

Bethesda Lutheran Church

21590 Hwy 47, Isle, Minnesota 56342

October 25th, 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. Jesus' summary of the law in today's gospel echoes our first reading from Leviticus. We are called not only to love God with heart, soul, and mind, but also to love our neighbor as ourselves. It is out of such deep care that Paul shares the gospel with the Thessalonian community. In the confession of sins, we acknowledge that we have not loved God, neighbor, and self; yet we gather to hear the word of forgiveness and to be strengthened by word and meal to be signs of God's love and mercy in the world.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Joyful, Joyful we adore thee
Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852-1922 ELW 836

**Joyful, joyful we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee, praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.**

**All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird, and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in thee.**

**Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living, ocean-depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine!**

WELCOME & LIFE TOGETHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

GATHERING SONG

All of My Life

Dakota Road | Words and Music by Larry Olson ©1996 Dakota Road Music. All Rights Reserved. Used by Permission. | CCLI# 2329853

**My heart is hopin' and my eyes are open, there is a hunger inside of me.
I want to do right, walk in the holy light, to live my days abundantly.**

Chorus: **All of my life, I want to lose myself and be faithful.
All of my life, I want to live forgiven and grateful, all of my life.**

**Some say I've got to have all of the answers, some say I need all this money.
I hear the world is just mine for the taking, oh, how I long to be released.** *Chorus*

**Help out my neighbor, welcome a stranger, offer my shirt to an enemy.
Dance in the moonlight, cry by the firelight, to live my days abundantly.** *(Chorus)*

Oh, God, you know me, my every heartbeat is a word of grace from you.

**All of my life, I want to lose myself and be faithful.
All of my life, I want to live forgiven and be grateful,
All of my life, all of my life, all of my life.**

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

O Lord God, **you are the holy lawgiver, you are the salvation of your people. By your Spirit renew us in your covenant of love, and train us to care tenderly for all our neighbors, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

BELL CHOIR ANTHEM

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

LOBE DEN HERREN | Joachim Neander | Arranged by Jason W. Krug | ©2025 Hope Publishing Company #2652243

✠ WORD ✠

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

SCRIPTURE READING

Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18

The Holiness Code in Leviticus urges people to be holy because God is holy. Holiness is lived out as God's people exercise justice and love in their dealings with one another. We are to love our neighbors as ourselves.

¹ The Lord spoke to Moses, saying:

² "Speak to all the congregation of the Israelites and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.

¹⁵ "You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. ¹⁶ You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand idly by when the blood of your neighbor is at stake: I am the Lord.

¹⁷ "You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. ¹⁸ You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord."

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

PSALM

Psalms 1

¹ Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

² **Their delight is in the law of the LORD, and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.**

³ They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.

⁴ **It is not so with the wicked; they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

⁵ Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

⁶ **For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

Paul uses maternal imagery to depict the caring and nurturing relationship he shares with the Thessalonian Christians. When he first came to their city it was not to benefit himself but to share the gospel with them, which was his responsibility as an apostle of Christ.

¹ You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, ² but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. ³ For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, ⁴ but, just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals but to please God, who tests our hearts. ⁵ As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed, ⁶ nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, ⁷ though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. ⁸ So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

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

GOSPEL

Matthew 22:34-46

Put on the spot by the Pharisees, Jesus displays wisdom by summarizing the law of God in just two commandments and by demonstrating the Messiah must be more than the son of David.

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

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

³⁴ When the Pharisees heard that [Jesus] had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, ³⁵ and one of them, an expert in the law, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶ "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" ³⁷ He said to him, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' ³⁸ This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

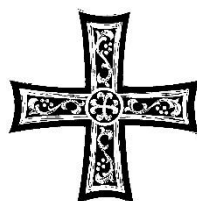
⁴¹ Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: ⁴² "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." ⁴³ He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, ⁴⁴ 'The Lord said to my Lord, 'Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet' " ?

⁴⁵ "If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" ⁴⁶ No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

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

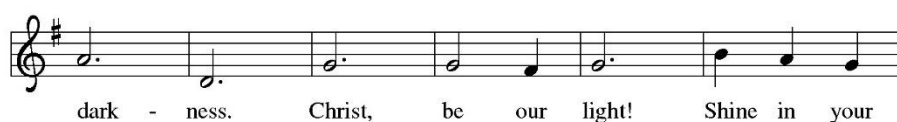
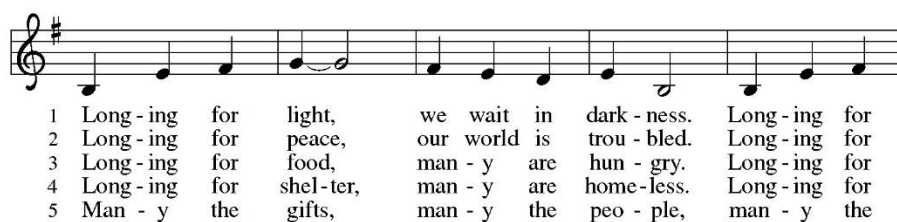
SERMON

Reverend Dan H.



Christ, Be Our Light

ELW 715



Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957
 Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell
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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.***

LORD'S PRAYER | Sung

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

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, and trusting in the wide welcome of God, let us pray as Jesus taught us, singing:

**Our Father in heaven holy be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done
On earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us the wrong we have done
As we forgive those who wrong us.**

**And do not put us to the test, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom,
the power, and the glory are yours now and forever, forever. Amen.**

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

The Table

By Chris Tomlin

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.**

SENDING SONG

Go Now

Words and Music by Hans Peterson and Larry Olson ©2006 Dakota Road Music. All Rights Reserved. Used by Permission CCLI# 579306

Filled with the Holy Spirit

Go now with God, go now with God

Into the world as a servant

Go now with God, go now with God

Chorus: **Go now, go now, go now with God**

Go now, go now, go now with God

Offering a hand to a stranger

Go now with God, go now with God

Trusting in the risen savior

Go now with God, go now with God *(Chorus)*

Waters of mercy have found us

Go now with God, go now with God

Grace on the journey surrounds us

Go now with God, go now with God *(Chorus)*

Crossing every boundary, every nation

Go now with God, go now with God

Dancing in the gift of liberation

Go now with God, go now with God *(Chorus)*

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.

LIFE TOGETHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Life together announcements reflect the shared life of Bethesda 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.; Beth R.; Wally S.; Lynn V.; 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.

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.

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 SETUP

- Thursday, Oct. 29th 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.

ALL SAINTS DAY | SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST On All Saints Day, we remember those who have died, celebrate those newly baptized, and give thanks for all the saints who have shaped our faith. During worship, you will be invited to speak the names of loved ones who have died and light a candle in their memory. Together, we hold grief and hope, trusting that in Christ we remain joined to one another and held in God's enduring love.

THANKSGIVING IN A BAG Bethesda is partnering with Faith Lutheran Church in Isle to support the Isle Food Shelf's Thanksgiving in a Bag program. Together, we can help local individuals and families enjoy a Thanksgiving meal without easing the strain on their budgets. Each bag includes the ingredients for a traditional Thanksgiving dinner and a Teal's Market gift card. To participate, please take a tag from the bulletin board in the narthex, purchase the items listed and return to Bethesda by November 8th.

BLESSING BOX Gifts received through the blessing box on November 1st will support the Isle Food shelf's Thanksgiving in a Bag Program.

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 18th, 2026 In-Person 59 | Online 24

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA

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

9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion

10:00 am Time of fellowship

Monday, October 26th

8:00 am Lefse making

11:30 am Pinochle

7:00 pm AA/Alanon

Tuesday, October 27th

8:00 am Lefse making & Caramel Wrapping

3:00 pm Choir Practice

4:00 pm Bell Choir Practice

Wednesday, October 28th

9:00 am Women's Bible Study

Thursday, October 29th

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

3:30 pm Table setup

Friday, October 30th

8:30 am Bazaar Setup

Saturday, October 31st

9am -1pm Holiday Bazaar & Vintage Market

Sunday, November 1st | All Saints Day

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

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.

Presiding Minister: Pastor Dan H.

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.

Serving on November 1st | All Saints Sunday

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

Ushers: Carol & Larry P. **Greeters:** Judie Birk & Jenny Schuett

Lector: **Hospitality:**