
Bethesda Lutheran Church

21590 Hwy 47, Isle, Minnesota 56342

October 18th, 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 today's first reading God uses the Gentile ruler Cyrus to accomplish divine purposes. When the Pharisees try to trap Jesus, he tells them to give the emperor what belongs to him and to God what belongs to God. To gather for worship reminds us that our ultimate allegiance is to God rather than to any earthly authority. Created in the image of God, we offer our entire selves in the service of God and for the sake of the world.

WELCOME

LIFE TOGETHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

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



1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer
 2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long
 3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's
 4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of



praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure
 need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;
 flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,
 change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;



what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the
 here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es -
 Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants
 help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's



world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts
 ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,
 of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore
 ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;



wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
 here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
 what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.
 we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000
 Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907-1991
 Text © 1979 and Music © 1942, ren. 1970 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.
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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

Holy and gracious God, **make your home in our hearts. Created by you, help us live in your image; created for you, help us reflect your love; redeemed by you, help us offer our lives in gratitude and service, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

CHOIR ANTHEM

I Give You my Heart

Arranged by Lloyd Larson I Give You my Heart by Reuben Morgan © 1995 and this Arr. © 2007 Reuben Morgan and Hillsong Publishing.
Into My Heart by Harry D. Clarke © 1924, Ren. 1952 and this Arr. © 2007 Hope Publishing Company.

✠ WORD ✠

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

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 45:1-7

The prophet announces that Cyrus the Persian emperor is the one the Lord has anointed to end Israel's exile. The Lord makes this choice so that the whole world will recognize this Lord as the only God. Persia had a god of light and a god of darkness; the Lord claims sovereignty over both light and darkness.

¹ Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and to strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him— and the gates shall not be closed:

² I will go before you and level the mountains;

I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron;

³ I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the Lord, the God of Israel, who call you by your name.

⁴ For the sake of my servant Jacob and Israel my chosen,

I call you by your name; I give you a title, though you do not know me.

⁵ I am the Lord, and there is no other; besides me there is no god.

I arm you, though you do not know me,

⁶ so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me;

I am the Lord, and there is no other.

⁷ I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe;

I the Lord do all these things.

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

PSALM

Psalms 96:1-13

¹ Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

² **Sing to the Lord, bless the name of the Lord; proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**

³ Declare God's glory among the nations and God's wonders among all peoples.

⁴ **For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised, more to be feared than all gods.**

⁵ As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; but you, O Lord, have made the heavens.

⁶ **Majesty and magnificence are in your presence; power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**

⁷ Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord honor and power.

⁸ **Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts of the Lord.**

⁹ Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; tremble before the Lord, all the earth.

¹⁰ **Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is king! The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peoples with equity."**

¹¹ Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;

let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

¹² **Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O Lord,
for you come to judge the earth.**

¹³ You will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with your truth.

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Most likely this letter is the first written by Paul. Paul gives pastoral encouragement and reassurances to new Christians living in an antagonistic environment. Their commitment of faith, love, and hope makes them a model for other new Christian communities.

¹ Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
Grace to you and peace.

² We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly ³ remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵ because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶ And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸ For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹ For they report about us what kind of welcome we had among you and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

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

GOSPEL

Matthew 22:15-22

After Jesus begins teaching in the temple, religious leaders try to trap him with questions. First they ask if God's people should pay taxes to an earthly tyrant like Caesar.

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

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

¹⁵ The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. ¹⁶ So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ Then he said to them, "Whose head is this and whose

title?" ²¹They answered, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." ²²When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

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

SERMON

Rev. Christina K.

Lift Every Voice and Sing

ELW 841

1 Lift ev - 'ry voice and sing till earth and heav - en ring,
 2 Ston - y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas - t'ning rod,
 3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears,

ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty.
 felt in the days when hope un - born had died;
 thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;

Let our re - joic - ing rise high as the lis - t'ning skies,
 yet with a stead - y beat, have not our wea - ry feet
 thou who hast by thy might led us in - to the light,

let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea,
 come to the place for which our par - ents sighed?
 keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
 We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;
 Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met thee;

sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought us;
 we have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh - tered,
 lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get thee;

fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be - gun,
 out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at last
 shad - owed be - neath thy hand, may we for - ev - er stand,

let us march on till vic - to - ry is won.
 where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
 true to our God, true to our na - tive land.

Text: James W. Johnson, 1871–1938
 Music: LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING, J. Rosamond Johnson, 1873–1954

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 MUSIC

This Table is Yours

The Porter's Gate | Molly Parden · Lauren Goans | Table Songs @ The Porter's Gate, exclusively distributed by Integrated Music Rights
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nMrVx2NGyB0&list=RDMM&index=2>

O Taste and See

The Porter's Gate | Molly Parden · Dee Wilson | Table Songs @ The Porter's Gate, exclusively distributed by Integrated Music Rights
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rFp_dtPKdhl&list=RDMM&start_radio=1&rv=Orhq3Ybq3Ug

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.**

x



Take My Life, That I May Be *Toma, oh Dios, mi voluntad*

ELW 583

Refrain/Estribillo



To - ma, oh Dios, mi vo - lun - tad, y haz - la tu - ya, na -
Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord,



da más; to - ma, sí, mi co - ra - zón
to thee; take my mo - ments and my days;



y tu tro - no en él ten - drás. ten - drás.
let them flow in cease - less praise. less praise.



1 Que mi vi - da en - te - ra es - té
1 Take my hands and let them move
2 Take my sil - ver and my gold,
3 Take my voice and let me sing
4 Take my will and make it thine;



con - sa - gra - da a ti, Se - ñor;
at the im - pulse of thy love;
not a mite would I with - hold;
al - ways, on - ly for my King;
it shall be no lon - ger mine;



que a mis ma - nos pue - da guiar el im -
take my feet and let them be swift and
take my in - tel - lect and use ev - 'ry
take my lips and let them be filled with
take my heart, it is thine own; it shall

Refrain/Estribillo



pul - so de tu a - mor.
beau - ti - ful for thee.
pow'r as thou shalt choose.
mes - sag - es from thee.
be thy roy - al throne.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879; adapt.: Spanish text: Vincent Mendoza, 1875–1955
Music: TOMA MI VOLUNTAD, William Dextheimer Pharris, b. 1956
Music © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

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.

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 today, Sunday, October 18th, 10:30 am in the sanctuary. We will discuss 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 November 9th). 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.

CRAFTERS The October 31st Holiday Bazaar is right around the corner and we're finishing the crafts that will fill our tables. Join us, Monday, October 19th at 9:00 am to lend a hand with crafting projects. No special skills are needed, just come as you are!

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!

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.

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.

THANKSGIVING IN A BAG Bethesda is joining Faith Lutheran Church in Isle to support Thanksgiving in a Bag, a collection for the Isle Food Shelf. Together, we can help local individuals and families enjoy a Thanksgiving meal without stretching already-tight budgets. Each bag will include the ingredients for a traditional Thanksgiving dinner and a Teal's Market gift card. Please take a tag off the bulletin board in the narthex to purchase the remaining items needed.

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD Sunday, October 11th, 2026 In-Person 68 | Online 15

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA

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

Monday, October 19th

9:00 am Crafters

10:00 am Church Council Meeting

11:30 am Pinochle

7:00 pm AA/Alanon

Tuesday, October 20th

9:00 am Chair Yoga

3:00 pm Choir Practice

4:00 pm Bell Choir Practice

Wednesday, October 21st

9:00 am WIC

9:00 am Women's Bible Study

Thursday, October 22nd

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

9:15 am Chair Yoga

Sunday, October 25th | Season of Creation | 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion

10:00 am Time of fellowship

Bethesda Lutheran Church blcmalmo.org

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A member congregation of the NE MN Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Ministers: All People of Bethesda Lutheran Church

Pastoral Ministries: Reverend Christina K.

blc.reverend@gmail.com 320-684-2123

Church Secretary: Mary B.

Custodian: Ari D.

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.

November Altar Care: Winnie Z., Barb F.

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

Ushers: Barry & Donna

Greeters: Dianne & Del

Lector: London F.

Hospitality:

Serving on October 25th | Season of Creation | 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Communion Assistants: Judie B., Jeannine B., Darlene C.

Ushers: Darrell K., Dick S.

Greeters: Char B., Penny S.

Lector: Karen E.

Hospitality: Dick & Sue S., Rose P