
BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

21590 State Highway 47, Isle, MN 56342

September 14th, 2025

9:00 a.m.

Fourteenth 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.*

CALL TO WORSHIP: Dance with Me

This is holy time, we're gathered together to worship You
To love one another

And as we pray, and as we sing, and as we dance

And as we dream
Oh, Lord, I beg of you, just this one thing.....

Won't You dance with me throughout the heavens and below the
sea

Up on the mountain tops
Roll with the breeze, come carry me,
Lord, won't you dance with me

(Repeat)

WELCOME

LIFE TOGETHER - ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

GATHERING SONG "Amazing Grace" (Eagle's Style)

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

Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found; was blind, but now I see.

Chorus: I've got a peaceful, easy feeling
I know you won't let me down
Cause I'm ah-already standing on solid ground

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear; And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear; The hour I first believed! **Chorus**

Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far; And grace will lead me home. **Chorus**

The Lord has promised good to me; His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be, As long as life endures. **Chorus**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

Amen.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful and loving God,
we are your stiff-necked people.

**We trample on the needy.
We grumble about your grace to others.
We turn away from the poor.
Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.
Rejoice over us as ones who were lost
and have been found.
Amen.**

*The presiding minister leads the words of forgiveness.
(Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful.
Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.
You who were lost have been found.
In the name of † Jesus, your sins are forgiven!)*
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, **overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

PRAISE TEAM ANTHEM: "Your Grace is Enough"

**by Matt Maher
CCLI#4477026**

† HEARING GOD'S WORD †

SCRIPTURE READING:

Exodus 32:7-14

While Moses is on Mount Sinai, the people grow restless and make a golden calf to worship. Today's reading shows Moses as the mediator between an angry God and a sinful people. Moses reminds God that the Israelites are God's own people, and boldly asks for mercy for them.

⁷The Lord said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; ⁸they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!' " ⁹The Lord said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. ¹⁰Now let me alone so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, and of you I will make a great nation."

¹¹But Moses implored the Lord his God and said, "O Lord, why does your wrath

burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? ¹²Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. ¹³Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.' " ¹⁴And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

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

PSALM: 51:1-10

¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

² **Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.**

³ For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

⁴ **Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**

⁵ Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother's womb.

⁶ **Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me, and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

⁷ Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

⁸ **Let me hear joy and gladness; that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

⁹ Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.

¹⁰ **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Timothy 1:12-17

The letters to Timothy and Titus are called the pastoral epistles because they contain advice especially intended for leaders in the church. Here the mercy shown to Paul, who once persecuted the church, is cited as evidence that even the most unworthy may become witnesses to the grace of God.

¹²I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he considered me faithful and appointed me to his service, ¹³even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me,

as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience as an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

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

GOSPEL

Luke 15:1-10

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

Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus tells two stories that suggest a curious connection between the lost being found and sinners repenting. God takes the initiative to find sinners, each of whom is so precious to God that their recovery brings joy in heaven.

¹Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³So he told them this parable: ⁴"Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.' ⁷Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

⁸"Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' ¹⁰Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

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

SERMON

Reverend Christina Kadelbach

SONG OF THE DAY "Create in Me A Clean Heart"

CCLI# 1154856

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence
And take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
And uphold me with your free spirit

‡ 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, **receive 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

Lord of the harvest, **we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

The presiding minister leads the communion liturgy.

Following the words of institution the gathering responds:

THE LORD'S PRAYER – Lead by the Praise Team

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.

Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.
Come to this meal of mercy.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

BLESSING

The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free,
✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG "As You Go On Your Way"

As you go on your way, may God go with you.
May He go before you to show you the way.
May He go behind you to encourage you,
Beside you to befriend you,
Above you to watch over,
Within you to give you peace.

As you go on your way, may God go with you.
May He go before you to show you the way.
May He go behind you to encourage you,
Beside you to befriend you,
Above you to watch over,
Within you to give you peace.
Within you to give you peace.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

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, 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.

COFFEE SERVERS NEEDED Sharing coffee and treats after worship is one of the ways we care for one another and build community. You're invited to sign up to serve by writing your name on the sheet on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall by the serving window. Not able to serve? Consider bringing treats to stock the freezer. Every contribution helps provide a warm and welcoming space for connection.

WANTED: Aluminum pie pans for those who bake pies for the Bazaar. They can be left in the Fellowship Hall.

VILLAGE OF HOPE We will have a pancake breakfast today after worship to earn donations towards the shipping costs of the container. THANK YOU for all the bike donations!

CHRISTIAN LADIES AROUND the LAKE will meet on Sept. 18 at 12:30pm at Tulibee Tavern. Lunch and a speaker, \$15.75. For reservations call Lois (320) 674-0136. See the bulletin board in the Narthex for more information.

DITCH CLEANING will be on Wednesday, September 17th at 10:00am. Please join us to beautify the roadsides leading into our church. Let Gary Sjerven know if you would like to help or just show up!

CRAFTERS GATHERING Monday, 15th at 9:00 a.m. Come enjoy a fun and creative morning with fellow crafters! We'll be working on a special project for the Holiday Bazaar in October.

BONFIRE & BBQ Join us on Friday, September 19 at 5:30pm for Bonfire & Music by Tin Man around the firepit. Hot Dogs, Buns, & Chips provided, bring a dish to pass.

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, September 7th, 2025:

In Person: 79 Online: xx

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA

Monday, September 15th

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

Tuesday, September 16th

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

Wednesday, September 17th

9:00 am Women's Bible Study
9:00 am Ditch Cleanup

Thursday, September 18th

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

Friday, September 19th

5:30 pm Bonfire (with music)

Sunday, September 21st

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

September Altar Care: Sylvia Tapelt and Winnie Zahradka

Serving this week, September 14th:

Music: Praise Team

Ushers: Julie Swaggert & Dennis Hennessy

Greeters: Dean & Cheryl Malotky

Lector: Kat Carlson

Hospitality: Pancake Breakfast-Free Will Offering

Those serving on September 21st:

Music: Adult Choir

Ushers: Barry & Donna Ansell

Greeters: Gary & Brenda Sjerven

Lector: Karen Elias

Hospitality: Judie Birk, Karen & Rich Carron (*I think*)