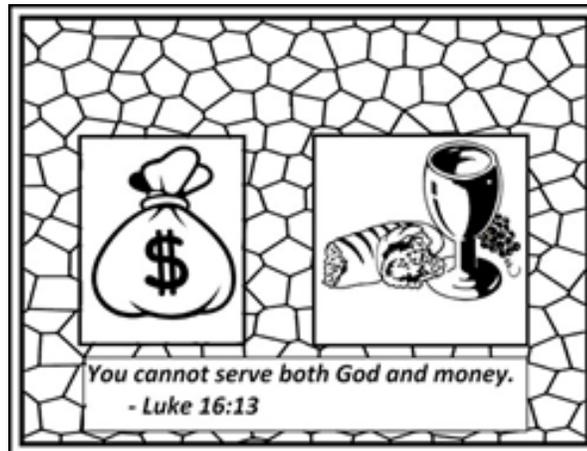

BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

21590 State Highway 47, Isle, MN 56342

September 21st, 2025

9:00 a.m.

Fifteenth 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 "We Give Thee But Thine Own"

ELW #686

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



1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;
 2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,
 3 The cap - tive to re - lease, to God the lost to bring,
 4 And we be - lieve thy word, though dim our faith may be:



all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.
 and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.
 to teach the way of life and peace—it is a Christ - like thing,
 what - e'er we do for thine, O Lord, we do it un - to thee.

Text: William W. How, 1823–1897, alt.
 Music: HEATH, L. Mason and G. Webb, *Cantica Lauda*, 1850

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

God among us, **we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

BELL CHOIR ANTHEM: "Lift High the Cross"

✠ **HEARING GOD'S WORD** ✠

SCRIPTURE READING:

Amos 8:4-7

Amos was called by God to prophesy in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Peace and prosperity in Israel led to corrupt business practices and oppression of the poor. The prophet declares that God will not tolerate such a situation.

⁴Hear this, you who trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land, ⁵saying, "When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain, and the Sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale?

We will make the ephah smaller and the shekel heavier and practice deceit with false balances, ⁶buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals and selling the sweepings of the wheat."

⁷The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

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

PSALM: 113

¹Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants of the LORD; praise the name of the LORD.

²**Let the name of the LORD be blessed, from this time forth forevermore.**

³From the rising of the sun to its going down let the name of the LORD be praised.

⁴**The LORD is high above all nations; God's glory above the heavens.**

⁵Who is like the LORD our God, who sits enthroned on high,

⁶**but stoops to behold the heavens and the earth?**

⁷The LORD takes up the weak out of the dust and lifts up the poor from the ashes,

⁸**enthroning them with the rulers, with the rulers of the people.**

⁹The LORD makes the woman of a childless house to be a joyful mother of children. Hallelujah!

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Timothy 2:1-7

The pastoral epistles offer insight into how early Christians understood many practical matters, such as church administration and worship. The church's focused prayer for others is an expression of the single-minded passion God has toward us in Jesus.

¹First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ²for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³This is right and acceptable before God our Savior, ⁴who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, ⁶who gave himself a ransom for all —this was attested at the right time.⁷ For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth; I am not lying), a teacher of the gentiles in faith and truth.

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

GOSPEL

Luke 16:1-13

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

Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus tells the curious story of a dishonest manager who cheats his employer and then is commended by him for having acted so shrewdly. Jesus wonders why his own followers are less creative and diligent in their stewardship given that they are managers of a far more valuable household.

¹Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. ²So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.'³ Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.'⁵ So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' ⁶He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.'⁷ Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.'⁸ And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. ⁹And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

¹⁰"Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹²And if

you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

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 Whose Giving Knows No Ending”

ELW #678



1 God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and end - less store:
 2 Skills and time are ours for press - ing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
 3 Trea - sure, too, you have en - trust - ed, gain through pow'rs your grace con - ferred;



na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom, cost - ly cross, grave's shat - tered door,
 all at peace in health and free - dom, rac - es joined, the church made one.
 ours to use for home and kin - dred, and to spread the gos - pel word.



gift - ed by you, we turn to you, of - f'ring up our - selves in praise;
 Now di - rect our dai - ly la - bor, lest we strive for self a - lone;
 O - pen wide our hands in shar - ing, as we heed Christ's age - less call,



thank - ful song shall rise for - ev - er, gra - cious do - nor of our days.
 born with tal - ents, make us ser - vants fit to an - swer at your throne.
 heal - ing, teach - ing, and re - claim - ing, serv - ing you by lov - ing all.

Text: Robert L. Edwards, 1915–2006
 Music: RUSTINGTON, C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918
 Text © 1961, ren. 1989 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.
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✠ **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.

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.

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 "Rise Up, Oh Saints of God"

ELW #669



- 1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;
- 2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulf's earth's frame;
- 3 Rise up, O saints of God! The king - dom's task em - brace;
- 4 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain;
- 5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;



Christ rose tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.
as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, the word of hope pro - claim.
re - dress sin's cru - el con - se - quence; give jus - tice larg - er place.
stretch forth your hand of heal - ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.
and, quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

Text: Norman O. Forness, b. 1936
Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825-1893
Text © Norman O. Forness, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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 Del Jones, 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 Thank you for your donations of bicycles and funds to help ship them to The Village of Hope. We collected over 40 bikes and earned more than \$1,200 at the Pancake Breakfast! Thank you to those that helped to transport the bikes to Buffalo.

READING THE BIBLE Have you ever closed the Bible and thought, "what did I just read?" Maybe you've tried to read through the Bible but quit when it felt confusing or impersonal. Consider dipping your toe in the pool by reading through the New Testament with Pastor Christina beginning October 1. Email BLCBibleRead@gmail.com if you are interested.

FLU SHOT CLINIC AT BETHESDA Aitkin County Health & Human services will provide a flu shot clinic here on Monday, October 6th from 1:00pm – 4:00pm. See the posting on the bulletin board for more information and instruction for pre-registration.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2026 On September 23 at 1:00 there will be a planning session looking ahead to 2026. Any ideas on what you would like to see happen at Bethesda? Send a message to Faith Health Wellness (Darlene) or Mission and Evangelism (Joanne) OR attend the meeting and share your ideas.

FAITH HEALTH & WELLNESS There will be a Faith Health and Wellness meeting on Tuesday, September 23rd at 12 noon. Anyone interested in promoting the health and wellness of Bethesda or being a part of the Outreach Visitation team is invited to attend. This meeting will be prior to the 1 pm planning meeting of the combined Mission and Evangelism/Faith Health and Wellness committees.

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH Fall Festival on Saturday, September 27th. See poster on the bulletin board in the narthex for more information.

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 14th, 2025:

In Person: 72 Online: 8

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA

Monday, September 22nd

11:30 am Pinochle

7:00 pm AA/Alanon

Tuesday, September 23rd

9:00 am Quilters

9:00 am Chair Yoga

12:00 noon Faith, Health & Wellness Meeting

1:00 pm Combined Mission and Evangelism/Faith Health and Wellness meeting

4:00 pm Bell Practice

5:30 pm Choir Practice

6:30 pm Praise Team Practice

Wednesday, September 24th

9:00 am Women's Bible Study

Thursday, September 25th

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

9:15 am Chair Yoga

Sunday, September 28th

9:00 am Worship in Person and live stream

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

September Altar Care: Sylvia Tapelt and Winnie Zahradka

Serving this week, September 21st:

Music: Bell Choir

Ushers: Barry & Donna Ansell

Greeters: Gary & Brenda Sjerven

Lector: Karen Elias

Hospitality: Karen Carron, Julie Swaggert, Brenda & Gary Sjerven

Those serving on September 28th:

Ushers: Sherry Whipple & Winnie Zahradka

Greeters: Larry & Carol Pantsari

Lector: Dennis Hennessy

Hospitality: