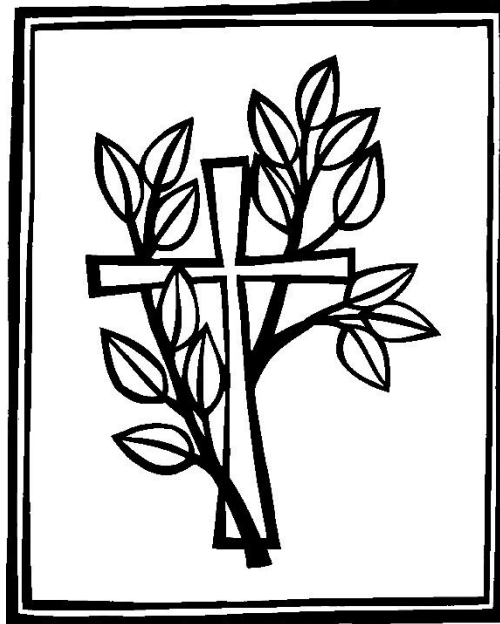

Bethesda Lutheran Church

21590 Hwy 47, Isle, Minnesota 56342

August 30th, 2026

9:00 am

Fourteenth 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).*

✠ GATHERING ✠

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

~ The gathering responds together with texts in bold print ~

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come Now Is the Time to Worship

Words and music by Brian Doerksen. © 1998 Vineyard Songs (UK/Eire). Administrator Integrity Music. All rights reserved. CCLI# 2430948

**Come, now is the time to worship.
Come, now is the time to give your heart.
Come, just as you are to worship.
Come, just as you are before your God, Come.**

**One day every tongue will confess you are God
One day every knee will bow
Still the greatest treasure remains for those
Who gladly choose you now.**

WELCOME & LIFE TOGETHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

OPENING HYMN

In the Garden
Lyrics and music by C. Austin Miles (1912) CCLI #62858

**I come to the garden alone,
while the dew is still on the roses;
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear,
the Son of God discloses.**

Refrain: **And He walks with me, and he talks with me,
and he tells me I am His own,
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever known.**

**He speaks and the sound of his voice
is so sweet, the birds hush their singing;
and the melody that He gave to me
within my heart is ringing. Refrain.**

**I'd stay in the garden with him
Tho' the night around me be falling;
but he bids me go; thro' the voice of woe,
His voice to me is calling. Refrain.**

WORDS OF GRACE

The presiding minister leads the words of grace; the gathering responds: **Amen.**

GREETING

The presiding minister leads the greeting; the gathering responds:. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

PRAISE TEAM ANTHEM

The River
By Jordan Feliz ©2015 Centricity Music

✠ WORD ✠

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

SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 15:15-21

Jeremiah's delight in the word of the Lord is contradicted by the heaviness of God's hand upon him and God's seeming unfaithfulness. God's tough love to Jeremiah says that if he repents, he will be allowed to continue in his strenuous ministry. Jeremiah is strengthened by the simple words, "I am with you."

A reading from Jeremiah:

¹⁵ **O LORD, you know;
remember me and visit me,
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.
In your forbearance do not take me away;
know that on your account I suffer insult.**

¹⁶Your words were found, and I ate them,
 and your words became to me a joy
 and the delight of my heart,
 for I am called by your name,
 O LORD, God of hosts.

¹⁷I did not sit in the company of merry-makers,
 nor did I rejoice;
 under the weight of your hand I sat alone,
 for you had filled me with indignation.

¹⁸Why is my pain unceasing,
 my wound incurable,
 refusing to be healed?
 Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,
 like waters that fail.

¹⁹Therefore thus says the LORD:
 If you turn back, I will take you back,
 and you shall stand before me.
 If you utter what is precious and not what is worthless,
 you shall serve as my mouth.
 It is they who will turn to you,
 not you who will turn to them.

²⁰And I will make you to this people
 a fortified wall of bronze;
 they will fight against you,
 but they shall not prevail over you,
 for I am with you
 to save you and deliver you,
 says the LORD.

²¹I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked
 and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

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

PSALM

Psalm 26:1-8

¹Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived with integrity;
 I have trusted in the LORD and have not faltered.

²**Test me, O LORD, and try me;
 examine my heart and my mind.**

³For your steadfast love is before my eyes;
 I have walked faithfully with you.

⁴**I have not sat with the worthless,
 nor do I consort with the deceitful.**

⁵I have hated the company of evildoers;
 I will not sit down with the wicked.

⁶**I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD,
 that I may go in procession round your altar,**

⁷singing aloud a song of thanksgiving
 and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

⁸**LORD, I love the house in which you dwell
 and the place where your glory abides.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 12:9-21

Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.

A reading from Romans:

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰ Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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

GOSPEL

Matthew 16:21-28

After Peter confesses that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a "rock."

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

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

²¹ From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷ "For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

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

SERMON

Reverend Christina K.

SONG OF THE DAY

He's Got the Whole World in His Hands
African-American spiritual. Public Domain.

He's got the whole world in his hands.
He's got the whole world in his hands.
He's got the whole world in his hands.
He's got the whole world in his hands.

He's got the wind and the rain in his hands....
He's got the whole world in his hands.

He's got the tiny little baby in his hands....
He's got the whole world in his hands.

He's got you and me, brother, in his hands.
He's got you and me, sister, in his hands.
He's got you and me, brother, in his hands.
He's got the whole world in His hands.

He's got everybody here in his hands....
He's got the whole world in his hands.

He's got the whole world in his hands....
He's got the whole world in his hands.

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: Merciful God, **receive 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 have the holy opportunity to extend that peace to others.*

✠ **MEAL** ✠

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

OFFERING

*The offering will be collected as you go in Christ from this place. 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.*

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>



OFFERING PRAYER

Generous God, **receive these gifts and all that we offer in gratitude for your grace. Bless them and use them to feed, welcome, serve, and share your love with our neighbors. Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER | Sung

*Our Praise Team leads us in a sung version of the Lord's Prayer.
Please join us as we sing this prayer together.*

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

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. Amen.

✠ **SENDING** ✠

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

BLESSING

*The presiding minister leads the blessing; the gathering responds: **Amen.***

SENDING HYMN

Down by the Riverside

African American spiritual | Public Domain

Gonna lay down my burden, down by the riverside,

Down by the riverside, down by the riverside;

Gonna lay down my burden, down by the riverside

And study war no more.

Gonna lay down my sword and shield, down by the riverside,

down by the riverside, down by the riverside;

Gonna lay down my sword and shield,

down by the riverside and study war no more.

*Refrain: **I ain't gonna study war no more, ain't gonna study war no more,***

Ain't gonna study war no more, I ain't gonna study war no more,

Ain't gonna study war no more, ain't gonna study war no more.

Gonna put on my long white robe; down by the riverside,

Down by the riverside, down by the riverside.

Gonna put on my long white robe; down by the riverside

And study war no more.

**Gonna talk with the Prince of Peace, down by the riverside,
Down by the riverside, down by the riverside;
Gonna talk with the Prince of Peace, down by the riverside
And study war no more.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

As you leave worship today, you are invited to receive Holy Communion. Whether you are heading inside for fellowship or on your way home, come and receive Christ's gifts of grace for you.

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

SENDING

Go in peace. Live by grace. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

I Shall Walk in The Presence of God

Text and music: © 1990 Larry Dittberner, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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 Ron and Jan A.; Jim C.; Sherrie 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

VEGGIE 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!

WOMEN'S DEVOTIONAL Join us the second Monday of each month at 8:30 am (next gathering is Monday, September 14th) in the Fellowship Hall for a time of scripture, reflection, and fellowship. Together we study using *Gather*, the magazine of Women of the ELCA, Through God's Word and shared conversation, we grow in faith and are equipped for ministry and action in our congregation, community, and world. All women are welcome — come as you are.

WOMEN'S BIBLE 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.

ROMEOS meets Thursdays at 8 am; men gather in the Fellowship Hall for coffee, conversation, and prayer as we read and reflect together. We're just beginning Richard Rohr's *The Tears of Things: Prophetic Wisdom for an Age of Outrage* — a great time to jump in. All men are welcome, no experience or reading ahead required.

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: Aug. 31, Sept. 21 & 28, Oct. 19th. Oct. 31 — Holiday Bazaar

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.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF SCHOOL KITS! Back-to-school sales are here, making it the perfect time to help children around the world stay in school! Our Bethesda WELCA group is collecting specific items to assemble LWR School Kits. These kits are sent to children living in refugee camps, disaster zones, and areas where poverty makes basic supplies unaffordable. We are also continuing the newborn care kits. Please donate new

items only (no camo, flags, or religious symbols): 70-sheet notebooks, 16-24 pack of crayons, 30-cm ruler & safety scissors, #2 pencils & black/blue pens, pencil sharpener & 2.5" eraser. A full list is available at <https://lwr.org/kits/school-kits/instructions>

GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS. Each September, ELCA congregations put faith into action through God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday—a day to serve our neighbors and care for the communities where God has placed us. This year, we will observe this day on September 13. You are invited to donate nonperishable pantry items or baby and family care essentials for distribution to WIC participants and local food shelves. Please place donated items on the sharing shelf in the fellowship hall. Cash donations may be placed in the designated box. Thank you for helping care for our neighbors!

HELP NEEDED We're looking for a few more people to help run the iPad during Sunday worship and funerals. Training will be provided, so no experience is necessary. If you're interested in helping, please contact Jim C. or the church office.

SAVE THE DATE Bonfire & Picnic September 9th 5pm-7pm

Scam prevention workshop September 15th 1:00 pm

Holiday Bazaar October 31st

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD Sunday, August 26th, 2026 In-Person 98 | Online 12

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA

Sunday, August 30th | 14th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 am Outdoor Worship with Holy Communion

10:00 am Time of fellowship

Monday, August 31st

9:00 am Crafters

11:30 am Pinochle

7:00 pm AA/Alanon

Tuesday, September 1st

9:00 am Chair Yoga

3:00 pm Choir Practice

4:00 pm Bell Choir Practice

Wednesday, September 2nd

9:00 am Women's Bible Study

Thursday, September 3rd

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

9:15 am Chair Yoga

Saturday, September 5th

7:30 am – 11:00 am Veggie Stand (the last one for this season)

Sunday, September 6th | Season of Creation

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.

Digital Music & Sound System Coordinator: 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.

August Altar Care: Patti S., Karen E.

September Altar Care: Barb Forrester & Kat Carlson

Communion Assistants: Kat C., Dennis H., Julie S.

Ushers: David & Libby **Greeters:** Lee & Barb

Lector: Karen C. **Hospitality Hosts:** Bob, Kat, Richard, Lisa

Serving on Sunday, September 6th | Season of Creation

Communion Assistants: Les & DeeAnn, Barb F.

Ushers: Mark & Mary V. **Greeters:** Merrily J. & Darrell K.

Lector: **Hospitality Hosts:**