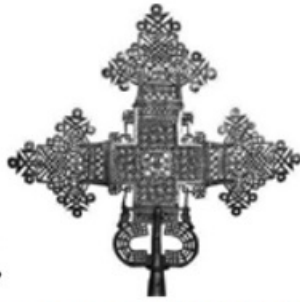


Grace Lutheran



Yoked parish of faith and service: *Bethel & Zion*

Love is spoken here! Be the living Eucharist!



Third Sunday after Trinity

Youth Sunday

June 21st, 2026

10:30 AM Bethel

All are welcome!

The altars of this parish belong to God, and not to us. All people are welcome to participate in every aspect of our worship, including our open table for the Eucharist. We are honored by your presence this day and hope you find peace and refreshment as we celebrate the extravagant love of God, as followers of the Way of Jesus.

We live into the ongoing revelation of Jesus! There is a place for you, here!

We Gather

The Holy Spirit calls us in community as people of the Way.

PRELUDE

The congregation stands

GREETING

The Grace of our Lord Jesus, the Love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all!
And also with you!

PRAYER OF APPROACH

Let us pray; Teach us, good Lord God, to serve You as You deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we do Your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. ***Amen!***

GATHERING HYMN

Let the Whole Creation Cry

ELW (red book) 876

The congregation is seated

We listen to God's Word

God speaks to us in poetry, creative writing, scripture, preaching & song.

A READING FROM THE CHRISTIAN NEW TESTAMENT: Romans 6:1b-11 from *The Message**

In baptism we entered into the blessedness of Jesus' new covenant of hope through the Grace that is God! We have been made new in Jesus through the Power revealed in his resurrection and ascension!

¹⁻³ So what do we do? Keep on [living apart from doing the right things through Grace, instead] sinning so God can keep on forgiving? I should hope not! If we've left the country where [evil-intent can rule in our hearts and minds], how can we still live in our old house there? Or didn't you realize we packed up and left there for good? That is what happened in baptism. When we went under the water, we left the old country of sin [and evil-intent] behind; when we came up out of the water, we entered into the new country of Grace—a new life in a new land!

³⁻⁵ That's what baptism into the life of Jesus means. When we are lowered into the water, it is like the burial of Jesus; when we are raised up out of the water, it is like the resurrection of Jesus. Each of us is raised into a light-filled world by our Father so that we can see where we're going in our new Grace-[ruled] country.

⁶⁻¹¹ Could it be any clearer? Our old way of life was nailed to the cross with [Jesus], a decisive end to that sin-miserable life—no longer captive [to the] demands [of evil-intent]! What we believe is this: If we get included in [Jesus' chaos conquering] death, we also get included in [the Power to thrive, revealed in the] resurrection. We know that when Jesus was raised from the dead it was a signal of the end of death-as-the-end. Never again will death have the last word. When Jesus died, he took [the Power of chaos and evil-intent] down with him, but alive he brings God down to us. From now on, think of it this way: Sin [and evil-intent speak] a dead language that means nothing to you; God speaks your mother tongue, and you hang on every word. You are dead to sin and alive to God. That's what Jesus did.

Response Word of God, Word of Life! ***Thanks be to God!***

PSALM 69 *interpretation per The Rev. Christine Robinson*

read responsively

Save me, O God, I have gotten myself in deep waters. and find no firm ground under my feet.

I am tired of crying. I feel at war with myself and with others; I'm unable to do what is expected of me.

O God, You know my foolishness and my faults—Do You Love me anyway?

I really am sinking. These rushing, dark waters are going to swallow me up.

Answer me, God! Your Loving kindness would save me.

If I could see Your face, it would be enough to ease my distress and help me relax in the flood.

I will remember that You are here, even in the torrent, even in the war.

I will give thanks for the small beauties and kindnesses of the day. And for the love that is in my heart.

The assembly stands to welcome our resurrected Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Awesome God

***Our God, is an awesome God, who reigns from heaven above
with Wisdom, Power and love-our God is an awesome God!***

Preface Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus! ***Glory to you, O Lord!***

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS: Quell:35, 36a, c from the *Burton Mack edition*

[Jesus said,] "Nothing is hidden that will not be made known, or secret that will not come to light.

What I tell you in the dark, speak in the light. And what you hear as a whisper, proclaim on the housetops.

Don't be afraid of those who can kill the body, but can't kill the soul.

Can't you buy five sparrows for two cents? Not one of them will fall to the ground without God knowing it. Even the hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid. You are worth more than many sparrows."

Response The gospel of our Lord! ***Praise to you, O Christ!***

COLLECT

Let us pray; Gracious Father, by the obedience of Jesus You brought Your saving Power to our wayward world: draw us into harmony with Your will, that we may find all things restored in him, our Savior Jesus Christ. ***Amen!***

The congregation is seated

MESSAGE

Pastor Andrew

The congregation stands

HYMN OF THE DAY

O God, My Faithful God

ELW 806

The congregation is seated

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for the church and the needs of the world.

A brief silence.

Life-giving God, You have called Your people to lose their lives for Jesus' sake. Strengthen Your church to follow You in the face of difficulties. God of Grace,

Holy One, hear our prayer.

Creator God, You know every sparrow that falls to the ground. Protect migrating birds, endangered species, and their natural habitats. Empower us to care for Your creation. God of Grace,

Holy One, hear our prayer.

Sovereign God, You call us to act justly and love Mercy. Protect those with marginalized identities to whom we have not always shown the abounding Love of Jesus. Bring an end to oppression and bigotry in all forms. God of Grace,

Holy One, hear our prayer.

Sustaining God, You promise to provide for us. Help those living with disability. Comfort those experiencing any sort of illness or suffering (*especially*). God of Grace,

Holy One, hear our prayer.

Empowering God, strengthen us to live out our diverse callings. We pray especially for fathers and father figures, that they show Your compassion and care. We pray for all for whom this day is difficult or painful. God of Grace,

Holy One, hear our prayer.

Faithful God, we give thanks for saints (*like Onesimos Nesib*) who have claimed their baptismal promises. May we follow their example of faith and service. God of Grace,

Holy One, hear our prayer.

Lord of the church:

hear our prayer, and make us one in heart and mind to serve You with joy for ever. Amen.

The congregation stands

PRAYERS FOR OURSELVES

When we cry out to the Lord in our trouble, **he will deliver us from our distress.**

God will bring us out of darkness **and out of the shadow of death.**

Silence is kept for reflection.

Lord, have Mercy. **Lord, have Mercy.**

Christ, have Mercy. **Christ, have Mercy.**

Lord, have Mercy. **Lord, have Mercy.**

May the Father forgive us by the death of his † Son and strengthen us to live in the Power of the Spirit all our days. **Amen.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord for his goodness, **and the wonders he does for his children.**

Let us offer him sacrifices of thanksgiving **and tell of his acts with shouts of joy.**

THE PEACE

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

We share in God's Holy Communion

God feeds us with the risen Christ's presence!

GATHERING OF GIFTS

choir

OFFERTORY

ELW 182

As the gifts of bread, wine, and currency are brought forward, the assembly stands.

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.

Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.

Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u-nite them with the prayers we offer now.

Grace our ta-ble with Your Pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Let us pray: Loving God, we offer at Your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in You and share freely of Your Love, so that all creation can taste Your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. **Amen!**

PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

Heaven has come near! Come, share in the feast!

LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

The Lord be with you! **And also with you!** Open up your hearts! **We open them up to the Lord!**

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God! **It is right to give God thanks and praise!**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to You, almighty and Merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

IN the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh, You have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of Your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.

And so, with the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

ELW pg. 207

Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

Stay with us Lord, all the day long.

Stay with us Lord, through all times and seasons.

Our hearts burn within us as we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Like a mother hen, hold us close through the coming night. Watch over those who labor, accompany those who long for peaceful sleep, welcome those whose waking will be only in You. Into our deepest night, and longest days, come, Lord Jesus.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Come, Holy Spirit, make here the body of Christ in the ✠ breaking of the bread, and his blood in the ✠ wine and juice that is poured, in justice for our broken world, in rest for the weary, come Holy Spirit.

Come, Holy Spirit.

To You, O God, painter of both night and day, guiding star and healing sun, breath of peace and wind of change, be all glory, all honor, all praise this day, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready and all are welcome!

AGNUS DEI (*Lamb of God*)

ELW pg. 154

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.

THE EUCHARIST

Bread is distributed to the hand by the pastor, individual pre-filled cups of grape juice or wine may be taken from the silver trays: the inner-most ring on each tray is the grape juice.

A gluten-free alternative is available from the Assisting Minister.

Believing in the real presence of Christ, Grace practices open-table, Eucharistic hospitality.

All people, baptized or not, are welcomed to The Meal.

Those who do not wish to commune may come forward for a blessing signified by crossed arms.

COMMUNION HYMN

ELW 732

POST EUCHARISTIC CANTICLE

WOV pg. 40

☞ Thank - ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry -
one what God has done. Let all who seek the
Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.



We go out to serve God

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The congregation stands

BLESSING

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, † one God, bless, heal, and hold us today and always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

If You But Trust in God to Guide You

ELW 769

DISMISSAL

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news! **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

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IN OUR PRAYERS: Donald Tremblay, Rose Marie Faragoli, Donna Brunnell, Russ Terrien, Tom Toepfner, Sandy Staples, Jim Mooney, Karen Carlson, Judy Garneau, Paul Josephson, Edla Bloom, Steve Hynes, Dennis, Peter & Georgia Kosciusko, Tony Genga, Henry Lewis, Glenna Brownell, Joan Bejune, Billy Rogan, Don & Judy Leombruno, Mark Glandville, Jack Fenton, Mark Stevens, Jill Ducat, Jim Mahoney, Tami Briggs, Amy Runge, Heather Gregar, Kenneth Johnson, Lois Kane, Beth Johnson, Pr. Judy L., Gary Kaufman, Betty Jane Weagle, Valerie Cotter, Judy Sawicki, Anne Berberian, Carol Katagher. Julie Dawes, Elaine Peterson, David Nevard, Paul Valleli, Louise Young, Lina Dickey, Courtney Cronin, Theresa Adams, JoAnne Van Dyke, Cherry Harris, Kristen Woods, Diane Ela-Lauzon, Alan Wiinikka, Mark, Misty Johnson, Peter Karl, Nancy & Paul Cater

