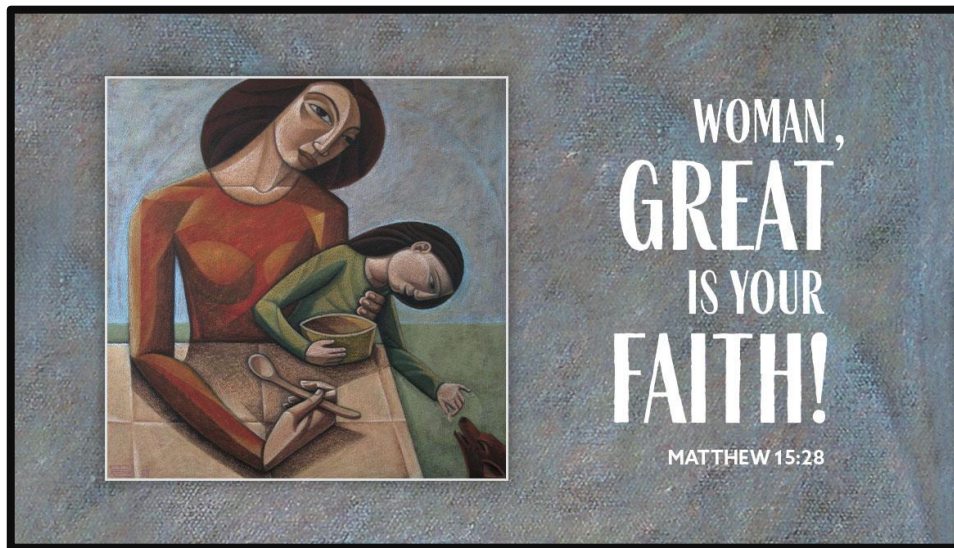

Bethesda Lutheran Church

21590 Hwy 47, Isle, Minnesota 56342

August 16th, 2026

9:00 am

Twelfth 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. In Isaiah we hear that God's house shall be a house of prayer for all people and that God will gather the outcasts of Israel. The Canaanite woman in today's gospel is a Gentile, an outsider, who is unflinching in her request that Jesus heal her daughter. As Jesus commends her bold faith, how might our church extend its mission to those on the margins of society? In our gathering around word and meal we receive strength to be signs of comfort, healing, and justice for those in need.

WELCOME

LIFE TOGETHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

ELW 886



- 1 Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,
3 The name of Je-sus charms our fears and bids our sor-rows cease,
4 He speaks, and lis-t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re-ceive;



the glo-ries of my God and king, the tri-umphs of his grace!
to spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.
sings mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.
the mourn-ful, bro-ken hearts re-joice, the hum-ble poor be-lieve.

5 Look unto him, your Savior own,
O fallen human race!
Look and be saved through faith alone,
be justified by grace!

6 To God all glory, praise, and love
be now and ever giv'n
by saints below and saints above,
the church in earth and heav'n.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of all peoples, **your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you.
Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and
constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus
Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

BELL CHOIR ANTHEM "Above All"

Paul Baloche and Lenny LeBlanc

✠ **WORD** ✠

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

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

The prophet calls upon Israel to do justice in view of God's imminent intervention to save. Righteousness and obedience define who belongs to the Israelite community—not race, nationality, or any other category.

A reading from Isaiah:

¹ Thus says the LORD: Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come and my deliverance be revealed.

⁶ And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,
to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants,
all who keep the Sabbath and do not profane it and hold fast my covenant—

⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar,
for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.

⁸ Thus says the Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel:
I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

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

PSALM

Psalms 67

¹ May God be merciful to us and bless us; may the light of God's face shine upon us.

² **Let your way be known upon earth, your saving health among all nations.**

³ Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

⁴ **Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,**

for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations on earth.

⁵ Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

⁶ **The earth has brought forth its increase; God, our own God, has blessed us.**

⁷ May God give us blessing, and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

God has not rejected Israel. Rather, the call and gifts of God are irrevocable so that, while all have been disobedient, God has mercy upon all.

A reading from Romans:

[Paul writes:] ¹ I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ^{2a} God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

²⁹ For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰ Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹ so also they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they also may now receive mercy. ³² For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

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

GOSPEL

Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

Jesus teaches his disciples that true purity is a matter of the heart rather than outward religious observances. Almost immediately, this teaching is tested when a woman considered to be a religious outsider approaches him for help.

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

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

[¹⁰ [Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand:¹¹ it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." ¹² Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" ¹³ He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴ Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." ¹⁵ But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." ¹⁶ Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷ Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸ But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. ¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰ These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."]

²¹ Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." ²³ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." ²⁴ He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." ²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." ²⁶ He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁷ She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." ²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed from that moment.

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

SERMON

Richard Martens

HYMN OF THE DAY

In Christ There Is No East or West

ELW 650



1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
2 In Christ shall true hearts ev-'ry-where their high com-mu-nion find;
3 Join hands, dis-ci-ples of the faith, what-e'er your race may be.
4 In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north;



but one com-mu-ni-ty of love through-out the whole wide earth.
his ser-vice is the gold-en cord close bind-ing hu-man-kind.
All chil-dren of the liv-ing God are sure-ly kin to me.
all Christ-ly souls are one in him through-out the whole wide earth.

APOSTLES' CREED

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 INTERCESSION

With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

For believers around the world who stream to your holy mountain, that all be united in faith and harmony in the body of Christ. Let your church on earth be a witness to the beloved community of your heavenly kingdom. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For your wondrous creation, that it thrives and flourishes as you intend. Raise up wise stewards to defend the natural world against carelessness and destruction. Safeguard endangered species and their habitats **especially...** Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For the nations of the world and all in authority, that they heed the cry of the outcast and ensure care for the most vulnerable. Give wisdom to leaders of countries, congregations, and communities, that they lead and serve justly. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For all who are lonely, grieving, or struggling with chronic pain, that they find comfort, community, and hope. Send relief to all who struggle with illness of any kind (*especially*). Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For this congregation, for visitors and those new to this faith community, that all may recognize the presence of Christ in each new face. Draw this community together in love and strengthen it in unwavering faith. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

For the saints before us whose work is done, that their faithful example continues to direct your church. May their witness remind us that your gifts and calling are irrevocable, whether in life or death. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **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.*

✠ THANKSGIVING ✠

~ We give thanks for the saving word and all the gifts of God. ~

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>



OFFERING MUSIC SELECTION

"Now the Feast and Celebration"

ELW 167 Text and music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950 Text and music © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc.

The gathering stands as 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.**

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

God of justice and love, **we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, Our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

✠ 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.**

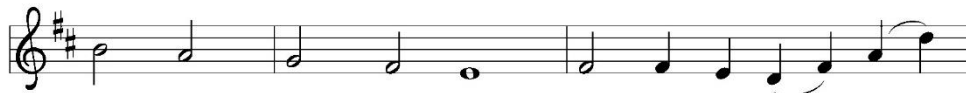
HYMN

Jesus Shall Reign

ELW 434



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -
2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es
3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue dwell on his
4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - 'ners
5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar



ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from
throng to crown his head; his name like sweet per -
love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es
leap to lose their chains, the wea - ry find e -
hon - ors to our king; an - gels de - scend with



shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
fume shall rise with ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.
songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.
Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

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 Crumbs of Love by Michael Cook. Copyright © Michael Cook. All rights reserved. Used by permission of the artist. www.hallowed-art.co.uk 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 Ron and Jan A., Jim C., Sherrie W., Wally S.

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.

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.

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.

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.

BETHESDA GARDENS Whether it's planting, weeding, or watering, there's always something to do in our gardens. We'd love your help! If you're interested in lending a hand, please contact Dianne Jones.

KEY & LOCKBOX COMBINATION REVIEW Mark V. is conducting a review of parishioner's needs for after-hours access to the church. If you currently have a key to the facility or will need the new lockbox combination (which will change in September), please contact Mark by email.

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 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. Contact Pastor for more information.

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

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. August Trips 19th at 4 p.m. -Nature Tour Come enjoy a peaceful day on the water!

CHRISTIAN LADIES AROUND THE LAKE Join us at 12:30 p.m. at the Tulibee Tavern for lunch and a special presentation by Inez Streasick, "Migrant Workers and Immigrant Workers" Inez worked as a migrant laborer during the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s. Hear her inspiring story of how she and her family persevered through difficult living conditions and challenges involving education and health care. Cost is \$20. To reserve your place, contact Lois at 320-674-0136.

CORN FEED You are invited to gather for Bethesda's Corn Feed on Saturday, August 22nd, from 4:30 pm–7:00 pm. Come enjoy good food, fellowship, and the gift of community as we share in the abundance of God's creation together. Cost is \$15 for adults and \$5 for children. If you would like to help, volunteer sign-up sheets are located in the Fellowship Hall.

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.

SAVE THE DATE Corn feed 8/22 | Outdoor Worship 8/30 | Holiday Bazaar 10/31

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD Sunday, August 9th, 2026 In-Person 65 | Online 20

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA

Sunday, August 16th | 12th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion

10:00 am Time of fellowship

Monday, August 17th

9:00 am Crafters

10:00 am Church Council Meeting

11:30 am Pinochle

7:00 pm AA/Alanon

Tuesday, August 18th

9:00 am Chair Yoga

3:00 pm Choir Practice

4:00 pm Bell Choir Practice

Wednesday, August 19th

9:00 am Women's Bible Study

10:00 am WELCA Meeting

4:00 pm Let's Go Fishing Nature Tour

Thursday, August 20th

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

9:15 am Chair Yoga

12:30 pm Christian Ladies Around the Lake-Tulibee Tavern in Wahkon

Saturday, August 22nd

7:30 am – 11:00 am Veggie Stand

8:00 am Corn Shucking

4:30 pm–7:00 pm. Corn Feed

Sunday, August 23rd | 13th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion

10:00 am Time of fellowship

Bethesda Lutheran Church blcmalmo.org

Office: 320-684-2123 (1-877-684-2123) Fax: 320-684-2836

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

Worship Leader: Richard Martens

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.

Ushers: Larry & Carol P.

Greeters: Dianne & Del J.

Lector: Kat C.

Hospitality Hosts: VOLUNTEERS?

Serving on August 23rd

August Altar Care: Patti S., Karen E.

Communion Assistants:

Ushers: Barry & Donna A. **Greeters:** Char B. & Jenny S.

Lector: Laura M.

Hospitality Hosts: Rich, Karen, Laura

