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# BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

21590 State Highway 47, Isle, MN 56342

August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025

9:00 a.m.

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## Eighth 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 "Build a Longer Table"**

on screen



1 Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,  
 2 Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;  
 3 Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.  
 4 When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,



feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all.  
 where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.  
 Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pense.  
 Christ be - came our door - way to the reign of God.



Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,  
 For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,  
 When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,  
 So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.



Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.  
 Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side.  
 Christ tears down our fenc - es; all are wel - come here.  
 None can be ex - clud - ed; all must find a home.

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984  
 Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol  
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YouTube Video: Mary Munson

*(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**

Benevolent God, **you are the source, the guide, and the goal of our lives. Teach us to love what is worth loving, to reject what is offensive to you, and to treasure what is precious in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## **✠ HEARING GOD'S WORD ✠**

### **SCRIPTURE READING**

### **Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23**

*The teacher of wisdom who wrote Ecclesiastes sees that working for mere accumulation of wealth turns life into an empty game, a "vanity of vanities." Nevertheless, he asserts in the next verse, it is good to find enjoyment in one's work because such enjoyment is a gift from God.*

<sup>2</sup>Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

<sup>12</sup>I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. <sup>13</sup>I applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to humans to be busy with. <sup>14</sup>I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun, and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind.

<sup>2:18</sup>I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to my successor, <sup>19</sup>and who knows whether he will be wise or foolish? Yet he will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. <sup>20</sup>So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, <sup>21</sup>because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. <sup>22</sup>What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? <sup>23</sup>For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.

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

## **PSALM: 49:1-12**

<sup>1</sup> Hear this, all you peoples; give ear, all you who dwell in the world,

<sup>2</sup> **you of high degree and low, rich and poor together.**

<sup>3</sup> My mouth shall speak of wisdom, and my heart shall meditate on understanding.

<sup>4</sup> **I will incline my ear to a proverb and set forth my riddle upon the harp.**

<sup>5</sup> Why should I be afraid in evil days, when the wickedness of those at my heels surrounds me,

<sup>6</sup> **the wickedness of those who put their trust in their own prowess, and boast of their great riches?**

<sup>7</sup> One can never redeem another, or give to God the ransom for another's life;

<sup>8</sup> **for the ransom of a life is so great that there would never be enough to pay it,**

<sup>9</sup> in order to live forever and ever and never see the grave.

<sup>10</sup> **For we see that the wise die also; like the dull and stupid they perish and leave their wealth to those who come after them.**

<sup>11</sup> Their graves shall be their homes forever, their dwelling places from generation to generation, though they had named lands after themselves.

<sup>12</sup> **Even though honored, they cannot live forever; they are like the beasts that perish.**

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

## **Colossians 3:1-11**

*Life in Christ includes a radical reorientation of our values. Just as the newly baptized shed their old clothes and put on new garments, so Christians are called to let go of greed and take hold of a life shaped by God's love in Christ.*

<sup>1</sup> So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, <sup>3</sup> for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

<sup>5</sup> Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). <sup>6</sup> On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. <sup>7</sup> These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. <sup>8</sup> But now you must get rid of all such things: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. <sup>9</sup> Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices <sup>10</sup> and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. <sup>11</sup> In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, enslaved and free, but Christ is all and in all!

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

## GOSPEL

Luke 12:13-21

*In God's reign, the "rich will be sent away empty." Jesus uses a parable to warn against identifying the worth of one's life with the value of one's possessions rather than one's relationship with God.*

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

### Glory to you, O Lord

<sup>13</sup> Someone in the crowd said to [Jesus,] "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." <sup>14</sup> But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" <sup>15</sup> And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." <sup>16</sup> Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. <sup>17</sup> And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' <sup>18</sup> Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. <sup>19</sup> And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' <sup>20</sup> But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' <sup>21</sup> So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

