

Bethesda on the Bay Lutheran Church

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Evangelical Lutheran Worship
Setting I

April 26, 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.

The assembly gathers in quiet for prayer and meditation.

PRELUDE

This Joyful Eastertide

Setting by Jan Bender

*THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne
and to the Lamb!

Amen.

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.

Merciful God,

you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.

You lead us beside still waters.

We thank you for the waters of creation:

morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.

We thank you for the waters that nourish us (*local waters may be named*).

Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness

who accompanies us on our journeys.

We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.
We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.

Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.

Break down barriers that divide us.

Fill us with the breath of peace.

Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism,
and for making us a new creation.

We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise,
now and forever.

Amen.

***GATHERING HYMN** The Strife Is O'er, The Battle Done ELW 366

***GREETING**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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**

O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

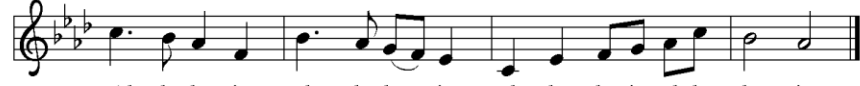
Amen.

*THIS IS THE FEAST

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.




1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:




Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to



Refrain

hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



Refrain

gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

The assembly is seated.

CHOIR ANTHEM

Forever Blest Is He

GF Handel

WORD

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

FIRST READING

Acts 2:42-47

⁴² [The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³ Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ they would sell

their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

The reading may be concluded: Word of God, Word of Life.

The assembly responds: Thanks be to God.

PSALM

The Lord's My Shepherd

ELW 778

Stanza 1 All / St. 2 High Voices / St. 3 All / St. 4 Low Voices / St. 5 All



1 The Lord's my shep-herd; I'll not want. He makes me down to lie
2 My soul he doth re - store a - gain, and me to walk doth make
3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I fear no ill;
4 My ta - ble thou hast rich - ly spread in pres - ence of my foes;
5 Good - ness and mer - cy all my life shall sure - ly fol - low me,



in pas - tures green; he lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by.
with - in the paths of righ - teous - ness, e'en for his own name's sake;
for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me com - fort still;
my head thou dost with oil a - noint, and my cup o - ver - flows.
and in God's house for - ev - er - more my dwell - ing - place shall be;



He lead - eth me, he lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by.
with - in the paths of righ - teous - ness, e'en for his own name's sake.
for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me com - fort still.
My head thou dost with oil a - noint, and my cup o - ver - flows.
and in God's house for - ev - er - more my dwell - ing - place shall be.

SECOND READING

I Peter 2:19-25

¹⁹ It is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰ If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God. ²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

²² “He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

²³ When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The reading may be concluded:

Word of God, Word of Life.

The assembly responds:

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.



The leader(s) sing the gospel verse:

*Jesus says, I am the good shepherd.
I know my own and my own know me.*

The assembly repeats the Alleluia.

*GOSPEL

John 10:1-10

The gospel is announced.

The holy gospel according to St. John

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹ “Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷ So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief

comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

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**

Build A Longer Table

ACS 1062



1 Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,
2 Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;
3 Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.
4 When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,



feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all.
where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.
Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pense.
Christ be - came our door - way to the reign of God.



Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,
For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,
When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,
So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.



Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.
Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side.
Christ tears down our fenc - es: all are wel - come here.
None can be ex - clud - ed; all must find a home.

***NICENE CREED**

p. 104

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silence.

A: Shepherding God, draw all people to yourself and lead them in paths of righteousness. Embolden your church to enter the valleys of the world and guide us beside the still waters of your grace. We pray for military and prison chaplains serving near and far. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A: Creator God, by the resurrection of your Son, show us your steadfast love and instruct our hearts in your ways. Help us to revere and protect the wonders of your creation. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A: Righteous Judge, strengthen and uphold those who work for justice and advocate for human rights. Bring an end to oppression and save us from the temptation of violence or vengeance. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A: Great Physician, walk with those who are grieving, and anoint those who are ill or injured (*especially*). Restore them to health of body, mind, and spirit. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A: Good Shepherd, continually seek us out as lambs of your flock, and form us into a community where all are honored and cared for. Spread a feast before us and fill our cups to overflowing. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A: Living God, we praise you for the saints who have died in faith and now dwell in your love. At our end, bring us, with them, to our heavenly home. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P: God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

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.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

VOLUNTARY

Have No Fear, Little Flock Setting by John Eggert

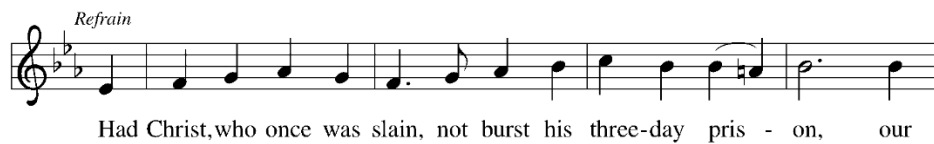
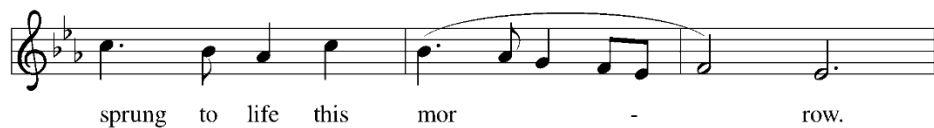
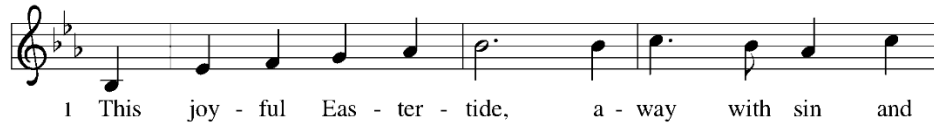
An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

OFFERING SONG

This Joyful Eastertide

ELW 39I st. I

As the offering is brought forward to the altar, the congregation sings.



*OFFERING PRAYER

Merciful God,
accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory.
You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day
when we will hunger and thirst no more.
Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus,
that goodness and mercy may follow us
and bless the world you love.
In the name of Jesus,
Amen.

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.



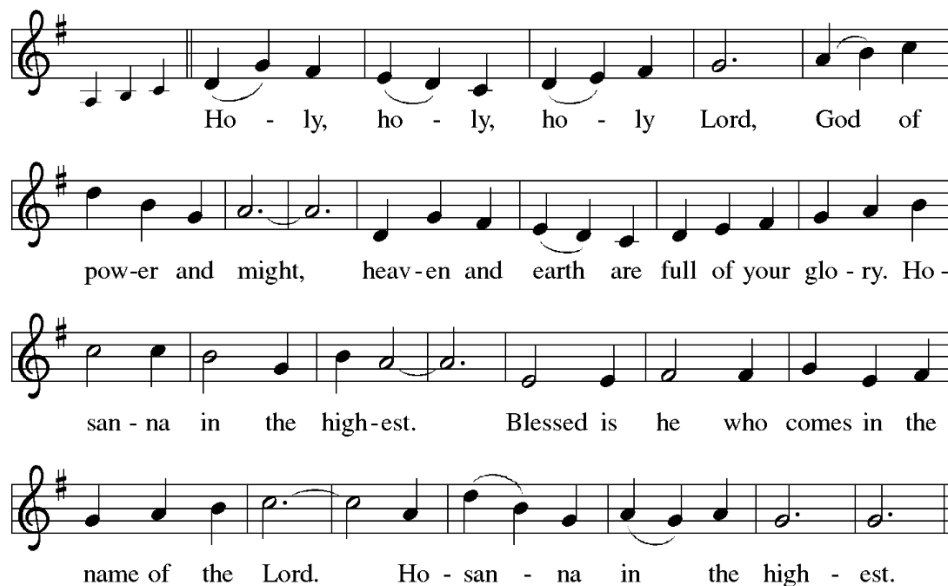
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*PREFACE

The presiding minister continues.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;
who in dying has destroyed death,
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,
with earth and sea and all their creatures,
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*SANCTUS



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

*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

The presider continues with the eucharistic prayer.

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.
You are most holy,
and great is the majesty of your glory...

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.



*LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever.**

Amen.

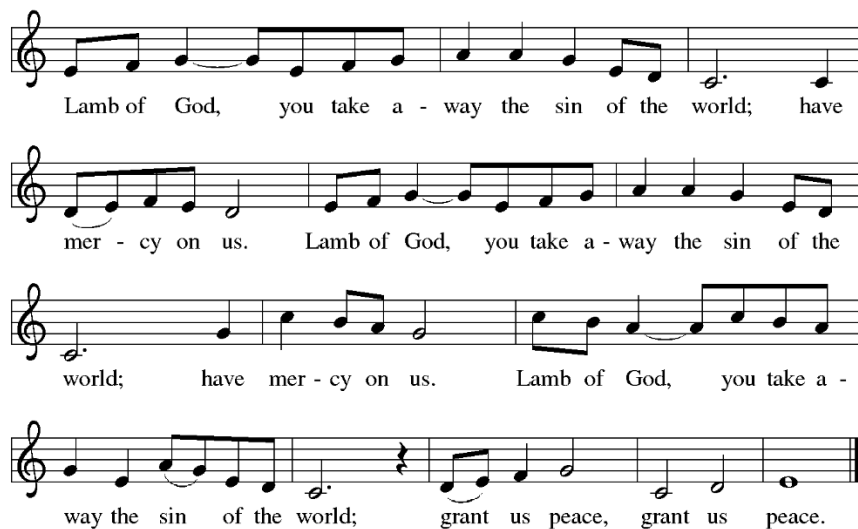
*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table of new life.

