

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Easter 5



8:30am

April 28, 2024

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!
- ◆ **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!
- ◆ **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.
 - ⇒ **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.

✠ GATHERING ✠

Chimes will sound to indicate the beginning of worship

PRELUDE

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

Paul Manz

WELCOME

Pastor Gary Sandberg

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

The assembly kneels or stands. 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.

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 HYMN

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

ELW #392

You are invited to turn and face the cross as it enters the Sanctuary.

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*Pastor Nate Preisinger*

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.

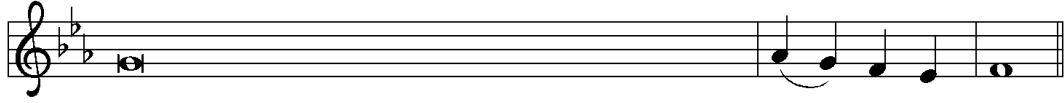
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



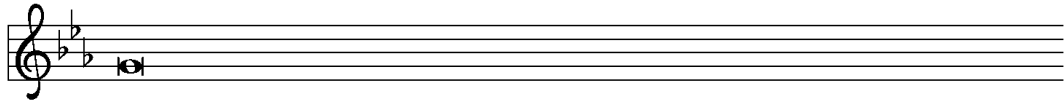
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



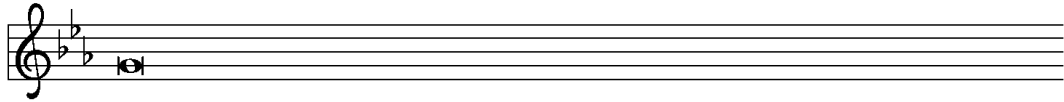
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



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



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to



Refrain
hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



Refrain
gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray,

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, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

✠ Word ✠

LESSON

Acts 8:26-40

Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, he is baptized by Philip.

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.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Repeat alleluia



GOSPEL

John 15:1-8

On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love bear fruit, for apart from him, they can do nothing.

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

HYMN 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

APOSTLES' CREED

Deacon Debra Alba

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

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.

✠ Offering ✠

ABUNDANTLY BETHANY


Executive Council

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

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

OFFERING

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

- On our **website**, find the giving button in the header or under the Get Involved tab at **Bethany-Denver.org**
- Through the **Bethany Connect App/Realm**
- 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)
- If you attend in-person on Sunday, drop your offering in the silver plate at the doors as you exit

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Be Thou My Vision

arr. Matthew Compton

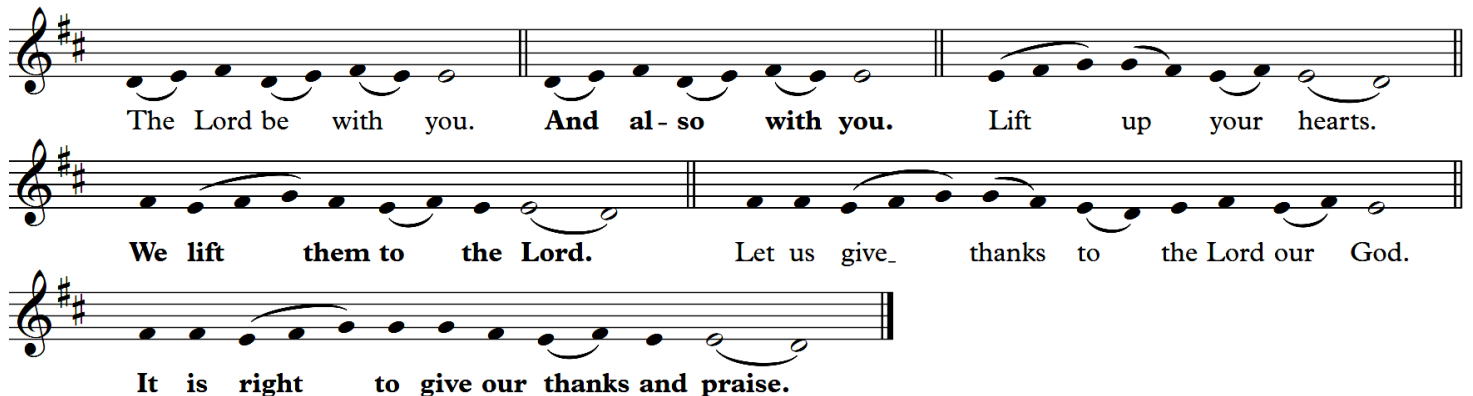
Carillons, dir. Nolan Oltjenbruns

✠ Meal ✠

WELCOME TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Pastor Gary Sandberg

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION



The Lord be with you. **And al- so with you.** Lift up your hearts.

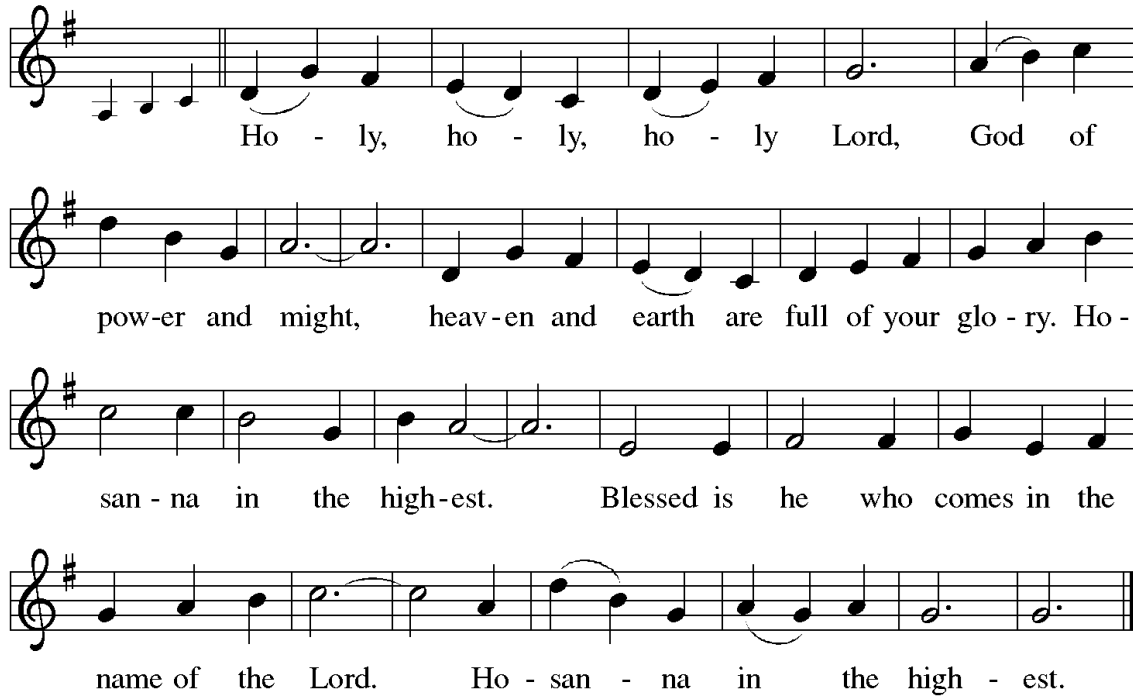
We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...
...we praise your name and join in their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

BLESSING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

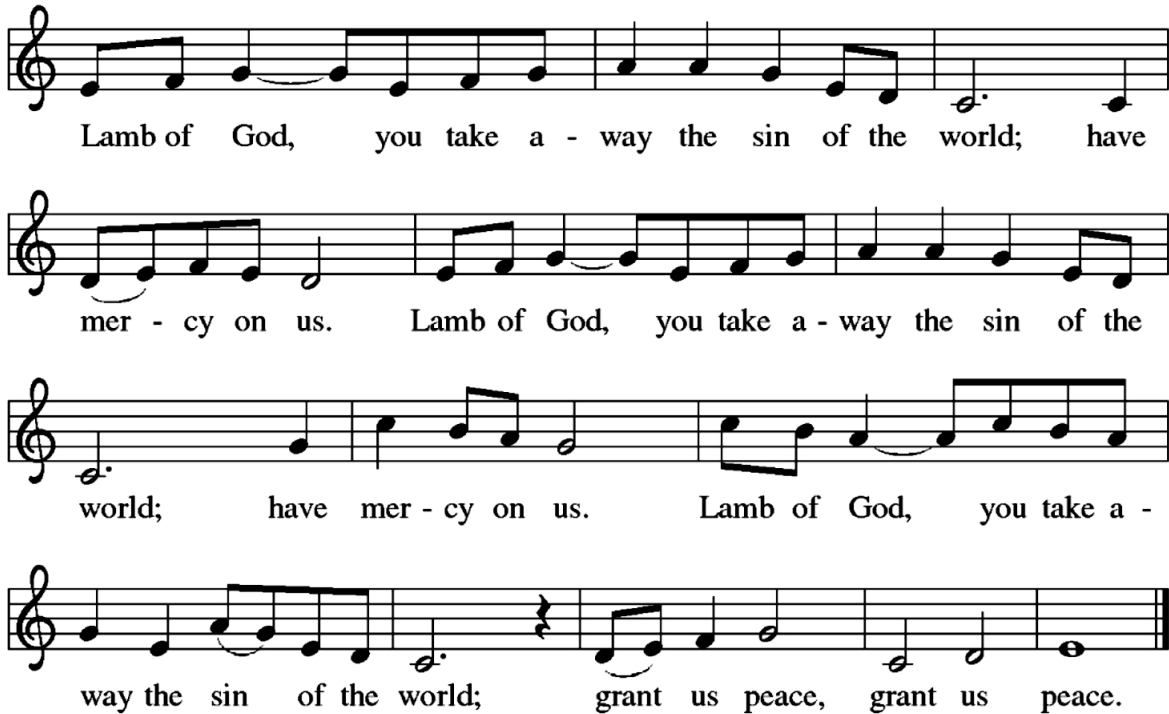
THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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 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 MUSIC

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

arr. Cathy Moglebust

Carillons, dir. Nolan Oltjenbruns

TABLE BLESSING

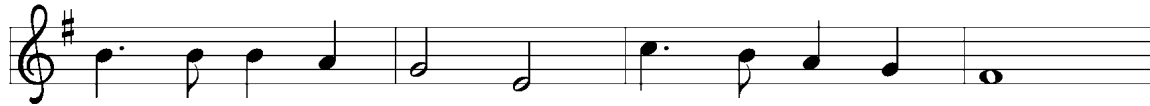
✠ Sending ✠

BENEDICTION

Pastor Gary Sandberg

BLESSING AND SENDING FOR PASTOR GARY AND KAREN

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



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!

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811–1875, alt.

Music: HERMAS, Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879

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/



bethany

LUTHERAN CHURCH

bethany-denver.org

facebook.com/BethanyLutheranChurch

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tiktok.com/@bethanydenver

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

BETHANY CAMPS!

Day Camp VBS June 24-28

Experience camp on-campus at Bethany! Rainbow Trail Lutheran Bible Camp Staff and Bethany Youth help lead Bible studies, songs, arts and crafts, and games for children! Register Here:



Art Camp July 15-18

Children ages 4 and up learn Bible stories and complete craft projects connected to the stories! On-campus at Bethany 9:00am-12:00pm each day. Register here:



Sky Ranch Camp July 28-August 2

Join in for an unforgettable week at our camp immersed in the Roosevelt National Forest! All ages of children and youth register here using our code: 24BLC



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