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# BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

21590 State Highway 47, Isle, MN 56342

January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026

9:00 a.m.

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## Baptism of our Lord

*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.*

*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.  
(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 ~**

### **PRAYER & CARE LIST** Sherry Whipple & Jim Christensen

*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 get in touch with the church office.*

**2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES** are available on the table in the Narthex. Pick up your envelopes today.

**2025 GIVING STATEMENTS** are available on the table in the Narthex.

**WINTER FUN DAY** Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, (*weather permitting*). Bundle up and join us for winter fun and fellowship! 1:00 p.m. Outdoor activity on the nature trail-boots, snowshoes, or skis welcome. 2:00 p.m. Head indoors for a movie, games, and hot beverages. Come for one or both activities!

**WOOD WORKERS NEEDED!** Anyone that would like to help out the crafters for this year's Holiday bazaar, we would like someone to build about 5-6 wooden ornament holders. Sample in Fellowship Hall. This tree can display special ornaments. Dimensions are roughly 16 inches high by 13 inches wide at bottom. These can be slightly larger or smaller, we're not fussy. A different design is welcome too. If you look online for ideas, look for wooden tree ornament holder. The crafters can do the sanding and painting and if necessary, even the assembly. Crafters begin in May, so that's when they would be needed. I appreciate any help! Questions, see Judie Birk

**SEASONS OF LIFE** January 14 | 11:00 a.m.–Noon Declutter: Creating Space for What Matters. Over time, memories and belongings can become overwhelming, making it hard to know where or how to begin. Mark and Mary Vukelich will share gentle, practical guidance for simplifying, downsizing, and creating spaces that support peace, clarity, and well-being. If you would like to attend virtually, email [blcmalmo@gmail.com](mailto:blcmalmo@gmail.com). Sessions will be livestreamed.

Save the dates: • February 11 – Health Care Directives

• March 11 – Hospice • April 15 – Funeral Planning

**WOMEN'S DEVOTION** will be on Monday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am. All women are welcome!

**WINTER FUN DAY** Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, (*weather permitting*). Bundle up and join us for winter fun and fellowship! 1:00 p.m. Outdoor activity on the nature trail-boots,

snowshoes, or skis welcome. 2:00 p.m. Head indoors for a movie, games, and hot beverages. Come for one or both activities!

**COFFEE SERVERS NEEDED** Please sign up! 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** The scripture lessons for each week are available on the table in the Narthex. Thank you for sharing your voice.

**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.

**CHILDREN WELCOME** 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. Care-givers 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 in Narthex.

**WITH GRATITUDE** Thank you to all who made donations in honor or memory of loved ones to provide the poinsettias that decorated our sanctuary for Christmas. Please take your poinsettia home after worship and continue to enjoy it in the weeks ahead.

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## RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD LAST WEEK

Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup> In person: 50 Online: xx

## THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA

### Monday, January 12<sup>th</sup>

10:00 am Women's Devotion

11:30 am Pinochle

7:00 pm AA/Alanon

### Tuesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>

9:00 am Chair Yoga

### Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>

9:00 am Women's Bible Study

10:00 am Seasons of Life Seminar - "Decluttering"

### Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup>

8:00 am ROMEOS (Men's fellowship & study)

9:15 am Chair Yoga

### Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup> 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion

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## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

*Our attention is drawn to the baptismal font as a reminder that we belong to God. Even when we fall short, even when we miss the mark- we belong to God. Let us take a few moments to quiet our hearts and minds as we give thanks for*

God's grace revealed through water. All may make the sign of the cross † the sign marked at baptism.

You, O God, are the voice above the waters, thundering wisdom, flashing glory, showering grace. **We praise you.**

You sent Jesus to give us living water—the cup of blessing, the cup of promise, the cup of salvation. **We give you thanks.**

Now send your Spirit to make this water a pool of healing, a river of new life, a flood of grace. We glorify you.

Keep us one with you—one in the way and the truth and the life of Christ Jesus our Lord.

**We praise you, we give you thanks, we glorify you, now and forever. Amen.**

**OPENING HYMN: “Shall We Gather at the River”**

**423 ELW**

*(Please Stand on the last Verse)*



- 1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,
- 2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,
- 3 Ere we reach the shin - ing riv - er, lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down;
- 4 Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will cease;



with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing by the throne of God?  
we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day.  
grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro - vide a robe and crown.  
soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.

*Refrain*



Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er;



gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899

Music: HANSON PLACE, Robert Lowry

## GREETING

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

*O God our Father,*

**at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

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## SCRIPTURE

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### SCRIPTURE READING:

**Isaiah 42:1-9**

*God's servant is endowed with God's spirit in order to bring justice to the nations. The servant will not exercise authority boisterously or with violence, nor will weariness ever prevent the fulfilling of the servant's task. God's old promises have been fulfilled; the servant's new assignment is to bring light to the nations.*

<sup>1</sup> Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.

