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Council members—Mike Unverferth, Judy Hornung ,

Jerri Daugherty, Curtis Olson, Gabe Allen



[Bethlehem Lutheran Church - Davey](https://www.facebook.com/BethlehemLutheranChurch-Davey)

July Helpers

Lector—Theresa Allen

Cleaners—Weeks 1/2—

Weeks 3/4—Peter Mills/Jerri Daugherty

Usher—Mike Unverferth

Altar—Linda Sestak

Communion Assistant—Theresa

August Helpers

Lector—Judy Hornung

Cleaners—Weeks 1/2—Jon and Sharon

Weeks 3/4

Ushers—Dave and Connor N.

Altar—Vicki Nielsen

Communion Assistant—Judy Hornung

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

PO Box 96

Davey, NE 68336

Liturgy

When the pandemic began easing to the point where we could resume some of those activities that we'd long missed, I'd find myself getting a little choked up over things like seeing our homebound members for the first time...seeing people's faces without the masks...seeing people in the stands at the televised Cubs games.

But the one that surprised me the most happened in Chicago. When we were there on vacation, we visited my daughter and son-in-law's church with them. They were still wearing masks, but they sang the Holy, Holy, Holy in the communion liturgy. It's the first time I'd done any of the sung parts of our liturgy since before the pandemic. I got emotional enough I could hardly sing. And I've had more than one person express a similar feeling here when we began singing all those parts of the liturgy we left out during the pandemic.

It got me to thinking about liturgy. The word liturgy comes from the Greek *leitourgia* which means "work of the people." We often think of liturgy as being the repetitive sung and spoken parts of our worship services, but really the whole thing is the work of the people. My daughter and son-in-law go to an ELCA church in Chicago that is very "high church." They call their whole worship service The Liturgy. So they have the Saturday evening Liturgy in the Loop and the Sunday morning liturgy in Lakeview.

Our liturgy, or order of service, has roots in the ancient church – in fact, it goes back to ancient Jewish worship even before that.

The first century church liturgy looked like this:

Greeting

Lections (readings) – Old Testament, Psalmody, New Testament, Psalmody, Gospel, in that order

Homily

Dismissal of Catechumens (those still undergoing formation to become members)

Intercessory prayers

Dismissal if no Eucharist.

The Eucharistic liturgy looked like this:

Greeting

Kiss of Peace

Offering/offertory

Eucharistic prayer (very early in the church this was a continuation of the Jewish thanksgiving prayer with added Messianic meaning – the words of institution, holy holy holy,

Lord's prayer, etc would have come a little later but were in place by the 4th century)

Fraction – breaking the bread

Communion

Dismissal

The first century church had another service called an agape service. It was basically just a meal and prayers – similar to dinner church that some churches have now.

You will likely recognize that this is nearly the same basic pattern we use for worship. For me that's the power of our liturgy. Pastor and author Nadia Bolz-Weber said participating in this ancient liturgy was like stepping into a river that flows from ancient times and flows on into the future. Liturgy truly is the work of the people, not only the people sitting in our sanctuary or joining online, but people long past and people who aren't even born yet.

I did not think about all this at the time I was getting choked up over singing the Holy, Holy, Holy. Sometimes we're only half aware we're even participating in the liturgy – some people call it rote worship. But I think that's its power – it taps into something so deep within us that that it's below our consciousness...and then surprises us when we choke up from singing it for the first time in 16 months.

Christ' peace,

Pastor Kris

Quilt Auction

The Carol Joy Holling Quilt Auction is July 31, beginning at 9:30. The event will be in person, but there will also be an option to bid online. All links to view quilts, register, and bid on quilts as well as schedule are on the website:

<https://www.cjhcenter.org/quilt-auction>



Calendar

Worship is also available on YouTube Live. Check the worship page on our website for the links to YouTube and to the bulletin: <http://bethlehemdavey.org/>

July

July 4 10:30 am—worship with Holy Communion.
July 11 10:30am—Worship
July 18 10:30 am—Guitar worship
July 19-23 Basement floor installation
July 25 10:30 am—Worship with Holy Communion

August

August 1 10:30 am—Worship with Holy communion
August 8 10:30 am—Guitar worship
August 15 10:30 am—Worship with Holy Communion
Zion Pork BBQ
August 22 10:30 am—Worship
August 29 10:30 am—Worship

Potato Bake



The Potato Bake will be September 26. Our proceeds this year will go to the **Davey Park Renovation** project. There will also be a craft fair hosted by the village Park Renovation Committee at the park on August 1 from 10-3 to raise money. Come to church and afterwards head over to see what they have and help support the project.

Save the Date—Party!

September 11 is the 10th anniversary of Pastor Kris's ordination. There will be a celebration of 10 years of our ministry together on **September 12**. Details are yet to be determined, but we hope everyone can come!