

Bethesda on the Bay Lutheran Church

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Evangelical Lutheran Worship
setting 5

March 15, 2026

10:00 am

**Please stand as you are able.*

**Please stand as you are willing and able.*

ELW refers to the red hymnal, Evangelical Lutheran Worship.

ACS refers to All Creation Sings

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME & CENTERING SILENCE

You are invited to use this time of silence to center your hearts and pray as we prepare for worship together.

PRELUDE O Christ, your Heart, Compassionate David Cherwien

TEMPLE TALK Disaster Relief Trip Bob Maas

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt
and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:

Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For failing to recognize your coming reign,
and for hindering the work of the Spirit:

Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,
and for disdainingly the living water Christ offers:

Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For disregarding voices from the margin,
and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:

Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,
and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:

Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.
God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.

Through faith, the free gift of God,
you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.
In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.
The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead
dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts,
and gives you life and peace.
Amen.

*GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM

Ah, Holy Jesus

Craig Courtney

WORD

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

PSALM

ELW 780

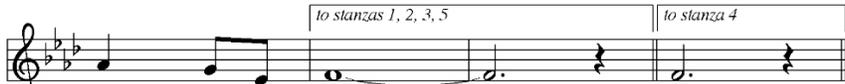
Congregation is invited to sing the refrain and the first verse while the choral scholars sing the additional verses.

Refrain
All



Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be - yond my fears, from

to stanzas 1, 2, 3, 5 *to stanza 4*



death in - to life. life.

Leader or All



1 God is my shep-herd, so noth - ing shall I want, I
2 Gent - ly you raise me and heal my wea - ry soul, you
3 Though I should wan - der the val - ley of death, I



rest in the mead - ows of faith - ful - ness and love, I
lead me by path - ways of righ - teous - ness and truth, my
fear no e - vil, for you are at my side, your

Refrain



walk by the qui - et wa - ters of peace.
spir - it shall sing the mu - sic of your name.
rod and your staff, my com - fort and my hope.

Leader or All

4 You have set me a ban-quet of love in the face of

Refrain

ha-tred, crown-ing me with love be-yond my pow'r to hold.

Leader or All

5 Sure-ly your kind-ness and mer-cy fol-low me all the days of my life;

I will dwell in the house of my God for-ev - er - more.

Final refrain

All

Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be -

yond my fears, from death in - to life.

SECOND READING

Ephesians 5:8-14

⁸ Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, ⁹ for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰ Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, ¹³ but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴ for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

The reading may be concluded: The Word of the Lord.

The assembly responds: Thanks be to God.

want to become his disciples?”²⁸ Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses.²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.”³⁰ The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes.³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will.³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind.³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.”³⁴ They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”³⁶ He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.”³⁷ Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.”³⁸ He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him.³⁹ Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind.”⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?”⁴¹ Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

The gospel concludes: The gospel of the Lord.

The assembly responds:

Praise to you, O Christ.

***REFLECTION**

The Rev. Angela Freeman

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

Dearest Jesus, at Your Word

ELW 520

*APOSTLE'S CREED

Pg. 105

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 power of 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

P: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

A: God, our shepherd, we pray that you guide the church. Lead Christians in our community (*here local congregations may be named*) and across the globe (*here international companion churches and synods may be named*) in right paths for your name's sake. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

A: God our provider, we cry out for this planet and the life it holds. Rescue endangered animals and plants, preserve threatened ecosystems, and save creatures from natural disasters. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A: God our sovereign, we plead for your peace on earth. Bring an end to war and violence, and raise up leaders in governments, courts, businesses, schools, and community organizations who seek goodness and mercy. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

A: God our healer, we call to you in our need. Uplift all who are made to feel unimportant, and transform the hearts of all infected by bigotry and prejudice. Care for all in special need this day (*especially*). Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

A: God our friend, we praise you for the diversity of people among us. Awaken us to share and receive the gifts we each possess, and stir up a spirit of understanding, celebration, and welcome for all. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: God our home, we thank you for all who have died and completed their baptismal journeys. Grant us faith to live until we too dwell in your house forever. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

P: Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

Amen.

***PEACE**

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Greet one another as you are comfortable sharing God's peace.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

VOLUNTARY

St. Columba

Charles Callahan

OFFERING

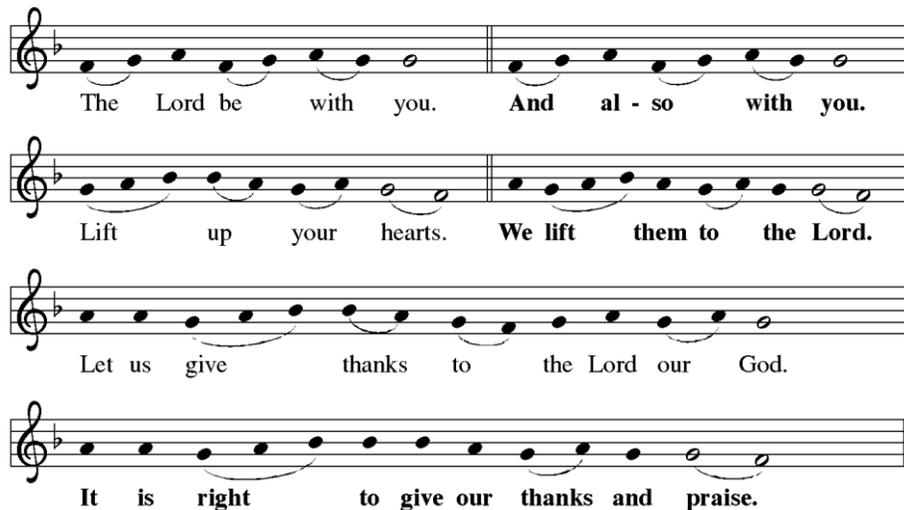
An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERING PRAYER

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

*DIALOGUE



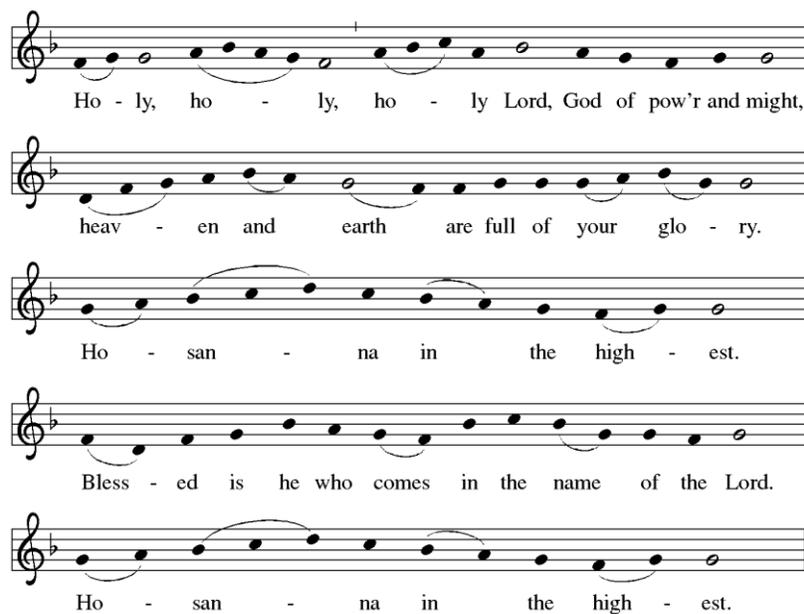
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*PREFACE

The presiding minister continues:

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times...
....And so with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
We praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

....Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.
Amen.

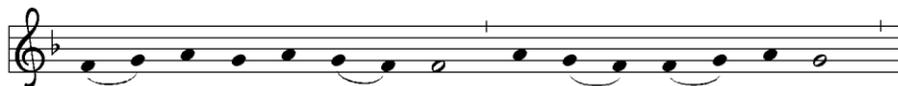
*LORD'S PRAYER

Presiding Minister continues:



Gathered into one by the Ho-ly Spir - it, let us pray as Je-sus taught us.

Congregation prays:



Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,



your king-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.



Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we



for-give those who sin a- gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al



and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,



and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All who are hungry, come!
The feast of grace is spread.

All are welcome to the Lord's table. You are invited to either come to the altar or remain in your seat to receive communion. If it is your preference, pre-filled elements are available at the ushers stand when you came in. If you come forward, you are invited come forward and receive bread from the Pastor and an assisting minister will offer wine. Let Pastor know if you need gluten free bread. Please cross your hands over your heart to indicate you prefer to receive a blessing.

COMMUNION

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

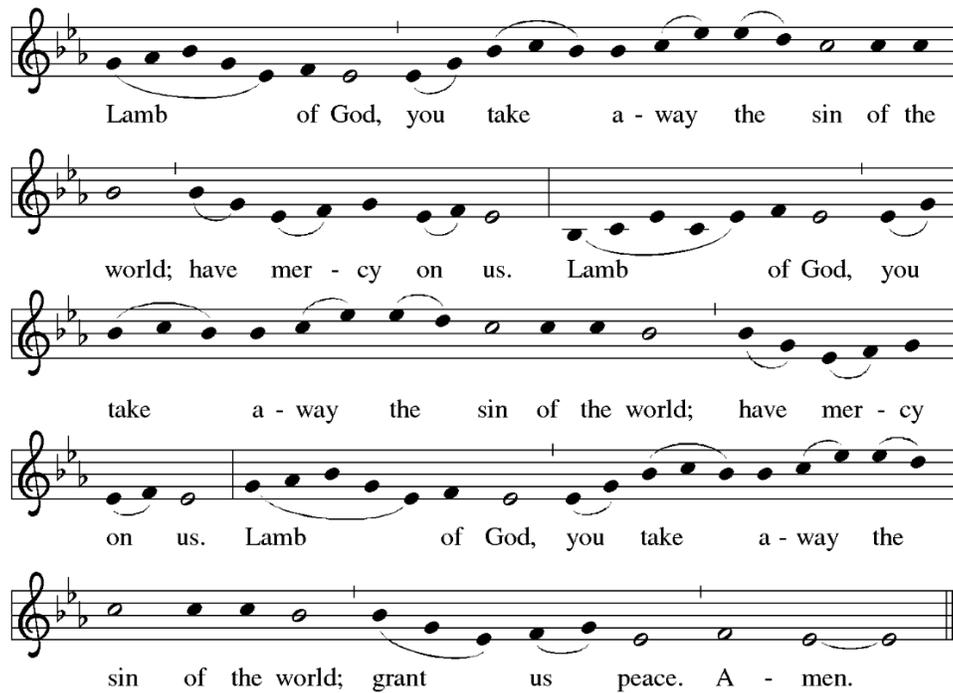
The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

and each person may respond

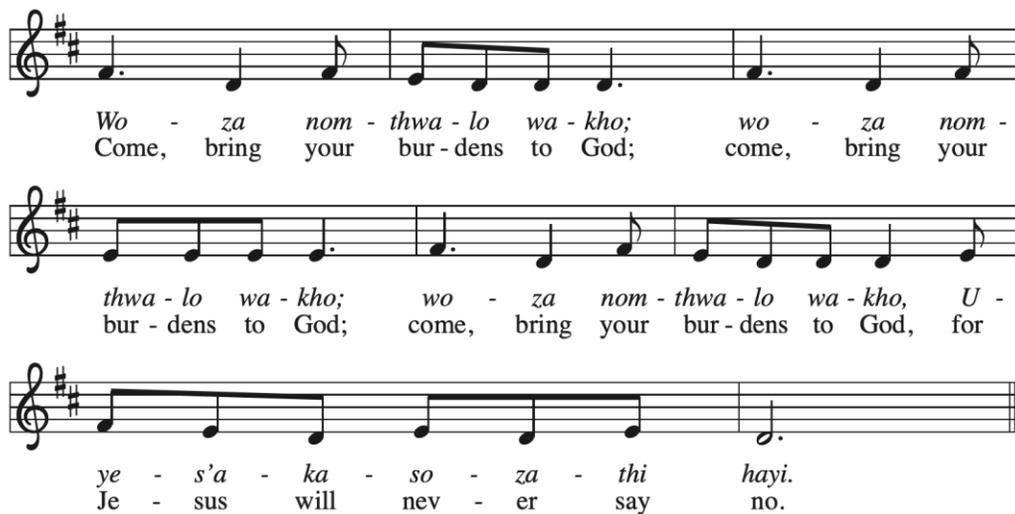
Amen.

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
 take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy
 on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
 sin of the world; grant us peace. A - men.

COMMUNION HYMNS The King of Love My Shepherd Is ELW 502
 In the Singing ELW 466
 Come, Bring Your Burdens to God ACS 1009



Wo - za nom - thwa - lo wa - kho; wo - za nom -
 Come, bring your bur - dens to God; come, bring your
 thwa - lo wa - kho; wo - za nom - thwa - lo wa - kho, U -
 bur - dens to God; come, bring your bur - dens to God, for
 ye - s'a - ka - so - za - thi hayi.
 Je - sus will nev - er say no.

*PASTORAL BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ,
 strengthen you and keep you in faith.
Amen.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Generous Host,
you have shared your feast with us and made us new.
Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities,
that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom,
in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

SENDING

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

***BLESSING**

The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.

Beloved,
we are God's own people,
holy, washed, renewed.
God bless you and keep you,
shower you with mercy,
fill you with courage,
and † give you peace.
Amen.

***SENDING HYMN** Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death ELW 452

***DISMISSAL**

Marked with the cross of Christ,
go forth to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Azmon

Paul Manz

Leading Worship

The Rev. Angela Freeman
Eric Richardson
Deb Zudell-Dickey

Senior Pastor
Minister of Music
Organist

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Next week’s scripture: First Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm: Psalm 130; Second Reading: Romans 8:6-11; Gospel: John 11:1-45.

By entering Bethesda on the Bay and by your presence here (indoors and outdoors), you consent to be photographed, filmed, livestreamed, and/or recorded. Your entry constitutes your consent to such photography, filming, livestreaming, and/or recording and to any use, in any and all media for Bethesda on the Bay Lutheran Church. Thank you.



BETHESDA ON THE BAY LUTHERAN
CHURCH & CHILDCARE CENTER

bethesdaonthebay.org
(440) 871-2276
info@bethesdaonthebay.org



ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the **Glory of God** by Randy & Holly Risch in celebration of birthdays for Randy and his mother, Mary Risch.

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS ARE AVAILABLE FOR THOSE WHO NEED THEM. SPEAK WITH AN USHER OR PASTOR FOR ASSISTANCE.

SCRIPTURE BASED COLORING SHEETS

Coloring sheets, based on the Sunday scripture, are available each week by the usher's stand. You are welcome to pick one up for use during worship or take it home with you for colorful prayer and meditation during the week.

CONNECT CARD – There are connect cards in the pew pockets. If you are a guest, have a prayer intention or anything else to share, please fill out a card and drop it in the collection basket. There are also opportunities listed for ways to get involved!

NAME TAGS are available for all worshipers as desired. Thank you for wearing your nametag and helping us build community and fellowship. If you do not see your nametag hanging in the Narthex or you simply need a new one printed, please contact the church office. There are also guest name tags for any guest attending worship. Name tags help to build and deepen a sense of community here at Bethesda. Would you like a name tag or replacement name tag? If so, contact info@bethesdaonthebay.org and we'll make you one!

DISASTER RELIEF TRIP

Meeting today after worship in the lounge.

Members of St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran and members of Bethesda on the Bay Lutheran Church in Bay Village, Ohio in partnership will be traveling to Carter County Tennessee the weeks of July 12, 2026, and September 13, 2026. We will continue to assist with recovery efforts for those who suffered great loss from Hurricane Helene in September 2024. Anyone interested in participating, please contact Bob Maas or Pastor Angela.

For the people unable to travel with us, you can provide support by praying for us and the people impacted in Carter County, help with communication with the congregation, help raise funds to provide to the impacted residents and help raise funds to defer the cost of the trip.

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

Gather weekly on Wednesday at 10:00am for Bible study for discussion about the assigned scripture we hear on the approaching Sunday morning. No expertise needed. Share together in open conversation, prayer and fellowship.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES

Reception of Holy Communion will be a part of worship on Maundy Thursday, April 2, 2026. On this night, the Church remembers Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples. Children of any age are invited to a time of conversation and learning about the sacrament of Holy Communion. Holy Communion is a gift from God and an invitation to share in the Lord's Table, and reception shouldn't be taken lightly. However, there is no perfect understanding or right age for reception. Some children have come to these classes for more than one year, even after they've received the sacrament. It's good for us to continue to learn and grow in our faith! Grown-ups and children are invited to the preparation time together.

Preparation and classes will be held on:

Sunday, March 22, after worship 11:15 - 1:30, Pizza lunch will be offered.

SOUP SUPPER March 25

Would you like to have Soup Suppers and Evening Prayer on Wednesday March 25th. If so, we need your help! We need someone to be a leader, people to make soups, a salad, to set up tables, dress the tables with tablecloths, salt and pepper shakers, rolls, offering baskets, and napkins. We also need "soup scoopers", to serve soup, and finally we will need a clean-up crew.

Set up begins at 5:30pm, as the soups should arrive by 5:40pm, and serving begins at 6:00 P.M. Evening Prayer would begin at 7:00pm.

Please consider serving your church in this way. Please RSVP to Laura English or on the [SignUp Genius](#). You'll get a reminder the Sunday before the Wednesday you choose. If you've worked on any of our crews before, you know that "Many Hands Make Light Work". We look forward to hearing from you. 😊

LENTEN ADULT FORMATION CLASS

Take some time apart during the season of Lent for reflection and prayer. Sundays at 9:00, join Pastor Angela in the Lounge for discussion around the small book and resource called, Give Up Something Bad for Lent: A Lenten Study for Adults, by James W. Moore. A few copies of the book will be available soon, or you can purchase your own from your favorite bookstore.

FELLOWSHIP TODAY

You are invited and encouraged to stay after worship today to enjoy some coffee and fellowship together! Refreshments are served in the fellowship hall which is located in the middle of the building. Thank you to Rachel & John Musser for hosting today!

FUTURE FELLOWSHIP DATES

We have the 2026 Schedule for Fellowship Hour Sundays, after church here at Bethesda. We are looking for a host for June 21. If you are available and interested, you can review the fellowship and coffee making tips, which are in the coffee cart, speak with Laura English, or contact the office.

CLASS FOR 2-4 YEAR OLDS

March 28 10:00 am

Bethesda on the Bay is excited to announce that we are starting a special class for children ages two through four along with their parents. We are planning to meet one Saturday a month from 10:00 to 11:00 am. If you are interested in attending these classes, please contact Diana Wolfe or the church office.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

The next confirmation class is April 16, from 6pm-8pm at Bethesda. The topic covered will be "Liturgy, work of the people!" Confirmation candidates are invited to attend and join friends from First Lutheran, Christ Evangelical Lutheran, Messiah Lutheran and Prince of Peace.

GHANA MISSION: COOKIE BAKE SALE ORDER PICK UP

If you pre-ordered cookies from the Ghana Committee, they will be available for pick up today or on Monday March 16th at *Bethesda on the Bay*. Please ensure you collect your cookies to enjoy them while they are fresh and delicious! If you have any questions about your cookie pick up, you can contact the church office.

HELP NEEDED

Wanted: three volunteers to assemble a storage shed for the Bethesda Child Care Center on: Saturday, March 21 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. Coffee and donuts will be served! Please let Chrissy or Mark Larsen (440) 653-1007 know if you're willing to help.

LADIES LUNCH

This month, Wednesday March 18th the ladies will meet for lunch at Antica Italian Restaurant at 11:30. This is located at 35568 Detroit Rd. in Avon near Mitchells ice cream. Please let Bev Hine know if you can join us. All ladies of the church are invited. 440-812-5448 or bbhine@hotmail.com.

BOOK CLUB

The Bethesda Book Club meets the third Wednesday of each month at 1:30pm in the lounge at church. The next meeting is March 18 and the book discussed will be [The Good Lord Bird](#) by James McBride. The group is open to anyone who wants to attend. A list of upcoming books is available. Any questions, contact Marcia at Marcia.Starr@oh.rr.com.

THANK YOU

Thank You Team Bethesda: Dave Lembke, Eric Peace, Marianne Schmidt, Chris Kiel, Mark Richardson, Lynne Zeidler, Holly, Randy and Dennis Risch, Nancy Kelly, Deb Weiland, Gary Weiland, Andria Lembke, Marion Zelinski, Jane Lennon, and David Webner, thanks to you all for your help with this week's Soup Supper. We couldn't have done it without you. Everything went very smoothly. Thank you for your service to Bethesda. "Many hands made light work". 😊

WEDNESDAY GATHERINGS DURING LENT AT GOOD SOIL

3/25 @ 6:30 PM

"God in the Space Between Us": The German Jewish theologian, Martin Buber, lived a century ago. His major work, I and Thou, has had a profound impact on counseling psychology and has influenced how people experience the divine in their lives. Dee Willis will lead a three-session discussion of Buber as an opportunity for growing deeper in faith this Lenten season.

At Good Soil in the lounge at 6:30pm on 3/11 & 3/25. Snacks provided. Questions? Email Pastor Marissa at pastormarissa@goodsoillutheran.org or call the church office at 440-331-1773.

FOOTSTEPS OF ST. PAUL

Walk in the footsteps of St. Paul through the cities and towns of St. Paul's missionary journeys of Ancient Greece. This 10 day journey will be done partly on land and oversea on a small cruise ship. Brochure is available in hard copy in the narthex on the welcome station and in the enews. Contact Pastor Angela with any questions or to share your interest ahead of time. This Pilgrimage is being organized through Christian Tours Europe, which is the same travel company the Luther Land Pilgrimage journeyed with in 2024. Spots are limited! Register and reserve your spot now!

PEACEMAKERS QUILTERS

The Peacemakers is an outside group that meets at Bethesda Thursdays at 9:00 am through May 2026. They quilt and donate their quilts to charitable groups that need them, with the support of Thrivent Financial. New quilters and sewers are welcome anytime. The sewing technique is straight-seam. They also have projects you can do at home! If you are interested in learning more or joining the group.

ALTAR FLOWERS –APRIL VACANCIES

Help to adorn the altar for Sunday worship services by offering flowers in honor of God and, when desired, in memory of a loved one or a special event. The 2026 altar flower calendar is now available in the Narthex. When you sign up, please include your first and last names! Cost is still \$25. Call the office with questions.

LUTHERAN METROPOLITAN MINISTRIES PUBLIC IMMERSION EVENT

Due to the incredible popularity of LMM's Public Immersion Event in 2025, we are adding an extra opportunity in 2026 to experience LMM for yourself and get to know our organization even better. Led by LMM President & CEO, Maria Foschia, this year we will provide three changes to get a first-hand look at what we do every day. Join us on April 15, June 17 or October 14 for a special morning as we showcase each of our organization's program areas, meet the staff and enjoy breakfast. To enroll, see their e-newsletters or social media platforms.

DESIGNATE THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS BY MARCH 31

If you own any Thrivent Financial products or services, you have a choice in directing where Thrivent distributes some of its charitable outreach funds each year. 2025 Choice Dollars will expire on March 31, 2026. We really appreciate those who direct those Choice Dollars to Bethesda. To direct Choice Dollars go to: www.thrivent.com or call (800) 847-4836.

ST BARNABAS MONTHLY EVENT

St. Barnabas is inviting us to get our communities together to bond and celebrate friendships, new and old. Any questions, please feel free to contact Marjie Koons at 517-321-6585 or care@stbarnabasbv.org.

Variety Show on Wednesday, March 18th at 2 PM in Parkside Hall. This was likened to the Carol Burnett Show from days past. Gathering afterwards with St. Patrick's Day themed desserts.

EASTER EGG HUNT

The Bethesda Easter Egg Hunt will take place on Saturday, April 4 at 10am. It will be on the lawn if weather permits.

Donations of individually wrapped candy or stickers are being collected now through March 29th. Thank you for helping by bringing a bag of goodies and placing in the bin in the narthex or leaving in the office.



**HOLY WEEK
SCHEDULE**

Bethesda on the Bay Lutheran Church

APRIL 2
7 pm Maundy Thursday worship

APRIL 3
7 pm Good Friday worship

APRIL 5
10 am Celebration of the Resurrection


BETHESDA ON THE BAY LUTHERAN
CHURCH & CHILDCARE CENTER
www.bethesdaonthebay.org