<sup>2</sup> He will not cry out or lift up his voice or make it heard in the street; <sup>3</sup> a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice.

<sup>4</sup> He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth, and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

<sup>5</sup> Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it:

<sup>6</sup> I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness; I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations,

<sup>7</sup> to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

<sup>8</sup> I am the Lord; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols.

<sup>9</sup> See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

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

## Psalm: 29

<sup>1</sup> Ascribe to the Lord, you gods, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

<sup>2</sup> **Ascribe to the Lord the glory due God's name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.**

<sup>3</sup> The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

<sup>4</sup> **The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice; the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.**

<sup>5</sup> The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

<sup>6</sup> **the Lord makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

<sup>7</sup> The voice of the Lord bursts forth in lightning flashes.

<sup>8</sup> **The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

<sup>9</sup> The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare. And in the temple of the Lord all are crying, "Glory!"

<sup>10</sup> **The Lord sits enthroned above the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

<sup>11</sup> O Lord, give strength to your people; give them, O Lord, the blessings of peace.

### Scripture Reading:

**Acts 10:34-43**

*Peter crosses the sharp religious boundary separating Jews from Gentiles and proclaims the good news of God's inclusive forgiveness in Jesus' name to Cornelius, a Roman centurion. As a result of Peter's preaching, Cornelius and his family become the first Gentiles to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.*

<sup>34</sup> Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup> but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup> You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup> That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup> how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. <sup>39</sup> We are witnesses to all that he

did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree,<sup>40</sup> but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear,<sup>41</sup> not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.<sup>42</sup> He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead.<sup>43</sup> All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

### **Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17**

*Before Jesus begins his ministry, he is baptized by John, touched by the Spirit, and identified publicly as God’s child.*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew

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

### **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>13</sup> Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup> John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” <sup>15</sup> But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. <sup>16</sup> And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God’s Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. <sup>17</sup> And a voice from the heavens said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

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

### **SERMON**

### **HYMN OF THE DAY: “Child of the Water”      Dakota Road**

You're a child of the wa - ter, child of the word,  
guid-ed by prom - ise and stor-ies you've heard. God of the wound - ed  
knows you by name and car - ries you home ev - 'ry - day.

*3rd X D.S. al Fine*

1. From your first breath to the last step, all of the  
 2. Life is a gift, time carries on, and you will  
 3. We journey together as children of God,  
 try to remember... You're a  
 some-thing is sure...  
 sealed by the cross...

Hans Peterson  
 Larry Olson  
 David Lee Brown

## 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

*Silence is held as we prepare for prayer.*

*Each petition ends with: Merciful God,  
 The gathering responds: receive our prayer.*

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

**Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Please be seated for the passing of the offering plate.*

**OFFERING** - *Please stand as the ushers bring the offering to the altar.*

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of grace,

**your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always.**

**Amen.**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourishing God,

**at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink.**

**Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray, Amen.**

## BLESSING

May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise ✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN: "Wade in the Water"

ELW 459

*Refrain*  
All

Wade in the wa - ter, wade in the wa - ter, chil - dren,  
wade in the wa - ter, God's a - goin' - a trou - ble the wa - ter.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the refrain, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.



1 See that host all dressed in white,  
2 See that band all dressed in red, God's a-goin'-a trou-ble the  
3 Look o-ver yon-der, what do I see?  
4 If you don't be-lieve I've been re-deemed,



wa - ter. the lead - er looks like the Is - rael - ite.  
looks like the band that . . . Mo - ses led.  
the Ho - ly Ghost a - com - ing on me.  
just fol - low me down to . . . Jor - dan's stream.



God's a - goin' - a trou - ble the wa - ter.

Text: African American spiritual  
Music: WADE IN THE WATER, African American spiritual

## DISMISSAL

May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise ☩ bless you now and forever. Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

## 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.*

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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. Words for worship by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org) Adapted for Bethesda Lutheran by Reverend Christina Kadelbach.

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

**January Altar Care** Karen Elias & Linda Southworth

**Ushers:** Barry and Donna Ansell

**Greeters:** Mary Braun & Linda Gommer

**Lector:** Dennis Hennessy

**Hospitality:** Mary Braun & Jenny Schuett

**Serving on January 18<sup>th</sup>**

**Ushers:** Darrel Kelly & Dick Stebbins

**Greeters:** Char Berg & Carolyn Morris

**Lector:**                      **Hospitality:**