
BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

21590 State Highway 47, Isle, MN 56342

September 28th, 2025

9:00 a.m.

Sixteenth 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 of Grace and God of Glory"

ELW #705

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



1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
 2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -
 3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils



pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us
 your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
 we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion



bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,



for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878–1969
 Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

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, rich in mercy, **you look with compassion on this troubled world. Feed us with your grace, and grant us the treasure that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

† HEARING GOD'S WORD †

SCRIPTURE READING:

Amos 6:1a, 4-7

The prophet Amos announces that Israel's great wealth is a cause not for rejoicing but rather sorrow, because God's people have forgotten how to share their wealth with the poor. The wealthy will be the first to go into exile when judgment comes.

^{1a} Woe to those who are at ease in Zion and for those who feel secure on Mount Samaria.

⁴ Woe to those who lie on beds of ivory and lounge on their couches and eat lambs from the flock and calves from the stall, ⁵ who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp and like David improvise on instruments of music, ⁶ who drink wine from bowls and anoint themselves with the finest oils but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!

⁷ Therefore they shall now be the first to go into exile, and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away.

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

PSALM: 146

¹ Hallelujah! Praise the LORD, O my soul!

² **I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

³ Put not your trust in rulers, in mortals in whom there is no help.

4 When they breathe their last, they return to earth, and in that day their thoughts perish.

⁵ Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the LORD their God;

⁶ who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps promises forever;

⁷ who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger. The LORD sets the captive free.

⁸ The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.

⁹ The LORD cares for the stranger; the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

¹⁰ The LORD shall reign forever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Timothy 6:6-19

Timothy is reminded of the confession he made at his baptism and of its implications for daily life. His priorities will be different from those of people who merely want to be rich.

⁶Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment, ⁷for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it, ⁸but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. ⁹But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

¹¹But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. ¹²Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you ¹⁴to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. ¹⁶It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

¹⁷As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches but rather on God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, ¹⁹thus storing up for themselves the

treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

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

GOSPEL

Luke 16:19-31

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

Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus tells a parable in which the poor one is "lifted up" and the rich one is "sent away empty." Jesus makes it clear that this ethic of merciful reversal is not new but is as old as Moses and the prophets.

[Jesus said:] ¹⁹“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. ²²The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³In Hades, where he was being tormented, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴He called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames.' ²⁵But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things and Lazarus in like manner evil things, but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. ²⁶Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.' ²⁷He said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house ²⁸for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.' ²⁹Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.' ³⁰He said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' ³¹He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.' ”

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

SERMON

Reverend Christina Kadelbach

SONG OF THE DAY "The Church of Christ, in Every Age"

ELW #729



1 The church of Christ, in ev - 'ry age be - set by
2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the vic - tims
3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a car - ing
4 For he a - lone, whose blood was shed, can cure the
5 We have no mis - sion but to serve in full o -



change, but Spir - it - led, must claim and test its
of in - jus - tice cry for shel - ter and for
church that longs to be a part - ner in Christ's
fe - ver in our blood, and teach us how to
be - dience to our Lord; to care for all, with -



her - i - tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.
bread to eat, and nev - er live be - fore they die.
sac - ri - fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.
share our bread and feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.
out re - serve, and spread his lib - er - at - ing word.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: WAREHAM, William Knapp, 1698–1768

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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 "Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service"

ELW #712



1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser-vice bore the weight of hu-man need,
2 Still your chil-dren wan-der home-less; still the hun-gry cry for bread;
3 As we wor-ship, grant us vi-sion, till your love's re-veal-ing light
4 Called by wor-ship to your ser-vice, forth in your dear name we go,



who up-on the cross, for-sak-en, worked your mer-cy's per-fect deed:
still the cap-tives long for free-dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
in its height and depth and great-ness dawns up-on our quick-ened sight,
to the child, the youth, the a-ged, love in liv-ing deeds to show;



we, your ser-vants, bring the wor-ship not of voice a-lone, but heart;
As you, Lord, in deep com-pas-sion healed the sick and freed the soul,
mak-ing known the needs and bur-dens your com-pas-sion bids us bear,
hope and health, good-will and com-fort, coun-sel, aid, and peace we give,



con-se-crat-ing to your pur-pose ev-'ry gift which you im-part.
by your Spir-it send your pow-er to our world to make it whole.
stir-ring us to ar-dent ser-vice, your a-bun-dant life to share.
that your ser-vants, Lord, in free-dom may your mer-cy know and live.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984
Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844
Text © Oxford University Press

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, Judy Stahl, 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.

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 or want more information. The following are meeting dates for the BLC Bible Read of the New Testament. They are optional group discussions led primarily by Pastor. In person will happen the first Monday of each month from 3-4 pm on October 6, November 3, December 1, 2025. Virtual events will happen on the third Monday of each month from 7-8 pm on October 20, November 17, December 15, 2025. Email BLCBibleRead@gmail.com if you are interested or want more information.

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 or follow the link below.

<https://aitkincountypublichealth.as.me/schedule/f1e5c91b/appointment/46696990/calendar/8941459>

CRAFTERS GATHERING Monday, Sept 29th, 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.

WELCA meeting on Wednesday, October 1st at 10:00am. All women of the church welcome to attend.

BUDGET REQUEST FORMS are in committee chairperson's "In Boxes" to be completed by November 2, 2025, and returned to the "Stewardship In Box" in the office. All chairpersons have been emailed also.

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 21st, 2025:

In Person: 70 Online: 0 technical difficulties

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA

Monday, September 29th

9:00 am Crafters

11:30 am Pinochle

7:00 pm AA/Alanon

Tuesday, September 30th

9:00 am Chair Yoga

4:00 pm Bell Practice

5:30 pm Choir Practice

6:30 pm Praise Team Practice

Wednesday, October 1st

9:00 am Women's Bible Study

10:00 am WELCA meeting

Thursday, October 2nd

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

9:15 am Chair Yoga

Sunday, October 5th

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 28th:

Ushers: Sherry Whipple & Winnie Zahradka

Greeters: Larry & Carol Pantsari

Lector: Dennis Hennessy

Hospitality:

Those serving on October 5th:

Music: Adult Choir

Ushers: Julie Swaggert & Dennis Hennessy

Greeters: Sherry Whipple & Winnie Zahradka

Lector: Mary Vukelich

Hospitality: Carol & Larry Pantsari