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# BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

21590 State Highway 47, Isle, MN 56342

September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025

9:00 a.m.

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## Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost God's Work Our Hands



### **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.*

### **TEMPLE TALK – CAMP ONOMIA**

**Sari Kroschel**

# GATHERING SONG "O God Beyond All Praising"

ELW #880

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

1 O God be-yond all prais-ing, we wor-ship you to-day  
2 The flow'r of earth-ly splen-dor in time must sure-ly die,  
3 Then hear, O gra-cious Sav-ior, ac-cept the love we bring,  
and sing the love a-maz-ing that songs can-not re-pay;  
its frag-ile bloom sur-ren-der to you, the Lord most high;  
that we who know your fa-vor may serve you as our King;  
for we can on-ly won-der at ev-ry gift you send,  
but hid-den from all na-ture the e-ter-nal seed is sown-  
and wheth-er our to-mor-rows be filled with good or ill,  
at bless-ings with-out num-ber and mer-cies with-out end:  
though small in mor-tal stat-ure, to heav-en's gar-den grown:  
we'll tri-umph through our sor-rows and rise to bless you still:  
we lift our hearts be-fore you and wait up-on your word,  
for Christ, your gift from heav-en, from death has set us free,  
to mar-vel at your beau-ty and glo-ry in your ways,  
we hon-or and a-dore you, our great and might-y Lord.  
and we through him are giv-en the fi-nal vic-to-ry.  
and make a joy-ful du-ty our sac-ri-fice of praise.

Text: Michael Perry, 1942-1996  
Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874-1934  
Text © 1982, 1987 Jubilate Hymns, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## 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**

Holy One, **you stretch wide your tent that all may be welcomed in, and in Jesus you stretched out your hands in expansive love for a weary and wounded world. Help us to reach out with your own wounded hands of love, that through us your life may be known in the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

### **CHOIR ANTHEM: "Worthy of the Calling"**

#### **† HEARING GOD'S WORD †**

### **SCRIPTURE READING:**

**Deuteronomy 30:15-20**

*Moses speaks to the Israelites, who are about to enter the land promised to their ancestors. In this passage, he lays out the stark choice before them: choose life by loving and obeying the Lord; or choose death by following other gods.*

<sup>15</sup>“See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. <sup>16</sup>If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. <sup>17</sup>But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, <sup>18</sup>I declare to you today that you shall certainly perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. <sup>19</sup>I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life

and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, <sup>20</sup> loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him, for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.”

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

## **PSALM: 1**

<sup>1</sup> Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

<sup>2</sup> **Their delight is in the law of the LORD, and they meditate on God’s teaching day and night.**

<sup>3</sup> They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.

<sup>4</sup> **It is not so with the wicked; they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

<sup>5</sup> Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

<sup>6</sup> **For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

### **Philemon 1-21**

*Onesimus, a new Christian and a man enslaved by Philemon, has helped Paul, who is in prison. Paul writes this letter to his friend Philemon to encourage him to receive Onesimus, upon his return, as a sibling in Christ.*

<sup>1</sup> Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To our beloved coworker Philemon, <sup>2</sup> to our sister Apphia, to our fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church in your house:

<sup>3</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup> I thank my God always when I mention you in my prayers, <sup>5</sup> because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup> I pray that the partnership of your faith may become effective as you comprehend all the good that we share in Christ. <sup>7</sup> I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

<sup>8</sup> For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to command you to do the right thing, <sup>9</sup> yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. <sup>10</sup> I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. <sup>11</sup> Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. <sup>12</sup> I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. <sup>13</sup> I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel, <sup>14</sup> but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. <sup>15</sup> Perhaps





through a world that would de-ceive us and to sin our spir-its lure.  
 Joy will fol-low all our sad-ness; where he is there is no loss.  
 he will free us from de-struc-tion, give to us im-mor-tal breath.  
 that to life we may a-wak-en. Je-sus, you are now our head,  
 On-ward in his foot-steps tread-ing, trav-'lers here, our home a-bove,  
 Though to-day we sow no laugh-ter, we shall reap ce-les-tial joy:  
 Let us mor-ti-fy all pas-sion that would lead us in-to sin;  
 we are your own liv-ing mem-bers; where you live, there we shall be  
 full of faith and hope and love, let us do our Sav-ior's bid-ding.  
 all dis-com-forts that an-noy shall give way to mirth here-af-ter.  
 and the grave that shuts us in shall but prove the gate of heav-en.  
 in your pres-ence con-stant-ly, liv-ing there with you for-ev-er.  
 Faith-ful Lord, with me a-bide; I shall fol-low where you guide.  
 Je-sus, here I share your woe; help me there your joy to know.  
 Je-sus, here with you I die, there to live with you on high.  
 Je-sus, let me faith-ful be; life e-ter-nal grant to me.

Text: Sigmund von Birken, 1626-1681; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, alt.  
 Music: LASSET UNS MIT JESU ZIEHEN, Georg G. Boltze, 18th cent.  
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

## ✠ 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, we pray, **open our hands in love.**

### 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**

Holy God, **giver of all good things, receive the gifts we bring, fruit of the earth and the work of human hands, that they may be used to your purposes for life and love in the world. Amen.**

## **CELEBRATION OF VOCATION**

We are called to proclaim the good news:

**God is at work!**

This good news is not left in some history long ago or a place far away:

**God is at work in the world still today!**

In us and through us, God is glorified in our work. When we offer a helping hand, God is praised. When we share of our abundance, God is known in the world.

**God is at work in us!**

In our service today and in our daily lives, let us live out what God has called us to in baptism.

**God is at work through our hands!**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

*The presiding minister leads the communion liturgy.*

Following the words of institution the gathering responds:

Trusting in his promise to be among us whenever we gather in his name, we proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Gathered as your people, meeting in Jesus' name, and preparing ourselves to feast upon Jesus' very body and blood, we plead with all creation: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Send your Spirit upon this meal, the body and blood of Jesus, that we overflow with your selfless love. Turn us to face our neighbors, that by us and through us your love may be known in the world. Again, we beg: **Come, Holy Spirit.**

All honor and praise and glory to you, God of creative, dirty hands, God of holy, wounded hands, God who strengthens and guides our hands, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

### 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.

### BLESSING OF HANDS FOR MINISTRY

As the gathering comes forward to receive the gift of Holy Communion you are invited to receive a blessing on the backs and palms of their hands.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy Jesus, **in this meal you have fed and nourished us to work in your beloved world. Send us now, filled with yourself and strengthened by your Spirit to live your love for others. Amen.**

### BLESSING

#### SENDING SONG "God's Work, Our Hands"

ACS 1000



1	God's	work,	our	hands:	work - ing	to - geth - er,
2	God's	work,	our	feet:	trav - 'ling	to - geth - er,
3	God's	work,	our	voice:	sing - ing	to - geth - er,
4	God	is	at	work	in and	a - round us:

build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,  
 fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,  
 prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,  
 seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!  
 rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,  
 walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,  
 pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,  
 Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,  
 feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold,  
 run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.  
 claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.  
 gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.  
 Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,  
 Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,  
 Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,  
 Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,  
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.  
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.  
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.  
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954  
 Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, 1922-1987  
 Text © 2019 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress  
 Music © 1988 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress

## BLESSING AND SENDING FOR MISSION

Friends in Christ, today we give thanks to God and seek God's blessing as you are sent from this place.

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. **You made the whole earth for your glory; all creation praises you. We lift our voices to join the songs of heaven and earth in thanksgiving for the many blessings you have given us. Renew in us the commitment to use our gifts in the service of others, especially of those in need. Let us be your hands to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, clothe the naked, comfort the weary and outcast, welcome the stranger, care for creation, and be loving neighbors to all people. through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Go in peace. You are God's hands at work in the world!

**Thanks be to God.**

## 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** 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.*

**GOD'S WORK-OUR HANDS** Meet at Reddy Creek parking lot (Hogs Back on Hwy 18) at 11:00 am to clean up the beach today.

**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 to send to The Village of Hope. We have collected over 30 bikes! Now we need some volunteers to help us transport all these bikes to Buffalo. If you have a truck and trailer and can help transport bikes on either Sept. 15 or Sept. 16, please contact Julie Swaggert or Dennis Hennessy. There will be a pancake breakfast after worship on Sunday, Sept 14<sup>th</sup>, 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.

**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!

**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 31<sup>th</sup>, 2025:

In Person:   65   Online:   16  

## **THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA**

### **Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 am Women's Devotion

11:30 am Pinochle

7:00 pm AA/Alanon

### **Tuesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 am Quilters

9:00 am Chair Yoga

4:00 pm Bell Practice

5:30 pm Choir Practice

6:30 pm Praise Team Practice

### **Wednesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 am Women's Bible Study - New Series

9:00 am Carpet Cleaning

### **Thursday, September 11<sup>th</sup>**

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

9:15 am Chair Yoga

### **Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 am Worship in Person and live stream

10:00 am Pancake Breakfast to raise money for Village of Hope

**Bethesda Lutheran Church blcmalmo.org**

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

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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](mailto: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 7<sup>th</sup>:**

**Music:** Adult Choir

**Ushers:** Mark & Mary Vukelich

**Greeters:** Wally & Bev Swenson

**Lector:** LuAnn Gordon

**Hospitality:** Kat & Bob Carlson

**Those serving on September 14<sup>th</sup>:**

**Music:** Praise Team

**Ushers:** Julie Swaggert & Dennis Hennessy

**Greeters:** Dean & Cheryl Malotky

**Lector:** Kat Carlson

**Hospitality: Pancake Breakfast-Free Will Offering**