Receive the risen Lord.

Holy Communion will be served in a continuous fashion at the altar. If you come forward, you are invited to receive bread from the presider in the center aisle. Let Pastor know if you need gluten free bread. The worship assistant will have a tray with small cups of wine. Light colored wine in the center of the trays is nonalcoholic. Place empty cups into the tray with the acolyte before returning to your seat.

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, grant us peace.

COMMUNION MUSIC Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us ELW 789
 Have No Fear, Little Flock ELW 764
 As the Grains of Wheat ELW 465

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy One,

through this meal you have made your home among us
and are making all things new.

Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts,
to love our enemies,

and to bring your healing to the nations.

In the name of Jesus,

Amen.

SENDING

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

***BLESSING**

The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,
Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,
and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,

✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

***SENDING HYMN** Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing ELW 389

***DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE This Joyful Eastertide Setting by Charles Callahan

Leading Worship Today

The Rev. Angela Freeman
Eric Richardson
Deb Zudell-Dickey

Senior Pastor
Minister of Music
Organist

Sundays and Seasons (liturgical elements from Augsburg Fortress). From SundaysandSeasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Annual License #SB136302.

ONE LICENSE/CCLI. Reprinted/streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-735620. WorshipCast License #15966.

“**The Strife Is O'er, The Battle Done.**” Public Domain. “**This Joyful Eastertide.**” Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress. “**Forever Blest Is He.**” Copyright 1974, Harold Flammer Music A division of Shawnee Press, Inc., Nashville, TN 37212. All Rights Reserved. “**The Lord's My Shepherd.**” Arr. © Oxford University Press. “**Build A Longer Table.**” Text © 2018 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved. “**Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us.**” Public Domain. “**Have No Fear, Little Flock**” Text and music © 1973 Concordia Publishing House “**As the Grains of Wheat**” Text and music © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission. “**Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing.**” Text © 1975, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission. “**This Joyful Eastertide**”, Setting Jan Bender; copyright © 1979 Concordia Publishing House. **VICTORY**, Setting Jan Bender; copyright © 1984 Concordia Publishing House. “**The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll not Want**, Setting Wilbur Held; copyright © 1999 MorningStar Music Publishers. **LITTLE FLOCK**, Setting John Eggert, copyright © 1989 Concordia Publishing House. “**Have No Fear, Little Flock**”, Arr. Paul W. Hofreiter; copyright © 2009 Augsburg Fortress. “**Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us**”, Arr. J. Bert Carlson; copyright © 2009 “**Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing**”, Arr. Janet Linker; copyright © 2008 Augsburg Fortress. “**This Joyful Eastertide**” Charles Callahan' copyright © 1993 MorningStar Publishers.

Next week's scripture: First Reading: Acts 7:55-60; Psalm: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; Second Reading: I Peter 2:2-10; Gospel: John 14:1-14.



BETHESDA ON THE BAY LUTHERAN
CHURCH & CHILDCARE CENTER

bethesdaonthebay.org

(440) 871-2276

info@bethesdaonthebay.org



ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS ARE DEDICATED to the Glory of God by Liza Heinig.

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

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 at info@bethesdaonthebay.org. There are also guest name tags for any guest attending worship.

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.

SCAMO

TODAY, April 26 after worship

As Christians, we are to be faithful stewards of the financial resources God has so graciously given us. Sadly, consumer fraud and identity theft, which are becoming bolder and more sophisticated, can harm our efforts to use our financial resources responsibly. If you have been a target of consumer fraud, identity theft or would just like to know more about how to recognize and avoid such activity, please plan to join us in the Fellowship Hall after the service on Sunday, April 26, for a lively one-hour presentation by Drew Thomas, a Consumer Affairs Specialist with the Cuyahoga County Department of Consumer Affairs. Mr. Thomas will lead us in playing a bingo-like game called SCAMO which is a great tool for learning about scams, identity theft, and other forms of consumer fraud.

Jerry Kiel on behalf of the Mission & Ministry Team

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY – Bible Study on Break for Wednesday, April 29

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

FUTURE FELLOWSHIP DATES

We have the 2026 Schedule for Fellowship Hour Sundays, after church here at Bethesda. A host is needed for fellowship after worship on Sunday, May 17. If you are available and interested, please reach out to Laura English or the church office **before May 10**. You can also review the fellowship and coffee making tips, which are in the coffee cart. Thank you for helping support fellowship times!

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Confirmation Students are reminded of the Bowling Fellowship event TODAY, Sunday, April 26th at 3:00pm. Meet at Nautical Lanes in Avon Lake!

