
BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

21590 State Highway 47, Isle, MN 56342

January 18th, 2026

9:00 a.m.

Second Sunday after Epiphany

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).*

‡ **GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE** ‡

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

PRAYER & CARE LIST Jim Christensen , Jo DeFeyter, Carolyn Morris, & 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 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 25th, *(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.

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD LAST WEEK

Sunday, January 11th In person: 56 Online: 22

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA

Monday, January 19th

10:00 am Council Meeting

11:30 am Pinochle

7:00 pm AA/Alanon

Tuesday, January 20th

9:00 am Chair Yoga

10:00 am Strategic Planning Meeting

Wednesday, January 21st

9-Noon WIC

9:00 am Women's Bible Study

Thursday, January 22nd

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

9:15 am Chair Yoga

Friday, January 23rd

11:00 am Funeral for Matthew Brown

Sunday, January 25th 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion

CONFESSION and FOREGIVENESS

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, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters.

Amen.

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Mighty God, lover of justice,

you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed.

We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God.

Amen.

The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares:

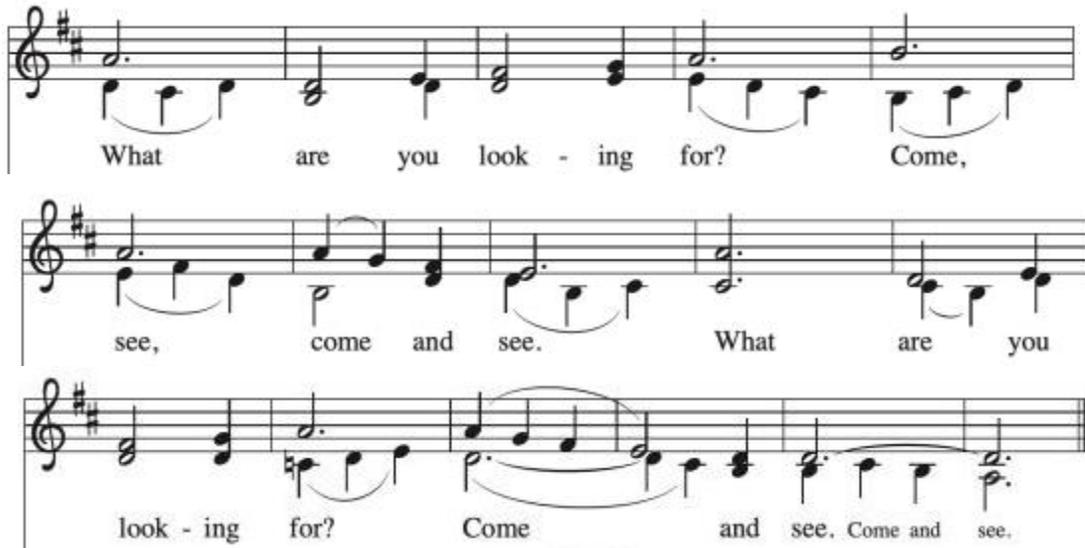
Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in ✚ Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace.

Amen.

OPENING HYMN:

“Come and See”

ACS 976



(repeat 4 times) (Please Stand on the last repeat)

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 God,

our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING:

Isaiah 49:1-7

Here the servant, identified as Israel, speaks for herself and describes her honored mission. Called before her birth like Jeremiah and John the Baptist, the servant is not only to restore Israel. The servant’s ultimate assignment is to bring news of God’s victory to the ends of the earth. God in faithfulness has chosen Israel for this task.

A reading from Isaiah

¹ Listen to me, O coastlands; pay attention, you peoples from far away! The Lord called me before I was born; while I was in my mother’s womb he named me. ² He made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow; in his quiver he hid me away. ³ And he said to me, “You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified.” ⁴ But I

said, “I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the Lord and my reward with my God.”

⁵ And now the Lord says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honored in the sight of the Lord, and my God has become my strength—⁶ he says, “It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”

⁷ Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, “Kings shall see and stand up; princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

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

PSALM 40:1-11 (read responsively)

¹ I waited patiently upon the Lord, who stooped to me and heard my cry.

² **The Lord lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a high cliff, making my footing sure.**

³ The Lord put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God; many shall see, and stand in awe, and put their trust in the Lord.

⁴ **Happy are they who trust in the Lord! They do not turn to enemies or to those who follow lies.**

⁵ Great are the wonders you have done, O Lord my God! In your plans for us, none can be compared with you! Oh, that I could make them known and tell them! But they are more than I can count.

⁶ **Sacrifice and offering you do not desire; you have opened my ears: burnt-offering and sin-offering you have not required.**

⁷ And so I said, “Here I am; I come. In the scroll of the book it is written of me:

⁸ **‘I love to do your will, O my God; your law is deep within me.’ ”**

⁹ I proclaimed righteousness in the great assembly; I have not restrained my lips, O Lord, you know.

¹⁰ **I have not hidden your righteousness in my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness and your deliverance; I have not concealed your steadfast love and truth from the great assembly.**

¹¹ You are the Lord; do not withhold your compassion from me; may your steadfast love and your truth continually keep me safe.

SCRIPTURE READING:**1 Corinthians 1:1-9**

Though God's church in Corinth is a fractious congregation beset with many conflicts, Paul opens this letter by spotlighting the multiple ways God has enriched and sustained its life as part of the divine call into the fellowship of our Lord Jesus Christ.

A reading from 1 Corinthians

¹ Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, ² To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: ³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵ for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind ⁶ just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you ⁷ so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸ He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

GOSPEL:**John 1:29-42**

John the Baptist's witness to Jesus initiates a chain of testimony as his disciples begin to share with others what they have found.

The Holy Gospel according to John

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁹ [John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"³⁰ This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ³¹ I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel."³² And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³ I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One."

³⁵ The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶ and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!” ³⁷ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸ When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” ³⁹ He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon. ⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. ⁴¹ He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed). ⁴² He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: “Jesus Calls Us O’er the Tumult” ELW 696



1 Je - sus calls us; o’er the tu - mult of our
 2 As of old Saint An - drew heard it by the
 3 Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship of the
 4 In our joys and in our sor - rows, days of
 5 Je - sus calls us! By your mer - cy, Sav - ior,



life’s wild, rest - less sea, day by day his clear voice
 Gal - i - le - an lake, turned from home and toil and
 vain world’s gold - en store, from each i - dol that would
 toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and
 may we hear your call, give our hearts to your o -



sound - ing, say - ing, “Chris - tian, fol - low me:”
 kin - dred, leav - ing all for Je - sus’ sake.
 keep us, say - ing, “Chris - tian, love me more.”
 plea - sures, “Chris - tian, love me more than these.”
 be - dience, serve and love you best of all.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818–1895
 Music: GALILEE, William H. Jude, 1851–1922

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

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.

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

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of majesty,

no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD’S PRAYER

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

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

Come to the table; taste and see.

COMMUNION HYMN: “Lamb of God”

ELW 336

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Radiant God,

we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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.**

SENDING HYMN: “We Are Marching in the Light”

ELW 866

We are marching in the light of God,
We are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God,
We are marching in the light of God.

Additional stanzas

We are dancing...
We are praying...
We are singing...

DISMISSAL

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.

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

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

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: Darrel Kelly & Dick Stebbins

Greeters: Char Berg & Carolyn Morris

Lector: LuAnn Gordon

Hospitality:

Serving on January 25th

Ushers: Barry & Donna Ansell

Greeters: Libby & David Brown

Lector: Dennis Hennessy

Hospitality: