
BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

21590 State Highway 47, Isle, MN 56342

November 16th, 2025

9:00 a.m.

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost



Welcome to Bethesda Lutheran Church!

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.

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).

Please take a moment to sign the friendship notebook in the black folder at the end of your pew. Passing it along is a simple act of hospitality that helps us learn one another's names and extend the warmth of Christ's welcome to all.

We celebrate the presence of children in worship and at Holy Communion.

We believe worship is for all of God's people, no matter the age.

For those who may need a quieter space, an unstaffed nursery is available through the double doors to the left as you exit the sanctuary. Caregivers are invited to assist children in extending their hands if they wish to receive the bread and wine. Children's bulletins and activity bags are available at the sanctuary entrance.

✚ **GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE** ✚

~ *The assembly responds together with texts in bold print* ~

WELCOME

LIFE TOGETHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

You'll find the full list of Life Together announcements near the end of the bulletin.

GATHERING SONG "When Peace Like a River"

ELW 785

Please rise in body or spirit on the last Verse



1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when
2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let
3 He lives—oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; my
4 Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the



sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast
this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my
sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to his cross and I
clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.
help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.
bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.



It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828-1888
Music: VILLE DU HAVRE, Philip P. Bliss, 1838-1876

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

God of mercy, we confess that there were times we believed things
that kept us fearful, small, or far from you. We confess that we used to believe
that you appeared only in extraordinary moments,
that faith was something to earn, that prayer required perfect words,
that doubt meant failure, that suffering meant you were disappointed in us.

We confess that we used to believe that grace had conditions,
that our worth depended on our goodness,
that we had to fix our lives alone,
that holiness looked like certainty,
that you were more judge than companion.

We confess that we held beliefs that harmed us and others:
**that our imperfections put heaven out of reach,
that some people were beyond your love,
that communion was reserved for the worthy,
that tragedy or mental illness closed the gates of your kingdom.**

**We lay down these old beliefs with honesty
and trust that you continue reforming us in love.**

God of new beginnings, you meet us in this very moment
with grace that never runs out.

Together we proclaim what we are learning now: Now we believe
**that you move in the ordinary and the miraculous, that faith is a gift,
that prayer is breath and honesty, that doubt can lead to compassion,
that your church is a beautiful mix of perspectives and stories.**

Now we believe

**that you delight in us, that you meet us in pain,
that faith grows and stretches across a lifetime,
that we are loved even when we fall short,
that your grace is the reason we live in hope.**

We believe

**that we are saved by grace through faith,
that your Spirit reshapes and redirects us,
that we are good enough because you call us beloved,
that nothing, nothing, can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus.**

God of mystery and promise,
you invite us to approach you with curiosity rather than fear.

Hear now the longings we carry: We wonder

**how you are weaving healing into the stories we don't yet understand,
how the Spirit moves in our unanswered questions,
how wide your mercy truly reaches,
how creation itself prays, how love keeps reshaping us.**

We wonder about heaven,

**about meeting those we miss,
about whether our world can turn toward compassion and justice,
about the future of the church, about peace in a violent world.**

We wonder because we care.

We wonder because we trust that you are still speaking.

We wonder because you made us seekers of truth and bearers of hope.

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

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, **without you nothing is strong, nothing is holy. Embrace us with your mercy, that with you as our ruler and guide, we may live through what is temporary without losing what is eternal, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

✠ HEARING GOD'S WORD ✠

SCRIPTURE READING

Malachi 4:1-2a

Malachi, whose name means "my messenger," warns that "the day is coming." On that day, the evil will be destroyed like stubble in a fire, but the "sun of righteousness" will shine on those who honor God.

¹See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ^{2a}But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings.

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

PSALM 98

¹Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things, whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

²O LORD, you have made known your victory, you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.

³You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

⁴Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

⁵Sing to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song.

⁶With trumpets and the sound of the horn shout with joy before the king, the LORD.

⁷Let the sea roar, and all that fills it, the world and those who dwell therein.

⁸Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to judge the earth.

⁹The LORD will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity.

SCRIPTURE READING

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

Some members of the Thessalonian community, because of their belief in the nearness of Christ's return, had ceased to work, living off the generosity of other members of the community. The writer of this letter warns them bluntly that if they want to eat, they need to work.

⁶Now we command you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from every brother or sister living irresponsibly and not according to the tradition that they received from us. ⁷For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not irresponsible when we were with you, ⁸and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day so that we might not burden any of you. ⁹This was not because we do not have that

right but in order to give you an example to imitate. ¹⁰For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: anyone unwilling to work should not eat. ¹¹For we hear that some of you are living irresponsibly, mere busybodies, not doing any work. ¹²Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. ¹³Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

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

GOSPEL

Luke 21:5-19

As history moves toward God's fulfillment there will be frightening signs and events. Before the end, believers will draw strength from their relationship to God and will be given the words they need to testify and to endure without fear.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

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

⁵When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, [Jesus] said, ⁶"As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down."

⁷They asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?" ⁸And he said, "Beware that you are not led astray, for many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is near!' Do not go after them.

⁹"When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified, for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately." ¹⁰Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom; ¹¹there will be great earthquakes and in various places famines and plagues, and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

¹²"But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. ¹³This will give you an opportunity to testify. ¹⁴So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance, ¹⁵for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. ¹⁶You will be betrayed even by parents and siblings, by relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. ¹⁷You will be hated by all because of my name. ¹⁸But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹By your endurance you will gain your souls."

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

SERMON

Reverend Christina Kadelbach

SONG OF THE DAY "O God of Every Nation"

ELW 713



1 O God of ev - 'ry na - tion, of ev - 'ry race and land,
 2 From search for wealth and pow - er and scorn of truth and right,
 3 Lord, strength-en all who la - bor that all may find re - lease
 4 Keep bright in us the vi - sion of days when war shall cease,



re - deem your whole cre - a - tion with your al - might - y hand;
 from trust in bombs that show - er de - struc - tion through the night,
 from fear of rat - tling sa - ber, from dread of war's in - crease;
 when ha - tred and di - vi - sion give way to love and peace,



where hate and fear di - vide us and bit - ter threats are hurled,
 from pride of race and sta - tion and blind - ness to your way,
 when hope and cour - age fal - ter, Lord, let your voice be heard;
 till dawns the morn - ing glo - rious when truth and love shall reign,



in love and mer - cy guide us and heal our strife - torn world.
 de - liv - er ev - 'ry na - tion, e - ter - nal God, we pray.
 with faith that none can al - ter, your ser - vants un - der - gird.
 and Christ shall rule vic - to - rious o'er all the world's do - main.

Text: William W. Reid Jr., b. 1923
 Music: LLANGLOFFAN, Welsh tune, 19th cent.
 Text © 1958, ren. 1986 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.
 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

✠ SHARING AND RECEIVING THE GIFTS OF GOD ✠

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Gathered with one voice, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Silence is held as we prepare for prayer.

Each petition ends with, "Hear us, O God."

The gathering responds, "Your mercy is great."

We offer these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your grace and unyielding love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

May Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, fill you with love, mend you with mercy and grant you peace. **And also with you.**

Christ's peace is a gift that renews and connects us. Having received that peace, we now share it with one another as a sign of God's love among us.

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

God of healing and hope, **you bless those who are hungry, promising to fill them with good things. Fulfill that promise through us and these your gifts. Nourish us with the abundance of your feast and unite us into the blessed body of Jesus Christ our Savior, now and forever. 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 wish 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

God of field and flower, wheat and grape,
you have nourished us with the bread of heaven that gives life to the world.
Strengthened by the body and blood of your Son,
send us out to gather your good gifts for all who hunger and thirst,
and embolden us to love and serve in Christ's name. Amen.

BLESSING

The presiding minister leads the blessing, the gathering responds, amen.

SENDING SONG "Soon and Very Soon"

ELW 439

¹Soon and very soon we are going to see the King,
Soon and very soon we are going to see the King,
Soon and very soon we are going to see the King.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're going to see the King!

²No more crying there, we are going to see the King,
No more crying there, we are going to see the King,
No more crying there, we are going to see the King.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're going to see the King!

³No more dying there, we are going to see the King,
No more dying there, we are going to see the King,
No more dying there, we are going to see the King.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're going to see the King!

⁴Soon and very soon we are going to see the King,
Soon and very soon we are going to see the King,
Soon and very soon we are going to see the King.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're going to see the King!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the harvest. **Thanks be to God!**

We're so glad you joined us for worship today.

*Wherever life finds you, know that this community welcomes you with open hearts.
Come again and share in our life of service, prayer, and fellowship.*

*Join us in the Fellowship Hall after worship for coffee, tea, treats, and conversation.
It's a wonderful time to connect, and we're grateful for all
who help make this time of fellowship possible.*

Acknowledgements: Texts and hymns from 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, Myra Honl, Darlene Meinert, Sandy Miller, Janice Olson, 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 Thank you to everyone who signed up last week! If you're unable to serve, consider bringing treats to help stock the freezer. Every contribution helps create a warm and welcoming space for conversation and connection.

LECTORS NEEDED As we move from Advent into the joy of Christmas we need readers to help bring these sacred stories to life. The lessons for each week are available on the table in the Narthex. If you feel called to read in worship, please sign up and take a copy of the readings home. Thank you for sharing your voice.

LADLES of LOVE Supporting World Hunger Month. Join us on Wednesday, November 19, 2025 from 5:00–6:30 pm (or until the pots are empty!) for a comforting meal of Autumn Squash Soup and Beef Tomato Macaroni Soup, served with homemade biscuits. Containers will be available if you'd like to bring some home to enjoy later. If you would like to help prepare the soups and biscuits, please sign up or let us know at blcmalmo@gmail.com or 320-684-2123.

This is a free-will offering meal, with all proceeds supporting efforts to fight world hunger. Come fill your bowl and your heart.

CHRISTIAN LADIES AROUND THE LAKE November 20th, Tullibee Tavern, Walkon. Lunch and a Speaker, \$15.75. Talk: "God's Amazing Grace Story", also, Special Feature: The Isle Food Shelf. Call Lois Johnson for reservations 320-674-0136.

ELCA WORLD HUNGER November invites us to give thanks for all we have and to share with others. Please consider a gift to ELCA World Hunger. You can use your designated envelope or pick up a change bank or giving envelope in the Narthex.

THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE Tuesday, November 25th 7:00 pm Isle Baptist Church. Join Pastor Christina and the area ecumenical ministerial group for an evening of thanksgiving and praise. Worship will be followed by a time of fellowship and pie.

READERS NEEDED Next Sunday is Reign of Christ Sunday the day that closes out the church year and prepares us to begin again with Advent. It's a moment to look back on the seasons and stories we have shared, and to look ahead with hope trusting that Christ's reign is one of mercy, truth, and love. We will also celebrate a baptism during worship, making it an especially joyful morning. We are still looking for a few additional readers to help lead worship. If you are willing to read, please see Pastor Christina following today's service.

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 at the main entrance.

PASTORAL CARE We care about you! If you are hospitalized, going through a difficult time, or in need of support, please reach out. Contact Pastor Christina or one of our parish nurses, we're here for you.

WELCOME If you're visiting today, we're so glad you're here! Your presence is a gift to this community. Pastor Christina would love the chance to get to know you, please say hello after worship or reach out during the week. You can also leave your name and contact information in the friendship/welcome notebook so we can connect.

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD LAST WEEK

Sunday, November 9th, 2025: In Person 53 Online 10

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA

Monday, November 17th

10:00 am Council Meeting
11:30 am Pinochle
7:00 pm AA/Alanon
7:00 pm Zoom Bible Read Discussion

Tuesday, November 18th

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, November 19th

9-Noon WIC
9:00 am Women's Bible Study
10:00 am WELCA Meeting
5-6:30 pm Ladles of Love (Soup Dinner)

Thursday, November 20th

8:00 am ROMEOs (Men's fellowship & study)
9:15 am Chair Yoga
12:30 pm Christian Ladies Around the Lake @Tullibee Tavern

Sunday, November 23rd

9:00 am Worship in Person watch online starting Monday afternoon

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

Custodial and Maintenance: Gary Sjerven

Music Specialist & Sound Technician: Jim Christensen

Parish Nurses: Darlene Christensen, RN, Kathy Berland RN ANP

Prayer Chain Contacts: Char Berg 320-684-2102 or

Darlene Christensen 320-279-0097

Choir Director: Teri Carlson (currently recovering)

Interim Choir Director: Sheila Penoyer

Hand Bell Choir Director: Donna Myhre

Praise Choir: Darlene & Jim Christensen, Sheila Penoyer, Sherry Whipple

November Altar Care: Dianne Jones and Carol Pantsari

Serving today, November 16th

Ushers: Gary & Brenda Sjerven

Greeters: Bob & Kat Carlson

Lector: Darlene Christensen

Hospitality: Rose Puckett, Sue Stebbins

Serving on November 23rd

Ushers: Lee & Barb Forrester

Greeters: Mary Braun & Carolyn Morris

Lector: **Many voices needed*

Hospitality: Bob & Kat Carlson, Kathy Mjelde