



Pastor
Rev. Elizabeth Moses

Bethany's Music Director
Catherine Schane-Lydon

2025 Consistory Members

Phyllis McClarty, VP (Elder)
Nancy Murray (Elder)

Wendy Delehanty (Deacon)
Jessica Fuglein, Clerk (Deacon)

*Bethany Reformed Church seeks to be a caring and inclusive community
called by Christ to glorify God –
empowered by the Holy Spirit to express God's love,
serve our neighbors and community, and invite others
to follow Christ in a life changing way.*

Bethany Reformed Church
760 New Scotland Avenue
Albany, New York 12208
Telephone: 518-482-7998
Email us: bethanyrca.info@gmail.com
Visit us: bethanyrc.org

Order of Worship

May 18, 2025
Fifth Sunday of Easter

*Means rise in body or spirit, if able.

Bold print for congregational response.

There are **hearing assistance devices** in a box by the entrance to the Sanctuary for those who need them. Please ask a greeter for assistance.

Offerings may be placed in the basket by the Sanctuary door.

VOTUM & WELCOME

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise God on high!

Praise God, sun and moon. Praise God, all you shining stars!

Praise God from the earth, you sea monsters and ocean depths!

Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars, praise the Lord!

Kings and all peoples of the earth, princes and all rulers of the earth,
praise the Lord!

Old and young together; all people praise the Lord!

Let us worship God!

*OPENING HYMN #473 (Red Hymnal) "For the Beauty of the Earth"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, you command us to love one another, yet we hold grudges and refuse to work for peace. You command us to care for all of creation, yet we neglect the earth and abuse nature through carelessness. You command us to walk in the ways of Jesus, yet we too often walk our own way. Forgive us, O God. Guide us as we work toward a new heaven here on earth. Lead us to reconciliation and a vision for your beloved community, as

we share your love with your people everywhere. (Personal prayers continued in silence)...**in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord we offer this prayer. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

**GLORIA PATRI* #579 (Red Hymnal)

**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, amen.**

The Word of God

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Liturgist: Jessica Fuglein

John 13:31-35 (pg. 108)

Acts 11:1-18 (pg. 130)

The Word of the Lord for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

CHOIR ANTHEM

"Come Down, O Love Divine"

1. Come down, O Love divine,
Seek out this soul of mine
And visit it with Your own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near,
Within my heart appear,
And kindle it, Your holy flame bestowing.

2. O let it freely burn,
Till earthly passions turn
To dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
And let Your glorious light
Shine ever on my sight,
And clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

3. And so the yearning strong
With which the soul will long
Shall far outpass the power of human telling;
For none can guess God's grace,
Till Love creates a place
Wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.

SERMON

"Easter People: Peter"

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Based on Belhar Confession, Articles 1 & 2*)

We believe in the triune God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – who gathers, protects, and cares for the church through Word and Spirit. We believe in one holy, universal Christian Church, the communion of saints called from the entire human family. We believe that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another. We believe that this unity is both a gift and an obligation for the church in Jesus Christ, one which the people of God must continually be built up to attain. We believe that this unity must become visible so that the world may believe that hatred among people is sin, which Christ has already conquered. Anything that threatens this unity may have no place in the church and must be resisted. Together we fight against all that may threaten or hinder this unity. Together we celebrate our differences as opportunities for mutual service within the one visible people of God as opportunities for mutual service within the one visible people of God. Together we love each other.

*HYMN OF RESPONSE #358 (Red Hymnal) "Help Us Accept Each Other"

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING/DEDICATION

*DOXOLOGY #592 (Red) "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

ANNOUNCEMENTS (written announcements at the end of bulletin)

*HYMN OF PARTING "We Are One in the Spirit"

Text and Music: Peter Scholtes, © 1966 F.E.L. Publications

1. We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord;
we are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord,
and we pray that all unity may one day be restored:

Refrain:

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

2. We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand;
we will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand,
and together we'll spread the news that God is in our Land: [Refrain]

3. We will work with each other; we will work side by side;
we will work with each other; we will work side by side,
and we'll guard each man's dignity and save human pride: [Refrain]

4. All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,
and all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son,
and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one: [Refrain]

*BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: #160 (Green Hymnal) "He Is Lord"

**He is Lord, He is Lord!
He is risen from the dead and he is Lord!
Ev'ry knee shall bow, ev'ry tongue confess
That Jesus Christ is Lord.**

**He is Life, He is Life!
He has died to set us free and he is life!
And he calls us all to live ever more.
For Jesus Christ is Life.**

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Handbell Choir will meet today, May 18, after worship.
- The Consistory will meet on Tuesday, May 20, at 6 PM.
- Please send any June Newsletter articles to the Church Office no later than Tuesday, May 27.
- On Saturday, June 7, from 6-8 PM in the Sanctuary, Bethany RC will be hosting a free concert by the Musicats Duo. Snacks and refreshments will be served during intermission. The Musicats will then join us in worship on Pentecost Sunday, June 8.
- Clynk Update: We have earned \$414.55 since 2024! Keep up the good work! Need bags? They are available in the Narthex and on the kitchen counter.

May 11, 2025 donations to the General Fund: \$470, and to the Mission Fund: \$40.

You are invited to a free indoor concert by

The Musicats Duo



**Purr-fect music for all occasions and fun for the whole family!
We will be serving refreshments and snacks at intermission.**

**When: Saturday, June 7, from 6 to 8 PM
Where: Bethany Reformed Church's Sanctuary
760 New Scotland Avenue
Albany, NY 12208
(518) 482-7998**

Free Will Donation