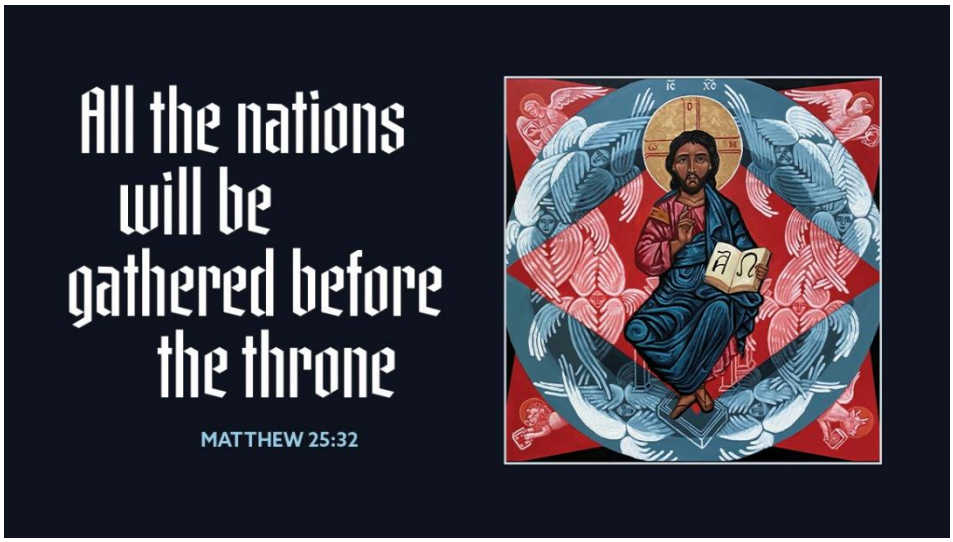
Bethesda Lutheran Church

21590 Hwy 47, Isle, Minnesota 56342

November 22nd, 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 ~

On this final Sunday of the church year our gospel is Jesus' great story of judgment. In the end, the faithful are those who served Christ by ministering to those who are poor, hungry, naked, sick, or estranged. In the first reading God is the shepherd who seeks the lost, weak, and injured and feeds them with justice. We gather this day to celebrate the reign of Christ and his victory over death, yet we await the consummation of all things yet to come. Acknowledging Christ as our merciful ruler, we go forth that his reign may be known in our loving words and deeds.

WELCOME

LIFE TOGETHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 95:1-7a

1 Come, let us sing to the LORD; let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.
2 **Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving**
and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.
3 For you, LORD, are a great God, and a great ruler above all gods.
4 **In your hand are the caverns of the earth;**
the heights of the hills are also yours.
5 The sea is yours, for you made it, and your hands have molded the dry land.
6 **Come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD our maker.**
7a For the LORD is our God,
and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand.

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, our dwelling place for all generations, whose compassion never slumbers. **Amen.**

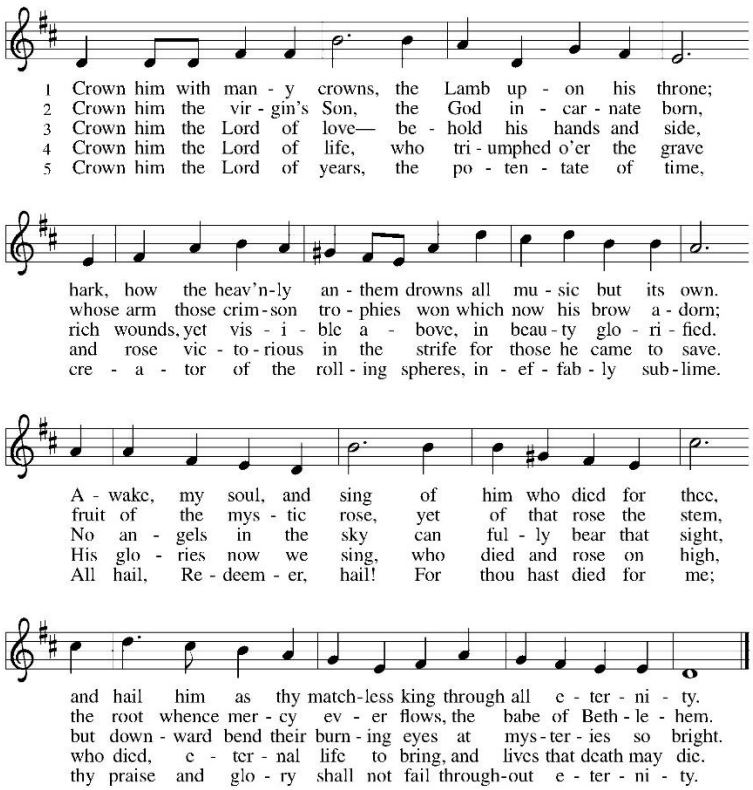
Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God, **we confess that we have trusted in our preparation instead of your invitation. We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved. We trust the voice of our shame and fear, which keeps us from entering fully into relationship with you and others. We are not awake to the coming of your reign. Rouse us and rescue us, that we may enter into your joy. Amen.**

Inherit the riches of God's grace. ☩ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy. You are forgiven. Blessed are you. **Amen.**

Crown Him with Many Crowns ELW 855



Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800–1894, sts. 1–3, 5; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 4
Music: DIADEMATA, George J. Elvey, 1816–1893

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
O God of power and might, **your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

BELL CHOIR ANTHEM It Is Well With My Soul
VILLE du HAVRE | Philip P. Bliss | Arranged by Martha Lynn Thompson

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

SCRIPTURE READING Ezekiel 34:11-16,20-24
Because Israel's kings proved to be bad shepherds, Ezekiel declares that the Lord will assume the role of shepherd in Israel. The Lord will also set over them a shepherd-messiah, "my servant David," who will feed and care for the people.

11 Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep and will sort them out. 12 As
shepherds sort out their flocks when they are among scattered sheep, so I will sort out
my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a
day of clouds and thick darkness. 13 I will bring them out from the peoples and gather
them from the countries and bring them into their own land, and I will feed them on the
mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. 14 I
will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their
pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich
pasture on the mountains of Israel. 15 I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I
will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. 16 I will seek the lost, and I will bring back
the strays, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and
the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.
20 Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat
sheep and the lean sheep. 21 Because you pushed with flank and shoulder and butted at
all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, 22 I will save
my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged, and I will judge between sheep and
sheep.
23 I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them; he
shall feed them and be their shepherd. 24 And I the LORD will be their God, and my
servant David shall be prince among them; I the LORD have spoken.

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

SCRIPTURE READING Ephesians 1:15-23
In this passage, God is praised for revealing ultimate divine power in raising Jesus from the dead. The resurrected, exalted Christ is Lord of both the church and the entire universe, now and in the age to come.

15 I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for
this reason 16 I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers,
17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of
wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, 18 so that, with the eyes of your heart

enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, [19] and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. [20] God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, [21] far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. [22] And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, [23] which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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

GOSPEL Matthew 25:31-46

Jesus compares himself to a king who moves among his subjects to see how he is treated: what is done for the least of those who belong to his family is truly done for him.

The holy gospel according to Matthew. This is the story of grace flowing down.
Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] [31] "When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. [32] All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, [33] and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. [34] Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, [35] for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, [36] I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' [37] Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? [38] And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? [39] And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' [40] And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.' [41] Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You who are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, [42] for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, [43] I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' [44] Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?' [45] Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' [46] And these will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life."

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

SERMON Reverend Christina K.

Jesus Shall Reign

ELW 434



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

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*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:
God, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

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

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 gathering sings ELW 689 as 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

Praise and Thanksgiving

ELW 689



Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984, alt.
Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune
Text © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved.

The gathering stands as the gifts are brought forward.

OFFERING PRAYER

Eternal God, **our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until hungry no more, all the world is fed, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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, 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.

In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in.
Come, receive what Christ has prepared.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Come Light Our Hearts
by Sandra McCracken | https://youtu.be/tV_KPx6QRos?si=IvhYqmPrmrlTW004

Does Anybody Know Somebody?
By John Tirro | youtube.com/watch?v=rSHDKSZpz98&list=RDrSHDKSZpz98&start_radio=1

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy God, **we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal. You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever. Amen.**

✢ SENDING ✢

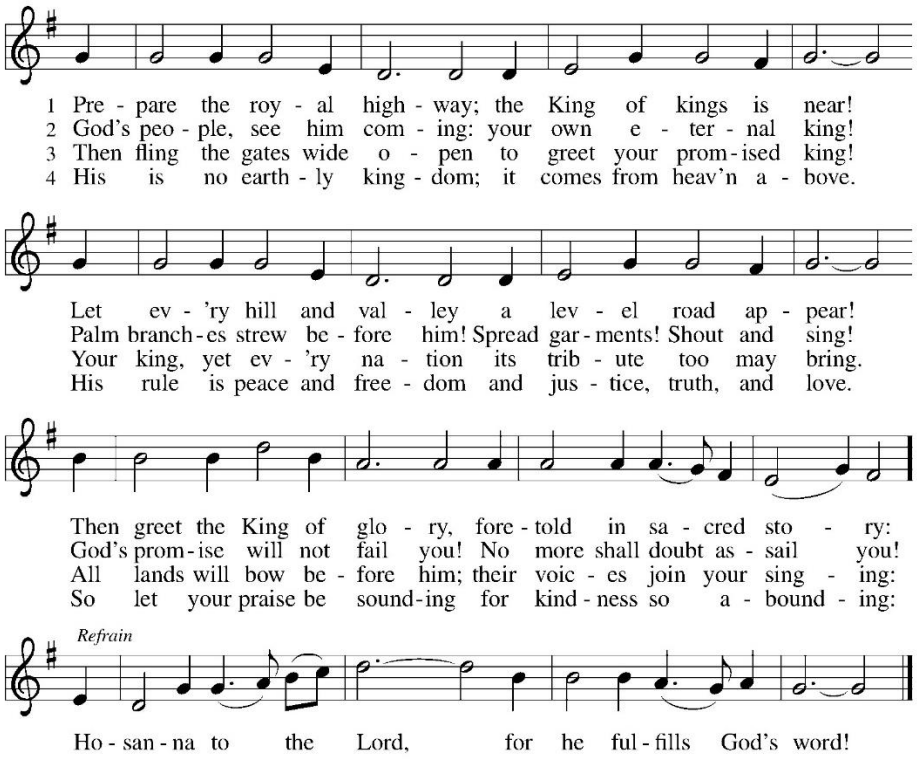
~ God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world. ~

BLESSING

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

Prepare the Royal Highway

ELW 264



Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Encourage one another. **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.

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LIFE TOGETHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Life together announcements reflect the share
d 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.; Theresa B.; Jim C.; Beth R.; 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. No Bible study on Wednesday, November 25th. 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 December 14th). 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. No Bible study on Thursday, November 26th. 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.

FIRST AID, CPR, CHOKING & AED TRAINING Be prepared. Be confident. Be ready to make a difference! Join the South Aitkin Area First Responders for a FREE hands-on training session covering essential lifesaving skills, including First Aid, CPR, choking response, and AED use. Tuesday, December 1st | 1:00–3:00 PM Bethesda Lutheran Church | The Fellowship Hall. Emergencies can happen anywhere, at any time. Knowing how to respond can make all the difference. Come gain valuable knowledge, build confidence, and learn skills that could help save a life. Everyone is welcome!

BETHESDA CHRISTMAS CANTATA Sunday, December 6th 9:00 am Join us for a beautiful celebration of the Christmas story through music as we reflect on the wonder of Christ's birth and the gift of God's love made known through a child. Come experience the timeless miracle of Christmas: that we are touched by a Child and a King at Christmas time and always.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING Our annual meeting will be held on Sunday, December 13th, following worship in Fellowship Hall. We'll review ministry highlights from the past year, vote on the proposed church constitution, and review the proposed 2027 budget. Annual reports will be available November 29th. All members are encouraged to attend.

DRAFT CONSTITUTION The proposed church constitution will be presented for congregational approval at our Annual Meeting on December 13th. Congregation members are encouraged to review the document before the meeting. To receive a copy, please contact the church office to request an electronic version by email or a printed copy.

POINSETTIA SALES Help fill our sanctuary with the beauty of Christmas! Poinsettias are now available to order for our Christmas poinsettia tree at a cost of $15 per plant. You are invited to purchase a poinsettia in honor or loving memory of someone special. A member of Altar Care will be available in the Fellowship Hall between services to receive your orders beginning November 29th.

HANGING OF THE GREENS Come help prepare our sanctuary for the joy and beauty of the Christmas season! Join us on December 3rd at 10:00 am as we decorate the church and ready our worship space for Advent and Christmas. All are welcome to lend a hand and share in this special tradition.

TIME AND TALENT Please take a moment to complete a Time and Talent sheet available on the tables in Fellowship Hall. Your responses help us connect your gifts with the ministries of Bethesda. Return the completed sheet to the survey box in the church office.

ADVENT-EPIPHANY DEVOTIONAL BOOKS Please pick up a copy of the Advent devotional *Until the Dawn: Actions for the Work of Advent* from the table in the narthex. Each week offers art, reflections, poetry, and hymns to help us resist despair and put our prayers in motion. As we move through the season, we will cry out, start somewhere, speak up, take courage, build up, and choose joy. Until the day when God's love reigns and all the earth echoes shalom, let us keep moving, singing, resisting, and rejoicing, trusting that God joins us in the work of Advent.

ELCA WORLD HUNGER poverty and hunger affect communities around the world, especially those facing natural disasters, conflict, and the effects of climate change. Through ELCA World Hunger, we join together to share God's love by providing food, clean water, livestock, agricultural education, and resources that help families build sustainable futures. You are invited to support this life-giving ministry through Bethesda by using the designated envelope from your offering envelope box or pick one up at the display in the narthex and place your gift in the offering plate. Thank you for sharing God's love and making a difference in the lives of our neighbors near and far. -Bethesda Mission and Evangelism Team.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP Thursday, December 24th at 3:30 pm Come celebrate the wonder and joy of Christ's birth as we gather for Christmas Eve worship with Holy Communion and candlelight. Together, we will rejoice in the promise of Emmanuel—God with us—and the light of Christ shining in our world.

CHRISTMAS EVE DINNER Pastor Christina and her family warmly invite you to join them for Christmas Eve dinner at Bethesda Lutheran following worship. Whether you're celebrating with family, spending Christmas Eve on your own, or simply looking for a place to share a meal and good company, there's a place for you at the table. Come just as you are and bring along anyone you'd like to share the evening with. Your presence is the only gift needed! If you think you might join us, please let the church office know so we can order plenty of food for everyone.

CHRISTMAS DAY BRUNCH CHURCH Gather around the table as we celebrate the birth of Christ with a joyful, relaxed time of worship and a shared Christmas brunch. Whether your Christmas morning is filled with family traditions or you're looking for a warm and welcoming place to spend the holiday, we'd love to have you join us. Come as you are, bring your loved ones, and share in the joy of Christmas together.

ELCA GOOD GIFTS!! Choose a gift that feeds families and uplifts communities around the world. Visit the online catalog through ELCA Good Gifts. Honor someone on your Christmas list by giving animal or food support to neighbors in need across many countries.

SHARING LOVE AND ENCOURAGEMENT As we enter this holiday season, we invite you to reach out to someone who may be experiencing illness, grief, loneliness, or a difficult time. Cards are available in the Fellowship Hall. You're invited to write a card to someone you know or share a general message of encouragement that the church can pass along to someone who would

appreciate it. Simply leave your completed card in the basket and the church office will help make sure it reaches someone who could use a little extra love and care.

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD Sunday, November 15th, 2026 In-Person 62 | Online 20

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA

Sunday, November 22nd | Reign of Christ
9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion
10:00 am Time of fellowship
Monday, November 23rd
11:30 am Pinochle
7:00 pm AA/Alanon
Tuesday, November 24th
9:00 am Chair Yoga
3:00 pm Choir Practice
Thursday, November 26th | Office Closed
Sunday, November 29th | 1st Sunday of Advent
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.
Choir Director: Sheila P.
Hand Bell Choir Director: Donna M.
November Altar Care: Winnie Z., Barb F.
December Altar Care: Linda S., Dianne J.
Communion Assistants: Barb F., Jeannine B., Kat C.
Ushers: Barry & Donna A.
Greeters: Char B., Anne H.
Lector: Karen E.
Hospitality: Dianne & Del J.

Serving on November 29th | 1st Sunday of Advent
Communion Assistants: Judie B., Darlene C., Jenny S.
Ushers: Darrell K., Dick S.
Greeters: Jeannine B., Jenny S.
Lector: London F.
Hospitality: