



BETHELITE

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Lessons from the Lake *The Spirit Moves Us Forward*

As summer begins to wind down, many of us are savoring these last few weeks of lake days, warm evenings, and time spent on the water. At Bethel, our summer worship series *Lessons from the Lake* has invited us to reflect on the sacred ways God speaks through water—through storms, through stillness, through calling and healing.



Pastor Lauren Wrightsman

In the very beginning of Scripture, before anything was created, we are told in Genesis 1:2 that “*the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.*” This movement of the Spirit wasn’t passive—it was dynamic, creative, and preparing the way for something new. The same Spirit that stirred the waters of the deep continues to stir in our lives and in our church today, calling us toward faithful transformation.

This summer, I was reminded how quickly things can change during a river kayaking trip with my daughter and other family members on the Arkansas River in Colorado. One moment, we were confidently navigating a stretch of rapids in our two-person kayak; the next, we were flipped and thrown into the fast-moving current. It was disorienting and unexpected—much like the changes we often face in life and ministry.

In that moment, I relied on what we’d been taught: check on each other, hold onto the boat, and keep your feet pointed downstream. But even with all the right preparation, I couldn’t get back into the kayak on my own. I needed someone else to pull me to safety. That experience has stayed with me as I reflect on the transitions unfolding at Bethel. Like a river, change can come swiftly. And even when we’re ready, we still need one another to steady us and help us move toward what’s next.

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