

Bethany Lutheran Church
Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost
August 10, 2008

The Introduction

Elijah finds the presence of God not in earthquake, wind, or fire, but in the sound of sheer silence. When the disciples face a great storm on the sea, they cry out with fear. Jesus says: "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Amid the storms of life, we gather to seek the calm presence of Christ that soothes our fears. In comforting words of scripture and in the refreshing bread and cup of the eucharist, God grants us peace and sends us forth to be a sign of God's presence to others.

Order Of Service

***Congregation Stands**

The Prelude *"By Still Waters"* Higgins

The Hymn *"Praise, My Soul, The King Of Heaven"* (tune 50) LBW # 549

- 1) Praise, my soul, the King of heaven; to his feet your tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, evermore his praises sing.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the everlasting King!
- 2) Praise him for his grace and favor to our forebears in distress.
Praise him, still the same forever, slow to chide and swift to bless.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Glorious in his faithfulness!
- 3) Tenderly he shields and spares us; well our feeble frame he knows.
In his hands he gently bears us, rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Widely as his mercy flows.
- 4) Angels help us to adore him, who behold him face to face.
Sun and moon bow down before him; all who dwell in time and space.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace.

Sharing of Parish Concerns

***The Confession & Forgiveness**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the source of life,
the word of salvation, the spirit of mercy.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sins to God, who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

C: **God of compassion, we confess that we have failed to bear witness that you desire to draw all people to yourself. In our hearts we have thought ill of those who differ from us, and our love of others has not been genuine. We have been caught up in the cares of the world. We have neglected opportunities to welcome the stranger, to feed the hungry, and to mend broken relationships. Forgive our sins, merciful God, that our hearts may burn with love for you and for those in need, and that our lives may witness to your never-failing love for your creation. Amen.**

P: Brothers and sisters, buried with Christ by baptism into his death, your sins are forgiven. The death Christ died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also, by the power of the Holy Spirit, are dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

C: Amen.

***The Hymn** *"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"* LBW # 731

- 1) Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light.
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.
- 2) When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near,
When my life is almost gone, hear my cry, hear my call,
Hold my hand lest I fall.
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.
- 3) When the darkness appears and the night draws near,
And the day is past and gone, at the river I stand,
Guide my feet, hold my hand.
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

***The Greeting & Kyrie**

LBW PP. 57-58

P: Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad. The God who created the world and fills it with life be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

A: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

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

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

A: 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.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

A: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

A: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: **Amen.**

***The Hymn Of Praise**

"Glory To God"

LBW PP. 58-59

A: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

C: **Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father:**

We worship you, we give you thanks,

We praise you for your glory.

Lord, Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father.

Lord God, Lamb of God: You take away the sin of the world;

Have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father,

Receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord,

You alone are the Most High,

Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,

In the glory of God the Father. Amen

***The Salutation & Prayer**

LBW P. 62

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

***The Prayer Of The Day**

All: O God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Piano Solo

Kim Beck

The First Reading

1 Kings 19:9–18

On Mount Horeb, where God had appeared to Moses with typical signs of God's presence—earthquake, wind, and fire—Elijah now experienced God in "sheer silence." God assured Elijah that he is not the only faithful believer. Seven thousand Israelites are still loyal. God instructed Elisha to anoint two men as kings and to anoint Elisha as his own successor.

At [Horeb, the mount of God,] [Elijah] came to a cave, and spent the night there. Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁰He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." ¹¹He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; ¹²and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. ¹³When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁴He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." ¹⁵Then the LORD said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. ¹⁶Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. ¹⁷Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill; and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. ¹⁸Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

Psalm 85:8–13

A: ⁸I will listen to what the LORD ¹ God is saying;
C: **for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their ¹ hearts to you.**

A: ⁹Truly, your salvation is very near to ¹ those who fear you,
C: **that your glory may dwell ¹ in our land.**

A: ¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have ¹ met together;
C: **righteousness and peace have ¹ kissed each other.**

A: ¹¹Faithfulness shall spring up ¹ from the earth,
C: **and righteousness shall look ¹ down from heaven.**

A: ¹²The LORD will indeed ¹ grant prosperity,
C: **and our land will ¹ yield its increase.**

A: ¹³Righteousness shall go be- ¹ fore the LORD
C: **and shall prepare for ¹ God a pathway.**

The Second Lesson

Romans 10:5–15

A right relationship with God is not something we achieve by heroic efforts. It is a gift received in the proclamation whose content is Jesus Christ. This proclaimed word creates our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Hence Christian proclamation is an indispensable component of God's saving actions.

Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that "the person who does these things will live by them."⁶ But the righteousness that comes from faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down)⁷ or 'Who will descend into the abyss?' (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).⁸ But what does it say? "The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim);⁹ because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.¹⁰ For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved.¹¹ The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame."¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him.¹³ For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."¹⁴ But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have

never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him?¹⁵ And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

*The Alleluia (sung)

LBW P. 62

All: **Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

*The Announcing of the Gospel (sung)

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*The Gospel

Matthew 14:22–33

Matthew's gospel typically portrays Jesus' disciples as people of "little faith" who fail despite their best intentions. In this story, Matthew shows how Jesus comes to the disciples when they are in trouble and sustains them in their time of fear and doubt.

[Jesus] made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side [of the Sea of Galilee,] while he dismissed the crowds.²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone,²⁴ but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them.²⁵ And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea.²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear.²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water."²⁹ He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus.³⁰ But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!"³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?"³² When they got into the boat, the wind ceased.³³ And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

*After the Gospel (sung)

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

LBW P. 63

The Hymn

"Eternal Father Strong To Save"

LBW # 467

- 1) Eternal Father, strong to save, whose arm has bound the restless wave,
Who bade the mighty ocean deep its own appointed limits keep:

Oh, hear us when we cry to thee for those in peril on the sea.

- 2) O Savior, whose almighty word the winds and waves submissive heard,
Who walked upon the foaming deep, and calm amid the storm didst sleep:
Oh, hear us when we cry to thee for those in peril on the sea.
- 3) O Holy Spirit, who didst brood upon the chaos dark and rude,
And bid its angry tumult cease, and give, for wild confusion, peace:
Oh, hear us when we cry to thee for those in peril on the sea.
- 4) O Trinity of love and pow'r, all trav'lers guard in danger's hour
From rock and tempest, fire and foe, protect them wheresoe'er they go;
Thus evermore shall rise to thee glad hymns and praise
from land and sea.

The Sermon

Rev. Paul M. Mai

*The Apostles' Creed

LBW P. 65

**All: 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.**

The Offertory

"In Meadows Green"

Moore

*The Offertory Response (sung)

"Doxology"

LBW # 565

**All: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*The Prayers

A: With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.
A brief silence.

Divine Creator, you call your faithful people to share the good news of Jesus Christ. Guide us as we proclaim the joy of your gospel. Hear us, O God;

C: your mercy is great.

A: Gracious Creator, ruler of the universe, from chaos you called forth the beauty of creation. Help us to care for the earth so that the land may continue to yield its increase. Hear us, O God;

C: your mercy is great.

A: Almighty Creator, author of unity, your desire is for all humanity to live in peace. Give those in authority the ability to govern with care and justice. Hear us, O God;

C: your mercy is great.

A: Merciful Creator, source of compassion, you care for the poor, orphans, unemployed, and homeless. Grant them your consolation. Healer of all and giver of care, grant strength to those who are sick (especially). Hear us, O God;

C: your mercy is great.

A: Almighty Creator, protector of all life, you have blessed this congregation with many gifts. Lead us to use them with insight and creativity, caring for those in our midst and throughout the world. Hear us, O God;

C: your mercy is great.

A: Eternal Creator, our hope in years to come, throughout the ages you have blessed those who confessed you as the one true God. Bring us to eternal rest and everlasting peace with all your faithful servants. Hear us, O God;

C: your mercy is great.

P: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen.

*The Lord's Prayer

LBW P. 71

**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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;**

SATURDAY 1:00 p.m. Carrie Anderson & Andy Poquette Wedding

WELCOME TO WORSHIP! We offer respect and appreciation to all who've come to praise our Creator. Please offer your hand of friendship to those around you. We ask everyone present to sign a pew card and place it in the offering plate. If you have a special request or we can be of service to you please indicate it on the pew card.

PRAYERS - we pray for the following people, who are in need of our prayers. If you know of someone we should include, please let us know by way of the pew cards or by calling the church office. We pray for:

Aarne Holmio	Don Goulais	Geri Jackson
Joe Sauter	John Pinar	Phil Norman
Oliver Christiansen	Manford Magnuson	Al Atwood
Grace Seidl	Wanda Getzloff	Ruth Sundstrom
Richard Erickson (brother-in-law of Dennis & Debbie Renken)		
Cecile Henry (sister of Marie Zeno)	Don Christensen (Father of Phil & Chrysta)	
Rick Lancour (uncle of LeeAnne Strand)	Tony Filezetti (friend of Dave & Vicki Linnea)	

SERVING - remember in prayer those serving in the military. We pray for: Jessica Charon Jones, Fred Jones, Jeff & Star Monson, Christopher Klingman, Brian Rahoi, Gary Gregg, Ike Howard, Richard Peterson, Matt & Mark Witte, Jennifer Scheeneman Brooks, Adam Johnsen, James Mokszycke, Leeann Scheeneman Peterson & Pete Peterson.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR - Coffee hours are held following the 9:30 a.m. Sunday morning services throughout the summer. Servers are needed to make the coffee, secure goodies for the coffee hour, and clean up the kitchen and fellowship hall following the coffee hour. You may make or buy the goodies for the morning. You will be reimbursed for all expenses. If you can help out with this task, we ask you to please call the church office (786-6642) or indicate on a pew card. **Hosts are needed for AUGUST 17th.** We appreciate and thank Barbara Lord, Sandy Goodyer, Alisa Madden and Traci Harris for hosting the coffee hour today!

BIRTHDAY - a very special "Happy Birthday" goes out to Larry Haack this week as he celebrates his 95th birthday on August 11th. May God's joy be with him every step of the way, as he walks through this new year in the light of His amazing love. Happy Birthday Larry!

U.P. STATE FAIR BOOTH - The Delta Conference of the ELCA, including Bethany, will have a booth at the U.P. State Fair once again this summer. The purpose of the booth is to be a presence at the fair, sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. The booth, which will be in the Ruth Butler Building, will have Bibles, devotional material, and information about our congregations available for

fair goers. In addition, we will be representing our brothers and sisters from around the synod. Each congregation in our conference is asked to help staff the booth from 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Teams of two will be at the booth at all times. Passes to the fair will be provided. We thank the following people who will be representing Bethany on Thursday, August 14th at the U.P. State Fair - they are: Paul & Mary Jo Roll, Harry & Jean Bourassa, Clarence & Dorothy Zeno, Kris & Kaisa Anderson and Jan Olsson. Stop by the booth and say "hello" to them. **Please call the church office if you are able to staff the booth from 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. - all other times have been taken.** Those who are scheduled for the booth may pick their ticket up at the Church Office after 2 p.m. on Tuesday. Thank You!

BOOK OF FAITH CHALLENGE - you are invited to take the Book of Faith challenge to read the entire Bible in one year. Below is a list of the daily readings for this week.

8/10-8/16	Proverbs 26-28	Proverbs 29-31	Eccles. 1-4	Eccles. 5-8	Eccles. 9-12	Song 1-4	Song 5-8
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WORSHIP IN THE PARK - Plans have been made to sit in the generous sunshine of summer with a bright blue sky overhead, soak up the warmth from heaven and enjoy an Evangelical Outdoor Worship Service down at the Ludington Park Band Shell on **Tuesday, August 26th**. Worship will begin at 6:30 p.m. The summer Traveling Choir from Conference 6 will be there to share their music and participate in the worship service. Spread the word...and we'll see you down at the park! You might want to bring a lawn chair.

HEARING AIDS - if you use one of the church "**hearing aids**" and it doesn't work, please give it to one of the ushers so you can be given another one. Please sign your name so we can contact you, if we can't find the problem. You will be able to help us understand the problem more clearly if we can talk to you. If you have a hearing aid of your own, be sure your battery is not worn out. Sometimes we get a card that says someone can't hear, but on the same Sunday others say theirs was working perfectly. We want everyone to be able to hear so please help us help you with any problem you have.

USHER COORDINATOR - the church office is looking for a person(s) to be in charge of getting ushers for each month for June thru August for the 9:30 a.m. service and the September thru May 10:45 a.m. worship service. Indicate on a pew card today or call the church office if you are interested.

MEETING - the Personnel Committee will meet immediately following the worship service today in the educational building conference room across from the work room.

LOOKING - we are in need of sponsors for our Radio Broadcasts for **2008: November 30**. The cost of broadcasting the 10:45 a.m. worship service on Sunday mornings is \$85.00. Two people may share the cost for the same Sunday. Available Sundays in **2009** are: January 4, 18, 25; February 1, 8, 22; March 1, 8, 15, 29; April 5, 19, 26; May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; June 7, 14, 21, 28; July 5, 19; August 2, 16, 23; September 6, 20; October 4, 18; November 1, 8, 22, 29; December 6, 13, 20, 24.

WANTED: SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS! Please call the church office at 786-6642 if you are able to teach or team teach. Our children and youth need you!!

FALL RETREAT - the Women's Fall Retreat at Fortune Lake Camp will be held from September 19th thru September 21st. The theme this year is "**Having A Mary Spirit**" by Joanna Weaver. We all have a desire to have a willing spirit and to be open to God's call. Come and join the group as we come together to seek a "Mary spirit" as we look to the promise of renewal and hope. Registration forms are available in the church office. Deadline for registration is September 1st.

