
BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

21590 State Highway 47, Isle, MN 56342

March 8th, 2026

9:00 a.m.



the good news is...

together, the impossible
is possible

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 gathering responds together with texts in bold print** ~

WELCOME

Good morning, and welcome to worship. On this third Sunday in Lent, we gather around a story where compassion and community meet. As crowds follow Jesus into a quiet place, he welcomes them with care and begins to teach. When hunger arises, the disciples see only scarcity. Jesus invites them into something deeper: "You give them something to eat." Today we remember that the good news is this: together, what seems impossible becomes possible. When we bring what we have and share it in love, God forms communities of care where all are nourished and none are turned away. In worship, we are gathered, fed, and renewed for this life together, trusting that Christ continues to multiply compassion among us and through us for the sake of the world.

CALL TO WORSHIP: "Here I Am to Worship"

CCLI# 3266032

Light of the world
You stepped down into darkness
Open my eyes, let me see
Beauty that made this heart adore You
Hope of a life spent with You

Chorus: Here I am to worship, here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me

King of all days, oh, so highly exalted
Glorious in heaven above
Humbly You came to
The earth you created
All for love's sake became poor (*Chorus*)

I'll never know how much it cost to see my sin upon that cross
I'll never know how much it cost to see my sin upon that cross (*Chorus*)

CALL TO WORSHIP

If you need good news,
settle into this space. We have good news to share.
If you need a word of hope,
then trust us when we say, there is hope enough to go around.
If you need a glimmer of joy,
then you're in luck! We have resilient joy abounding.
If you need to feel God's presence in your midst,
then know that this is God's house. This is the good news of the gospel.
God is here. Love is real. Joy is on the move.
Let us worship our with-us God!

LIFE TOGETHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Find the full list of Life Together announcements near the end of the bulletin.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Friends, we are like the disciples. The day that Jesus fed 5,000,
his disciples could not imagine a solution to the crowd's hunger.
They told Jesus to send the crowds away.

We often do the same. Like the disciples, we try to follow Jesus around,
but when we run into issues, we often cannot imagine how we could play a part.

That is why we need the Prayer of Confession.

For in this prayer, we remember that we can make a difference.

So friends, join me in this moment of truth telling. Join me in prayer:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, **with you the impossible is possible.**

5,000 can be fed. The blind can see. The hopeless can find hope.

With you the impossible is possible, but we are quick to forget that.

We look at our hurting world and tell ourselves that nothing can be done.

We forget that you empowered the disciples to feed the crowd.

We forget that you are always with us.

Forgive our small-minded ways.

Forgive us for doubting that change could ever come. But even more so,

forgive us when we refuse to be a part of it. With hope for a better

tomorrow we pray, amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Family of faith, no matter how many mistakes the disciples made,

Jesus still washed their feet. Jesus still fed them. Jesus still called them beloved.

The same is true for you and me, so hear and believe this good news:

today is a new day, and once again, we belong to God. We are forgiven.

We are called. We are not alone. What good, good news. Amen!

HYMN: "Human Minds Just Can't Imagine"



Hu - man minds just can't i - ma - gine all that God can bring
God, ex - pand our dreams and vi - sion when we think our gifts
Like the grains of wheat are ga - thered from the vast and roll -



to bear Through our small and sep - arate be - ings, e - ven
too small Help us trust your great pro - vis - ion and to
-ing fields Like the grapes from vi - ny bran - ches whose small



when we join to share Still we fol - low where Christ leads us,
an - swer when you call You who gave us time and ta - lents
fruit the wine will yield We re - mem - ber as one bo - dy,



ma - ny pie - ces of one whole That we might al - low
 will up - hold and see us through As we join to - geth -
 each of us a cru - cial part In the glo - bal church



our dream - ing to trans - form our bro - ken world
 - er in the work you've gi - ven us to do
 pro - fess - ing: we be - long to God's own heart

Sung to the tune of: "God Whose Giving Knows No Ending"
 Music: Joseph Hayden
 Words: Anna Strickland

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 FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, **we could press our ear to the page, hoping to hear you more clearly. We could silence all the alarms and notifications, hoping to catch a murmur of your voice. We could still our beating hearts, and still we might miss your voice. So today we pray, open up space in our hearts, in our spirits, in our minds, to feel your presence among us. With you, anything is possible. We believe. Help our unbelief. Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC: "Me and God" by Josh Turner [YouTube Video](#)

