

**Holy Communion**  
**Sunday, August 11, 2019**  
**Pastor - Rev. Dr. Brian Beckstrom**  
**Organist - Lori Free**

Organ Prelude

Pastor's greeting

Opening Hymn: **#533 Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty**

Order of Worship: pages 94-96, 147-150

Prayer of the Day - Celebrate

First Reading: Genesis 15:1-6

Psalm: 33:12-22

Second Reading: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Gospel: Luke 12:32-40

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: **WOV #767 All Things Bright and Beautiful**

Apostle's Creed: page 105

Prayers of Intercession - Celebrate

Offertory: Hymn 186 in Service Music - "Create in me..."

Communion: pages 152 - 155

Communion Hymn: **#719 Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life**

Sending Song: **#550 On What Has Now Been Sown**

Dismissal

**WELCOME TO ALL VISITORS**  
**CELEBRATING OUR 137th YEAR**  
**IN HIS SERVICE**  
**1882 - 2019**

Rev. Dr. Brian A.F. Beckstrom has served at Wartburg College (Waverly, IA) since 2009. He is currently Dean of Spiritual Life, overseeing the college's ministry and promoting faith exploration and development in and out of the classroom.

Pastor Brian teaches in the college's Leadership Program and Religion Department. His writing has appeared in *The Journal of Lutheran Ethics*, *Intersections Magazine*, and on the ELCA's *Living Lutheran* web site. He is currently working on a book about Lutheran Higher Education.

Brian's wife Josie works as a labor and delivery nurse at the Waverly Health Center. They have two children, Soren (18) and Linnea (15). The Beckstrom's are excited to be back at Bethany for another summer!

*We welcome all visitors worshipping with us today. If you spend time in Door County please consider becoming a member of our special ministry. Contact any member for information.*

**All baptized Christians who celebrate the Real Presence in the Sacrament of Communion are invited to the Lord's Table.**

**Restrooms are located in the Pioneer School**

**Visit us at [BethanyEphraim.org](http://BethanyEphraim.org), and follow our worship service live, and archived, on the web site.**

## Prayers of Intercession

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

Treasuring your promise to hear us when we call, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of your creation.

A brief silence.

Lord God, bless and send your church out from each place of worship to be a light to the nations. Wherever we set out in faith, equip us to share our hope in Jesus Christ. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Bless and protect your creation, raising up stewards and innovators to nourish and sustain natural wonders too many to number. Protect bees and butterflies, and send sun and rain where they are needed. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Bless and govern the nations, uniting all humankind in seeking justice and peace. Fashion our hearts and guide our deeds in love. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Bless and comfort those in need, providing shelter to those without homes, food for those who hunger, companionship to those who are lonely, and health to the sick (*especially*). Be their help and their shield. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Bless and sustain those wanting but unable to bear children, those in the adoption process, and children longing for parents. Welcome in love those who seek homes in a new community or country, and give us eyes to see and hearts to respond to the needs of our newest neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Keep in your care the faithful loved ones who have died in Christ (*especially Clare, abbess of San Damiano*), until we join them in the everlasting city, whose architect and builder is God. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

All these things and more we ask in the name of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ, by the power of your Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**



# Celebrate

Sunday, August 11, 2019  
9th Sunday after Pentecost

*Jesus says, "It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." It is God's promise from the beginning—to Abraham, to the early church, and to the "little flock" of which we are a part today in assembly. Faith, God's baptismal gift, trusts the promises of God. Have no fear.*

## Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## First Reading

Genesis 15:1-6

*God promises childless and aging Abram that a child of his own will be his heir and that his descendants will number as many as the stars. Abram trusts God's promise, and through this faith he is considered righteous.*

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." <sup>2</sup>But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" <sup>3</sup>And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my

heir." <sup>4</sup>But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." <sup>5</sup>He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." <sup>6</sup>And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

## Preparing for Next Week

**Monday** Psalm 89:1-18. **Tuesday** (commemoration of Florence Nightingale, 1910; Clara Maass, 1901; renewers of society) Hebrews 11:17-28. **Wednesday** (commemoration of Maximilian Kolbe, 1941; Kaj Munk, 1944; martyrs) Luke 12:41-48. **Thursday** (Mary, Mother of Our Lord) Luke 1:46-55. **Friday** Psalm 82. **Saturday** 1 Samuel 6:1-16. **10th Sunday after Pentecost** Jeremiah 23:23-29; Psalm 82; Hebrews 11:29—12:2; Luke 12:49-56.

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Happy is the nation whose God <sup>1</sup> is the LORD!

Happy the people chosen to <sup>1</sup> be God's heritage!

<sup>13</sup>**The LORD looks <sup>1</sup> down from heaven,  
and sees all <sup>1</sup> humankind.**

<sup>14</sup>God sits firmly en- <sup>1</sup> throned and watches  
all who dwell <sup>1</sup> on the earth.

<sup>15</sup>**God fashions <sup>1</sup> all their hearts  
and observes <sup>1</sup> all their deeds. R**

<sup>16</sup>A king is not saved by the size <sup>1</sup> of the army,  
nor are warriors rescued by <sup>1</sup> their great strength.

<sup>17</sup>**The horse gives vain <sup>1</sup> hope for victory;  
despite its great strength it <sup>1</sup> cannot save.**

<sup>18</sup>Truly, your eye is upon those who fear <sup>1</sup> you, O LORD,  
upon those who wait for your <sup>1</sup> steadfast love,

<sup>19</sup>**to deliver their <sup>1</sup> lives from death,  
and to keep them alive in <sup>1</sup> time of famine. R**

<sup>20</sup>Our innermost being waits for <sup>1</sup> you, O LORD,  
our helper <sup>1</sup> and our shield.

<sup>21</sup>**Surely, our heart rejoic- <sup>1</sup> es in you,  
for in your holy name we <sup>1</sup> put our trust.**

<sup>22</sup>Let your lovingkindness, O LORD, <sup>1</sup> be upon us,  
even as we place our <sup>1</sup> hope in you. R

*Abraham and Sarah exemplify the vision of faith that people of God enact in every age. Their hope and trust in God's promise allowed them to face an unknown future and to receive the promise of God.*

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. <sup>2</sup>Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. <sup>3</sup>By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

<sup>8</sup>By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. <sup>9</sup>By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. <sup>10</sup>For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. <sup>11</sup>By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself

was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. <sup>12</sup>Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.”

<sup>13</sup>All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, <sup>14</sup>for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. <sup>15</sup>If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup>But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

## Gospel

Luke 12:32-40

*Jesus encourages disciples to invest their hearts and live fully into God's reign. Instead of facing life with fear, those who know God's generosity are always ready to receive from God and to give to others.*

[Jesus said:] “Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. <sup>33</sup>Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. <sup>34</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

<sup>35</sup>“Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; <sup>36</sup>be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. <sup>37</sup>Blessed are

those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. <sup>38</sup>If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

<sup>39</sup>“But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>40</sup>You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”