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

## SERMON

Reverend Christina Kadelbach

## SONG OF THE DAY "Son of God, Eternal Savior"

ELW #655



1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,  
2 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for oth - ers live.  
3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and Prince of peace;  
4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,



Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race,  
Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed; free - ly may your ser - vants give.  
hush the storm of strife and pas - sion, bid its cru - el dis - cords cease.  
Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race:



you our head, who, throned in glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead:  
Yours the gold and yours the sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea;  
By your pa - tient years of toil - ing, by your si - lent hours of pain,  
by your pray - ing, by your will - ing that your peo - ple should be one,



fill us with your love and pit - y, heal our wrong, and help our need.  
we but stew-ards of your boun-ty held in sol - emn trust will be.  
quench our fe-vered thirst of plea-sure, stem our self - ish greed of gain.  
grant, oh, grant our hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

Text: Somerset C. Lowry, 1855–1932

Music: IN BABILONE, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenliedjes en Contradansen*, 1710

## ✠ 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**

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 “A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing”**

**ELW# 393**



1 A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New hymns through-out the world shall  
 2 The ho - ly ap - os - tol - ic band up - on the Mount of Ol - ives  
 3 To whom the shin - ing an - gels cry, “Why stand and gaze up - on the  
 4 “You see him now, as - cend - ing high up to the por - tals of the  
 5 O ris - en Christ, as - cend - ed Lord, all praise to you let earth ac -



ring: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Christ, by a road be - fore un -  
stand, Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! and with his faith-ful fol-l'wers  
sky?" Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! "This is the Sav - ior!" thus they  
sky." Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! "Here - af - ter Je - sus you shall  
cord: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! You are, while end-less ag - es



trod, as - cends un - to the throne of God.  
see their Lord as - cend in maj - es - ty.  
say, "this is his glo - rious tri - umph day!" Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le -  
see re - turn - ing in great maj - es - ty."  
run, with Fa - ther and with Spir - it one.



lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

YouTube Video: Mary Munson

## 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 & Darlene Christensen, Darlene Meinert

*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.*

**BLESSING BOX** Today's donations will go to Aitkin County Care. We are blessed to have so many great things in life – family, friends, and God, please consider a donation today to help others. Thank You!

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 10<sup>TH</sup> OUTDOOR WORSHIP** Bring your lawn chair and join us in the Memorial Garden area by the fountain for worship next Sunday. No Communion. *(Weather permitting)*

**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!

**LET'S GO FISHING** provides free fishing and boating trips for senior citizens, individuals with disabilities, and veterans.

Aug 27<sup>th</sup> 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!

**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 16<sup>th</sup>, from 4:30-7:00pm. Workers are needed. Signup sheets are in the Fellowship Hall.

**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!

**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, July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025, In Person:   80   Online:   22  

### **THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA**

**Monday, August 4<sup>th</sup>**

9-11 am Crafters

11:30 am Pinochle

7:00 pm AA/Alanon

**Tuesday, August 5<sup>th</sup>**

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

**Wednesday, August 6<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 am Women's Bible Study

**Thursday, August 7<sup>th</sup>**

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

9:15 am Chair Yoga

**Saturday, August 9<sup>th</sup>**

7:30-11 am Veggie Stand

**Sunday, August 10<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 am Outdoor Worship in Person (live stream later in the day)

**Bethesda Lutheran Church blcmalmo.org**

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

E-mail address: 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 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:** Dianne Jones, Linda Southworth & Karen Elias

**Serving this week:**

**Those serving on August 3<sup>rd</sup>:**

**Ushers:** Mark & Mary Vukelich

**Lector:** Judy Seifert

**Greeters:** Wally & Bev Swenson

**Hospitality:** Mary & Mark Vukelich

Libby & David Brown

**Those serving on August 10<sup>th</sup>:**

**Ushers:** Lee & Barb Forrester

**Lector:** Jeannine Bruesewitz

**Greeters:** Dean & Cheryl Malotky

**Hospitality:** Lynne & Denny Meidlinger

Bev Wedig