✠ **HEARING GOD'S WORD** ✠

SCRIPTURE READING

Ephesians 3:20-21

A reading from Ephesians

²⁰Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Word of God. Word of life. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 6:32-44

The holy gospel according to Mark

This is the story of grace flowing down. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³² And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. ³³ Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. ³⁴ As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he began to teach them many things. ³⁵ When it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now very late; ³⁶ send them away so that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy something for themselves to eat." ³⁷ But he answered them, "You give them something to eat." They said to him, "Are we to go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give it to them to eat?" ³⁸ And he said to them, "How many loaves have you? Go and see." When they had found out, they said, "Five, and two fish." ³⁹ Then he ordered them to get all the people to sit down in groups on the green grass. ⁴⁰ So they sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties. ⁴¹ Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to his disciples to set before the people, and he divided the two fish among them all. ⁴² And all ate and were filled, ⁴³ and they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. ⁴⁴ Those who had eaten the loaves numbered five thousand men.

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

SERMON

HYMN: "We Come with Gifts; We Come in Need"

We come with gifts; we come in need. We join our gifts as one that
 Our gifts and strengths are not the same. Our needs are dif - ferent too but
 And so, we build com - mu - ni - ty with ev - ery gift we share, a
 Oh, grant that we may come to know each gift - we have to give, to

5
 we may meet each o - ther's needs and help God's will be done. Each
 you re - ly on my sup - port as I de - pend on you. Your
 meld - ing - of di - ver - si - ty, u - ni - ted in God's care. When
 cul - ti - vate them grate - ful - ly to help each o - ther live and -

9

bless - ing that we off - er up, each tal - ent we be - stow con -
 wis - dom can en - hance my own; my faith can make you strong. We
 I'm in pain you cry with me. I join in your de - light. We
 may the gifts that o - thers bring be - wel - comed and em - braced to

13

tri - butes to the com - mon good and helps the Kin - dom grow.
 share our gifts. We share our needs. We love and we be - long
 suf - fer and we cel - e - brate. We turn the wrong to right.
 make this fear - ful, ang - ry world a just and joy - ful place.

Biblical reference: 1 Corinthians 12:4-27

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Email: amanda@amandaudiskessler.com New hymns: queersacredmusic.com

Permission is given for free use of this worship song.

Please share it with clergy, music directors, and other potentially interested people. Thank you.

✚ SHARING & RECEIVING THE GIFTS OF GOD ✚

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.
 It sounds like welcome and feels like home.
 It sounds like laughter and feels like mercy.
 It sounds like love and feels like a seat at the table,
 so I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.
 I have seen it alive in the world.**

**And even when my heart aches, even when wars rage,
 even when mercy feels out of reach, I remember the one who
 welcomed the children and led with nonviolence.
 I remember the one who cared for the vulnerable
 and inspired those around him.
 I remember that the good news really is good news,
 for I have seen it alive in the world. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Calling and equipping God, many years ago, on a hillside in Galilee,
 you looked at your disciples and said, "You give them something to eat."
 We read these ancient words again and are struck with the realization that
 from the very beginning, you have seen good in us.

From the very beginning, you have known that we are capable of great love. From the very beginning, you have believed that we could make a difference.

Calling God, help us to see that truth in ourselves.

Help us to see your fingerprints in our lives.

Help us to see the ways you have equipped us to serve.

Help us to see the ways that we are capable, instead of only seeing the ways we stumble and get in our own way.

God, we long to see ourselves as you do

because we know that like that day in the Galilee, there is still work to do.

Like that day on the hillside, this world is full of people who are hungry.

We are hungry for justice, hungry for companionship, hungry for reasons to hope.

Like that day on the hillside, this world is full of people who need healing.

We need healing for our bodies, healing for our minds, healing for broken relationships.

And like that day on the hillside, there is surely enough to go around, but we doubt and deny that truth.

So call us again, loving God. Say our names.

Hand us the baskets of bread and fish.

Tell us it's our turn. Help us see ourselves the way you see us, for we know that together the impossible is possible.

Until your promised day when all are fed, all are healed, and hunger is no more, we will continue to pray.

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation. **Amen.**

PEACE

May Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, fill you with unconditional love, mend you with mercy, and grant you perfect 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.

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:

- Give electronically through Vanco Services.
- 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 PRAYER

O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. In every season you speak good news. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Gather us at this table of grace.

Through these gifts of bread and wine, tell us again the good news of Jesus, his life poured out for the world, his love alive among us, his promise renewing all things. Shape us to carry this good news into our days, so that what we receive here may be lived and shared beyond these walls. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

The presiding minister leads the words of institution.

Holy God, you are the source of life and the wellspring of mercy.

You create a world where abundance is possible

and call your people to live from that abundance.

You ground us in compassion, steady us in justice,

and remind us that your grace continues to unfold in every generation.

In great love you sent Jesus, your Son, who reached out

To heal the sick and suffering, who proclaimed the good news in word and deed

And who on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

The gathering responds:

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end

We proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pour out upon us the spirit of your love and on these gifts of bread and wine

That we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.

Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us.

Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

The presiding minister continues. The gathering responds:

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures,

with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity,

now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER -Led by the Praise Team

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us. *(sung)*

**Our Father in heaven Holy be your name.
Your kingdom come your will be done
On earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us the wrong we have done
As we forgive those who wrong us.**

**And do not put us to the test
But deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory
Are yours now and forever, forever.**

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. Even across time and space, God is present in these gifts, and we, the community, are present to one another.

This table holds good news. Good news that welcomes without condition.
Throughout these Lenten days we remember what stood at the center of Jesus' life
love for neighbor, care for the vulnerable, bread for the hungry,
mercy that restores, and courage that chooses peace.
Here, that good news takes shape in bread and cup.
Here, grace is given freely. All are welcome.

Come to the table. Come and receive the good news made tangible
Feast on God's goodness and mercy.
Bread for the journey, grace for your life, love that sustains the world.
Please be seated.

Holy Communion is for all who want to experience God's grace and Jesus' love
through the bread and wine, We practice an open table here at Bethesda
That means all are welcome to come to the table with open hands and open hearts.

The lighter color in the center of the trays is juice
There is gluten-free bread available. Please let your server know.

If you would like communion brought to you,
Please let the usher know when they dismiss your row
And we will make our way to you

Ushers will invite you forward. Receive the bread and cup.
When you finish with the cup,
please place it in the basket on the chair as you return to your seats.

For those communing with us online
The body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you.

COMMUNION MUSIC: "Broken Bread" *(on screen)* YouTube Video by Rend Collective

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you
in his grace. Let us pray. God of our salvation,

we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

✠ **SENDING** ✠

BLESSING

As you leave this place, when you meet anger, speak with love.
 When you meet fear, speak with hope. When you meet pain, speak with gentleness.
 But no matter what, speak this good news.
 For the good news of the gospel is love and justice for all.
 It is joy that surprises, and nonviolence that transforms.
 May the triune God ✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

HYMN: "Go Now"

Dakota Road



vs. 1 Filled with the Ho - ly Spir - it
 vs. 1 *Lleno del Es - pi - ri - tu San - to* go now with God,
 vs. 2 Of - fer - ing a hand to a stran - ger *va - mos con Dios,*
 vs. 3 Wa - ters of mer - cy have found us
 vs. 4 Cross - ing ev' - ry bound' - ry, ev' - ry na - tion



go now with God. In - to the world as a serv - ant
va - mos con Dios. En - tran - do al mun - do pa - ra ser - vir
 Trust - ing in the ris - en sav - ior
 Grace on the jour - ney sur - rounds us
 Danc - ing in the gift of lib - er - a - tion



go now with God, go now with God. Go - now,
va - mos con Dios, va - mos con Dios. Va - mos,



go - now, go - now with God.
va - - - mos, va - mos con Dios.



Go - now, go - now, go - now with God.
Va - mos, va - mos, va - mos con Dios.

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DISMISSAL

The good news of the gospel is alive in the world, so go forth speaking.
For if you won't, then who will? **Thanks be to God for this good, good news.**

*We're so glad you joined us for worship today.
Wherever life finds you, know that this community welcomes you with open hearts.*

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LIFE TOGETHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Life together announcements reflect the shared life of our congregation by highlighting upcoming events, service opportunities, and ways we continue to grow in faith together.

We invite you to read through what's ahead and participate as you are able. Your presence matters.

PRAYER & CARE LIST Marilyn Cierzan, Jim Christensen, 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.

WELCOME Friends in Christ, we're glad you're here. Your presence is a gift to this community. If you would like us to be in touch or want to learn more about Bethesda, you're welcome to share your name in the friendship/welcome notebook.

