
Bethesda Lutheran Church

21590 Hwy 47, Isle, Minnesota 56342

July 5th, 2026

9:00 am

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost



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. The mystery of God's ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. The prophet describes an everlasting realm that contrasts with earthly nations, one marked by peace, humility, and freedom. Jesus associates with those excluded from the religious community. Like Paul, we struggle with selfish desires; we lament flawed systems; and we seek God's mercy and forgiveness. We gather around word, water, and meal by Christ's invitation: "Come to me, all you that are weary." Here we find rest for our souls and hope for life in beloved community.

WELCOME

LIFE TOGETHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Give Me Jesus

ELW 770

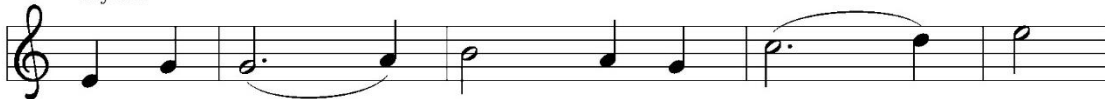


1 In the morn-ing when I rise, in the morn-ing when I rise,
2 Dark . . . mid-night was my cry, dark . . . mid-night was my cry,
3 Just a - bout the break of day, just a - bout the break of day,
4 Oh, . . . when I come to die, oh, . . . when I come to die,
5 And . . . when I want to sing, and . . . when I want to sing,



in the morn-ing when I rise, give me Je - sus.
dark . . . mid - night was my cry, give me Je - sus.
just a - bout the break of day, give me Je - sus.
oh, . . . when I come to die, give me Je - sus.
and . . . when I want to sing, give me Je - sus.

Refrain



Give me Je - sus, give me Je - sus.



You may have all the rest, give me Je - sus.

Text: African American spiritual
Music: GIVE ME JESUS, African American spiritual

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, source of hope in every nation,
rest for the weary, glory and peace to the ends of the earth. **Amen.**

Let us bring every burden to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of all mercy, **we have sinned against you, our neighbors, and your creation. Within ourselves and our communities, our desire to do what is good is at war with the evil that dwells in us. We lament the evil that holds us captive. We repent of the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Rescue us, forgive us, and restore us for lives of compassion and courage through our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

All-merciful, Almighty God forgive you all your sins through the grace of † Jesus Christ, and by the Spirit's power strengthen you in doing what is good. **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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. **Guide this nation by your Spirit to go forward in justice and freedom. Give to all living in these lands the blessings of well-being and harmony, but above all things give us faith in you, that our nation may bring glory to your name and blessings to all peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

✠ **WORD** ✠

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

SCRIPTURE READING

Zechariah 9:9-12

The coming messianic king will inaugurate an era of disarmament and prosperity. Because of God's covenant with Israel, the people are designated as "prisoners of hope."

A reading from Zechariah:

⁹ Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

See, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

¹⁰ He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the war horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be cut off,
and he shall command peace to the nations;
his dominion shall be from sea to sea
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

¹¹ As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

¹² Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

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

PSALM

Psalms 145:8-14

⁸ The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

⁹ **LORD, you are good to all, and your compassion is over all your works.**

¹⁰ All your works shall praise you, O LORD, and your faithful ones shall bless you.

¹¹ **They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your power,**

¹² that all people may know of your power and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

¹³ **Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures throughout all ages. You, LORD, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your works.**

¹⁴ The Lord upholds all those who fall and lifts up those who are bowed down.

SECOND READING

Romans 7:15-25a

Life captive to sin is a catch-22 existence in which we know good but do not do it and do things we know to be wrong. Through Jesus Christ, God has set us free from such a futile existence.

A reading from Romans:

¹⁵I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me.

²¹So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²²For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ^{25a}Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

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

GOSPEL

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Jesus chides people who find fault with both his ministry and that of John the Baptist. He thanks God that wisdom and intelligence are not needed to receive what God has to offer.

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

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

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] ¹⁶"To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.'

¹⁸"For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

²⁵At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸"Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

The gospel is proclaimed, concluding:

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

SERMON

Reverend Christina K.



1 Day by day, your mer-cies, Lord, at - tend me, bring - ing com - fort
 2 Day by day, I know you will pro - vide me strength to serve and
 3 Oh, what joy to know that you are near me when my bur - dens



to my anx-ious soul. Day by day, the bless-ings, Lord, you send me
 wis - dom to o - bey; I will seek your lov - ing will to guide me
 grow too great to bear; oh, what joy to know that you will hear me



draw me near - er to my heav'n-ly goal. Love di - vine, be - yond all
 o'er the paths I strug - gle day by day. I will fear no e - vil
 when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer. Day by day, no mat - ter



mor - tal mea - sure, brings to naught the bur - dens of my quest; Sav - ior,
 of the mor - row, I will trust in your en - dur - ing grace. Sav - ior,
 what be - tide me, you will hold me ev - er in your hand. Sav - ior,



lead me to the home I trea - sure, where at last I'll find e - ter - nal rest.
 help me bear life's pain and sor - row till in glo - ry I be - hold your face.
 with your pres - ence here to guide me, I will reach at last the prom - ised land.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Robert Leaf, 1936–2005
 Music: BLOTT EN DAG, Oskar Ahnfelt, 1813–1882
 Text © 1992 Augsburg Fortress

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

With the church across time and space,
 let us confess our faith in Triune God who calls, equips, and sends us.

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 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

Blessed are you, O God, **for waves of grain and harvesters, fruitful vines and winepresses, for our labor and our rest, for the gifts of your hand in this land. Transform us and what we offer into the banquet of your compassion, serving your love without limits through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

With hope, we join our voices with the voices of countless generations, languages, and communities, as we pray the words Jesus taught us, saying:

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

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.

Citizens of the commonwealth of heaven:
Taste and know that God is good to all.

Light Dawns on a Weary World

ELW 726

1 Light dawns on a wea - ry world when eyes be - gin to
 2 Love grows in a wea - ry world when hun - gry hearts find
 3 Hope blooms in a wea - ry world when crea - tures, once for -

see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty. Light dawns on a
 bread and chil - dren's dreams are fed. Love grows in a
 lorn, find wil - der - ness re - born. Hope blooms in a

wea - ry world: the prom - ised day of jus - tice comes.
 wea - ry world: the prom - ised feast of plen - ty comes.
 wea - ry world: the prom - ised green of E - den comes.

Refrain

The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;
 the hills and moun - tains shall break forth with sing - ing!
 We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,
 as all the world in won - der ech - oes sha - lom.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953
 Music: TEMPLE OF PEACE, William P. Rowan, b. 1951
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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We thank you, God of heaven and earth, **that you fill our deepest need with the very gift of Jesus Christ, broken and poured out for us. Pour us out into a broken world. Channel our common life toward the common good, following the way our Savior leads us now and forever. Amen.**

✠ SENDING ✠

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

BLESSING

The Author of life, the Word of salvation, the Breath of new birth,
 ✠ one God, bless you and equip you for living and serving, today and every day. **Amen.**

Refrain



Just a clos-er walk with thee, grant it, Je-sus, is my plea;



dai - ly walk-ing close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.



1 I am weak but thou art strong; Je - sus, keep me from all wrong;



2 Through this world of toil and snares, if I fal - ter, Lord, who cares?



3 When my fee - ble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;

Refrain



I'll be sat - is - fied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.
 Who with me my bur - den shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.
 guide me gent - ly, safe - ly o'er to thy king - dom shore, to thy shore.

Text: North American traditional
 Music: CLOSER WALK, North American traditional

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Seek liberty and justice for all. **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.

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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 Jim C.; Kim S., Sherry W

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 begin our new study, *Short Stories by Jesus* by Amy-Jill Levine, exploring 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 6 & 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: 7th at 10 a.m. | 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 begins Saturday, July 11th, 7:30–11:00 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 Due to the Fourth of July holiday weekend, the Blessing Box Temple Talk will be on July 12th. Amy Wyant of Aitkin County CARE will be with us.

WELL WISHES FOR SHARON Join Sharon W. and her family on Sunday, July 12th, following worship for a time of fellowship as we give thanks for her presence among us and send her with our prayers and blessings.

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, June 28th, 2026 In-Person 63 | Online 26

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA

Sunday, July 5th | 6th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion

10:00 am Time of fellowship

Monday, July 6th

9:00 am Crafters

11:30 am Pinochle

7:00 pm AA/Alanon

Tuesday, July 7th

9:00 am Chair Yoga

9:00 am Quilters

10:00 am Let's Go Fishing - Nature Tour Trip on Bay Lake

3:00 pm Choir Practice

4:00 pm Bell Choir Practice

Wednesday, July 8th

9:00 am Women's Bible Study

Thursday, July 9th

8:00 am ROMEOS (Men's Bible Study)

9:15 am Chair Yoga

Saturday, July 11th

7:30 am - 11:00 am Garden Stand

Sunday, July 12th | 7th 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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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: Don M., Jenny S., Dennis H.

Ushers: Mary & Mark V.

Greeters: Jenny S. & Mary B.

Lector: Jenny S.

Hospitality: Cindy & Rocky V.

Serving on July 12th, 2026

Communion Assistants: Libby & David B., Donna A.

Ushers: Barry & Donna A.

Greeters: Libby & David B.

Lector: Dennis H.

Hospitality: Whipple Family, Choir & Praise Team