

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING SERVICES & MEETINGS

Bible Study – Wednesday – 10:00 to 11:30 AM
Craft Night - Wednesday – 7:00 PM
Sunday Morning Worship Service – August 30 – 9:00 AM
First Responders Recognition Sunday – September 13
Sunday School 1st Day – September 13 – 10:15 AM

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### **WORSHIP STATISTICS**

**8/23/26**

In Person Attendance – 30  
Virtual Attendance (YouTube Views) –

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THANK YOU TO THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

Greeter: Tanya Lang & Penny Rhodes

Lector: Laura Miller

Ushers: Rosemary Falk & Luisa Follweiler

Cantor:

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LeAnne Zettlemoyer

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# *14th Sunday after Pentecost*

*August 30, 2026*

*9:00 AM*



*Thank you for worshipping with us. Our songs of  
praise were more meaningful because your  
voice joined with ours!  
Please, come again!*

### Good Morning.

We would like to welcome you to New Bethel to worship with our church family. Visitors know that it is our privilege to have you with us this morning. Please come back again soon. Upon exiting the church, take a moment to sign our Guest Register at the front doors.

### **SILENT MEDITATION PRAYER OF THE DAY**

God of Jacob, you meet your people on the road and make ordinary places holy by your presence: open our eyes to behold you among us; build us as living stones into a dwelling for your Spirit; and lead us by Jesus Christ, in whom heaven and earth are joined, that, having seen your glory, we may rise and follow where you lead; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**PRAYER NOTES:** In your conversation with GOD this morning, listen to His invitation to serve, and let your eyes see His vision for our lives.

***"Thank God for what you have, TRUST God for what you need."***



## **ORDER OF WORSHIP**



### **THE PRELUDE**

(^ = PLEASE STAND, AS YOU ARE ABLE)

Worship Reminder: Congregational responses are to be read slowly and expressively. Thank you.

### **^PRAISE HYMNS**

#### **^CALL TO WORSHIP: Adapted from Psalm 84**

How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts!

***My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD.***

Happy are they who dwell in your house!

***They will always be praising you.***

Happy are the people whose strength is in you,

***Whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.***

They will climb from height to height,

***And the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.***

For one day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

***O LORD of hosts, happy are they who put their trust in you!***

Come, then, let us worship the God who meets us on the journey.

***Surely the LORD is in this place. Let us worship God.***

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **^OPENING HYMN –**

#### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

**PASTOR:** Let us confess our sin to God.

**ALL:** ***Most merciful God, we confess that we have not always recognized your presence.***

***You have met us on the road, and we have hurried past. You have spoken through the stories of others, and we have failed to listen. You have called us to be living stones, and we have preferred to stand alone. You have invited us to come and see, and we have been afraid of what is new.***

***Forgive us for the ways we have resisted your Spirit, wounded one another, and mistaken what is familiar for what is faithful. Open our eyes to your grace.***

***Teach us to bear with one another in love, and make us one people in Christ, that our life together may become a dwelling place for you.***

#### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON/DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS:**

**PASTOR:** Almighty God, who met Jacob in the wilderness and has come among us in Jesus Christ, is rich in mercy and steadfast in love. God forgives all who turn to him in faith, raises us from the places where we have fallen, and makes us living stones in the household of God.

Therefore, in the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

**Amen.**

#### **HEARING GOD'S WORD (OUR LESSONS FOR TODAY)**

##### **OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: GENESIS 28: 10-22**

<sup>10</sup>Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. <sup>11</sup>He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. <sup>12</sup>And he dreamed that there was a stairway set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. <sup>13</sup>And the LORD stood beside him and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring, <sup>14</sup>and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. <sup>15</sup>Know that I am

with you and will keep you wherever you go and will bring you back to this land, for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.” <sup>16</sup> Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, “Surely the LORD is in this place—and I did not know it!” <sup>17</sup> And he was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.”

<sup>18</sup> So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. <sup>19</sup> He called that place Bethel, but the name of the city was Luz at the first. <sup>20</sup> Then Jacob made a vow, saying, “If God will be with me and will keep me in this way that I go and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear, <sup>21</sup> so that I come again to my father’s house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God, <sup>22</sup> and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God’s house, and of all that you give me I will surely give one-tenth to you.”

### **RESPONSE: “Psalm 25: “To You, O Lord, I Lift Up”**

To you, O Lord, I lift up, I lift up my soul, my God.

To you, O Lord, I lift up, I lift up my soul, my God.

### **EPISTLE LESSON: 1 PETER 2: 4-10**

<sup>4</sup> Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and <sup>5</sup> like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup> For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
a cornerstone chosen and precious,  
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

<sup>7</sup> This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the very head of the corner,”

<sup>8</sup> and

“A stone that makes them stumble  
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

<sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

<sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people,  
but now you are God’s people;  
once you had not received mercy,  
but now you have received mercy.

**^GLORIA PATRI: “Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.” Amen.**

### **^ GOSPEL LESSON: JOHN 1: 43-51**

<sup>43</sup> The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” <sup>44</sup> Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. <sup>45</sup> Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him about whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.” <sup>46</sup> Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” <sup>47</sup> When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, “Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!” <sup>48</sup> Nathanael asked him, “Where did you get to know me?” Jesus answered, “I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.” <sup>49</sup> Nathanael replied, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” <sup>50</sup> Jesus answered, “Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.” <sup>51</sup> And he said to him, “Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.”

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### **^THE APOSTLES’ CREED:**

***I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our LORD.***

***He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.***

***He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.***

***He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.***

***He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.***

***He will come again 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.***

### **HOMILY (SHARING GOD’S WORD WITH OUR CHILDREN)**

### **SHARING GOD’S WORD WITH OUR MORNING SERMON**

Rev. Robert B. Peiffer, Ph.D.

“Surely God Was In This Place”

PASSING OF PEACE  
MORNING OFFERING: (RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD)  
^HYMN –

^PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

^THE DOXOLOGY:  
"Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost."

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER:  
**All: 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 sins as we forgive those who sin 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. Amen**

^RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION:  
We came to this place seeking God.  
**And we discovered that God was already here.**  
We have heard the stories of those who traveled before us.  
**And we have learned to listen for God in one another's stories.**  
We have wrestled, wondered, questioned, and changed.  
**And still God has blessed us.**  
We are living stones, being built together into God's house.  
**We will bear with one another in love.**  
Christ says to us, "Come and see."  
**We will rise and follow.**  
Go now into the world, awake to the holy places all around you; and may the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, rest upon you and remain with you always.  
**Surely the LORD is in this place. Amen.**

^CLOSING HYMN –  
^WE TAKE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD  
^POSTLUDE



**DURING THE WEEK PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS  
THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS**

**THOSE WHO ARE ILL OR RECOVERING FROM ILLNESS:**  
Dick Albright, Michael Aulenbach, Carla Bartholomew, Sandra Bauscher, Pastor Dave Blitch, Sarah Burns, Brenda Derr, Jay Drey, Donna Greenawalt, Sharon (Henry) Griffiths, Tim Haring, Felicity Herring, Tiffany Hoch, Casey Hoffman, Ernie Kanas, Bethany Keck, Emily Keck, Blair Keim, Cindy Keiser, Deb Kenney, Davis Knauer, Emma Laigaie, Peggy Light, George Megerle, Mary Beth Mogus, Andy Miller, Diane Miller, Bonnie Moll, Heather Munsey, Lloyd Pettit, Steve Schwoyer, Kevin Smith, Melanie Wessner, Cassie Wolfe, Joanne Zawada-Paskoff, Reuben Zettlemoyer, Susan Zettlemoyer, and Ben Ziehmer.

**THOSE WHO ARE SHUT INS:**  
Forrest Graff, Pat Graff, Michael Kirkhoff, Nancy Kleinsmith, Sandy Long, Lester Lutz, Christie Ryan, Delano and Sandra Schucker.

**THOSE SERVING IN OUR MILITARY:**  
Cooper Dunn, Amanda Kertsmar and Trista Fulmer-Smith.



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

On August 24, Myrna Kamp passed away. Thoughts and prayers go out to her family during this time.

Also this week on August 26 Judy Lenhart passed away. Judy was the mother of Tanya Lang and Amanda Kertsmar. Our thoughts and prayers to them and the rest of her family.

**OUR DAILY BREAD DEVOTIONALS:** The new regular print Our Daily Breads are now available. Pick up your copy today!

**FIRST RESPONDERS SUNDAY:** We are planning to hold a First Responders Recognition on Sunday, September 13. If you would like to help plan this see Linda Schroeder and Pastor Bob to volunteer.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL 2026/2027:** Mark your calendars for the start of the new Sunday School year on September 13, 2026. Let your children and grandchildren (and their friends) know so that they may join in the fun and learning.

**BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITY BY & FOR LAY PEOPLE:** Bible Study sessions will be resuming this week on Wednesday mornings. If you would like to attend they are held from 10:00 to 11:30 AM. Come and join in – all are welcome!

**NOTE – THERE WILL NOT BE A BIBLE STUDY SESSION THIS WEEK SO ANYONE WISHING TO MAY ATTEND MYRNA KAMP'S FUNERAL. BIBLE STUDY WILL RESUME NEXT WEEK.**

**PET FEST:** October 3 is the date of our Pet Fest celebration. It will be held from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM. There will be a Blessing of the Pets, plans for a Petting Zoo, representatives from Hawk Mountain, pet related vendors and more. Come, even if you don't have a pet, and enjoy the fun.

**ENDOWMENT FUND UPDATE:** Endowment Fund Update: As of July 31 our Church Endowment Fund is valued at \$146,259.00. Thanks to your generosity and substantial gains in the financial market, the fund continues to grow and benefit our church. The committee that oversees the fund will recommend appropriate disbursements to the church board beginning October 2027. By that time, the fund will have established a three-year return and any disbursements that fulfill the fund's mission can be calculated. Guidelines set forth in establishing the fund nearly two years ago will be followed. Thank you again for your continued support.

**PASTORAL CARE:** When you are in need of pastoral care, please have a family member contact Pastor Peiffer at 570.778.1245 or call the church at 610.756.6589. If you are in the Lehigh Valley Hospital, please note that they will be phasing out the church code option.



### **ALBANY TOWNSHIP PANTRY**

**First Tuesday of each month - 2:00 to 4:00 PM**  
Kempton Community Center

Food pantry and social services are open to Albany Township residents and families in need. Resources are also available for those who are struggling with financial challenges (ex. Utility bills) or need help applying for food or medical assistance. If you have any questions about your options, contact Friend, Inc. at 610-683-9011.

### **FRIEND, INC. Food Pantry**

During these times let us not forget those less fortunate than we are. If you are able, please consider donating any nonperishable items. For the month of September we will be collecting breakfast food items. In addition to food items, please consider donating personal items such as shampoo, soap, etc. and household items (laundry detergent, cleaning supplies, etc.). These last items are things that we often overlook.

Friend, Inc. also collects pet food to help families in need provide for their pets. These items will be distributed by Friend, Inc.

**Thank You All For Your Generosity!**