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# BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

21590 State Highway 47, Isle, MN 56342

August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025

9:00 a.m.

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## Eleventh 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 "Morning Has Broken"**

**ELW #556**



1 Morn - ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing;  
 2 Sweet the rain's new fall, sun - lit from heav - en,  
 3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing,



black-bird has spo - ken like the first bird.  
 like the first dew - fall on the first grass.  
 born of the one light E - den saw play!



Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the morn - ing!  
 Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet gar - den,  
 Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - 'ry morn - ing,



Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!  
 sprung in com - plete - ness where God's feet pass.  
 God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965  
 Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune  
 Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, admin. David Higham Associates

*(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, mighty and immortal, **you know that as fragile creatures surrounded by great dangers, we cannot by ourselves stand upright. Give us strength of mind and body, so that even when we suffer because of human sin, we may rise victorious through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## **BELL CHOIR ANTHEM: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"**

‡ **HEARING GOD'S WORD** ‡

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

**Isaiah 58:9b-14**

*God promises those who have returned from exile that where justice and mercy prevail, the ruins will be rebuilt and light will rise in the darkness. It is a day for new beginnings.*

<sup>9b</sup> If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

<sup>10</sup> if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.

<sup>11</sup> The LORD will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places and make your bones strong, and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters never fail.

<sup>12</sup> Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

<sup>13</sup> If you refrain from trampling the Sabbath, from pursuing your own interests on my holy day; if you call the Sabbath a delight and the holy day of the LORD honorable; if you honor it, not going your own ways, serving your own interests or pursuing your own affairs;

<sup>14</sup> then you shall take delight in the LORD, and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth; I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

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

## **PSALM: 103:1-8**

<sup>1</sup> Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

<sup>2</sup> **Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all God's benefits—**

<sup>3</sup> who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases;

<sup>4</sup> **who redeems your life from the grave and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**

<sup>5</sup> who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

<sup>6</sup> **O LORD, you provide vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.**

<sup>7</sup> You made known your ways to Moses and your works to the children of Israel.

<sup>8</sup> **LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

## **Hebrews 12:18-29**

*Using images of Moses, the writer presents a striking vision of the new covenant of God made possible in Christ. There is no longer fear; only awe in the new promise in Christ into which we are invited.*

<sup>18</sup> You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, <sup>19</sup> and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. <sup>20</sup> (For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death." <sup>21</sup> Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear.") <sup>22</sup> But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, <sup>23</sup> and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, <sup>24</sup> and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

<sup>25</sup> See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking, for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! <sup>26</sup> At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven." <sup>27</sup> This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of what is shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain. <sup>28</sup> Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe, <sup>29</sup> for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

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

## **GOSPEL**

## **Luke 13:10-17**

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

### **Glory to you, O Lord**

*Jesus heals a woman on the sabbath, offering her a new beginning for her life. When challenged by a narrow reading of the sabbath command, Jesus responds by expanding "sabbath work" to include setting people free from bondage.*

<sup>10</sup> Now [Jesus] was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. <sup>11</sup> And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. <sup>12</sup> When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." <sup>13</sup> When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. <sup>14</sup> But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the Sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured and not on the Sabbath day." <sup>15</sup> But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger and lead it to water? <sup>16</sup> And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the Sabbath day?" <sup>17</sup> When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame, and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things being done by him.

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

**SERMON**

Reverend Christina Kadelbach

**SONG OF THE DAY "Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand"**

**ELW #441**



1 Oh, hap - py day when we shall stand a - mid the  
 2 Oh, bless - ed day when Christ shall come and show him -  
 3 Oh, what a might - y rush - ing flood of joy and  
 4 O Lord, your grace is ev - 'ry - thing; your love has



heav'n-ly throng; and sing with hosts from ev - 'ry land the  
 self as Lord, and thou - sands meet in their new home which  
 love and peace will roll down o - ver us with good and  
 made us free to stand a - mong the saints and sing the



new ce - les - tial song, the new ce - les - tial song.  
 Je - sus has pre - pared, which Je - sus has pre - pared.  
 bless - ed - ness and grace, and bless - ed - ness and grace.  
 glo - ry that we see, the glo - ry that we see.

Text: Wilhelm A. Wexels, 1797-1866; tr. composite  
 Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman, 1480-1561  
 Text © 1958, 1978 Augsburg Fortress

## **PRESENTATION OF NEW MEMBERS**

*Those being welcomed, sponsors and council members gather around the font. The presiding minister leads the invitation, response, and prayer.*

Pastor: We give thanks for the unique stories and talents you bring to this community. The church is a living organism, and your commitment adds value and energy to who we are as a congregation.

Sponsors: We promise to welcome your faith as it flows through life's joy and challenges. We desire for this church to be a safe place where you can show up as your true self and be received with love and grace.

**All: Faith is a shared journey, and we are in this together. In this community, we choose curiosity over certainty, and strive to honor each other's faith expressions and life experiences with respect and love.**

Council Member: We also acknowledge that we will fail you. This congregation will both embrace and resist change. Sometimes we will disagree and make mistakes. So we ask that, on this side of disappointment, you promise to stick around for the healing that surely comes. Because if you go before the listening and the mending, you will miss the holy thing about being the church: the dying and the rising, the forgiving and the living. Do you desire to become members of this congregation, investing in the future of this shared mission and ministry?

New Members: We choose the fullness of this community!

**All: We welcome you as members of Bethesda Lutheran, inspired and invested in the ministry we all share. You are beloved, and your presence here is a gift! May God bless these new relationships and our common call as agents of God's mercy and the abundance the world needs!**

## **✠ 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:*

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

## **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**

Creator God, **in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. 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

Mothering God, **you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. Amen.**

## BLESSING

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

## SENDING SONG "Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

ELW# 886



- 1 Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
- 2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,
- 3 The name of Je-sus charms our fears and bids our sor-rows cease,
- 4 He speaks, and lis-t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re-ceive;



the glo-ries of my God and king, the tri-umphs of his grace!  
to spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.  
sings mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.  
the mourn-ful, bro-ken hearts re-joice, the hum-ble poor be-lieve.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

## 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!*

*Acknowledgements: Texts and hymns from [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com) copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License # SAS028183. New Revised Standard Version updated edition Bible Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Additional Liturgical texts © 2025 Reverend Christina Kadelbach.*

## **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, 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 LAST VEGGIE STAND IS THIS WEEKEND!** Saturday, August 30<sup>th</sup>, from 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 chairs and coffee- just come!

**LET'S GO FISHING** Last Nature Tour is this week. Aug 27<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 Nature tour on Rice Lake. Check the Sign-up sheets to see if any spots have opened up. They are located in the Narthex on your way into the Fellowship Hall.

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

**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 have a pancake breakfast after worship on Sunday, Sept 14<sup>th</sup>, to earn donations towards the shipping costs of the container.

**KITCHEN CLEAN-UP DAY** — Monday, Aug 25 at 8:00 am. Roll up your sleeves and help freshen up our church kitchen! Please bring your own cleaning supplies and rags. Many hands make light work—come for an hour or stay as long as you can. **Thank you!**

**WEDNESDAY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY-** New Series

Begins Sept. 10 at 9:00 am. Join us for "Together by Grace: Bible Conversations on Romans". Romans proclaims the good news that God's saving love in Christ is for all people and all creation- nothing can separate us from that love. This study will help us explore grace, faith, and life together in Christ.

A roundtable-style study that invites us to dwell in Scripture and in community. With guided conversations and open-ended questions, we'll engage the text honestly, wrestle with tough questions, and listen for the Spirit together. All women are welcome; come as you are, bring a friend, and pull up a chair

**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 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025:

In Person:   75   Online:   26  

## **THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA**

### **Monday, August 25<sup>th</sup>**

8:00 am Kitchen Cleanup

11:30 am Pinochle

7:00 pm AA/Alanon

### **Tuesday, August 26<sup>th</sup>**

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 27<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 am Women's Bible Study

### **Thursday, August 28<sup>th</sup>**

8:00 am ROMEOs (Retired Old Men Eating Out)

9:15 am Chair Yoga

### **Saturday, August 30<sup>th</sup>**

7:30-11 am Veggie Stand – Last One of the Year

### **Sunday, August 31<sup>st</sup>**

9:00 am Worship in Person and live stream

### **Monday, September 1<sup>st</sup>**

Labor Day – Office Closed

## **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, August 24<sup>th</sup>:**

**Music:** Bell Choir

**Ushers:** Sherry Whipple & Winnie Zahradka

**Greeters:** Darrell Kelly & Dick Stebbins

**Lector:** Karen Elias

**Hospitality:** Mary Braun, Brenda & Gary Sjerven

**Those serving on August 31<sup>st</sup>:**

**Ushers:** Gary & Brenda Sjerven

**Greeters:** Del & Dianne Jones

**Lector:** Merrily Jones

**Hospitality:**