CHILDREN WELCOME Children are a gift we celebrate and are welcome at Holy Communion. We trust that worship belongs to people of all ages. A quieter, unstaffed nursery is available through the double doors to the left when exiting the sanctuary. Children's bulletins and activity bags are available in the narthex.

WELCOME NOTEBOOK 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.

NAME TAGS Help your neighbors, and your pastor, remember your name! Name tags make it easier to connect and grow together in community. Sticker name tags are available near the guest book at the main entrance.

PASTORAL CARE Caring for one another is part of who we are. If you are hospitalized or going through a difficult time, please let Pastor Christina or one of our parish nurses know. We would be honored to support you.

COFFEE HOSPITALITY Coffee and conversation are part of how we care for one another. If you'd like to help serve coffee or share a treat, your presence makes a difference. Sign-up information is available, and contributions for the freezer are always welcome.

LECTORS Thank you to those who share their voices in the reading of Scripture. Newly updated readings for upcoming weeks are available on the table in the narthex.

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS The ministry of serving Holy Communion is shared by many. If you are interested in serving at the table, Pastor Christina would love to visit with you. Please contact the church office to begin the conversation.

SEASONS OF LIFE • March 11 – Hospice • April 15 – Funeral Planning

LENTEN WORSHIP & FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

- **Wednesday Midweek Lenten Worship at Noon** (following Ash Wednesday) Wednesdays, February 25th through March 25th
Our worship will be guided by the Holden Evening Prayer
Potluck lunch to follow.
The noon worship will be live-streamed each week.
- **Lenten Devotional Booklets**
Devotional booklets are available. These weekly devotions follow the scriptures of the *Tell Me Something Good* series through Easter Sunday and include commentary, poetry, visual art, hymns, written reflections, and prayer and conversation prompts.

COME SING WITH US If you enjoy singing, consider joining the choir as we begin again on April 8. Whether you've sung for years or simply love music, there is a place for you. Choir is a joyful way to participate in worship, build community, and share in the gift of song together. We would be delighted to welcome your voice. All Voices Welcome.

MILLE LACS AREA LENTEN CANTATA "Come to the Cross and Remember" Friday, April 3rd at 7:30 pm. at Faith Lutheran Church, 220 E Lake St, Isle, MN 56342
A free will offering will support the Isle Area Food Shelf.

CRAFT SWAP & SUPPLY DRIVE Spring is the perfect time to organize and declutter those craft bins! Consider donating your gently used art and craft supplies to our upcoming Craft Swap and Supply Drive. Items will be collected the week before the event. On April 11, 9:00 am - Noon, join us for a community gathering where creativity meets generosity, share what you no longer need, and discover new-to-you supplies to inspire your next project.

Women of the ELCA HEARTLAND CONFERENCE SPRING GATHERING "*Steeped in Kindness*" Saturday, April 18, 2026, | 8:30 am – 1:00 pm Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo. All are warmly invited to a morning of fellowship, worship, and joy. Guest speaker: Jason Kempthorne from Salem West. Cost: \$12 (includes lunch). Bring a friend and join us for a meaningful and uplifting time together.

LIMITED OFFICE HOURS NEXT WEEK The church office will be closed on Friday, March 13th & Tuesday, March 17th.

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD LAST WEEK

Sunday, March 1st, In person: 60 Online: 24

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA

Monday, March 9th

9:00 am Women's Devotion

10:00 am Property Meeting

11:30 am Pinochle

7:00 pm AA/Alanon

Tuesday, March 10th

9:00 am Chair Yoga

9:00am Quilters
10:00 am Strategic Planning Committee Meeting

Wednesday, March 11th

9:00 am Women's Bible Study
11:00 am Season's of Life - Hospice
12:00 pm Holden Evening Prayer Service, Potluck following

Thursday, March 12th

8:00 am ROMEOs (Men's fellowship & study)
9:15 am Chair Yoga

Sunday, March 15th, Fourth Sunday in Lent

9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion

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

Music & 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

March Altar Care: Elsa Carlson, Kat Carlson

Serving Today

Presiding Minister: Rev. Dan Holm

Ushers: Barry & Donna Ansell

Greeters: Mary Braun & Linda Gommer

Lector: Karen Carron

Hospitality:

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

Serving on March 15th, Fourth Sunday in Lent

Ushers: David & Libby Brown

Greeters: Bev & Wally Swenson

Lector: Jeannine Bruesewitz

Hospitality: