
Bethesda Lutheran Church

21590 Hwy 47, Isle, Minnesota 56342

September 6th, 2026

9:00 am



Living Water

Season of Creation 2026

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. Today's worship is a part of the ecumenical Season of Creation, a season of prayer and action for our common home that takes place every year from September 1 to October 4. The theme for the Season of Creation this year is "Living Water," which is taken from Ezekiel 47:9 and 12.

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

In the beginning, the Spirit of God hovered over the waters. And God called them good.
Come Holy Spirit and cleanse the waters.

The prophet saw a river flowing from the Temple, and wherever the river flowed, everything lived. **Come Holy Spirit and renew the face of the Earth.**

Jesus cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me... Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water." **Come, Holy Spirit and heal your people.**

LIFE TOGETHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

BLESSING BOX

Today's Blessing Box gifts will support the new Aitkin area community meal program. Thank you for helping share Christ's love through care for our neighbors. As the blessing box is being passed, we join together in song.

All Creatures, Worship God Most High!

ELW 835



1 All crea-tures, wor-ship God most high! Sound ev-'ry voice in earth and
2 Sing, broth-er wind; with clouds and rain you grow the gifts of fruit and
3 Sing, broth-er fire, so mirth-ful, strong; drive far the shad-ows, join the
4 All who for love of God for-give, all who in pain or sor-row



sky: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Sing, broth-er sun, in splen-dor
grain: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Dear sis-ter wa-ter, use-ful,
throng: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Dear moth-er earth, so rich in
grieve: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Christ bears your bur-dens and your



bright; sing, sis-ter moon and stars of night:
clear, make mu-sic for your Lord to hear: Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-
care, praise God in col-ors bright and rare:
fears; still make your song a-mid the tears:



lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!

5 And you, most gentle sister death,
waiting to hush our final breath:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom,
fair is the night that leads us home.
Alleluia.

6 O sisters, brothers, take your part,
and worship God with humble heart:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
All creatures, bless the Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit, Three in One:
Alleluia.

Text: Francis of Assisi, 1182-1226; tr. composite
Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, Geistliche Kirchengesänge, Köln, 1623
Text © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

PRAYER

God of abundance, **you open your hand and satisfy the needs of every living thing. Receive these Blessing Box offerings as signs of your grace among us. Bless the hands that give, the places that serve, and our neighbors who hunger for daily bread. Through these gifts make us part of Christ's compassion for the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WATERS

Almighty and ever living God, **we thank you for your love in all creation, and especially for your gift of water to sustain and cleanse all life. Christ is the living water, cleansing, refreshing, and making all things new. We give thanks for the waters that bring beauty to all that we enjoy, the wild places, the bush, the mountains, coast and the sea. We give thanks and praise for all good lands, for the trees and pastures, for our plentiful crops, and for the living water that quenches them. Amen.**

We praise you, O God, for this font, for through this water you have birthed us into the family of Christ, bathed us in forgiveness, and enlivened us in the Spirit.

We praise you, O God, for baptism. **We praise you, O God, for baptism.**

LITANY OF PRAISE FOR CREATION

Glory to you, O God: you speak a word of power, and so you create the world. We praise you, O God: **We praise you, O God.**

For the Spirit hovering to bring forth life, for the earth ordered from chaos, and for light and dark, we bless you, O God: **We bless you, O God.**

For the cosmos beyond our earth, for the sky above our heads, and for the cycle of evening and morning, we exalt you, O God: **We exalt you, O God.**

For the seas, the lakes, and the rivers, for the land with its mountains and plains, and for the trees, the plants, and their fruits, we magnify you, O God: **We magnify you, O God.**

For the sun to rule the day, for the moon to brighten the night, and for the shining stars, we extol you, O God: **We extol you, O God.**

For the fish in the sea, for the birds of the air, and for the monsters in the deep, we glorify you, O God: **We glorify you, O God.**

For wild animals and creatures of all kinds, for cattle and all livestock, and for everything that creeps on the earth, we adore you, O God: **We adore you, O God.**

For humankind made in your image, for setting us on your good earth, and for providing us food to eat, we worship you, O God: **We worship you, O God.**

Bless us, your creatures. Accept our praise, and make us worthy of your marvelous creation. We praise you, O God: **We praise you, O God.**

Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to you, our God, forever and ever. **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

O God, **in whom we live and move and have our being, in Christ you created the worlds, and your Spirit breathes life into the universe. We praise you for your wondrous creation. Bless us and all your handiwork with your infinite light, and direct our lives to the care of this good earth, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

✠ **WORD** ✠

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

PSALM

Psalm 148

¹ Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise God in the heights.

² **Praise the LORD, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

³ Praise the LORD, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.

⁴ **Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.**

⁵ Let them praise the name of the LORD, who commanded, and they were created,

⁶ **who made them stand fast forever and ever,
giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

⁷ Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;

⁸ **fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**

⁹ mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;

¹⁰ wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;

¹¹ sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;

¹² young men and maidens, old and young together.

¹³ Let them praise the name of the LORD,

whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

¹⁴ The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. Hallelujah!

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 17:22a, 24-28

In Athens, Paul faces the challenge of proclaiming the gospel to Greeks who know nothing of either Jewish or Christian tradition. He proclaims that the "unknown god" whom they worship is the true Lord of heaven and earth who will judge the world with justice through Jesus, whom God has raised from the dead.

A reading from Acts:

^{22a} Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, ²⁴ "The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶ From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷ so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸ For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we, too, are his offspring.'

May the Word, as living water, **make everything live.**

GOSPEL

John 1:1-5

John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.

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

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

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

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

SERMON

Reverend Christina K.

1 Christ is the life of all that is, God's pure cre - a - tive
 2 Christ is the death of all that is; a broad and beck - 'ning
 3 Christ is the death of all that is, a bright, con - sum - ing
 4 Christ is the life of all that is, Be - gin - ning and the

Word, whose pow'r be - yond and through all space the
 tomb, who wel - comes us from well - worn ways to
 fire, whose flames re - quire our pri - or self as
 End; cre - a - tive force, most peace - ful death, trans -

worlds to Be - ing stirred. Christ is the life be - yond all
 dark - ness of the womb. Christ is the death, the sink - ing
 kin - dling for the pyre. Christ is the death of dust - y
 form - ing burn - ing brand. Christ is the life, in whose wise

time, cre - a - tion's birth and breath, whose la - bor
 down past all de - sire and fear, whose prom - ise
 days of un - cre - a - tive strife, for out from
 love cre - a - tion lives and dies and thus for -

brings all things to be and brings all things to death.
 in the gen - tle dark bids new - ness to ap - pear.
 fire we tread up - on the thresh - old of new life.
 ev - er - more shall bless the Source, the liv - ing Christ.

Text: Susan Palo Chervien, b. 1953
 Music: COE FEN, Kenneth Naylor, 1931–1991
 Text © 1989 Susan Palo Chervien, admin. Augsburg Fortress
 Music © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in God, who creates all things, who embraces all things, who celebrates all things, who is present in every part of the fabric of creation. We believe in God as the source of all life, who baptizes this planet with living water.

We believe in Jesus Christ, seen in the suffering one, the poor one, the malnourished one, the climate refugee - who loves and cares for this world and suffers with it. And we believe in Jesus Christ, the seed of life, who came to reconcile and renew this world and everything in it.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the breath of God, who moves with God and who moves among and with us today.

We believe in everlasting life in God. And we believe in the hope that one day God will put an end to death and all destructive forces.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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: ...Your mercy is great
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 as the gifts are brought forward.

OFFERING PRAYER

O God, maker of heaven and earth, **your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

The presiding minister continues with the words of institution.

The gathering responds: This is the mystery of our faith:

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

*The presiding minister continues. The gathering responds: **Amen.***

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, and trusting in the wide welcome of God, 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.**

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.

The gifts of creation for God's beloved creatures. Come and share.

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

ELW 834



1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;



in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;



most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see



al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!
thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.
'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824–1908, alt.
Music: ST. DENIO, Welsh traditional

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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

✠ SENDING ✠

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

BLESSING

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

1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to
2 God rules all the forc - es: the stars in their cours-es and

God the cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise,
sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;

who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who
the hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains, the

still guides us on to the end of our days.
deeps of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.

God's ban - ners are o'er us, God's light goes be -
We too should be voic - ing our love and re -

fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night,
joic - ing; with glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us raise

till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is ban - ished, as
till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks - giv - ing: "To

for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.
God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!"

Text: Katherine K. Davis, 1892–1980, alt.
Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune
Text © 1939, 1966 E. C. Schirmer Music Company.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Flourish with creation. **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.

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.

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.

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.

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: 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.

THANK YOU! On behalf of Girl Scout Troop 216, Kathy Mjelde and the scouts thank you for generous donations made to us on Sunday, August 30, 2026. Your gift is going to enrich our scouting activities such as Field Trips or Handbooks. We can't thank you enough.

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

Scam prevention workshop September 15th, 1:00 pm

Holiday Bazaar Saturday, October 31st

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD Sunday, August 30th, 2026 In-Person 62 | Online 12

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA

Sunday, September 6th | Season of Creation

9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion

10:00 am Time of fellowship

Monday, September 7th | Memorial Day

OFFICE CLOSED

11:30 am Pinochle

7:00 pm AA/Alanon

Tuesday, September 8th

9:00 am Chair Yoga

9:00 am Quilting

3:00 pm Choir Practice

4:00 pm Bell Choir Practice

Wednesday, September 9th

9:00 am Women's Bible Study

5-7 pm Church picnic & Bonfire

Thursday, September 10th

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

9:15 am Chair Yoga

Sunday, September 13th | 16th Sunday after Pentecost | 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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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.

September Altar Care: Barb F., Kat C.

Communion Assistants: Les & Dee Ann R., Barb F.

Ushers: Mark & Mary V.

Greeters: Merrily J., Darrell K.

Lector: Dennis H.

Hospitality Hosts: Julie S., Dennis H. & Family

Serving on September 13th – God's Work Our Hands

Communion Assistants: David & Libby B., Kat C.

Ushers: Barry & Donna A.

Greeters: Jenny S.

Lector: Mary V.

Hospitality Hosts: Rocky & Cindy V.

Music: Praise Team