NOTE REGARDING SCRIPTURE USAGE: *Our denomination is an exegetical (Spirit-led) tradition in that we preach and teach according to the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL), a three-year cycle of recommended texts primarily used within main-line denominations as inspiration; Eastern and Western rites of Catholicism use a variant. As such, Church of England second and third service texts within the RCL are also valid. The Book of Q (Sayings Gospel), The Gospel of Thomas and The Gospel of Mary Magdaline may also be used when their material is found to be more historically accurate to what scholarship has uncovered as the way Jesus would have addressed his disciples and hearers against what the canonical writers adjusted/appended at times for the teaching of their ancient congregations.*

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - Wow, we are entering our 3rd year back in providing this wonderful, summer opportunity!

Mornings, the week of August 3rd @ our Auburn Campus of Bethel

We are working in partnership with Emauel Lutheran - Worcester and First Congregational Church of Auburn!

Music for June 21, 2026

Prelude: "Prayer" by Rodolphe Kreutzer (1766-1831)

Postlude: "The Glory of God in Nature" Ludvic van Beethoven (1770-1827)

Today's Music: John C. Ylvisaker (1937-2017) composed today's **COMMUNION HYMN**. Ylvisaker had a life-long connection with the Lutheran Church in America and is best-known for his hymn "Borning Cry." Ludvic van Beethoven (1770-1827) and Rodolphe Kreutzer (1766-1831), French violinist, conductor, and composer, met in Vienna in 1798 when Kreutzer was employed by the French ambassador, Jean-Baptiste Bernadotte (who later became the King of Sweden and Norway). Beethoven dedicated his "Violin Sonata No.9" of 1803 to Kreutzer.

BISHOP PIPHO IS COMING

Our Synod bishop makes every effort to visit all the parishes in New England and is booked most weeks to be a part of worship somewhere (when he is not traveling for meetings and conferences).

Mark your calendars! Bishop Piphon will be with us for both the 8:45 AM service in Worcester and 10:30 AM service in Auburn the last Sunday of July, the 26th! Each campus will host some "coffee-and" time following the worships so you may meet him directly.

ECUMENICAL HAPPENINGS - There is an *energy* taking place, the **Spirit** is moving! Coming off of the recent healing service held at Salem Covenant, our ecumenical clergy have planned three more services for this year:

Sunday, August 23rd - Summer Ecumenical Service (time & location TBA)

Sunday, November 22nd - Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service: 4 PM @ The Unitarian Universalist Church of Worcester

Thursday, December 17th - Ecumenical Blue Christmas Service: 7 PM @ our Zion campus in Worcester

Come, share the Spirit, *never just for Pentecost* !)



The 2026

AUBURN WALK FOR HUNGER

For the Benefit of
Auburn Youth and Family Services Food Pantry
and Kateri's Kitchen

21 Pheasant Court Auburn, MA 01501

Sunday, September 27, 2026 @ 1:00 pm

Registration @ 12:30 pm

Grace Lutheran



Yoked parish of faith and service: *Bethel & Zion*

MISSION STATEMENT

"To boldly share God's Love and Grace universally in and through our communities."

VISION STATEMENT

Modeling the welcoming nature of God, we are humbly called and driven by the Spirit to witness, engage and walk with each other authentically, as Jesus' hands and feet, providing spiritual, emotional and physical nourishment.

Through evolving partnerships with ecumenical and other social service organizations we affirm justice and wholeness under the "agency of Grace" that feed the needs and hope of all.

The Rev. Andrew H. Borden, Pastor
pastor_andrew.b@verizon.net

Ann Spinner, Parish Administrator
bethelauburn@verizon.net
Main Office: 508-832-3427

grace-lutheran-elca.org

Randy Bloom – Minister of Music **Lois Toepfner**, Deacon – Minister of Music Emeritus

Shannon Papandrea - Sexton

Garret Peters - Treasurer

Kate Valleli – Christian Education Coordinator

Adam Hanks – Bell Director

Ann Spinner, Kate Valleli – Financial Secretaries

Marie Sturdevant, Adam Hanks – Lay Worship Leaders: NES Lay School of Theology: Auburn 8 AM, Worcester 2nd Sundays

Parish Council

President – **Dave Valleli (B)** Co-Vice-Presidents – **Jennifer Courtney (Z), Jessica Caminero (B)**

Council – **Dave Spinner (Z), Ruth Thompson (B), Joan Parker (B), LeAnne Carraher Virginia Carlson, (Z), Adam Hanks (B), Donna Hayes (Z)**

Worcester Campus - Zion Lutheran
41 Whitmarsh Avenue, 01606

Auburn Campus - Bethel Lutheran
90 Bryn Mawr Avenue, 01501

ReconcilingWorks
LUTHERANS FOR FULL PARTICIPATION



NST
Refugee Accompaniment



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