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# BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

21590 State Highway 47, Isle, MN 56342

October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025

9:00 a.m.

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## Reformation Sunday



### **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.*

## ROOTED AND REFORMING MOMENTS

### GATHERING SONG "A Mighty Fortress"

ELW #503

1 A might - y for - tress is our God,  
2 No strength of ours can match his might!  
3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land,  
4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide,  
a sword and shield vic - to - rious;  
We would be lost, re - ject - ed,  
all threat - 'ning to de - vour us,  
no thanks to foes, who fear it;  
he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod  
But now a cham - pion comes to fight,  
we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand;  
for God him - self fights by our side  
and wins sal - va - tion glo - rious.  
whom God him - self e - lect - ed,  
they can - not o - ver - pow'r us,  
with weap - ons of the Spir - it.

The old e - vil foe, sworn to work us woe,  
Ask who this may be: Lord of hosts is he!  
This world's prince may rage, in fierce war en - gage,  
If they take our house, goods, fame, child, or spouse,  
with dread craft and might he arms him - self to fight.  
Christ Je - sus our Lord, God's on - ly Son, a - dored,  
He is doomed to fail; God's judg - ment must pre - vail!  
wrench our life a - way, they can - not win the day.

On earth he has no e - qual.  
He holds the field vic - to - rious,  
One lit - tle word sub - dues him,  
The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; in: *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther  
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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

## ROOTED AND REFORMING MOMENTS

### 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 confess that we have turned from you  
and from the life you call us to live.  
We have trusted our own strength  
more than your steadfast grace.  
We have spoken when we should have listened,  
and remained silent when your Word called us to speak.  
Renew us in your Spirit. Turn our hearts again toward you,  
that we may live in the freedom of your grace  
and share your love with all creation. 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**

God of grace and renewal,  
**your Spirit is always reforming your Church and reshaping our hearts.  
Root us in your Word, fill us with courage and peace, and send us to share  
your love with a world hungry for hope, through Jesus Christ, our Savior  
and Lord. Amen.**

## **✠ HEARING GOD'S WORD ✠**

## **ROOTED AND REFORMING**

### **SCRIPTURE READING:**

**Jeremiah 31:31-34**

*The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the LORD means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the LORD will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.*

<sup>31</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. <sup>33</sup>But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup>No longer shall they teach

one another or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

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

### **PSALM: 46**

<sup>1</sup> God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

<sup>2</sup> **Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**

<sup>3</sup> though its waters rage and foam, and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

<sup>4</sup> **There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.**

<sup>5</sup> God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken; God shall help it at the break of day.

<sup>6</sup> **The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake; God speaks, and the earth melts away.**

<sup>7</sup> The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

<sup>8</sup> **Come now, regard the works of the LORD, what desolations God has brought upon the earth;**

<sup>9</sup> behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world; who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.

<sup>10</sup> **"Be still, then, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth."**

<sup>11</sup> The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

### **SCRIPTURE READING**

### **Romans 3:19-28**

*Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ's death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.*

<sup>19</sup> Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. <sup>20</sup> For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

<sup>21</sup> But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, <sup>22</sup> the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, <sup>23</sup> since all have sinned

and fall short of the glory of God; <sup>24</sup>they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup>whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; <sup>26</sup>it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.

<sup>27</sup>Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. <sup>28</sup>For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

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

**GOSPEL**

**John 8:31-36**

This is the story of God’s unconditional love flowing down. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.*

<sup>31</sup>Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, <sup>32</sup>and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” <sup>33</sup>They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?”

<sup>34</sup>Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup>The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. <sup>36</sup>So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

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

**SERMON**

Reverend Christina Kadelbach

**SONG OF THE DAY “Rise, Shine, You People”**

**ELW #665**



1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered  
 2 See how he sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing;  
 3 Come, cel - e - brate; your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,  
 4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent the Son to save us.



our hu - man sto - ry; God in him is cen - tered. He comes to  
 he brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing. All men and  
 your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark - ness hurl - ing. To all the  
 Tell of the Son, who life and free - dom gave us. Tell how the



us, by death and sin sur-round-ed, with grace un-bound-ed.  
wom-en, who by guilt are driv-en, now are for-giv-en.  
world go out and tell the sto-ry of Je-sus' glo-ry.  
Spir-it calls from ev-'ry na-tion God's new cre-a-tion.

Text: Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt.  
Music: WOJTKIEWIECZ, Dale Wood, 1934–2003  
Text and music © 1974 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## ✠ SHARING AND RECEIVING THE GIFTS OF GOD ✠

### **APOSTLES' CREED**

#### **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

What does this mean? I believe that God has created me together with all that exists. God has given me and still preserves my body and soul: eyes, ears, and all limbs and senses; reason and all mental faculties.

In addition, God daily and abundantly provides shoes and clothing, food and drink, house and farm, spouse and children, fields, livestock, and all property- along with all the necessities and nourishment for this body and life. God protects me against all danger and shields and preserves me from all evil. And all this is done out of pure, Godly, and divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness of mine at all! For all of this I owe it to God to thank and praise, serve and obey God. This is most certainly true.

**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.**

What does this mean? I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father in eternity, and also true human being, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned human being. He has purchased and freed me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death. He has done all this in order that I may belong to him, live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he is risen from the dead and lives and rules eternally. This is most certainly true.

**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.**

What does this mean? I believe that by my own understanding or strength I cannot believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to him, but instead the Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel, enlightened me with the spirit's gifts, made me holy and kept me in the true faith, just as the spirit calls, gathers, enlightens, and makes holy the

whole Christian church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one common, true faith. Daily in this Christian church the Holy Spirit abundantly forgives all sins—mine and those of all believers. On the last day the Holy Spirit will raise me and all the dead and will give to me and all believers in Christ eternal life. This is most certainly true.

### **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**

Gracious God,

**All we have comes from you. Receive these gifts with gratitude and use them to shape your church for your work in the world.**

**Make us generous in spirit and rich in grace 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.

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Gracious God, **in this meal, you have fed us with your body and blood, Renewing our hearts and minds, and setting us free by your grace. Make us bold in faith, courageous in love, and ready to share your good news with the world Through Jesus Christ, our Lord we pray. Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

*The presiding minister gives God's blessing, the gathering responds: **Amen.***

### **SENDING SONG "Listen, God is Calling"**

**ELW #513**

Refrain  
Leader All



Ne - no, ne - no la - ke Mu - ngu la - ku - i - ta we - we,  
Lis - ten, lis - ten, God is call - ing, through the Word in - vit - ing,

ne - no la wo - ko - vu, te - na je - ma. ma.  
of - fer - ing for - give - ness, com - fort, and joy. joy.

Ye - su a - li - se - ma, Mka - hu - bi - ri.  
1 Je - sus gave his man - date: share the good news  
2 Let none be for - got - ten through - out the world.  
3 Help us to be faith - ful, stand - ing stead - fast,

Ne - no la - ke Mu - ngu la wo - ko - vu.  
that he came to save us and set us free.  
In the tri - une name of God go and bap - tize.  
walk - ing in your pre - cepts, led by your Word.

Text: Tanzanian traditional; tr. Howard S. Olson, b. 1922  
Music: NENO LAKE MUNGU, Tanzanian tune  
Text © 1968 Lutheran Theological College, Makumira, Tanzania, admin. Augsburg Fortress

## DISMISSAL

Go forth, knowing that you are loved, you are free,  
and you are called to live boldly in God's grace.  
Be light in the world, be peace for the weary,  
and be hope for the brokenhearted. **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!*

*Acknowledgements: Texts and hymns from [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com) copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License # SAS028183. New Revised Standard Version updated edition Bible Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Additional Liturgical texts © 2025 Reverend Christina Kadelbach.*

## **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** Teri Carlson, Noah Elias, LuAnn Gordon, 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.*

**THANK YOU!** To all the people who helped with the lefsa making. Two days of hard work and 211 packages of lefsa to sell (that's 844 rounds!). Thanks also to all the help that showed up for setup and take down. What a blessing this congregation is!

**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.

**LECTORS NEEDED** Do you enjoy reading scripture? We're looking for lectors for October & November! Sign-up sheets are located on the table in the Narthex and include the weekly readings. Your voice helps bring the Word to life in worship, thank you for considering!

**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.

**READING THE BIBLE** Join Pastor Christina, Mary V. and others from Bethesda for a gentle, engaging journey through the New Testament. No pressure, no tests just curiosity, conversation, and grace as we explore the story of God's love together. Whether you've read the Bible cover to cover or are opening it for the first time in years, there's a place for you here. Want to learn more or join in? Email [BLCBibleRead@gmail.com](mailto:BLCBibleRead@gmail.com)

**PATHFINDERS** Love the outdoors? Join the Bethesda Pathfinders, a faith-based hiking group that grows together in spirit and strength. We explore local trails, share friendship and faith, and enjoy the beauty of God's creation. All are welcome, whether you're an experienced hiker or simply love a good walk in nature. To join or learn more, scan the QR code on the narthex flyer or connect with Judie B. or Pastor for further details.

**TEAL'S MARKET REBATE PROGRAM** they are donating 1% of qualifying purchases to local non-profit organizations in the area. Turn in your receipts from your purchases from Teal's Market in Isle and Bethesda can be part of the 1% Rebate Program! Container is in the Narthex on the table to your left as you walk in.

**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, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025: In Person: 64 Online: 10

### **THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA**

#### **Monday, October 27<sup>th</sup>**

11:30 am Pinochle

7:00 pm AA/Alanon

#### **Tuesday, October 28<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 am Chair Yoga

9:00 am Quilters

4:00 pm Bell Practice

5:30 pm Choir Practice

6:30 pm Praise Team Practice

#### **Wednesday, October 29<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 am Women's Bible Study

4:30 pm Stewardship Meeting

#### **Thursday, October 30<sup>th</sup>**

8:00 am ROMEOs (Men's Bible Study)

9:15 am Chair Yoga

#### **Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>**

9:00 am Worship in Person and live stream

### **Bethesda Lutheran Church [blcmalmo.org](http://blcmalmo.org)**

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

E-mail address: [blcmalmo@gmail.com](mailto: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](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

**October Altar Care:** Elsa Carlson and Barb Forrester

**Serving this week, October 26<sup>th</sup>:**

**Ushers:** Barry & Donna Ansell

**Greeters:** Del & Dianne Jones

**Lector:** Karen Elias

**Hospitality:** Mary Braun & Jenny Schuett

**Those serving on November 2<sup>nd</sup>:**

**Ushers:** Sherry Whipple & Winnie Zahradka

**Greeters:** Lee & Barb Forrester

**Lector:** Merrily Jones

**Hospitality:**