

Bethel United Church October 11 2026

- All **Bolded Text** indicates a congregational response

Welcome and Announcements.

Good morning, everyone, and welcome to Bethel United Church in Rideau Ferry Ontario. Today is October 11 and Thanksgiving Sunday. My name is Rev. Lynne Gardiner and I am pleased to welcome all of you into this place of worship, whether you're worshipping with us virtually, or in person in our Sanctuary.



Rev. Lynne's contact information is: Phone (613) 267-3855 or email pastor@bethelchurchrideauferry.ca

This week, our service is being led by: Ruth Anne Johnson and our choir, Aidan Williamson, Kathleen Williamson, and Paul Kehoe.

A quick reminder of our regularly scheduled Bethel activities: Chat and Chew, in person and in the Hall on Tuesdays at 1:30 and our Zoom Prayer and Share on Thursdays at 10am. If you wish to be included in this and haven't been, please give Rev. Lynne your email information.

From the Stewardship Committee

October is traditionally Stewardship Month at Bethel and for 2026 the Stewardship Committee has decided to focus on the Alzheimer's Society.

Although they receive some funding from the Ontario Government, the Alzheimer's Society also depends on donations and volunteer support.

Donations for the Lanark, Leeds and Grenville Alzheimer Society will be gratefully received here at Bethel as loose change/undesignated funds during the Offering Time on all October Sundays. Contributions can also be made by cheque or through an e-transfer to treasurer@bethelchurchrideauferry.ca marking Alzheimer in the memo line.

Robin Hull, the Education Coordinator for the Alzheimer's Society in Lanark County will join us during our Bethel Service on Sunday, October 18th to tell us more about this important agency. She will welcome your questions.

Robin has also made available a number of handouts about Alzheimer's and other dementias. You can find them on the table at the back of the church hall.

As another part of our Alzheimer's learning journey, we are pleased to be able to offer a showing of No More Silent Battles on Thursday, October 15 at 1:30 p.m.

No More Silent Battles is a powerful documentary that shines light on the growing crisis of dementia care in Canada. The documentary follows the deeply personal journeys of four families as they navigate a bureaucratic and confusing home care system. It exposes the silent battles that caregivers must wage to get the help that they need

Thank you members of our Bethel Family for your support of this important undertaking.

If you have any questions, please speak to any member of the Stewardship Committee.

Are there any celebrations this week?

Please join in me singing our celebration song:

VU 179 "Hallelujah, hallelujah, give thanks"

**Hallelujah, hallelujah. Give thanks to the risen Christ;
hallelujah, hallelujah! Give praise to God's name.**

(reproduced with permission under license # 610589 LicensgOnline)

Land Acknowledgment

For thousands of years, First Nations people have walked on this land; their relationship with the land is at the centre of their lives and spirituality. We are gathered on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee Peoples and acknowledge their stewardship of this land throughout the ages.

Mission and Service Story

The House of Friendship

At St. Luke's United Church, a strong sense of belonging for newcomers is being expressed through intentional welcome, shared meals, and community. Here is the Mission and Service Story for October 11, 2026.

The congregation at Saint Luke's United Church in Toronto, ON understands that belonging rarely happens by accident. It grows through deeply intentional acts of welcome that are joyfully offered to every single person. Arriving in Canada is only the beginning of the journey for many newcomers. While there is relief in finding safety, there's also the daunting task of building a new life – finding housing and work, learning unfamiliar systems and languages, making new connections, and carrying the weight of experiences that don't disappear at the border.

For some, those experiences include extremely persecution and trauma. Finding a comfortable place to truly and deeply belong, while facing other challenges, can be a long and exhausting process.

Every Sunday, the congregation at St. Luke's is prepared for someone new to come through the doors. Of course, there are warm greetings, name tags, and introductions. There is also time in the service where people will leave their seats to offer a hug, handshake, and friendly conversation to all. "Our Passing of the Peace tradition is that early in the service, we get up, and we move around. We're hugging each other, and we're fist bumping, all while our music director is playing music in the background. It's very crowded, as you can imagine, and people are leaning over pews and such. At that point, people who have been introduced as new, our members of the congregation are reaching out to them and welcoming them and quite intentionally. And this also continues at lunchtime."

After the service, everyone gathers downstairs for what they affectionately call "coffee hour" – a name that hardly captures the generous meal waiting around the tables. People find a full, warm meal awaiting them.

The food is important, but it's conversation that nourishes the community. Around the table, people who might never have met elsewhere find themselves sharing a meal and learning about one another. A newcomer to Canada sits beside someone who has worshipped at Saint Luke's for decades. Someone rebuilding their life after escaping persecution discovers neighbours who are genuinely interested in their story, without expecting them to tell it all at once.

One newcomer, who had fled severe persecution before coming to Canada, described finding more than a church. They found people who journeyed with them. As they joined groups, celebrated milestones, and continue to build a new life, the congregation is celebrating alongside them. The community at St. Luke's understands that healing takes time, and trust is built through consistency, kindness, and simply showing up for one another. This is the ministry of hospitality at Saint Luke's. It's not just about opening church doors and having a sign, but about opening a community – one where people are known by name, welcomed with care, and reminded that they do not have to face life's next chapter alone.

Through Mission and Service, we help support ministries like Saint Luke's United Church that create spaces of belonging for newcomers and neighbours alike. Together, we are helping to build communities where God's welcome is lived, shared, and experienced every day. Let's give generously.

Call to Worship *(Based on Psalm 100, Responsive)*

Shout to God!

We worship with gladness and joy.

God loves your laughter!

We thank God that we are part of God's world.

God loves us and cares for us with great tenderness.

We sing our thanks to God, believing that God loves us and is good to us.

Sung Call to Worship VU 232 (vs 1) ***"Joyful, Joyful We Adore You"***

Joyful, joyful we adore you, God of glory, life and love;

hearts unfold like flowers before you, opening to the sun above.

Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the gloom of doubt away;

giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

(reproduced with permission under license # 610589 LicensingOnline)

Lighting of the Christ Candle and the World Candle

We are gathered for worship on the Sunday that we celebrate Thanksgiving. As we light the candles, we remember that we are people who are called to gratitude.

A moment of silent reflection: What are you grateful for this morning?

Listen to God's words for you from Psalm 66:

"Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;

sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise.

Opening Prayer *(Based on Philipians 4)*

Oh God of wonder and majesty.

You have called us to be a people of 'Gladness'.

We pray that we can let go of our worries and concerns and trust that you will keep our hearts and mind safe. As we listen to your Good News of joy and hope this morning, open our hearts, so we can focus on all things that are holy, pure, just and lovely. Inspire us to a new way of thinking this morning so that we can be part of the joy and peace that is offered to us as your beloved Children.

We pray this in the name of Jesus, your child, who lived and walked with us, so that we can more fully understand you. Amen

Opening Hymn VU 516 ***"Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"***

**¹ Come, you thankful people, come,
raise the song of harvest home!**

All is safely gathered in, safe before the storms begin;

God, our maker, does provide for our needs to be supplied:

come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home!

- ² All the world is God's own field,
harvests for God's praise to yield;
wheat and weeds together sown, here for joy or sorrow grown;
first the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear:
Harvest-giver, grant that we wholesome grain and pure may be.**
- ³ For our God, one day, shall come,
and shall take this harvest home;
from the field shall in that day all offences purge away;
giving angels charge at last in the fire the weeds to cast;
but the fruitful ears to store in garner evermore.**
- ⁴ Even so, God, quickly come to your final harvest home!
Gather all your people in, free from sorrow, free from sin;
there for ever purified, in your presence to abide:
come, with all your angels, come,
raise the glorious harvest home.**

(reproduced with permission under license # 610589 LicensingOnline)

Passing of the Peace

Prayer for Reconciliation

Patient Lord, you know how easy it is for us to whine and complain bitterly about all those things in our lives that are difficult. We focus on them as though they were the only things that ever happened to us, forgetting the many blessings that you have given to us and the opportunities you give us to serve you. We feel alienated--you call us beloved. We feel lost--you seek us. We feel broken and battered--your love is a healing balm. Forgive us when we forget those things. Help us to always look to you for our healing and to return thanks to you by praise and serving others in your name. For we offer this prayer of confession of our failures and gratitude for your blessings. AMEN.

Assurance of Love

Turn again to God, for you are beloved of God and have been given many blessings. Rejoice in God's love for you. Give thanks for God's gifts. AMEN.

Theme conversation

Counting our blessings

Our Scriptures Today

Luke 17.11-19 - The Parable of the Lepers

Jeremiah 29: 4-7 - Jeremiah's letter to the Israelites:

Reflection

Hymn

VU 236

"Now Thank We All Our God"

- ¹ Now thank we all our God, with heart, and hands, and voices,
who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
who from our mother's arms has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.**
- ² O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
and keep us strong in grace, and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ill in this world and the next.**
- ³ All praise and thanks to God for all that has been given,
the Son, and Spirit blest who dwell in highest heaven,
the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore;
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.**

(reproduced with permission under license # 610589 LicensingOnline)

Invitation to the Offering

Offering Music

Offering Response

VU 542

"We Give You But Your Own"

**We give you but your own, whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is yours alone, we give it gratefully.**

(reproduced with permission under license # 610589 LicensingOnline)

Offering Prayer

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

O God, we thank you for the wondrous ways in which you have healed and restored us. There have been countless times when we wondered if the trials and struggles of our lives would overcome us and swallow us up; yet you have reached out to redeem us. Just as in the scriptures when Jesus healed the ten people afflicted with leprosy, one, when he saw that he had been healed, returned to Jesus, praising God for the healing that had taken place. Make our faith as strong as the one of that man. Give us the wisdom to know the source of healing is not in our pleading, but in our acknowledging your love and power. As we bring before you the names and situations in our hearts that are filled with strife and trouble, we ask for their healing as well. We know that you hear the cries of our hearts and respond always in love. Help us to place our complete trust in your never-ending compassion. The names that we lift up in particular this morning are:

Joy
Leah

Liam
Janet

Carol
Kim H.

Fran
Lainey

James	Jennifer	Lynda	The Riley
Ben	Sandy	Sarah	Family
Brynnley	Ellen & Art	Morgan	Guy
Kim P.	Robin	Tom	Richard
Haley	Grace	Sandra H.	Linda P.
Bill	Helen T.	Rick	Reid
Chris	John T.	Chris L.	

And as a community we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us, saying:

Our Father....

Closing Hymn

VU 238

"O Lord, My God"

**¹ O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
thy power throughout the universe displayed.**

***Refrain* Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!**

**² When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze. *Refrain***

**³ But when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
he bled and died to take away my sin. *Refrain***

**⁴ When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
and there proclaim, 'My God, how great thou art!' *Refrain***

(reproduced with permission under license # 610589 LicensingOnline)

Living our Faith this Week

This week's "Living our Faith" challenge is practical but can be very transformative. Each night, before you go to sleep, spend five minutes "counting your blessings". Turn your thoughts to what is good in your life, even if it's small.

Commissioning and Benediction

Sung Benediction

Go now in peace, never be afraid,
God will go with you each hour of everyday.
Go now in faith, steadfast strong and true,
Know God will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others, so all the world can see.
God will be there, watching us in love.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love. **Amen. Amen. Amen**
(reproduced with permission under license # 610589 LicensingOnline)

* * * * *

