
Bethesda Lutheran Church

21590 Hwy 47, Isle, Minnesota 56342

July 12th, 2026

9:00 am

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost



a **SOWER**
went out to
SOW

MATTHEW 13:3

We are a community of faith centered in Christ and rooted in God's grace. Through worship, learning, fellowship, and service, we encourage one another in faith and seek to share God's love with our neighbors, our 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** ‡

~ *The Holy Spirit calls us together as people of God.* ~

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

Good morning and welcome to worship. God's word is like the rain that waters the earth and brings forth vegetation. It is also like the sower who scatters seed indiscriminately. Our lives are like seeds sown in the earth. Even from what appears to be little, dormant, or dead, God promises a harvest. At the Lord's table we are fed with the bread of life, that we may bear fruit in the world.

CALL TO WORSHIP

This Is The Day

Low Voices:

**This is the day,
that the Lord has made,
we will rejoice,
and be glad in it,**

High Voices:

**this is the day
that the Lord has made;
we will rejoice
and be glad in it.**

All: This is the day that the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

Low Voices: This is the day, High Voices: this is the day

All: that the Lord has made.

Text: Psalm 118:24 | Words and Music by Les Garrett Arranged by Eric Shanfelt | Music © 1967 Scripture in Song, admin. By Maranatha! Music. | CCLI Song # 32754

LIFE TOGETHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

A full list of announcements is near the end of the bulletin.

TEMPLE TALK

"Aitkin County is incredibly fortunate to have a nonprofit that has been serving our community for over 20 years, supporting older adults, adults with disabilities, and the caregivers who stand beside them every day." This morning, Amy from Aitkin County CARE will be sharing a word about the work of Aitkin County CARE (Coordinating Area Resources Effectively). Age well & age strong with CARE.

BLESSING BOX

This morning's Blessing Box supports the ministry of Aitkin County CARE.

PRAYER

The presiding minister offers a prayer for the ministry of CARE

*The gathering responds: **Amen.***

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*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, whose compassion endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God, **we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy,
and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you.
Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace.
In Christ's name we pray, Amen.**

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love. **Amen.**

GREETING

The immeasurable grace upon grace of Christ Jesus, the rich mercy and unconditional love of God, and the unity of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

GATHERING SONG

Give Me Oil in My Lamp

**¹Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning. Give me oil in my lamp, I pray.
Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning, burning, burning.
Keep me burning till the break of day.**

***Refrain: Sing hosanna, sing hosanna, sing hosanna to the King of kings!
Sing hosanna, sing hosanna, sing hosanna to the King!***

**²Give me love in my heart, keep me serving. Give me love in my heart, I pray.
Give me love in my heart, keep me serving, serving, serving.
Keep me serving till the break of day. *Refrain.***

**³Give me peace in my heart, keep me resting. Give me peace in my heart, I pray.
Give me peace in my heart, keep me resting, resting, resting.
Keep me resting till the break of day. *Refrain.***

**⁴Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising. Give me joy in my heart, I pray.
Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising, praising, praising.
Keep me praising till the break of day. *Refrain.***

Text: Traditional | Music: Traditional

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

PRAISE TEAM ANTHEM

Go Light Your World

Chris Rice | Short Term Memories © 2004 Rocketown Records | CCLI #1829337

✝ **WORD** ✝

~ God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song. ~

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 55:10-13

God's word to Israel's exiles is as sure and effective as never-failing precipitation. Their return to the Holy Land in a new exodus is cheered on by singing mountains and by trees that clap their hands.

A reading from Isaiah:

¹⁰For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,

giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

¹²For you shall go out in joy
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle,

and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

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

PSALM

Psalm 65:1-13

¹You are to be praised, O God, in Zion; to you shall vows be fulfilled.

²**To you, the one who answers prayer, to you all flesh shall come.**

³Our sins are stronger than we are, but you blot out our transgressions.

⁴**Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your courts to dwell there! They will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness of your temple.**

⁵Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of our salvation, O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the oceans far away.

⁶**You make firm the mountains by your power; you are girded about with might.**

⁷You still the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, and the clamor of the peoples.

⁸**Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your marvelous signs; you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy.**

⁹You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; the river of God is full of water. You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth.

¹⁰**You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges; with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.**

¹¹You crown the year with your goodness, and your paths overflow with plenty.

¹²**May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing, and the hills be clothed with joy.**

¹³May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak themselves with grain; let them shout for joy and sing.

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 8:1-11

There is no condemnation for those who live in Christ. God sent Christ to accomplish what the law was unable to do: condemn sin and free us from its death-dealing ways. The Spirit now empowers proper actions and values in our lives and gives us the promise of resurrected life.

A reading from Romans:

¹Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he

who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

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

GOSPEL

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

In Matthew's gospel, both Jesus and his disciples "sow the seed" of God's word by proclaiming the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near." Now, in a memorable parable, Jesus explains why this good news produces different results in those who hear.

The gospel is announced: The holy gospel according to Matthew.

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

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹If you have ears, hear!"

¹⁸"Hear, then, the parable of the sower. ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²²As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

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

SERMON

Reverend Christina K.

SONG OF THE DAY

Thy Word

Refrain: Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

**When I feel afraid, think I've lost my way, still, you're there right beside me.
And nothing will I fear, as long as you are near, please be near me to the end.**

Refrain.

**I will not forget your love for me and yet, my heart forever is wandering.
Jesus be my guide and hold me to your side, and I will love you to the end.**

Refrain.

By Amy Grant & Michael W. Smith | © 1984 Meadowgreen Music Co. / Bug and Bear Music | CCLI #14301 | Text: Psalm 119:105

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion, reflecting the wideness of God's mercy for the whole world.

*Each petition of the prayers ends with these words: God of grace, **hear our prayer.**
Response to the conclusion of the prayers of intercession: **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.*

‡ **MEAL** ‡

~ God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ. ~

OFFERING

*In this season after Pentecost, we offer our gifts in response to God's grace.
Our time, talents, and resources support the ministry we share and help us care for our neighbors in Christ's name. Thank you for your faithful generosity.
The offering is gathered and the table is set.*



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>

The gathering stands when the gifts are brought forward.

OFFERING PRAYER

Loving God, **we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

*The presiding minister continues with the words of institution.
The gathering responds: **Amen.***

THE LORD'S PRAYER | Sung

**Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed by thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts,
As we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation;
But deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

by Albert Hay Malotte | © 1935 G. Schirmer, Inc. NY International Copyright Secured

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.

Heaven has come near.
Come, share in the feast!

COMMUNION SONG

The Table

Songwriters: Chris Tomlin / Ed Cash / Wayne Jolley
The Table lyrics © Worship Together Music, S.d.g. Publishing, Capitol Cmg Paragon, Sixsteps Songs, Twelve Lions Music

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Compassionate God, **through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. Amen.**

✠ SENDING ✠

~ God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world. ~

BLESSING

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ✠ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always.
Amen.

SENDING SONG

As You Go On Your Way

**As you go on your way, may God go with you.
May he go before you to show you the way.
May he go behind you to encourage you, beside you to befriend you,
Above you to watch over, within you to give you peace.**

**As you go on your way, may God go with you.
May he go before you to show you the way.
May he go behind you to encourage you, beside you to befriend you,
Above you to watch over, within you to give you peace.
Within you to give you peace.**

Music © 1983, John Ylvisaker. All rights reserved. Used by permission.; Arr. © 2006, Published by Lutheran Vespers. Song # #CT-021

DISMISSAL

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news! **Thanks be to God.**

We give thanks for worshiping together today.

Wherever you are on your journey of faith, know that you are warmly welcomed here.

Return again to join us in service, prayer, and fellowship throughout the week.

Acknowledgments: Texts and hymns from sundaysandseasons.com copyright © 2026 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. Cover Image Sowing seeds. Photo by Westend61. Copyright © 2025 Getty Images Plus via Getty Images/Westend61. Used by permission. Additional Liturgical texts adapted for Bethesda Lutheran by Reverend Christina Kadelbach.

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 Jim C.; Sherry W.; Kim S., Dennis H.

As a community of faith, we are committed to holding one another in prayer & 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.

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.

FELLOWSHIP TIME All are invited to gather in the fellowship hall following worship for coffee, treats, and conversation. This is a wonderful opportunity to spend time together as a community of faith.

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 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.

WORSHIP AT BETHESDA Join us for worship every Sunday at 9:00 am. Holy Communion is celebrated most Sundays.

FLOWERS FOR WORSHIP Flowers help to bring beauty and life into our shared worship space. If you would like to provide fresh flowers in celebration, in memory, or in honor of someone or something, please let the office know in advance or simply let us know the day of worship so we can share your dedication.

NEW MEMBERS Are you thinking about making Bethesda Lutheran Church your church home? We'd love to welcome you to our community! If you're interested in becoming a member or simply learning more, please contact Pastor Christina or the church office.

WOMEN'S STUDY meets most Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Join us as we explore the parables of Jesus through fresh historical and cultural insights. New participants are always welcome.

CRAFTERS Projects are simple and fun: painting base coats on wood items, beading, cutting, and more. Every little bit helps! Watch the bulletin for updates. Future Crafter Dates: July 27, Aug. 17, Sept. 21 & 28, Oct. 19th. Oct. 31 — Holiday Bazaar

PARKING NOTICE To those using our lot as a carpool meet-up spot, please park along the outer edge near the shed/garage. This helps keep the lot clear in case emergency access is needed for a medical helicopter landing.

LET'S GO FISHING Let's Go Fishing provides free fishing and nature excursions for older adults, veterans, and people of all abilities. These outings offer an opportunity to enjoy the beauty of the outdoors, fellowship with others, and a relaxing time on the water. Sign-up sheets are located on the table in the Narthex.

July Nature Tour Trips on Bay Lake: 14th at 10 a.m. | 21st at 10 a.m.

August Trips on Rice Lake: 12th at 1 p.m. -Fishing Trip | 19th at 4 p.m. -Nature Tour
Come enjoy a peaceful day on the water!

GARDEN STAND is open on Saturdays from 7:30 AM –11:00 AM. Stop by for garden produce, baked goods, homemade jelly, and more. Proceeds support local needs. Pull up a chair, grab a coffee, and enjoy good company. We've got the chairs and coffee- just come! Gardeners and Bakers, we welcome your donations!

VINTAGE MARKET New this year! Our Holiday Bazaar will feature a Vintage Market, and we're collecting donated vintage items. "Vintage" means prior to 1970, think jewelry, art glass, vinyl records, old books, Pyrex, ashtrays, embroidered linens, advertising pieces, costume brooches, cuff bracelets, toys, and more. Contact Judie B.

BLESSING BOX Amy W. of Aitkin County CARE Joins us today. CARE's Mission is to enhance and promote the independence, dignity, value and well-being of older adults and adults managing disabilities and those who care for them.

WELL WISHES FOR SHARON Join Sharon W. and her family following worship for a time of fellowship as we give thanks for her presence among us and send her with our prayers and blessings.

BLUE JEAN REVIVAL DAY Friday, August 7th, 5:00–7:00 p.m. Cost: \$10. Give your old denim new life at this fun, creative two-hour crafting event. Bring old jeans, jackets, or other denim items, along with any special fabric you would like to use for lining a bag or purse. You are also welcome to bring buttons, lace, patches, trim, or other embellishments to personalize your project. Light refreshments and appetizers will be served.

ALUMINUM CANS As part of our shared care for creation and support for ministry, Bethesda collects aluminum cans. Please place cans in a plastic bag before dropping them off in the fenced-in area behind the shed next to the garages on the south side. Proceeds support local benevolence and help us care for neighbors in need. Thank you for helping us serve faithfully together.

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT LOAN CLOSET Bethesda has a Medical Equipment Loan Closet with walkers, wheelchairs, shower chairs, canes, crutches, and other mobility aids available to borrow at no cost. If you are in need or have clean, gently used equipment to donate, please contact the church office.

NATURE TRAIL You are invited to slow down, breathe deeply, and enjoy the beauty of God's creation on Bethesda's Nature Trail. Whether you come for a quiet walk, a moment of prayer, or simply time outdoors, the trail offers a peaceful place to rest, reflect, and reconnect with God and creation.

SAVE THE DATE Corn feed August 22nd | Holiday Bazaar October 31st

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD Sunday, July 5th, 2026, In-Person 49 | Online 15



THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA

Monday, July 13th

9:00 am Woman's Devotional
10:00 am Property Team
11:30 am Pinochle
1:00 pm Mission & Evangelism Meeting
7:00 pm AA/Alanon

Tuesday, July 14th

9:00 am Chair Yoga
9:00 am Quilters
10:00 am Let's Go Fishing Nature Tour-Bay Lake
1:30 pm Worship and Music Team
3:00 pm Choir Practice
4:00 pm Bell Choir Practice

Wednesday, July 15th

9:00-noon WIC
9:00 am Women's Bible Study

Thursday, July 16th

8:00 am ROMEOS (Men's Bible Study)
9:15 am Chair Yoga

Saturday, July 18th

7:30 am – 11:00 am Garden Stand

Sunday, July 19th | 8th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion
10:00 am Time of fellowship

Bethesda Lutheran Church blcmalmo.org

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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 K.

blc.reverend@gmail.com 320-684-2123

Church Secretary: Mary B.

Custodian: Ari D.

Music & Sound Technician: Jim C.

Parish Nurses: Darlene C., RN, Kathy B. RN ANP

Prayer Chain Contacts: Char B. or Darlene C.

Praise Team: Darlene & Jim C., Sherry W., Sheila P.

Choir Director: Sheila P.

Hand Bell Choir Director: Donna M.

July Altar Care: Sylvia T., Dianne J.

Communion Assistants: Libby B., David B., Sheila P.

Ushers: Mary & Mark V. **Greeters:** Libby & David B. **Lector:** Dennis H.

Hospitality: Whipple Family, Choir & Praise Team Serving/Cleanup

Serving on July 19th, 2026

Communion Assistants: DeAnn R., Les R., Dianne J.

Ushers: Winnie Z.; Larry, Carol P. **Greeters:** Barb & Lee **Lector:** Merrily J.

Hospitality: