



Six Kitchen Tables: III. Can We Eat Yet?

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2026
10:00AM

WWW.BETHANYPRESBY.ORG/SERMONS

To trust in Jesus
To love like Jesus
To grow in Jesus
To bring others to Jesus

WORSHIP THE LORD

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

"Liebster Jesu, Wir Sind Hier"

BWV633; J.S. Bach; from Orgelbuchlein"

WELCOME

Pastor Brian Janssen

CALL TO WORSHIP *(Please Stand)*

Pastor Larry Ruby

Please stand if you are able and join in the call to worship.

Come in. There is more room here than it looks.

We come from the doorway and the edges, from a week that asked too much.

Set down whatever you carried through the door.

We bring what we have. It is not much. It will be enough.

No one here is asked for credentials, and no one is seated by rank

There is no head of this table, and there is no seat at the back.

The One who gathers us calls us family, and means it.

Then let us sit down together. Let us worship God.

OPENING PRAYER *(Please Stand)*

Pastor Larry Ruby

HYMN *(Please Stand)*

"Crown Him With Many Crowns"

No. 317

- 1 Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne.
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless king through all eternity.
- 2 Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave,
and rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save;
his glories now we sing who died and rose on high,
who died eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
- 3 Crown him the Lord of love; behold his hands and side,
rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified;
no angels in the sky can fully bear that sight,
but downward bends their burning eye at mysteries so bright.
- 4 Crown him the Lord of years, the potentate of time,
creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail! for thou hast died for me;
thy praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity.

CALL TO CONFESSION *(Please Be Seated)*

Pastor Larry Ruby

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor Larry Ruby

Merciful God, we have hovered in the doorway. We have wanted you near enough to help and far enough to manage, and we have called that faith. We have decided in advance who belongs. We have looked at good work in unfamiliar hands and found the flaw in it first. We have guarded our own place at the table more carefully than we have been glad of anyone else's. Forgive us. Bring us all the way in. Loosen our grip on the seat we thought we had earned, and give us the plain welcome we have been slow to give. Make us a household again — yours, and one another's. Amen.

Silent Confession

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor Larry Ruby

Hear this, and let it settle. The welcome at this table was never a reward for good behavior, and it is not withdrawn for bad. God does not seat us according to what we deserve; if he did, the room would be empty. Whatever you carried in has been lifted out of your hands. You are not a guest here on probation. You are wanted. Friends, believe the gospel: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSE *(Please Stand)*

"Gloria Patri"

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Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor Larry Ruby

Since God has forgiven us in Christ. Let us be at peace with one another. The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all...**and also with you.**
The kids can come forward for the Children's Sermon as you all take a moment to share the peace of Christ with those around you.

WE LISTEN

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Debby Hayes

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Pastor Larry Ruby

FIRST READING

Psalm 138

Pastor Larry Ruby

I give you thanks, O LORD with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise; I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted your name and your word above everything. On the day I called, you answered me; you increased my strength of soul. All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O LORD, for they have heard the words of your mouth. They shall sing of the ways of the LORD, for great is the glory of the LORD. For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly, but the haughty he perceives from far away. Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies; you stretch out your hand, and your right hand delivers me. The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands.

SECOND READING**Mark 3: 20-35****Pastor Brian Janssen**

Then he went home, and the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat. When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, "He has gone out of his mind." And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, "He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons." And he called them to him and spoke to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered. "Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter, but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness but is guilty of an eternal sin"—for they had said, "He has an unclean spirit." Then his mother and his brothers came, and standing outside they sent to him and called him. A crowd was sitting around him, and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers are outside asking for you." And he replied, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" And looking at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.**People:** Thanks be to God.**SERMON****Six Kitchen Tables: III.
Can We Eat Yet?****Pastor Brian Janssen****APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And 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, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick 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.

WE RESPOND**THE PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS****THE OFFERTORY****"Who You Say I Am"****Vocalist: Jenna Foltz**

By Ben Fielding and Reuben Morgan; cpr 2017 Hillsong Music Publishing Australia;

THE RESPONSE *(Please Stand)*

"Doxology"

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Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; Amen.

THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(Please Stand)*

PASTORAL PRAYER

COMMUNION

THE INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: Holy God, we praise You. Let the heavens be joyful, and the earth be glad. We
bless You for creating the whole world, for Your promises to Your people Israel,
and for Jesus Christ in whom Your fulness dwells. Born of Mary, He shares our
life.

People: Eating with sinners, He welcomes us.

Leader: Guiding His children, He leads us.

People: Visiting the sick, He heals us.

Leader: Dying on the cross, He saves us.

People: Risen from the dead, He gives new life.

Leader: Therefore, we praise You, joining our voices with choirs of angels, and with all
the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of Your name.

SANCTUS

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

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again. 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 debts, as we
forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For
Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS - People may now come forward.
Communion servers will serve from the front of the church and each row will be invited to come forward to receive the bread and cup. For those who are unable to come forward, communion will be still be offered to you at your seat after the standing participants are done.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

WE ARE SENT

HYMN (*Please Stand*)

“Be Thou My Vision ”

No.502

- 1** Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art--
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.
- 2** Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word,
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
high King of heaven, my Treasure thou art.
- 3** High King of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

BENEDICTION

CLOSING RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

WELCOME TO BETHANY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

We are delighted to have you in worship with us this morning!

FOR OUR FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN - A Nursery Room is across the hall from the pulpit side of the Sanctuary. It is equipped with a speaker system from the sanctuary so any parent(s) who wishes to stay with their child(ren) in the nursery can hear the worship service. **A Cry Room** is at the rear of the Sanctuary – entry is through a door in the Narthex near the usher's table. *We encourage you to use these rooms as needed.* **Worship Bags** are available for children to use during the worship service. The bags can be found at the Usher's Desk. **Sound amplification devices** are available to those who might need or want to use them. Our ushers are available to help with any needs that you have during worship.

NEWS FOR THE BODY OF CHRIST

Today's ushers are Carole and Tom Aspinall, Dolly McCrea and Laura Dugan.

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Connie and Mike Segeleon and family on the passing of Connie's beloved brother, Robert Nolte, who joined the Church Triumphant on August 30, 2026. Please keep Connie and Mike and their family in your prayers

A Special Thanks to Jenna Foltz for sharing her musical gifts with us today in worship.

PROGRAM AND EVENT NEWS

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION – Preschool registration for the 2026/2027 school year is now open on our website! Contact Danielle Gioia at Gioia.preschool@gmail.com with any questions! We are so excited for the coming year!

FLOWERS – We still have dates open if you would like to have flowers for the altar. November 1st and 15th and December 6th and 13th are all available. Please contact the Church Office to reserve a date.

DEBBY HAYES PLAY AND PRAY- Today is the Last Day for Play and Pray. All Children can leave after the Children's Sermon and go to the Worship and Wonder Room. **See September 13th Kick Off for details on Children's Worship Services.**

BLOOM AND CAFÉ BETHANY- Join us for our first Bloom and Café Bethany event of the Fall on **Thursday, September 10th at 6:00pm!** There will be a catered dinner followed by a **Modern Service for families at 7:00pm.** We would love to see you there. Please sign up on the signup sheet in the Welcome Center.

NEW MEMBERS CLASS- The Membership Team will be holding a New Members Class on Saturday, **September 19th in the Chapel from 9:00am to 12:00pm.** Anyone interested in becoming a member of Bethany and/or interested in learning about Bethany Presbyterian Church is invited to attend. Please contact the Church Office at 412-221-5132 or email Heather Lucas at membershipchair@bethanypresby.org

WOMEN'S MINISTRY CRAFT AND LUNCH- **September 20th after the 10:45 Service** in Fellowship Hall for anyone 10 and up. We will be making a chunky finger knit pumpkin (see the model in the Welcome Center) and the \$30 fee also includes lunch. The **fee is due to Heather Lucas by September 13th**; however, you can sign up starting today.

MOMco. EVENING- The Evening MOMco. will begin their first gathering on **September 10th from 7:00pm to 8:30pm** in the Youth Lounge. This Group is open to all Moms; however we will be specifically addressing being a Mom of Teenagers. The first meeting will be a catered dinner from Chick-fil-A. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Becky Yanak at [412-952-9583](tel:412-952-9583) or Kim Hartnett at [412-580-5005](tel:412-580-5005).

NOTES IN THE MARGIN BIBLE STUDY- Join us for **Notes in the Margin**, a welcoming, discussion-based Bible study where we explore Scripture, ask questions, and grow in faith together. Whether you're new to faith, returning after time away, or looking to deepen your walk with God, you're invited. **Bi-weekly meetings on Tuesdays, from 6:30PM to 7:30PM and the next meeting is this Tuesday, September 8th.** Bring your Bible, your questions, and an open heart. No expertise required!

CITY MISSION DONATIONS- The City Mission, one of Bethany's Mission Partners, has installed a new **Blue** donation collection bin located on the side of the church next to the red shed in front of the extended parking area. They advised that they would be making collections every Monday.

"HELPING HANDS" – The Rotary of Bridgeville-South Fayette is initiating a "Helping Hands" Community Service Program for Bridgeville and South Fayette families (limited scope). The Rotary will assess every request; however as they have a limited number of members and limited skills, they would welcome any individuals who would be able to help. If you would like to volunteer, please contact [Bill Paviol at 412-722-3102](tel:412-722-3102).

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!- Bethany Missions Partner, **Feed My Starving Children**, is in need of volunteers! Please consider giving 2 hours of your time (there are still **2 hour** time slots from **12:00pm to 2:00pm** and **3:00pm to 5:00pm** available and **clean up slots from 5:00pm to 7:00pm** also available) **on Saturday, September 12th at the South Fayette Intermediate School** to pack meals for starving children around the world. Kids age 5 and up can participate. Seated jobs are also available. There is also a need for people able to lift up to 50 pounds. Learn more and register to help at : give.fmssc.org/southhills. Contact Betsy Dobbs with any questions at: [412-498-6778](tel:412-498-6778).

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY - Bethany has a volunteer opportunity for anyone 12 years and older with **Sojourner House** on **Wednesday, September 16th from 9:30am to noon**. We will complete the painting work we started on August 15th at their Green Space/play yard. If you are available and interested in this opportunity please (call or text) Karen Talerico at [412-913-3789](tel:412-913-3789).

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

Sunday School begins on **September 13th**! Please make plans to join us for Sunday School this fall from **9:30am -10:30am**. The following is an outline of the classes and activities available for all age groups,

Toddlers and Babies 3 and under – Nursery Care is available during Sunday School

Children and Youth – Ages 3 Through 12th Grade

From 9:30am to 9:45 am - All meet in the Choir Room for singing and musical instruments with the Sunday School Musical Team.

Preschool Ages 3-5 -Rooms 244-245 for Bible Story, Coloring Page and Play Time

Classes with the Bible in Life Curriculum by David C. Cook

Grades 1-3 in Room 239

Grades 4-7 in Room 240

Grades 8 – 12 in room 236

Adult Classes

Bible Study – in Fellowship Hall with Devin Underwood. They are finishing last year's study of James and beginning in October will choose a new Book of the Bible to study. Once a month they briefly study a Biblical Woman. Open to adult men and women

Through the Bible – In the Bethany Room with Doug Bovard. Will involve reading through the Bible at home and discussing in the class. Reading through the Bible will immerse us in the whole counsel of God. Open to anyone over 21 years.

Women's Sunday School Class – Room 224 with Becky Yanak. Will involve a 12 week video study entitled: Rahab, Hagar and Naomi: "How does everyone else see me? How do I see myself How does God see me? All women welcomed.

2 Corinthians – In the Chapel with Mark Rackley. They will be finishing last year's study of second Corinthians picking up at Chapter 12. At the first meeting they will determine next topic of study. Open to adult men and women

Additional and detailed information is available in the [September Newsletter](#) or in the flyer titled, ["Bible Studies, Events, and Ministries,"](#) available in the Welcome Center.

We still need a few people who are willing to be placed on a substitute teacher list, to fill in as needed throughout the year. Please reach out to Celina Farabaugh if you'd like to help out! [724-554-6370](tel:724-554-6370) or cfarabaugh19@gmail.com

FALL KICK-OFF DAY- September 13th is our Fall Kick-Off Day for the following:

- We will be returning to our **Regular Worship Hours** of **8:15 and 10:45;**
- All **Sunday School Classes** will begin;
- **Children's Worship Opportunities** will also begin with the following programs for Children during the Worship Service:

Worship and Wonder for Children ages 3 to 2nd grade where children learn more about worshipping God. They are starting the year with the story of the Good Shepherd and then continuing stories of Creation and the Old Testament.

Faith and Friends for children in 3rd through 5th grade where children will explore lessons from the Bible in Life Curriculum through interactive learning, meaningful discussion and hands-on-activities. The Scripture lesson is the same as Sunday Scholl; however the lesson content and activities are different.

- The **Bethany Youth Group** will start at 5pm;
- We will hold a "**Blessing of the Backpacks**" during the Children's sermon for all aged children;
- This will be **Pastor Larry Ruby's last day** as our Interim Associate Pastor and we invite everyone to bring him a card to thank him for his time with us at Bethany and to wish him well in whatever future endeavors he pursues. **Baskets for cards will be available at both entrances to the Sanctuary;** and
- The **Youth Ukulele practice** will also resume on September 13th in the Sanctuary after the 10:45 Service. Looking forward to seeing all of you ready to play.



CHURCH FINANCES AS OF AUGUST 30, 2026

Thank you for your continued support.

	2026 YTD (\$)	2025 YTD (\$)	+/- (\$)
Contributions*	\$ 376,595	\$ 348,719	\$27,876
General Fund Subsidies (Transfers)	253,635	246,787	6,848
Investment Income **	9,632	9,952	(320)
Total General Fund Income	\$ 639,862	\$ 605,458	\$34,404
Year to Date Budget	621,742		
+/- Budget	\$ 18,120		

*For purposes of this report, any prepaid pledges have been spread over 52 weeks.

** Investment income is updated monthly upon receipt of investment statements.

A friendly reminder from the Stewardship team, please write the amount of your giving on the outside of the envelope when turning in your offering. This helps make the job of those counting much easier.



QR Code
for online
giving

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms”. 1 Peter 4:10 calls us to action to share with others our God given talents and blessings. Let us receive His grace and strength so that we may glorify Him and serve generously.

September Special Offering – Children/Youth Ministry Programs

The Special offering envelope for September supports the Children and Youth Ministry programs.

Online giver? Not receiving envelopes? You can still donate to this special offering either by selecting “Elementary Programs” in the online giving portal or noting that your donation is for Children/Youth Programs on your check or a pew envelope.

Thank you for your contribution to the programs for the children and youth of Bethany and our community.

WEEK AHEAD

Sunday, September 6

Communion Sunday

8:15AM and 10:00AM – Worship

Monday, September 7

LABOR Day – Office Closed

Tuesday, September 8

6:30PM – Notes in the Margin Bible Study

6:45PM – Session Team Meetings

7:00PM – ALANON

Wednesday, September 9

7:00AM Golden Oldies Trip

11:30AM – Knitters

7:00PM – Choir Practice

Thursday, September 10

8:00AM –Golden Oldies Trip

9:00AM- MOMco.AM

9:00AM- Quilters

12:00PM – Rotary

6:30PM Café Bethany

7:00PM – Bloom Modern Worship

7:00PM – MOMco. Evening

7:00PM - Dartball

7:30PM – AA

Friday, September 11

Saturday, September 12

11:00- Knitters

Sunday, August 13

8:15Am – Worship

9:30AM – Sunday School

10:45 Worship