
BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

21590 State Highway 47, Isle, MN 56342

August 10th, 2025

Outdoor Worship

9:00 a.m.



Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

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.

Welcome to Bethesda Lutheran Church!

Whether you are joining us in-person or online, we're glad you're here.

We are a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and celebrate the work we're able to do together as a denomination (to learn more about the ELCA visit www.elca.org).

✠ GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE ✠

~ The assembly responds together with texts in bold print ~

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP: Rock of My Soul

Chorus All : **Why don't you rock my soul, in the bosom of Abraham?**
Rock my soul in the bosom of Abraham
Rock my soul in the bosom of Abraham
Oh, rock my soul!

Leader

*I would not be a sinner, I'm tellin' you the reason why
I'm afraid my Lord might call me, and I wouldn't be ready to die*

Chorus All

Leader:

*I would not be a liar, I'm tellin' you the reason why
I'm afraid my Lord might call me, and I wouldn't be ready to die*

Chorus All

Leader:

*I would not be a back biter, I'm telling you the reason why
I'm afraid the Lord might call me, and I wouldn't be ready to die.*

Chorus All

LIFE TOGETHER - ANNOUNCEMENTS

Find the full list of Life Together announcements near the end of the bulletin.

GATHERING SONG: "Joshua Fought the Battle of Jericho"

CCLI#117818

Chorus: Joshua fought the battle of Jericho, Jericho, Jericho
Joshua fought the battle of Jericho
And the walls came tumbling down.

I know you've heard of Joshua
He was the son of Nun
He never stopped his work for God,
Until that work was done. **Chorus**

You may talk about your men of Gideon,
You may brag about your men of Saul,
There's none like good old Joshua
At the battle of Jericho **Chorus**

Up to the walls of Jericho
He marched with spear in hand,
Go blow them ram horns, Joshua cried,
'Cause the battle is in my hands. **Chorus**

(Please rise in body or spirit on this last Verse)

Then the lamb ram sheep horns began to blow
The trumpets began to sound
The people shouted "Glory to God"
And the walls came tumbling down. **Chorus**

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

We gather in the name of † the One who speaks peace into chaos, who names us Beloved before we can speak it ourselves. **Amen.**

Remembering the promise that shaped us.

We are marked. We are claimed. We are beloved.

Every week, we come together to remember that God's love holds us. You were formed by holy hands; shaped from dust, sealed by water, and marked with a promise that still holds. It's your invisible tattoo etched in grace, traced in love, permanent even when life tries to rub it away. No failure can smudge it. No shame can erase it. It is yours. In every wilderness and every wondering, God's mercy finds you. In every grief and every glittering joy, Christ walks beside you

**We return to the water to remember who and whose we are.
The promise holds. The love remains. The mark is permanent.**

Breathe deep and let the mercy of God awaken you. To love. To mercy. To grace. You are already enough. This is the treasure of God's mercy. You are forgiven, cherished, and made new by the power of God's love. And that tattoo? Still there. Still true. Thanks be to God. **Amen.**

(Water is sprinkled, joyfully, using a cedar branch. Embrace it. Receive it.)

HYMN: "Ezekiel Saw the Wheel"

Chorus: Ezekiel saw the wheel....Way up, in the middle of the air
Ezekial saw the wheel....Way in the middle of the air.
The big wheel runs by faith....The little wheel runs by the grace of God.
A wheel in a wheel....Way in the middle of the air

Some go to church to sing and shout....Way in the middle of the air.
Before six months they're shouted out....Way in the middle of the air
The big wheel runs by faith....The little wheel runs by the grace of God.
A wheel in a wheel....Way in the middle of the air

Tell you what a hypocrite'll do.... Way in the middle of the air
He'll talk about me, he'll talk about you....Way in the middle of the air.
The big wheel runs by faith....The little wheel runs by the grace of God.
A wheel in a wheel....Way in the middle of the air

Don't pray for things that you don't need....Way in the middle of the air.
The Lord don't like no sin and greed....Way in the middle of the air.
The big wheel runs by faith....The little wheel runs by the grace of God.
A wheel in a wheel....Way in the middle of the air

There's one thing sure that you can't do....Way in the middle of the air.
You can't serve God and Satan too....Way in the middle of the air.
The big wheel runs by faith....The little wheel runs by the grace of God.
A wheel in a wheel....Way in the middle of the air

One of these days about twelve o'clock....Way in the middle of the air.
This old world's gonna reel and rock....Way in the middle of the air.

Chorus: Ezekiel saw the wheel....Way up, in the middle of the air
Ezekial saw the wheel....Way in the middle of the air.
The big wheel runs by faith....The little wheel runs by the grace of God.
A wheel in a wheel....Way in the middle of the air

GREETING

The immeasurable grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the rich mercy and love of God, and the unity of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, **you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

✠ HEARING GOD'S WORD ✠

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 15:1-6

God promises childless and aging Abram that a child of his own will be his heir and that his descendants will number as many as the stars. Abram trusts God's promise, and through this faith he is considered righteous.

¹ After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ² But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³ And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴ But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵ He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶ And he believed the LORD, and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

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

PSALM: 33:12-22

¹² Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD! Happy the people chosen to be God's heritage!

¹³ **The LORD looks down from heaven, and sees all humankind.**

¹⁴ God sits firmly enthroned and watches all who dwell on the earth.

¹⁵ **God fashions all their hearts and observes all their deeds.**

¹⁶ A king is not saved by the size of the army, nor are warriors rescued by their great strength.

¹⁷ **The horse gives vain hope for victory; despite its great strength it cannot save.**

¹⁸ Truly, your eye is upon those who fear you, O LORD, upon those who wait for your steadfast love,

¹⁹ **to deliver their lives from death, and to keep them alive in time of famine.**

²⁰ Our innermost being waits for you, O LORD, our helper and our shield.

²¹ **Surely, our heart rejoices in you, for in your holy name we put our trust.**

²² Let your lovingkindness, O LORD, be upon us, even as we place our hope in you.

SCRIPTURE READING

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Abraham and Sarah exemplify the vision of faith that people of God enact in every age. Their hope and trust in God's promise allowed them to face an unknown future and to receive the promise of God.

¹ Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ² Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. ³ By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

⁸ By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance, and he set out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹ By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect

and builder is God. ¹¹ By faith, with Sarah's involvement, he received power of procreation, even though he was too old, because he considered him faithful who had promised. ¹² Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

¹³ All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, ¹⁴ for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But as it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

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

GOSPEL

Luke 12:32-40

Jesus encourages disciples to invest their hearts and live fully into God's reign. Instead of facing life with fear, those who know God's generosity are always ready to receive from God and to give to others.

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

Glory to you, O Lord

[Jesus said:] ³² "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³ Sell your possessions and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

³⁵ "Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; ³⁶ be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. ³⁷ Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸ If he comes during the middle of the night or near dawn and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

³⁹ "But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰ You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

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

SERMON

Reverend Christina Kadelbach

SONG OF THE DAY: "Swing Low Sweet Chariot"

CCLI#3697326

Chorus: Swing low, sweet chariot, Comin' for to carry me home.
Swing low, sweet chariot, Comin' for to carry me home.

I looked over Jordan, and what did I see,
Comin' for to carry me home.

A band of angels comin' after me,
Comin' for to carry me home. **Chorus**

If you get there before I do,
Comin' for to carry me home.
Just tell my friends that I'm a comin' too
Comin' for to carry me home. **Chorus**

I'm sometimes up and I'm sometimes down,
Comin' for to carry me home.
But still my soul feels heavenly bound.
Comin' for to carry me home.

Chorus: Swing low, sweet chariot, Comin' for to carry me home.
Swing low, sweet chariot, Comin' for to carry me home.
Comin' for to carry me home.

✠ SHARING AND RECEIVING THE GIFTS OF GOD ✠

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

Following each petition the gathering responds:

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

PEACE

May Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, fill you with love,
mend you with mercy, and grant you 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.



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.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Generous God,

Receive these gifts, the fruit of our labor, the work of our hands, and the trust of our hearts. May they be used for your kingdom; to feed, to heal, to welcome, and to bless. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

O God of justice and love,

we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER – Led by the Praise Team

by John Denver

Our Father in heaven Holy be your name.

Your kingdom come your will be done

On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread

And forgive us the wrong we have done

As we forgive those who wrong us.

And do not put us to the test

But deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory

Are yours now and forever, forever. Amen.

BLESSING

*The presiding minister leads the blessing the gathering responds: **Amen.***

SENDING SONG: "Days of Elijah"

CCLI#1537904

These are the days of Elijah, declaring the word of the Lord.

And these are the days of your servant, Moses, righteousness being restored.

And though these are days of great trials, of famine and darkness and sword.

Still we are the voice in the desert, crying, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord!"

Behold he comes, riding on the clouds, shining like the sun, at the trumpet call.
Lift your voice, it's the year of Jubilee and out of Zion's hill salvation comes.

And these are the days of Ezekiel, dry bones becoming as flesh.
And these are the days of your servant, David, rebuilding a temple of praise
And these are the days of the harvest, the fields are as white in the world.
And we are the laborers in Your vineyard, declaring the word of the Lord.

Behold he comes, riding on the clouds, shining like the sun, at the trumpet call.
Lift your voice, it's the year of Jubilee and out of Zion's hill salvation comes.

Behold he comes, riding on the clouds, shining like the sun, at the trumpet call.
Lift your voice, it's the year of Jubilee and out of Zion's hill salvation comes.

Who was and who is and who is to come.
Who was and who is and who is to come.

Who was and who is and who is to come.
Who was and who is and who is to come.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit. **Thanks be to God!**

We're grateful to have worshiped with you today wherever you are, you are part of this community. Come again, and join us in service, prayer, and fellowship throughout the week.

Join us in the Fellowship Hall following worship for coffee, tea, treats, and conversation.

It's a wonderful time to connect and we're always grateful for those who help host!

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LIFE TOGETHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Life Together highlights the rhythms of our shared life at Bethesda- upcoming events, ways to connect, serve, and grow in faith together. Take a look at what's happening and join in where you feel called. There's a place for you here!

PRAYER & CARE LIST Jim Christensen, Darlene Meinert, Judy Seifert

As a community of faith, we are committed to holding one another in prayer and care. We invite you to pray for those listed here and offer support as you are able. To request prayers for yourself or someone else (with their permission) please contact the church office.

HOSPITALITY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED Serve or bring treats to help create a warm, welcoming space after worship. Sign-up is by the serving window in the Fellowship Hall. Thanks for your support!

THE VEGGIE STAND IS OPEN! Saturdays 7:30-11:00 AM Stop by for sweet corn, baked goods, and homemade jelly. Proceeds support local needs. Bakers, we welcome your donations! Pull up a chair, grab a coffee, and enjoy good company. We've got the chairs and coffee- just come!

CHOIR PRACTICE Tuesdays at 5:30pm. Anyone interested can just show up and join the choir! All are welcome.

CORN FEED our annual Corn Feed will be on Saturday, August 16th, from 4:30-7:00pm. Workers are needed. Signup sheets are in the Fellowship Hall. If you're working the Corn Feed, please take a blue "Live Generously" t-shirt hanging in the Fellowship Hall to wear during the Corn Feed.

THINKING ABOUT MAKING BETHESDA YOUR CHURCH HOME?

We'd be delighted to welcome you into our community of faith! If you're curious about membership or simply want to learn more, connect with Pastor Christina or contact the church office. You're also invited to a casual meet-and-greet with Pastor Christina and others on Tuesday, August 19 at 6:00 p.m. at Castaway's. We're planning to celebrate New Members on Sunday August 24- we'd love for you to be part of it!

VILLAGE OF HOPE donations needed. Zion Lutheran Church in Buffalo will be sending a shipping container full of supplies to The Village of Hope in Zambia this fall. One of the items they are requesting are bicycles (in good/usable condition). They will be sold or used by people in the village. Drop off your bikes here at church after August 17th, and through September 14th (the container will be packed starting on September 15th in Buffalo). Will also be accepting donations for the shipping costs of the container.

PARKING NOTICE To those using our lot as a carpool meet-up spot: please park along the outer edge near the pollinator sanctuary. This helps keep the lot clear in case emergency access is needed for a medical helicopter landing.

NAME TAGS HELP US CONNECT Wearing a name tag is a simple and meaningful way to help us learn each other's names and grow in community. Please remember to wear your reusable name tag each Sunday. Guest name tags are available near the guest book by the main entrance doors.

PASTORAL CARE We care about you! If you are hospitalized, going through a difficult time, or in need of support, please don't hesitate to reach out. Contact Pastor Christina or one of our parish nurses, Darlene or Kathy- we're here for you.

WELCOME GIFTS As a small gesture of hospitality, we offer a Bethesda mug to guests who join us for worship. If you're visiting today, we're glad you're here please take one as our gift to you!

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD LAST WEEK

Sunday, August 3rd, 2025, In Person: 78 Online: 25

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA

Monday, August 11th

9:00 am Women's Devotion
11:30 am Pinochle
7:00 pm AA/Alanon

Tuesday, August 12th

9:00 am Chair Yoga
9:00 am Quilters
4:00 pm Bell Practice
5:30 pm Choir Practice
6:30 pm Praise Team Practice

Wednesday, August 13th

9:00 am Women's Bible Study

Thursday, August 14th

8:00 am ROMEOs (Retired Old Men Eating Out)
9:15 am Chair Yoga

Saturday, August 16th

7:30-11 am Veggie Stand
4:30-7 pm CORN FEED

Sunday, August 17th

9:00 am Worship in Person & Live Stream

Bethesda Lutheran Church - blcmalmo.org

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A member congregation of the NE MN Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Ministers: All People of Bethesda Lutheran Church

Pastoral Ministries: Reverend Christina Kadelbach

blc.reverend@gmail.com 218.213.6731

Church Secretary: Mary Braun

Parish Nurses: Darlene Christensen, RN 320-279-0097

Kathy Berland RN ANP 218-838-6181

Prayer Chain Contacts: Char Berg 320-684-2102 or

Darlene Christensen 320-279-0097

Custodial and Maintenance: Gary Sjerven

Music Specialist & Sound Technician: Jim Christensen

Choir Director: Teri Carlson

Hand Bell Choir Director: Donna Myhre

August Altar Care: Linda Southworth & Karen Elias

Praise Team: Jim & Darlene Christensen, Sheila Penoyer, Sherry Whipple

Ushers: Lee & Barb Forrester

Greeters: Dean & Cheryl Malotky

Lector: Jeannine Bruesewitz

Hospitality: Lynne & Denny Meidlinger, Bev Wedig

Those serving on August 17th:

Music: Adult Choir

Ushers: Barry & Donna Ansell

Greeters: Larry & Carol Pantsari

Lector: Dennis Hennessy

Hospitality: Dianne & Del Jones