



CONNECTED TO THE SHEPHERD

The Fourth Sunday of Easter
Good Shepherd Sunday - Confirmation

BETHEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH | York, Nebraska

April 25, 2021

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

We are pleased that you have chosen to worship the Lord with us today. Large print hymnals and hearing assisted devices are available upon request. Restrooms are located on the north side of the main level and in the lower level. If you have any questions or need assistance with anything please ask one of our ushers

CONNECTION CARDS: Visitors, or members with contact information changes, please fill out our online connection card at bethelyork.com, member connect tab, or scan this code.



SERVICE NOTES FOR THIS SUNDAY

Communion

We are celebrating the Lord's Supper today. Scripture tells us that we need to examine ourselves before we receive the Lord's Supper so that we do not take it in a harmful manner. (1 Cor. 11:27-29) For help in preparation see page 156 in the front of the hymnal.

Visitors: Because we do not want you to receive the Lord's Supper in a harmful manner we ask that you do not come forward for the Lord's Supper today if you are not members of a WELS or ELS church. The pastor will be happy to share with you the Biblical basis for this practice.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Worship Leader

Pastor Mark A. Haefner

Organist

Mrs. Kathy Bremer

Trinity School Children directed by Ms. Laurel Coates, Accompanied by Mrs. Deborah Owen

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THE SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

A version of the historic liturgy of the Christian church

INVOCATION

M The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C **And also with you.**

OPENING HYMN

God Is Here! As We His People | 532

1 God is here! As we his people Meet to offer praise and prayer,
May we find in fuller measure What it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us, All our varied skills and arts
Wait the coming of his Spirit Into open minds and hearts.

2 Here are symbols to remind us Of our lifelong need of grace.
Here are table, font, and pulpit; Here the cross has central place.
Here, in honesty of preaching, Here, in silence as in speech,
Here, in newness and renewal, God the Spirit comes to each.

3 Here our children find a welcome In the Shepherd's flock and fold;
Here, as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant Seek in worship to explore
What it means in daily living To believe and to adore.

4 Lord of all, of Church and Kingdom, In an age of change and doubt,
Keep us faithful to the gospel; Help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication, All we have to give, receive;
We who cannot live without you, We adore you! We believe!

THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION

Those being confirmed shall proceed to the Altar. The minister shall say.

M Brothers and Sisters in Christ: Our Lord Jesus said to his disciples, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations,

baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age."

In obedience to the Lord's command, you have been baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. You have been taught the precious truths of the Christian faith as confessed by the Evangelical Lutheran Church. You know what God has given you by his grace and what he expects of you as his dear child. You can now exercise the privilege of partaking of Holy Communion.

You are here to make a public profession of your Christian faith. The Apostle Paul writing to the Romans says: "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved ... For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Therefore, lift up your hearts to the God of all grace and joyfully answer these questions:

M Do you this day in the presence of God and of this congregation acknowledge that in Baptism, God gave you the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation?

R **I do.**

M Do you reject the devil along with all his lies and empty promises?

R **I do.**

M Do you believe in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit?

R **I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

M Do you believe all the books of the Bible to be the inspired Word of God?

R **I do.**

M Do you believe that the teaching of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, as you have learned to know it from Luther's Small Catechism, is faithful and true to the Word of God?

R **I do.**

M Do you intend to continue steadfast in this teaching and to endure all things, even death, rather than fall away from it?

R **I do, and I ask God to help me.**

M Do you intend faithfully to conform all your life to the teachings of God's Word; to be faithful in the use of the Word and Sacrament; and in faith and action remain true to God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, as long as you live?

R **I do, and I ask God to help me.**

M Since it is God alone who enables us both to will and to do his good pleasure, it is right for us, dear friends in Christ, to call on him for these confirmands, that he would graciously complete the good work which he has begun in them. Let us therefore bow our heads and pray.

Lord Jesus, author and perfecter of our faith, in mercy you joined these young people to your Church when they were born again of water and the Spirit. In mercy you taught them your saving truth. Grant that they may offer themselves as living sacrifices to you as their spiritual act of worship. Transform them by the renewing of their minds so that they will not conform to the pattern of this world. Help all of us live in love and harmony with one another and to work together in serving you. Keep us united in your Spirit, and bring us at last to your eternal kingdom, where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

M Dear Members of the Confirmation Class: What we as a Christian congregation have here asked our heavenly Father to confer on you all, we will now ask him to grant you individually

M Brialynn Nordstrom, may God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, give you his Holy Spirit, the Spirit of wisdom and knowledge, of grace and prayer, of power and strength, of sanctification and the fear of God.

Confirmation Verse: John 3:16 *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

☒ Quinnlin Reyle, may the Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake, renew and increase in you the gift of the Holy Spirit, to the strengthening of your faith, to your growth in grace, to your patience in suffering, and to the blessed hope of eternal life.

Confirmation Verse: Revelation 3:11 *I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown.*

☒ Lukas Worster, may God the Father who created you; may God the Son who redeemed you; may God the Holy Spirit who sanctified you, keep you faithful unto life everlasting.

Confirmation Verse: Isaiah 40:31 *But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.*

After all the confirmands have received the blessing, the minister dismisses them, saying:

☒ Your church now invites you to partake of the Sacrament of the Lord's body and blood. Accept this invitation with deep reverence and holy joy. Regard your communing at the Lord's table a precious privilege given you by God through his church; receive this sacrament thankfully and often. The almighty and most merciful God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless and keep you.

TRINITY SCHOOL CHILDREN SING

Take My Life and Let it Be

PRAYER OF THE DAY

☒ Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Good Shepherd who laid down your life for the sheep. Lead us now to the still waters of your life-giving Word that we may abide in your Father's house forevermore; for you live and reign with him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

☐ Amen

The Word

FIRST LESSON

Acts 20:28-32

“Always keep watch over yourselves and over the whole flock in which the Holy Spirit has placed you as overseers, to shepherd the church of God, which he purchased with his own blood. I know that after my departure savage wolves, who will not spare the flock, will come in among you. Even from your own group men will rise up, twisting the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. Therefore be always on the alert! Remember that for three years, night and day, I never stopped warning each one of you with tears. “And now I entrust you to God and to the word of his grace, which has power to build you up and to give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.
(EHV)

M The word of the Lord

C **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

The Lord's My Shepherd (PS 23) | 360

1 The Lord's my shepherd; I'll not want. He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; he leadeth me The quiet waters by.

2 My soul he doth restore again And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness, E'en for his own name's sake.

3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, Yet will I fear no ill;
For thou art with me, and thy rod And staff me comfort still.

4 My table thou hast furnished In presence of my foes;
My head thou dost with oil anoint, And my cup overflows.

5 Goodness and mercy, all my life, Shall surely follow me,
And in God's house forevermore My dwelling-place shall be.

SECOND LESSON

1 Peter 5:1-11

Therefore, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and as one who also shares in the glory that is about to be revealed, I appeal to the elders among you: ²Shepherd God's flock that is among you, serving as overseers, not grudgingly but willingly, as God desires, not because you are greedy for money but because you are eager to do it. ³Do not lord it over those entrusted to your care, but be examples for the flock. ⁴And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive an unfading crown of glory.

⁵Likewise, young men, be submissive to those who are older. And all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another. For "God opposes the proud, but he gives grace to the humble."

⁶Therefore humble yourselves under God's powerful hand so that he may lift you up at the appointed time. ⁷Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. ⁸Have sound judgment. Be alert. Your adversary, the Devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. ⁹Resist him by being firm in the faith. You know that the same kinds of sufferings are being laid on your brotherhood all over the world.

¹⁰After you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who called you into his eternal glory in Christ Jesus, will himself restore, establish, strengthen, and support you.

¹¹To him be the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen. (EHV)

M The word of the Lord

C **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE OF THE DAY

M Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me. Alleluia.

RESPONSE

♪ **I am Jesus' little lamb;
Ever glad at heart I am,
For my shepherd gently guides me,
Knows my needs and well provides me,
Loves me ev'ry day the same,
Even calls me by my name.**

GOSPEL

John 10:11-18

please stand, if able

M The Gospel according to John chapter 10.

¹¹"I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired man, who is not a shepherd, does not own the sheep. He sees the wolf coming, leaves the sheep, and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the sheep and scatters them.

¹³Because he works for money, he does not care about the sheep.

¹⁴"I am the Good Shepherd. I know my sheep and my sheep know me ¹⁵(just as the Father knows me and I know the Father). And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I also

have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. Then there will be one flock and one shepherd. ¹⁷This is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life so that I may take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have the authority to lay it down, and I have the authority to take it up again. This is the commission I received from my Father.” (EHV)

M This is the Gospel of the Lord.



be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY

Jesus, Shepherd of the Sheep | 436

1 Jesus, Shepherd of the sheep,
Who your Father's flock does keep,
Safe we wake and safe we sleep,
Guarded still by you.

2 In your promise firm we stand;
None can take us from your hand.
Speak—we hear—at your command,
We will follow you.

3 By your blood our souls were bought;
By your life salvation wrought;
By your light our feet are taught,
Lord, to follow you.

4 Father, draw us to your Son;
We with joy will follow on
Till the work of grace is done,
There to live with you.

5 We, in robes of glory dressed,
Join th' assembly of the blest,
Gathered to eternal rest
In the fold with you.

SERMON

please stand, if able

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

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

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

be seated

OFFERING PRESENTATION OF THE OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD

1 Corinthians 16:2 (NIV) On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS (Peter Oblender, Transfer; Paige Thomas, Information Class)

RECEPTION RITE

M Do you, the members of Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church accept Peter and Paige as your fellow members? If so, answer:

C **Yes, in the bond of Christian love.**

PRAYER

M Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank and praise you for your great goodness in bringing us together with Peter and Paige to the knowledge of your Son, Jesus Christ, and in giving us both hearts to believe and mouths to confess his saving name. Enable us all to bring forth the fruits of faith and to continue steadfast and victorious until the day comes when all who have fought the good fight of faith shall receive the crown of righteousness, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M Gracious God and Father, we praise you for the countless blessings, which we receive from your hand: the beauties of creation and the bounties of the earth, the joy of life and the pleasure of friendship, the good of work and the gift of rest, the privilege to share happiness and sorrow with one another. Above all we praise and thank you for your saving Word and for your Son's body and blood, which you give us to eat and to drink in the sacrament. Through these means of grace, you send the Holy Spirit into our hearts and unite us to Jesus and to the whole Christian Church on earth.

C **Strengthen us through this heavenly food; increase our trust in Christ and our love for one another.**

M Great God and Lord, without your continuing help we easily waver in our faith, lose courage, and grow careless in our watchfulness. The times and days are perilous. Give us strength to face the evils of each day with fresh confidence. Open our lips to speak of your grace, and move us to use the gifts that you give us to share your Word of salvation with all people. Protect and prosper the family, the school, the government, and all good institutions that you have established for the benefit of society. Remember in mercy those who are sick and suffering, and bring your healing to troubled homes and lives.

C Move us to pray for those in need and to help them with deeds of kindness.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M Now, eternal God and Father, keep us in the saving faith and so enable us to overcome all things through our Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name we join in praying.

LORD'S PRAYER

C 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.

CONFESSION

M As we prepare to receive the Sacrament we join in confessing our sins.

C Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

ABSOLUTION

M God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

The Sacrament

A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. 1Co 11:28-29 (NIV1984)

M The Lord be with you.



C: **And al - so with you.**

M Lift up your hearts.



C: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

M Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He made his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.



You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.



I will give you thanks, for you have be - come my sal -



va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.



O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you

take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; grant us your peace. A - men.

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness | 311

1 Soul, adorn yourself with gladness; Leave behind all gloom and sadness.
Come into the daylight's splendor; There with joy your praises render
Unto him whose grace unbounded Has this wondrous supper founded.
Though he reigns above most holy, Deigns to dwell with you most lowly.

2 Hasten as a bride to meet him, And with loving rev'ence greet him,
For with words of life immortal He is knocking at your portal.
Open wide the gates before him, Saying, as you there adore him:
Grant, Lord, that I now receive you, That I nevermore will leave you.

3 He who craves a precious treasure Neither cost nor pain will measure,
But the priceless gifts of heaven God to us has freely given.
Though the wealth of earth were proffered, Naught would buy the gifts here offered:
Christ's true body, for you riven, And his blood, for you once given.

4 Now I kneel before you lowly, Filled with joy most deep and holy,
As with trembling awe and wonder On your mighty work I ponder,
How by mystery surrounded, Depths that no one ever sounded.
None may dare to pierce unbidden Secrets that with you are hidden.

5 Human reason, though it ponders, Cannot fathom these great wonders,
That Christ's body must be boundless Since the souls it feeds are countless,
And that he his blood is giving With the wine we are receiving.
These great mysteries unsounded Are by God alone expounded.

6 Lord, by love and mercy driven, You have left your throne in heaven
On the cross for me to languish And to die in bitter anguish,
To forgo all joy and gladness And to shed your blood in sadness.
By this blood redeemed and living, Lord, I praise you with thanksgiving.

7 Jesus, Sun of life, my Splendor, Jesus, Friend of friends most tender,
Jesus, Joy of my desiring, Fount of life, my soul inspiring—
At your feet I cry, my Maker: Let me be a fit partaker
Of this blessed food from heaven For our good, your glory, given.

8 Jesus, Lord of life, I pray you, Let me gladly here obey you.
By your love I am invited; Be your love with love required.
By this supper let me measure, Lord, how vast and deep love's treasure.
Through the gift of grace you give me As your guest in heav'n receive me.

THANK THE LORD



C: Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.

He re-news his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with
shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

PRAYER

M Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: A - men.

BLESSING

M The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

HYMN

My Maker, Be with Me | 598

1 My Maker, be with me The light of life to give,
And guide me patiently While here on earth I live.
To you my heart I tender And all my pow'rs surrender;
Make it my one endeavor To love and serve you ever.
Help me your loving care to see; My Maker, be with me.

2 My Savior, wash me clean With your most precious blood,
That takes away all sin And seals my peace with God.
My soul will rest securely, For you still love me dearly;
Now I find full salvation And freedom from damnation.
Without you, lost, defiled by sin, My Savior, wash me clean.

3 My Comforter, give pow'r That I may stand secure
When in temptation's hour The world and sin allure.
The Son to me revealing, Inspire my thought and feeling,
His Word of grace to ponder Nor let me from him wander.
On me your gifts and graces show'r: My Comforter, give pow'r.

4 O Holy Trinity, To whom I all things owe,
Your presence graciously Within my heart bestow.
Though I am weak and lowly, I am your temple holy.
My praise shall rise unending For grace so condescending.
Oh, heav'nly bliss, your own to be, O Holy Trinity!



The Sacrament of Holy Communion – Martin Luther

First: *What is the sacrament of Holy Communion?*

It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ for us Christians to eat and to drink.

Where is this written?

The holy evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke and the Apostle Paul tell us, "Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me." Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Second: *What blessing do we receive through this eating and drinking?*

That is shown us by these words, "Given" and "poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins." Through these words we receive forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation in this sacrament. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

Third: *How can eating and drinking do such great things?*

It is certainly not the eating and drinking that does such things, but the words "Given" and "poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins."

These words are the main thing in the sacrament, along with the eating and drinking. And whoever believes these words has what they plainly say, the forgiveness of sins.

Fourth: *Who, then, is properly prepared to receive this sacrament?*

Fasting and other outward preparations may serve a good purpose, but he is properly prepared who believes these words, "Given" and "poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins."

But whoever does not believe these words or doubts them is not prepared, because the words "for you" require nothing but hearts that believe.

Quinnlin Reyle's Essay

" I believe " in God the father.

When I die I hope I enter the gates of heaven.

I want to be confirmed not because anyone wants me to be, only because I want to be.

I learned God's word and I am ready to take the next step.

My honest truth on my faith in God

I believe he came down on earth.

Suffered and died to save me from my sins.

I believe God turned water into wine.

Also believe he healed the blind man, and Joseph became king.

He also healed the man with leprosy.

And I believe he split the red sea.

As a Christian I believe Jesus rose from the dead on Easter morning.

I believe God loves all people and I and all believers are going to heaven.

I am so thankful I get to take communion and I will go to heaven.

I know everyday I sin but once I get to heaven I will be free from sin and the power of the devil.

I hope my kids will stay with God till death.

I hope my grandkids will also follow God's word and more generations to come.

I am thankful for everything God has given me.

I am blessed to be called a Christian and a child of God.

I will be blessed to receive the Lord's Supper. But most of all I am blessed to enter the gates of heaven. And Satan and his demons can't stop me.

Lukas Worster's Essay

A creed is a statement of belief, which states the main beliefs of Christianity and what they have in common. Creeds show how Christianity is different from other beliefs. The Apostles Creed, and the Nicene creed are the most used creeds in Christianity.

The Apostles Creed

The Apostles Creed is not called that because the Apostles wrote it. They called it that because it summarizes the teachings the Apostles received from Jesus.

The Apostles' Creed is an affirmation of things which are mainly held among Christians, and which are undoubtedly founded upon the contents of the Holy Scripture. I have rehearsed, recited, and prayed this creed from my childhood and whenever I repeat the creed, I assert that I accept and approve of all the statements that it includes.

The Nicene Creed

The Nicene Creed is the most common statement of faith among Christian churches. It is used by Roman Catholics, Eastern Orthodox, Anglican, Lutheran and most Protestant churches. The Nicene Creed was adopted by The First Ecumenical Council in 325 AD and was written in response to the false teachings of Arius. It states that we as followers of God--

Believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Brialynn Nordstrom's Essay

Baptism is a means of grace. Through Baptism you become God's child. He is a loving Father who will never leave you, never forsake you, but always fight for you. God watches over you all the time. God knows you better than you know yourself.

I personally think that it is amazing to have God love you more than anyone else could. God sent his only son to be tortured and die on the cross just for us to be safe. No one else would do the things that he does. God is the best Father ever to exist. He never stops loving you. God will always forgive you for what you do but don't take that for granted.

God can do anything. He is invincible. Nothing can stop him. Satan doesn't stand a chance against God. God knows everything that you do. There is no hiding from him, so don't even try. Just stop doing it and do what you're supposed to do. I know it's hard to do what is right but just think of all the things God has done for you. Then you will be moved to do his will and gladly follow him.



NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: 10:30 AM Worship with Communion

Sunday: 10:30 AM Worship

Thanks to all who helped with the workday on Saturday.

Men's Bible Study Fellowship will be held on May 8th at 8:30 AM at the Utica Auditorium.

Ascension: It has been decided to combine the Ascension and Trinity Graduation Service and hold them at Bethel on Thursday May 13th at 6:30 PM. This is a change from what was originally planned.

Congratulations to Bri, Lukas, and Quinn on their confirmation today, and welcome to Paige Thomas and Peter Oblender.

In our prayers:



Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/bethelyork



Personal assisted listening devices are available.

Given to the Lord: Attendance: Worship 61, Facebook live 5, clicks 12. Audio/slides 11.
Offerings: Operating: Needed 2,870.30, Given 975.15. **To God be the glory!**

800 N East Ave | York, NE | www.bethelyork.com | 402-641-4685 (Cell)

Communion Procedure

- Elders usher communicants into the center aisle, single file, 6ft. apart
- Communicants approach the Pastor who will be in the center aisle in front of the altar, one by one.
- Communicants receive and eat the bread, then receive and drink the wine from the Pastor who speaks the words "This is Christ's body given for you," "this is Christ's blood shed for you."
- After receiving the bread and wine together with the body and blood, communicants return to their seats, either to the right or left according to the side they came from. Empty cups are placed in the baskets as usual.
- After all have communed, the pastor speaks the words of dismissal and the Nunc Dimittis is sung.