Pictorial Directory News

A new pictorial directory will be taking place on September 9th-13th and 16th-20th. We need your help. We are looking for an assistant program coordinator — computer and internet skills preferred, a Sign-up Coordinator, telephone coordinator, host coordinator (no food involved) and a layout coordinator. Call Jeanne to find out the description of each of the coordinator's responsibilities. It's easier than you would think!!!

Our coordinators will be looking for people to oversee the sign-up for appointments, recruit a sign-up team (recommended 1 person per 2 days of photography (5 people), and oversee the telephone calling of families who have not signed up for pictures. Beginning today you may sign up online at www.appointment-plus3.com/ap/blcescanaba/index.php?page=10 to choose your photography time or you may call the church office. The website address for the pictorial directory is also published on Bethany's website www.bethanylutheran-escanaba.org.

There will be a coordinator meeting with our Lifetouch manager on Thursday, August 7 at 1:00 p.m. for those people interested in helping. He will establish a time line, explain the directory process and make sure everyone is comfortable with their own responsibilities in this project.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF - August is designated as SCHOOL KIT month. We will collect school kits for Lutheran World Relief that may provide the only supplies

for children returning to school after the disruption of war or be used in adult literacy classes. A kit includes:

- ▶ Padded or spiral notebooks of ruled paper approximately 8 ½" x 10 ½" containing 150-200 sheets of paper (no loose paper). If using 70-sheet notebooks, please include 3). No loose-leaf paper.
- ▶ One blunt scissors (safety scissors with imbedded steel blades work well)
- ▶ One 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- ▶ One pencil sharpener
- ▶ Six new, unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers - unsharpened (secure together with a rubber band)
- ▶ One eraser approximately 2 ½" long
- ▶ 12 sheets of construction paper in assorted colors
- ▶ One box of 16, or 24 crayons
- ▶ One sturdy cloth bag approximately 12"x14" with cloth handles

All items should be new and in good condition. Full as well as partial school kits are appreciated. Patterns for school kit bags are available by calling 1-800-LWR-LWR-2. Or visit lwr.org/parish and click on School Kits. Items may be dropped off at the Church Office, or in church on any Sunday.

EARTHKEEPER THURSDAY NIGHT - on Thursday, August 7, EarthKeepers are invited to gather at Grace United Methodist Church in Marquette for coffee and conversation around the article from *Befriending the Earth* by Thomas Berry, CP. He talks about the growing danger we are in as Earth's systems are stressed, and about the possibility of and the hope for a new age – the Ecozoic – where humanity's presence in the Creation might be a blessing and not a blemish! He lists six conditions for this transition to happen, and suggests we can be motivated both by fears about what is happening, and by the attraction of what might be.

The article is posted on the Earthkeeper Website – www.UPEarthkeepers.org. Please take time to read it, and then consider inviting a few friends, or your faith community, to gather on Thursday, August 7, to talk about it. Comments emailed to upearthkeeper@earthlink.net (there's a link on the website) will be posted as they come in, so you can see what others are talking and dreaming about. (If you have question about how this works – use the same upearthkeeper@earthlink.net address.)

COLLEGE STUDENTS - the Church office would appreciate addresses and email addresses from all our youth attending college this fall. You may email it to the church office at sflinn@bethanyescanaba.com. We like to keep in touch with each one of you! Good luck in college and we hope to see you when you are home for the holidays!

INVITED - Nora Smith, the parish assistant at First Lutheran, is retiring. As a tribute to Nora, a program and luncheon are being planned for Sunday, September 21st. The program will begin at 12:00 noon with a catered luncheon following at

12:30 p.m. Tickets for the luncheon will be **available** at First Lutheran's church office from **September 1-14** at a cost of \$6.50 for adults, \$4 for children 6 and under. Any questions can be directed to Dorothy Westerback at 428-9605 or Connie Salmi 428-1696.

Women of the ELCA

The Northern Great Lakes Synodical Women's Organization will meet in convention at the Ramada Inn, in Marquette, MI. on October 3-4, 2008. The convention theme will be "***SPIRIT CONNECTIONS***" the bible verse that supports the theme is James 1:22-26. Donna Yourell, from Muskego, WI will be the Churchwide Womens Organization representative this year. She will share what is happening churchwide with us and probably share some triennial news as well. Come and meet Donna and welcome her to our area.

If you are interested in representing Bethany at the convention please contact Jeanne (786-6642) or let us know by signing a pew card. There have been a block of rooms reserved at the Ramada Inn and reservations are necessary.