
BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

21590 State Highway 47, Isle, MN 56342

August 31st, 2025

9:00 a.m.

Twelfth 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 ~

*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 "God Is Here"

ELW #526

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



1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer
2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long
3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's
4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of



praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure
need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;
flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,
change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;



what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the
here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es -
Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants
help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's



world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts
ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,
of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore
ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;



wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.
we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000
Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991
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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, **you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

✠ HEARING GOD'S WORD ✠

SCRIPTURE READING

Proverbs 25:6-7a

The book of Proverbs is part of a collection of writings known as wisdom literature. Wisdom literature gave directions to Israel's leaders and people for the conduct of daily life. Today's reading is about humility.

⁶ Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence
or stand in the place of the great,

^{7a} for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"
than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

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

PSALM: 112

¹ Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD and have great delight in God's commandments!

² **Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

³ Wealth and riches will be in their house, and their righteousness will last forever.

⁴ **Light shines in the darkness for the upright; the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**

⁵ It is good for them to be generous in lending and to manage their affairs with justice.

⁶ **For they will never be shaken; the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**

⁷ They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

⁸ **Their heart is established and will not shrink, until they see their desire upon their enemies.**

⁹ They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever; they will hold up their head with honor.

¹⁰ **The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine away; the desires of the wicked will perish.**

SCRIPTURE READING:

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

The conclusion of the letter to the Hebrews contains suggestions for the conduct of a holy life, all of which are shaped by God's love toward us in Jesus Christ.

¹ Let mutual affection continue. ² Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³ Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴ Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. ⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." ⁶ So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;
I will not be afraid.

What can anyone do to me?"

⁷ Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ¹⁵ Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶ Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

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

GOSPEL

Luke 14:1, 7-14

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

Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus observes guests jockeying for position at the table. He uses the opportunity to teach his hearers to choose humility rather than self-exaltation. Jesus also makes an appeal for hosts to imitate God's gracious hospitality to those in need.

¹ On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

⁷ When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a

parable. ⁸“When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, ⁹and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

¹²He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

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

SERMON

Reverend Christina Kadelbach

SONG OF THE DAY “As We Gather at Your Table”

ELW #522



1 As we gath-er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
 2 Turn our wor-ship in - to wit-ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
 3 Gra-cious Spir - it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
 send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife.
 where tri - um-phant Love will wel-come those who had been last and least.



Nour-ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
 Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for - give as you for - gave;
 There no more will en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



teach us through this ho - ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic - t'ry known.
 may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.
 as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound-ing joy.

✠ 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.

The kingdom of God is set before you.
Eat and rejoice.

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 "If You But Trust in God to Guide You"

ELW# 769



1 If you but trust in God to guide you with gen - tle
2 What gain is there in anx - ious weep - ing, in help - less
3 The Lord our rest - less hearts is hold - ing, in peace and
4 Sing, pray, and keep God's ways un - swerv - ing, of - fer your



hand through all your ways, you'll find that God is there be -
an - ger and dis - tress? If you are in your Sav - ior's
qui - et - ness con - tent. We rest in God's good will un -
ser - vice faith - ful - ly. Trust heav - en's word; though un - de -

side you when cross - es come, in try - ing days. Trust then in
keep - ing, in sor - row will he love you less? For Christ who
fold - ing, what wis - dom from on high has sent. God, who has
serv - ing, you'll find God's prom - ise true to be. This is our

God's un - chang - ing love; build on the rock that will not move.
took for you a cross will bring you safe through ev - 'ry loss.
cho - sen us by grace, knows ver - y well the fears we face.
con - fi - dence in - deed: God nev - er fails in time of need.

Text: Georg Neumark, 1621–1681; tr. composite
Music: WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT, Georg Neumark
Text © 1978, 2006 Augsburg Fortress

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Rooted in grace, free to serve in love.

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 Theresa Berry, Jim Christensen, Darlene Meinert, Brenda Sjerven, 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

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 17th, and through September 14th (the container will be packed starting on September 15th in Buffalo). We will also have a pancake breakfast after worship on Sunday, Sept 14th, to earn donations towards the shipping costs of the container.

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 24th, 2025:

In Person: 85 Online: 18

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA

Monday, September 1st

Labor Day – Office Closed

11:30 am Pinochle

7:00 pm AA/Alanon

Tuesday, September 2nd

9:00 am Chair Yoga

4:00 pm Bell Practice

5:30 pm Choir Practice

6:30 pm Praise Team Practice

Wednesday, September 3rd

9:00 am Women's Bible Study

Thursday, September 4th

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

9:15 am Chair Yoga

Sunday, September 7th

9:00 am Worship in Person and 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

Serving this week, August 31st:

Ushers: Gary & Brenda Sjerven

Greeters: Del & Dianne Jones

Lector: London Feland

Hospitality:

Those serving on September 7th:

Ushers: Mark & Mary Vukelich

Greeters: Wally & Bev Swenson

Lector: LuAnn Gordon

Hospitality: Kat & Bob Carlson