The next confirmation class is **May 14 from 6pm-8pm** at Bethesda. The topic covered will be "Discipleship, following Jesus." Confirmation students are invited to attend and join friends from First Lutheran, Christ Evangelical Lutheran, Messiah Lutheran and Prince of Peace.

FOOTSTEPS OF ST. PAUL

October 12-23, 2026

Sign up now to participate in this special experience to explore the ancient Church and follow in St. Paul's footsteps. With now a guaranteed departure with enough participants signed up, now is the time for you to save your spot! Register soon to secure your place. Registration forms are available in the narthex, email enews, or by contacting Pastor Angela directly.

DISASTER RELIEF TRIPS

Members of St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran and members of Bethesda on the Bay Lutheran Church will be traveling in partnership 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 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.

THANK YOU

A big thank you to all my Bethesda family who helped me to celebrate my birthday with cards and well wishes. It was greatly appreciated. My love to you all. Marion Zelinski.

SUMMER PICK-UP CHOIR

Everyone is welcome to make a joyful noise and have fun singing together! Summer is a good time to give it a try too! Mark your calendars and come to join the Summer Choir on June 14, July 12, or August 9. Come to the 9:20 a.m. rehearsal on any or all of those dates. No audition. Easy Peazy."

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE LAUCH MEETING – May 3 after worship

Bethesda would like to create an ongoing fellowship committee to help plan for upcoming events, and maybe create a few new ones, with support coming from the Spiritual Growth team on Church Council. We would like to pick up from where we left off about a year ago. If you're interested in the social side of our congregation's life, please attend a meeting on May 3, in the church lounge after church. We will share ideas about how to move forward with plans for our church community. Please come! We would like your new ideas!

PEACEMAKER QUILTERS

The Peacemakers is an outside group that meets at Bethesda Thursdays at 9:00 am, now through May 2025. 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, contact the office or show up on Thursday!

GRADUATES

It's that time of year when there are graduates to celebrate! If there is a high school or college graduate this year in your family, please email the following info to the church office by **May 17** (info@bethesdaonthebay.org):

- Name
- Where graduating from
- Degree, if applicable
- Future plans
- Any special honors they would like highlighted
- A current photo (5x7 is preferred but we will use whatever is provided. Photo does not have to be a professional photo and can be mailed, dropped at church, or emailed. Please note emailed photos will be printed from church copy machine so will not be photo grade.)

This information will be displayed in our graduate showcase or similar location!

INTERFAITH DISCUSSION ON ISRAEL-PALESTINE CONFLICT

Wednesday, April 29 at 7:00pm

St. Barnabas Episcopal Church

The Social Justice Prayer & Advocacy Group of St. Barnabas Episcopal Church in Bay Village will host an educational evening about Palestine/Israel on Wednesday, April 29 from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. Two speakers will present: a member of Cleveland Jewish Voice for Peace, and a member of the Cleveland Palestinian Advocacy Community. Please join us at St. Barnabas, 468 Bradley Rd, Bay Village. If you have questions and would like to submit them in advance, please email them to Mary Sutphin at mlsutphin@gmail.com.

ECUMENICAL HYMN FEST

Wednesday, May 6 at 6:30pm

Choir rehearsal 5:45 -6:15 pm

St. Barnabas Episcopal Church

Join us for an ecumenical Celebration of Hymns at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church (468 Bradley Rd, Bay Village) on Wednesday, May 6 at 6:30 pm. Churches from across Bay Village will gather for an evening of prayer, scripture, and song. Together, we'll sing beloved hymns from our various Christian traditions—celebrating the rich ways we offer praise to God. A combined community choir is always a highlight of our ecumenical worship and a powerful reminder of our common faith. Join us on May 6!

COMMUNITY CUPBOARD AT ST. BARNABAS

This month we collected 50 items that were donated to the Community Cupboard. Thank you to all those who contributed. Higher costs for fuel and other essential household items have made the Community Cupboard and other food pantries more essential than ever.

Next month there are two opportunities to support our local food pantry. On Saturday, May 9th, our own Tom Mravetz and fellow Bay Village mail carriers will participate in the nationwide Stamp Out Hunger® Food Drive. They will collect non-perishable food items for the Community Cupboard. Residents are encouraged to leave donations of non-perishable food in a bag near their mailbox by 9 am on the 9th, and your letter carrier will do the rest. The second opportunity to support Community Cupboard is through Bethesda's monthly collection on the third Sunday of the month. In light of the Mother's Day holiday, this month we will be collecting toiletries and women's hygiene products (shampoo, lotion, deodorant, tampons, pads, etc.). So, please put these items on your shopping list, pick up a few items while you are out and about, and bring them to church on Sunday, May 17th and place your items in the bin located in the Narthex.

