

Sunday, June 22, 2025

Second Sunday after Pentecost ~ Pollinator Sunday



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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Church Secretary: Mary Braun

Custodial and Maintenance: Gary Sjerven

Music Specialist & Sound Technician: Jim Christensen

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

MISSION STATEMENT

*We will **LIVE** and **SERVE** through **FAITH***

*We will **ACT** with **LOVE** and **KINDNESS***

*We will **GIVE** hope and **SUPPORT** to all.*

*We are a community that is passionate about sharing the love of Jesus Christ,
and we provide as many opportunities as we can to help everyone grow
spiritually, and in loving service to the community and the world.*

We actively seek to lead lives that draw us into a closer relationship with God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER & CARE LIST:

COFFEE SERVERS NEEDED Sharing coffee and treats after worship is one of the ways we care for one another and build community. You're invited to sign up to serve by writing your name on the sheet on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall by the serving window. Not able to serve? Consider bringing treats to stock the freezer. Every contribution helps provide a warm and welcoming space for connection.

LECTORS NEEDED. Do you enjoy reading scripture? We're looking for lectors for July! Sign-up sheets are located on the table in the Narthex and include the weekly readings. Your voice helps bring the Word to life in worship, thank you for considering!

LET'S GO FISHING provides free fishing and boating trips for senior citizens, individuals with disabilities, and veterans. Bethesda has three trips planned this summer.

1. June 26th at 12:30 on Rice Lake.
2. July 17th at 12:30 on Bay Lake.
3. Aug 27th at 4:30 Nature tour on Rice Lake.

Sign-up sheets are located in the Narthex on your way into the Fellowship Hall. Come enjoy a peaceful day on the water!

LOAVES & FISHES Bethesda will be helping at Loaves & Fishes in Aitkin on Monday, July 7, 2025. This ministry provides free to-go meals for anyone in need and it takes many hands to make it happen. Volunteers assist with meal prep under the guidance of the Site Coordinator, help package and distribute meals, and clean up during and after service. It's a full and active day, expect to be on your feet! We need to bring 400 cookies for that day! Sign-up sheets are in the Fellowship Hall. We'll be packing them after worship on Sunday, July 6th. Thank you for being part of this ministry of compassion and nourishment.

TODAY IS POLLINATOR SUNDAY a day to celebrate God's creation and the tiny but mighty pollinators who help bring life and abundance to the earth. Bees, butterflies, beetles, and birds play a vital role in the flourishing of plants, ecosystems, and our food supply and we give thanks for them as part of God's beautifully interconnected world. At Bethesda we are proud to be one of 49 congregations in our synod that are pollinator sanctuaries, planting native gardens, restoring habitat, and becoming signs of God's renewing love.

PLANT THE PROMISE As part of our celebration you are invited to take home a packet of our special “**Seeds of Hope**” Bethesda Pollinator Mix following worship. You can plant them in your own yard, garden, or roadside or even sprinkle a few in our pollinator garden. Let these seeds remind us that even the smallest act done in love can help heal God’s world.

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda			June 23rd, 2025 – June 29th, 2025
Monday	6/23	10:00 am	Altar Care Meeting
		11:30 am	Cards
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	6/24	9:00 am	Chair Yoga
		4:00 pm	Bell Practice
Wednesday	6/25	9:00 am	Women’s Bible Study
		3:00 pm	Stewardship Meeting
Thursday	6/26	8:00 am	ROMEOs (Retired Old Men Eating Out)
		9:15 am	Chair Yoga
Sunday	6/29	9:00 am	Sunday Worship in Person & live stream

OPENING HYMN: “Word of God Come Down on Earth” #510 ELW
(Please rise in body or spirit on the last Verse)



1 Word of God, come down on earth, liv - ing rain from
 2 Word e - ter - nal, throned on high, Word that brought to
 3 Word that speaks God’s ten - der love, one with God be -



heav’n de - scend - ing; touch our hearts and bring to birth
 life cre - a - tion, Word that came from heav’n to die,
 yond all tell - ing, Word that sends us from a - bove



faith and hope and love un - end - ing. Word al - might - y,
 cru - ci - fied for our sal - va - tion, sav - ing Word, the
 God the Spir - it, with us dwell - ing, Word of truth, to



we re - vere you; Word made flesh, we long to hear you.
 world re - stor - ing, speak to us, your love out - pour - ing.
 all truth lead us; Word of life, with one bread feed us.

POLLINATOR LITANY

We gather in the name of God the creator of fluttering butterflies and buzzing bees, of blooming flowers and fertile soil;
in the name of Christ † the Redeemer of broken ecosystems and weary hearts; and in the name of the Spirit, who renews all living things.

Amen.

Creating God, you gift us with light and rhythm, sun and seasons, waters and winds, plants and pollinators.

Great is your love.

Jesus Christ, you pointed to lilies and birds as teachers of faith, you died with the world on your shoulders and rose with all creation in your embrace.

Great is your love.

Holy Spirit, you move in wings and breath, awakening life, stirring prophets, and knitting all creatures together in holy interdependence.

Great is your love.

GRATITUDE FOR POLLINATORS

For bees that hum, butterflies that dance, and bats that soar through night skies

Thanks be to God.

For monarchs and swallowtails, fritillaries and admirals, for bumble bees and honeybees, rusty-patched and brown-belted whose tireless work gives life and sweetness to our tables.

Thanks be to God.

For hummingbirds and moths, pollen-laden beetles, and every carrier of unseen fertility.

Thanks be to God.

CONFESSION / LAMENT

But too often, O God, we forget how connected we are.

We damage habitats, poison soil, and ignore the cries of creation.

We chase convenience instead of care, and profit over preservation.

Forgive us, O God.

We lament the loss of pollinator species, the quieting of once-busy fields, the warming climate and the chemicals that kill what you called good.

Forgive us, O God. Teach us your way of new life.

Help us see with new eyes. to recognize beauty not in control, but in wild harmony. Help us learn from the smallest of your creatures, who carry out your work in fragile, faithful ways.

Teach us your way of new life.

CALL TO TRANSFORMATION

Empower us, O God, to be pollinators of your love, cultivators of community, repairers of the breach, plotters of resurrection in our yards, neighborhoods, and lives.

Grant us your wisdom.

When the work is hard and the systems are stubborn strengthen us with the courage of bees, the patience of seeds, and the persistence of your Spirit.

Grant us your courage.

And as we await the full renewal of all things, make us people of hope, sowers of peace, and companions to every creature under heaven.

Grant us your peace. Amen.

GREETING

The immeasurable grace upon grace of Christ Jesus, the boundless mercy and unconditional love of God, and the abiding unity of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of life and renewal, **as Jesus brought healing to the one who suffered, bring restoration to us and to all creation. Cast out what harms your earth and empower us to be caretakers of the world you love. In the name of Christ, who brings wholeness and hope. Amen.**

SCRIPTURES

SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 65:1-9

¹ I was ready to be sought out by those who did not ask, to be found by those who did not seek me. I said, “Here I am, here I am,” to a nation that did not call on my name.

² I held out my hands all day long to a rebellious people, who walk in a way that is not good, following their own devices; ³ a people who provoke me to my face continually, sacrificing in gardens and offering incense on bricks; ⁴ who sit inside tombs, and spend the night in secret places; who eat swine’s flesh, with broth of abominable things in their vessels; ⁵ who say, “Keep to yourself, do not come near me, for I am too holy for you.” These are a smoke in my nostrils, a fire that burns all day long.

⁶ See, it is written before me: I will not keep silent, but I will repay; I will indeed repay into their laps ⁷ their iniquities and their ancestors’ iniquities together, says the LORD; because they offered incense on the mountains and reviled me on the hills, I will measure into their laps full payment for their actions.

⁸ Thus says the LORD: As the wine is found in the cluster, and they say, “Do not destroy it, for there is a blessing in it,” so I will do for my servants’ sake, and not destroy them all.

⁹ I will bring forth descendants from Jacob, and from Judah inheritors of my mountains; my chosen shall inherit it, and my servants shall settle there.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God**

PSALM: Psalm 22:19-28

¹⁹ But you, O LORD, be not far away; O my help, hasten to my aid.

²⁰ **Deliver me from the sword, my life from the power of the dog.**

²¹ Save me from the lion’s mouth! From the horns of wild bulls you have rescued me.

²² **I will declare your name to my people; in the midst of the assembly I will praise you.**

²³ You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob’s line, give glory. Stand in awe of the LORD, all you offspring of Israel.

²⁴ **For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;**

neither is the LORD's face hidden from them; but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.

²⁵ From you comes my praise in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

²⁶ **The poor shall eat and be satisfied, Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!**

²⁷ All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; all the families of nations shall bow before God.

²⁸ **For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations.**

SCRIPTURE READING: Galatians 3:23-29

²³ Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. ²⁴ Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵ But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, ²⁶ for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. ²⁷ As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God**

GOSPEL: Luke 8:26-39

This is the story of God's unconditional love flowing down.

Glory to you, O Lord

²⁶ Then [Jesus and his disciples] arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. ²⁷ As he stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. ²⁸ When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me"—²⁹ for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break

the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.)³⁰ Jesus then asked him, “What is your name?” He said, “Legion”; for many demons had entered him.

³¹ They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss.

³² Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission.

³³ Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

³⁴ When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. ³⁵ Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. ³⁶ Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. ³⁷ Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. ³⁸ The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, ³⁹ “Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.” So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

This is the story of grace upon grace that covers us. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Reverend Christina Kadelbach

HYMN: “Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness” #843 ELW



1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;
3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris - `ners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.
praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing, two - edged sword.
Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,
Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand;
Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.



calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.
from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Drawn into the embrace of the holy Trinity, we lift our prayers for the wholeness of the church, the world, and all creation.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church. Clothe us in Christ, shower us in mercy, send us in love. Strengthen the faith and witness of Christians across the planet (*international companion churches and synods may be named*) and Christians in our community (*local congregations may be named*). God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for creation. Deliver the earth from disaster, bring forth life amid uncertainty, inspire wonder at all you have made. Sustain all people who delight in the well-being of your creation: farmers, agricultural workers, gardeners, birdwatchers, conservationists, scientists, advocates, and policy makers. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

We pray for the nations. Pave a way to justice, drown the forces of oppression, bring peace on earth. Give leaders the will to turn from war and violence (*areas in crises may be named*). When people must flee their homes, guide them to safety. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

We pray for people in need. Satisfy all who are poor, soothe those in pain, accompany all who are sick (*especially*). Give perseverance to each of us living with mental illness, and shield us from discrimination due to race, class, gender, or any other human distinction. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

We pray for this assembly. Listen to our cries, come to our aid, make us one. Weave among us the fabric of belonging so that we rejoice in each person gathered here, and enliven our proclamation of how much you have done for us. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Creator of all things, from the vast to the very small, we thank you for the beauty and balance of your world. We praise you for pollinators bees and butterflies, bats and hummingbirds, and all those creatures that carry life from bloom to bloom. Protect their habitats from harm, and guide us to be faithful stewards of your land, restoring places where pollinators can thrive. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Loving God, thank you for the waves of joy that filled our church during Vacation Bible School this week. For each child who dove deeper into friendship with you, for every volunteer who gave with heart and energy, and for the laughter, learning, and songs that echoed through our halls

we give you thanks. Help us continue to grow in trust, faith, and community, so that all who enter this place know they belong to you. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We offer our thanksgiving for all people who have died in faith. Keep them in your peace, comfort us in sorrow, raise us to new life. As we remember their faith and witness, may we trust your promise that we are yours forever. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Gather all our prayers in your mercy, O God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen

PEACE

May Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, fill you with unconditional love, mend you with mercy, and grant you perfect peace. **And also with you.**

We are changed by Christ's peace and now we have the holy opportunity to extend that peace to others. Share a sign of Christ's peace with others.

The gathering is seated.

OFFERING

Giving is an act of worship our response to God's goodness and grace. Your gifts support the ministry of Bethesda Lutheran Church and extend God's love into the world. During this time the table is set. For the healing of this world, let us give our tithes and offerings. We invite you to give as you are able.

Ways to Give:

- Place your offering in the plate as it is passed by the ushers.
- Give electronically through Vanco Services. Forms available in the Narthex.
- Use the giving app by scanning the QR code.



- Recurring or one-time online options

<https://app.autobooks.co/pay/bethesda-lutheran-church-of-malmo>

Thank you for your faithful and generous support.

Please rise as the ushers bring the offering to the altar.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Creator God,

**you have sown the world with beauty and filled our lives with good things
bees that hum, seeds that grow, and hands that serve. Receive these gifts we
offer today, a portion of what you've first given us. Use them to nourish
your creation, to bring healing where there is harm, and to help your love
take root in our community and beyond. In the name of Christ, the true
Vine. Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

The presiding minister leads the Words of Institution.

The assembly responds together:

This is the mystery of our faith

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

The presiding minister offers a prayer over the gifts,

inviting the Holy Spirit to bless the bread, the wine, and those who gather.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*Holy Communion is a gift of grace, where we receive the presence of Jesus in
bread and wine, and are reminded that we are deeply loved.*

All who hunger for mercy and hope are welcome at this feast.

Jesus is the host, and the invitation is wide.

- Gluten-free bread is available. Please let your server know.
- Alcohol-free option is located in the center of the tray (lighter in color).
- *If you prefer a blessing, simply cross your arms over your chest or let your server know.*

The table is ready, bread for the journey and wine for the soul.

Come be nourished, be renewed.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in grace to love boldly, to live gently, and to join in the healing of all creation.

Amen.

BLESSING

Go now with dirt on your hands and hope in your heart,
with the Spirit's breath in your lungs and the Monarch's wings in your dreams.
Tend the earth, care for each other, and live as people of resurrection.

In the name of the Creator, the Liberator ✠ and the Sustainer.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN: "Will You Come and Follow Me?" #798 ELW

(vs. 1,2,5)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 "Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me?</p> | <p>5 Lord, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.</p> |
| <p>2 "Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare,
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer pray'r
in you and you in me?</p> | |

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be pollinators of grace.

Thanks be to God!

*We're so glad you joined us for worship today
whether in person or online.*

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Ushers: Barry & Donna Ansell

Greeters: Gary & Brenda Sjerven

Lector: Mary Vukelich

Hospitality: Mark & Mary Vukelich

Response to God's Word Last Week

Sunday, June 15, 2025: In Person: 9:00am 72 Online: 12