
Bethesda Lutheran Church

21590 Hwy 47, Isle, Minnesota 56342

October 11th, 2026

9:00 am



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. ~

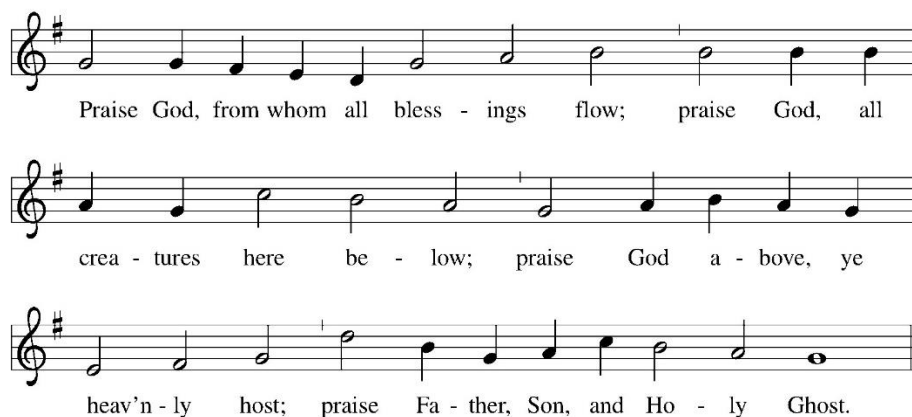
~ The gathering responds together with texts in bold print ~

Good morning and welcome to worship. In Isaiah we are given a vision of the great feast to come, when God will wipe away death forever. In Jesus' parable about a great banquet, those invited do not come, so the invitation is extended to others. In our liturgy God spreads a table before us. Even amid anxiety and hardship we rejoice in the peace of God which surpasses all understanding. With great joy we feast at the table of the Lord, and we go forth to share the wonderful invitation with others hungering and thirsting for the abundant life of God.

WELCOME

LIFE TOGETHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

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



Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711, alt.
Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

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, who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth. **Amen.**

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God, **we confess that we fall short of the life to which you call us. We misuse your creation, allow hurt to divide our relationships, and turn away from the needs of our neighbors. Too often, fear and indifference keep us from sharing your love with others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore what is broken, reconcile us to one another, and renew us by your Spirit to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Hear this good news: Through ☩ Jesus Christ, we have peace with God. You are forgiven, you are beloved, and you are set free to live in God's grace. **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

Lord of the feast, **you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

☩ **WORD** ☩

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

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 25:1-9

After a hymn of praise acknowledging God as a shelter for the poor, the prophet portrays a wonderful victory banquet at which death—which in ancient Canaan was depicted as a monster swallowing up everyone—will be swallowed up forever. The prophet urges celebration of this victory of salvation.

A reading from Isaiah:

¹ O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you; I will praise your name,
for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure.
² For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin;
the palace of foreigners is a city no more; it will never be rebuilt.
³ Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you.
⁴ For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress,
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.
When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,
⁵ the noise of foreigners like heat in a dry place,
you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled.
⁶ On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.
⁷ And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the covering that is spread over all nations;
⁸ he will swallow up death forever.
Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.
⁹ It will be said on that day,
"See, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."
Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God!**

PSALM

Psalm 23

¹ The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.
² **The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**
³ You restore my soul, O Lord, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.
⁴ **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**
⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
⁶ **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Philippians 4:1-9

Though writing from prison and facing an uncertain future, Paul calls on the Philippians to rejoice and give thanks to God no matter what the circumstance. God's peace is with us and binds together our hearts and minds in Jesus Christ, especially when things around us do not seem peaceful.

A reading from Philippians:

¹ My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.
² I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³ Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me

in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my coworkers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

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

GOSPEL

Matthew 22:1-14

Jesus tells a parable indicating that the blessings of God's kingdom are available to all, but the invitation is not to be taken lightly.

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

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

¹ Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ² "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³ He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴ Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' ⁵ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶ while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷ The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸ Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹ Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' ¹⁰ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹ "But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹² and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. ¹³ Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' ¹⁴ For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

SERMON

Rev. Christina K.



1 As we gath-er at your ta-ble, as we lis-ten to your word,
 2 Turn our wor-ship in-to wit-ness in the sac-ra-ment of life;
 3 Gra-cious Spir-it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
 send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife.
 where tri-um-phant Love will wel-come those who had been last and least.



Nour-ish us with sa-cred sto-ry till we claim it as our own;
 Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for-give as you for-gave;
 There no more will en-vy blind us nor will pride our peace de-stroy,



teach us through this ho-ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic-t'ry known.
 may we still be-hold your im-age in the world you died to save.
 as we join with saints and an-gels to re-peat the sound-ing joy.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: IN BABILONE, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradansen*, 1710

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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: Hear us, O God. **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

God of creation, **you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

*The presiding minister continues with the words of institution. 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.

Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

COMMUNION VIDEO

"Come To The Table"

Written by Mark Alan Schoolmeesters (BMI) © 2018 Common Hymnal Digital (BMI), Standing Room Only (BMI) (admin by CapitolCMGPublishing.com)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Sustaining God, **with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

✠ SENDING ✠

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

BLESSING

Creator God bless you and keep you. Creating Christ shine through you with grace and mercy. Creative Spirit nourish you and give you ✠ peace. **Amen.**

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

ELW 547

1 Sent forth by God's bless-ing, our true faith con-fess-ing,
2 With praise and thanks-giv-ing to God ev-er-liv-ing,
the peo-ple of God from this dwell-ing take leave.
the tasks of our ev-'ry-day life we will face—
The sup-per is end-ed. Oh, now be ex-tend-ed
our faith ev-er shar-ing, in love ev-er car-ing,
the fruits of this ser-vice in all who be-lieve.
em-brac-ing God's chil-dren, the whole hu-man race.
The seed of Christ's teach-ing, re-cep-tive souls
With your feast you feed us, with your light now
reach-ing, shall blos-som in ac-tion for God and for all.
lead us; u-nite us as one in this life that we share.
Your grace shall in-cite us, your love shall u-nite us
Then may all the liv-ing with praise and thanks-giv-ing
to work for your king-dom and an-swer your call.
give hon-or to Christ and his name that we bear.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.
Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune
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DISMISSAL

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace. **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 Ron and Jan A.; Jim C.; Wally S.; Sherrie W.; Caregivers.

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.

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.

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: 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.

INFORMATION SESSIONS: BLC CONSTITUTION REVISIONS Members are invited to attend an information session regarding the proposed revisions to the BLC Constitution. The next session will be held Sunday, October 18th, 10:30 am in the sanctuary. Each session will cover the revision process, proposed changes, and next steps leading up to the vote at the annual congregational meeting on Sunday, December 13th.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY meets most Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Join us as we dive into the lectionary texts for the upcoming week. New participants are always welcome.

WOMEN'S DEVOTIONAL Join us the second Monday of each month at 8:30 am in the Fellowship Hall for a time of scripture, reflection, and fellowship (next gathering is October 12th). 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.

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 currently reading Richard Rohr's *The Tears of Things: Prophetic Wisdom for an Age of Outrage*. All men are welcome. Contact Wally to learn more.

LUTEFISK SUPPER Saturday, October 17th, 3 pm – 6 pm, Trinity Lutheran Church, 735 2nd Street Southeast, Milaca, MN. Enjoy Lutfisk, ham, potato sausage and all the Scandinavian fixings! \$28 meal; \$25 Ham & sausage; Quilt and bake sale too.

CHRISTIAN LADIES AROUND THE LAKE Oct. 15th, 12:30pm, at Tulibee Tavern in Wahkon. Lunch and a speaker, \$20. For more information, see the poster on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Call Lois for reservations: 320 674-0136.

HOLIDAY BAZAAR Saturday, October 31st from 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Join us for Bethesda's annual Holiday Bazaar, featuring homemade goodness, quilts, baked goods, crafts, lefse, raffle prizes, cookie walk, and a vintage market. The money raised supports local ministries.

WAYS TO HELP

Cookie Walk: We are asking for donations of 6 dozen holiday cookies. Thank you for helping fill our tables with sweetness!

Lefse Making: We'll be rolling and grilling lefse on Monday, Oct. 26th & Tuesday, Oct. 27th starting at 8:00 a.m. Please sign up to help.

Bake Sale: We welcome donations of candies, breads, pies, and all your delicious holiday treats!

Caramel Wrapping: Will take place Tuesday, Oct. 27th following lefse making.

Crafts: Handmade items are always a highlight! Donations may be dropped off anytime so they can be priced before the sale.

BAZAAR SET-UP

- Thursday, Oct. 28th at 3:30 p.m. Table setup
- Friday, Oct. 30th at 8:30 a.m. Set up Craft, Cookie Walk, Quilt, and Bake Sale areas. Come lend a hand, bake, craft, or simply join us for the fun on October 31st!

PROPERTY TEAM meets on Monday, October 12th at 10 am.

LADLES OF LOVE Join us at Bethesda on Wednesday, November 18, from 5–6:30 p.m. (or until gone!) for homemade soups and biscuits. Take-home containers will be available. A freewill offering supports local food shelves in recognition of World Hunger Month. To help prepare food, contact the church office.

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD Sunday, October 4th, 2026 In-Person 70 | Online 25



THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA

Sunday, October 11th | Season of Creation | 20th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion

10:00 am Time of fellowship

Monday, October 12th

8:30 am Women's Devotional

10:00 am Property Team Meeting

11:30 am Pinochle

7:00 pm AA/Alanon

Tuesday, October 13th

9:00 am Chair Yoga

9:00 am Quilters

3:00 pm Choir Practice

4:00 pm Bell Choir Practice

Wednesday, October 14th

9:00 am Women's Bible Study

12:30 pm Christian Ladies around the Lake

Thursday, October 15th

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

9:15 am Chair Yoga

Sunday, October 18th | Season of Creation | 21st Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion

10:00 am Time of fellowship

10:30am Informational session on Bethesda's constitutional revisions

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.

October Altar Care: Elsa C. & Carol P.

Communion Assistants: Judie B.; Sheila P.; Jenny S.

Ushers: Barb & Lee F. **Greeters:** Mary B., Jenny S.

Lector: Jeannine B. **Hospitality:** Carol, Larry, Jeannine, Jim

Serving on October 18th | Season of Creation | 21st Sunday after Pentecost

Communion Assistants: Donna A., Kat C., Karen C.

Ushers: Barry & Donna **Greeters:** Dianne & Del

Lector: London F. **Hospitality:**