammers.denver.volunteerhub.com/>.

- ◆ **Lutheran Family Services Mother's Day Baby Baskets:** Join the Outreach Ministry Team and support refugee mothers and their newborns as you bring any or all of the following to Bethany on Mother's Day May 12 (or May 19)! Sippy Cups, Diapers (bigger sizes), Crib Sheets, Baby Care Kits, Hygiene Items for Baby and Mom. Or use the Bethany drop-down box "Baby Baskets LFS" to make a direct donation.
- ◆ **Bethany Spring Outdoor Clean Up:** SAVE THE DATE! Saturday, May 18, 9:00am - 12:00pm. We'll be raking, pulling weeds, trimming and cleaning up the outside church grounds. Bring gloves and any gardening tools you'd like to use. There will be coffee and breakfast burritos provided for the crew! Be sure to sign up at signupschedule.com/Bethany so we know how many workers to expect. THANK YOU!
- ◆ **Bethany Name Tags:** Would you like a Bethany Name Tag? Sign up by the end of April! Order at www.Bethany-Denver.org/Nametags.
- ◆ **Kid's Day Camp:** Jun 24 - 28 - register at <https://tinyurl.com/blcdaycamp>
- ◆ **Kid's Art Camp:** Jul 15 - 18 - register at <https://tinyurl.com/blcartcamp>

For more information and to see other announcements, please sign up for the weekly email by contacting the office - 303.758.2820, or visit www.Bethany-Denver.org/Bethany-news/

Wednesdays at Bethany!

Coming up this Wednesday, May 1 (All classes are 6:00-7:00pm)

Godly Play (Preschool-1st Grade): Knowing Jesus in a New Way part 2

Camp Bethany (2nd-5th Grade): End of Year Wrap-Up

Confirmation (6th-8th Grade): Next Steps

THE Bethany Bible Study (Adults): Passion/Resurrection