
BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

21590 State Highway 47, Isle, MN 56342

January 25th, 2026

9:00 a.m.

Third 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).

Those joining worship online, whether live or later in the week, are invited to prepare their worship space by creating a home altar.

You might include meaningful linens, candles, a cross, enough bread or crackers and wine or juice for everyone at your table, and anything that helps you engage more fully in worship. This altar becomes a gathering place for prayers, songs, communion, and a shared sense of God's presence in your home.

✠ 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 TODAY - 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 18th In person: 52 Online: 20

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA

Monday, January 26th

11:30 am Pinochle

7:00 pm AA/Alanon

Tuesday, January 27th

9:00 am Chair Yoga

Wednesday, January 28th

9:00 am Women's Bible Study

11:00 am Worship & Music Meeting

Thursday, January 29th

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

9:15 am Chair Yoga

Sunday, February 1st 4th 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:

"Thy Strong Word"

ELW 511

(Please Stand on the last repeat)



1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark-ness; at thy
 2 Lo, on those who dwelt in dark-ness, dark as
 3 Thy strong Word be-speaks us righ-teous; bright with
 4 From the cross thy wis-dom shin-ing break-eth

speak-ing it was done. For cre-at-ed light we
 night and deep as death, broke the light of thy sal-
 thine own ho-li-ness, glo-rious now, we press toward
 forth in con-qu'ring might; from the cross for-ev-er

thank thee, while thine or-dered sea-sons run.
 va-tion, breathed thine own life-breath-ing breath.
 glo-ry, and our lives our hopes con-fess.
 beam-eth all thy bright re-deem-ing light.

Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Praise to thee who light dost send!

Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia with-out end!

Text: Martin H. Franzmann, 1907-1976
 Music: EBENEZER, Thomas J. Williams, 1869-1944
 Text © 1969 Concordia Publishing House

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

Lord God,

your lovingkindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING:

Isaiah 9:1-4

The northern tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali experienced the gloom of defeat by Assyrian military forces, but they are assured that their condition will be reversed when God makes a light-filled appearance. The joy they will experience will resemble celebrations of great harvests, because God will deliver them from everything that

diminishes or oppresses them.

A reading from Isaiah

¹There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time [the Lord] brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied exultation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

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

PSALM 27:1, 4-9

(read responsively)

¹The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

⁴**One thing I ask of the Lord; one thing I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life; to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek God in the temple.**

⁵For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter, hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high upon a rock.

⁶**Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me. Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make music to the Lord.**

⁷Hear my voice, O Lord, when I call; have mercy on me and answer me.

⁸**My heart speaks your message— “Seek my face.” Your face, O Lord, I will seek.**

⁹Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger. Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of my salvation.

SECOND READING:

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Paul calls on the Corinthians to end their dissensions and share the unified outlook of the gospel. Discord arises when we forget that we belong not to human leaders or institutions but to Christ. Indeed, the unifying word of the cross of Christ is the center of the gospel and the power of God’s salvation.

A reading from 1 Corinthians

¹⁰Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you but that you be knit together in the same mind and the same purpose. ¹¹For it has been made clear to me by Chloe’s people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. ¹²What I mean is that each of you says, “I belong to Paul,” or “I belong to Apollos,” or “I belong to Cephas,” or “I belong to Christ.” ¹³Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴I

thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵ so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶ I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else. ¹⁷ For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel—and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

¹⁸ For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

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

GOSPEL:

Matthew 4:12-23

Jesus begins his public ministry shortly after John the Baptist is imprisoned by Herod. He proclaims the nearness of God's reign and calls four fishermen to be his first disciples.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹² Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³ He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴ so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

¹⁵ "Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles— ¹⁶ the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned."

¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

¹⁸ As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers. ¹⁹ And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people." ²⁰ Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹ As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. ²² Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

²³ Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Lift Every Voice and Sing"

ELW 841



1 Lift ev - 'ry voice and sing till earth and heav - en ring,
2 Ston - y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas - t'ning rod,
3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears,

ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty,
 felt in the days when hope un - born had died;
 thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;

Let our re - joic - ing rise high as the lis - t'ning skies,
 yet with a stead - y beat, have not our wea - ry feet
 thou who hast by thy might led us in - to the light,

let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea,
 come to the place for which our par - ents sighed?
 keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray,

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
 We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;
 Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met thee;

sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought us;
 we have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh - tered,
 lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get thee;

fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be - gun,
 out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at last
 shad - owed be - neath thy hand, may we for - ev - er stand,

let us march on till vic - to - ry is won,
 where the white gleam of our bright star is cast,
 true to our God, true to our na - tive land,

Text: James W. Johnson, 1871-1938
 Music: LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING, J. Rosamond Johnson, 1873-1954

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 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

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: "We Labor Unto Glory"

YouTube video by Craig Harris. For more information on The Porter's Gate Worship project, visit www.portersgateworship.com.

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: "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"

ELW 674



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:
2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at the ta - ble he sets the tone,
3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im - man - u - el) ev - 'ry - where!



Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

Music: LINSTEAD, Jamaican folk tune; adapt. Doreen Potter, 1925–1980

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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.

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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:

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 & Donna Ansell

Greeters: Libby & David Brown

Lector: Dennis Hennessy

Hospitality:

Serving on February 1st

Ushers: Mark & Mary Vukelich

Greeters: Judie Birk & Darrell Kelly

Lector: Karen Elias

Hospitality: