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# BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

21590 State Highway 47, Isle, MN 56342

August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025

9:00 a.m.

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## Tenth 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](http://www.elca.org)).

### **✠ GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE ✠**

**~ The assembly responds together with texts in bold print ~**

*The Friendship Notebook helps us remember that we don't worship alone. Please sign it, pass it on, and take a moment to connect with someone around you.*

*We welcome the joyful presence of children in worship.*

*If you need a quieter space, an unstaffed nursery is available down the hallway through the double doors to the left as you exit the sanctuary.*

### **WELCOME**

### **LIFE TOGETHER - ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

# GATHERING SONG "How Firm a Foundation"

ELW #796



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,  
2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,  
3 "When through fi - 'ry tri - als your path - way shall lie,  
4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove



is laid for your faith in Christ Je - sus, the Word!  
for I am your God and will still give you aid;  
my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.  
my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;



What more can he say than to you he has said  
I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign  
and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,



who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?  
up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."  
your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."  
like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

Text: J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt.  
Music: FOUNDATION, Early American

*(Please rise in body or spirit on the last Verse)*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful God, **you free us to love others,**  
**but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.**  
**You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,**  
**but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.**  
**You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity,**

**but we grow weary in doing what is right.  
In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us.  
Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.**

*The presiding minister leads the words of forgiveness.  
The gathering responds: **Amen.***

## **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**

O God, judge eternal, **you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## **CHOIR ANTHEM: Walk by Faith**

✠ **HEARING GOD'S WORD** ✠

## **SCRIPTURE READING:**

**Jeremiah 23:23-29**

*Because Jeremiah preaches the unpopular message of God's judgment, he suffers rejection. Today's reading distinguishes between the true prophet, like Jeremiah, who speaks God's word, and the false prophet who misleads the people through dreams. One is like wheat; the other like worthless straw.*

<sup>23</sup> Am I a God near by, says the LORD, and not a God far off? <sup>24</sup> Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the LORD. <sup>25</sup> I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed! I have dreamed!" <sup>26</sup> How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? <sup>27</sup> They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. <sup>28</sup> Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the LORD. <sup>29</sup> Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

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

## **PSALM: 82**

(read responsively)

<sup>1</sup> God stands to charge the divine council assembled, giving judgment in the midst of the gods:

<sup>2</sup> **"How long will you judge unjustly, and show favor to the wicked?"**

<sup>3</sup> Save the weak and the orphan; defend the humble and needy;  
<sup>4</sup> **rescue the weak and the poor; deliver them from the power of the wicked.**  
<sup>5</sup> They do not know, neither do they understand; they wander about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken.  
<sup>6</sup> **Now I say to you, 'You are gods, and all of you children of the Most High;**  
<sup>7</sup> nevertheless, you shall die like mortals, and fall like any prince.'"  
<sup>8</sup> **Arise, O God, and rule the earth, for you shall take all nations for your own.**

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

## **Hebrews 11:29—12:2**

*The author of Hebrews presents us with rich stories of faith. In a long list of biblical heroes, we find examples of trust in God that enabled them to face the trials of life faithfully. In addition to this "cloud of witnesses," we have Jesus, the perfect model of faithful endurance.*

<sup>29</sup> By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. <sup>30</sup> By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. <sup>31</sup> By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

<sup>32</sup> And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, <sup>33</sup> who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, <sup>34</sup> quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. <sup>35</sup> Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. <sup>36</sup> Others suffered mocking and flogging and even chains and imprisonment. <sup>37</sup> They were stoned to death; they were sawn in two; they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented <sup>38</sup> of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains and in caves and holes in the ground.

<sup>39</sup> Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, <sup>40</sup> since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

<sup>12:1</sup> Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

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

## **GOSPEL**

**Luke 12:49-56**

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

## Glory to you, O Lord

*Jesus delivers harsh words about the purifying and potentially divisive effects of obedience to God's call. The way of the cross often leads followers to encounter hostility and rejection, even from those they love.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>49</sup>“I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already ablaze! <sup>50</sup>I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! <sup>51</sup>Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! <sup>52</sup>From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; <sup>53</sup>they will be divided:

father against son  
and son against father,  
mother against daughter  
and daughter against mother,  
mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law  
and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

<sup>54</sup>He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, ‘It is going to rain,’ and so it happens. <sup>55</sup>And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat,’ and it happens. <sup>56</sup>You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?”

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

## SERMON

Reverend Christina Kadelbach

## SONG OF THE DAY “God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me” ACS #1084



1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to  
2 Bind to my-self the name of Ho - ly, great cloud of wit - ness -  
3 Bright-ness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash - ing of light - ning,  
4 Walk - ing be-hind to hem my jour - ney, go - ing a - head to  
5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that



move my voice; God, be the strength to now up - hold me:  
es en - fold; proph - ets, a - pos - tles, an - gels wit - ness:  
strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of plan - et:  
light my way, and from be - neath, a - bove, and all ways:  
hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:



Text: Richard Bruxvoort Colligan, b. 1967  
Music: GREEN TYLER, Richard Bruxvoort Colligan  
Text and music © 2004 This Here Music, admin. Augsburg Fortress

YouTube Video: Mary Munson

## ✠ 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**

Holy Healer, **we long for a world re-balanced by justice. Where those being starved sit at tables of feasting. Where those weary with generations of exploitation can rise into rest and ease. Where those who tower-over are brought swiftly into humble postures. Until that day, may all our resources be in service to transformation. Bless them to freedom. Bless them to flourishing. Amen.**

### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

*The presiding minister leads the communion liturgy.*

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

### **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.*

Communion Notes:

- Gluten-free wafers are available, please let your server know.
- Alcohol-free juice is located in the center of each tray (lighter in color).
- If you prefer to receive communion at your seat, please inform an usher.
- If you choose not to commune, you are warmly invited to come forward to receive a blessing.

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Gracious God, **you have met us here in bread and wine, in mercy and love. You have made us one family, bound together in you. Send us now into the world with hearts alive with your Spirit, ready to speak your truth, show your mercy, and live your hope. Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

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

**SENDING SONG "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"**

**ELW# 815**

1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to  
 2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to  
 3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to

fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give  
 look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,  
 be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with

light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.  
 shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.  
 pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

*Refrain*

In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the

day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the

cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934  
 Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson  
 Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration

**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!*

## **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, Darlene Meinert, Sharon Roberts, Sherry Whipple

*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** Thank you to all the workers and helpers at the corn feed! Another successful event!

**WELCA MEETING** Wednesday, August 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am. All women of the church are welcome to participate.

**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 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 17<sup>th</sup>, and through September 14<sup>th</sup> (the container will be packed starting on September 15<sup>th</sup> in Buffalo). We 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 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025, In Person:   51   Online:   18  

**THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA**

**Monday, August 18<sup>th</sup>**

9-11 am Crafters  
10:00 am Council Meeting  
11:30 am Pinochle  
7:00 pm AA/Alanon

**Tuesday, August 19<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 am Chair Yoga  
4:00 pm Bell Practice  
5:30 pm Choir Practice  
6:00 pm New Member Meet & Greet, Castaways  
6:30 pm Praise Team Practice

**Wednesday, August 20<sup>th</sup>**

9 am-4 pm WIC  
9:00 am Women's Bible Study  
10:00 am WELCA meeting

**Thursday, August 21<sup>st</sup>**

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

**Saturday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>**

7:30-11 am Veggie Stand

**Sunday, August 24<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 am New Member Sunday! ~ Worship in Person and live stream

**Bethesda Lutheran Church [blcmalmo.org](http://blcmalmo.org)**

Office: 320-684-2123 (1-877-684-2123) Fax: 320-684-2836

E-mail address: [blcmalmo@gmail.com](mailto:blcmalmo@gmail.com)

*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](mailto: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

**Serving this week:**

**Those serving on August 17<sup>th</sup>:**

**Music:** Adult Choir

**Ushers:** Barry & Donna Ansell

**Greeters:** Larry & Carol Pantsari

**Lector:** Dennis Hennessy

**Hospitality:** Dianne & Del Jones

**Those serving on August 24<sup>th</sup>:**

**Ushers:** Sherry Whipple & Winnie Zahradka

**Greeters:** Darrell Kelly & Dick Stebbins

**Lector:** Karen Elias

**Hospitality:**