

Bethesda on the Bay Lutheran Church

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Evangelical Lutheran Worship
Setting 1

May 3, 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 Dialogue en trio du Cornet et de la Tierce François Couperin

*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**

O Jesus, I Have Promised

ELW 810

***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**

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he 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.

WORD

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

FIRST READING

Acts 7:55-60

⁵⁵ Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ “Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” ⁵⁷ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸ Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰ Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

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

The assembly responds: Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

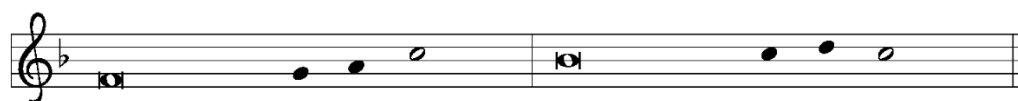
Worship Assistant

Refrain:



In - to your hands, O LORD, I com - mend my spir - it.

Tone:



¹ In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be | put to shame;
deliver me | in your righteousness.

² **Incline your | ear to me;**
make haste to de- | liver me.

³ Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag | and my stronghold;
for the sake of your name, lead | me and guide me.

⁴ **Take me out of the net that they have secretly | set for me,**
for you are my tow- | er of strength. R

⁵ Into your hands I com- | mend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O LORD, | God of truth.

¹⁵ **My times are | in your hand;**
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who | persecute me.

¹⁶ Let your face shine up- | on your servant;
save me in your | steadfast love.” R

SECOND READING

I Peter 2:2-10

² Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation ³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴ Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵ like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

⁷ This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner,”

⁸ and

“A stone that makes them stumble
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

¹⁰ Once you were not a people,
but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

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.

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

The assisting minister sings the gospel verse:

I am the way, the truth, and the life.

No one comes to the Father except through me.

The assembly repeats the Alleluia.

***GOSPEL**

John 14:1-14

The gospel is announced. The holy gospel according to St. John

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹ “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸ Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. ¹² Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

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 God, We Gather as Your People ACS 1038



1 God, we gath - er as your peo - ple to raise our song a -
2 Oh, we sing for all the chil - dren, that one day they be
3 Oh, we pray for all the young lives cut short by fear and
4 God, we're work - ing for the fu - ture when chil - dren far and



bove, and we dare to claim the prom - ise of your love.
free; and we sing for gen - er - a - tions yet to be,
shame, so a - fraid of who they are and whom they love.
wide can . . . live their lives with dig - ni - ty and pride.



Though the day may not yet be here, we
that they nev - er have a rea - son to
May the mes - sage now be ban - ished that your
As they grow in strength and stat - ure, may they



trust it soon will be, when your chil - dren will be free.
doubt that they are blest. May they, in your love, find rest.
love is for the few; may their faith in you re - new.
join us hand in hand, as a - gainst all hate we stand.



Oh, may our hearts and minds be o - pened, fling the church doors o - pen



wide. May there be room e - nough for ev - 'ry - one in - side.



For in God there is a wel - come, in God we all be -



long. May that wel - come be our song.

*NICENE CREED
Worship Assistant

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.

WA: God of glory, you have built your church on Christ the cornerstone. Inspire lay leaders, deacons, pastors, and bishops to proclaim forgiveness and your steadfast love to all whom they encounter. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

WA: God of majesty, you bring forth plants and animals, skies and seas, mountains and valleys. Protect all you have made from the ravages of pollution and climate disaster. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

WA: God of mercy, you intend governments and social service agencies to be instruments of peace and justice. Guide political leaders and organizations to be agents of compassion, and raise up advocates for those who seek refuge and assistance. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

WA: God of well-being, you soothe those in distress, console all who grieve, provide for any in need, and comfort those who are sick (*especially*). Instill caregivers with a sense of purpose to be your healing hands in this world. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

WA: God of community, you call us together as your people for mutual support and to witness to your love in the world. Make your presence known among those unable to attend worship today. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

WA: God of eternal life, you have prepared dwelling places for your people, so that we are never separated from you. We give you thanks for the faithful departed who witnessed to your mighty acts in word and deed. 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

This Joyful Eastertide

Paul Bouman

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.

1 This joy - ful Eas - ter - tide, a - way with sin and

sor - - row! My love, the Cru - ci - fied, has

sprung to life this mor - - row.

Refrain

Had Christ, who once was slain, not burst his three-day pris - on, our

faith had been in vain. But now has Christ a - ris - en, a -

ris - en, a - ris - en, a - ris - en.

*OFFERING PRAYER

Worship assistant

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.



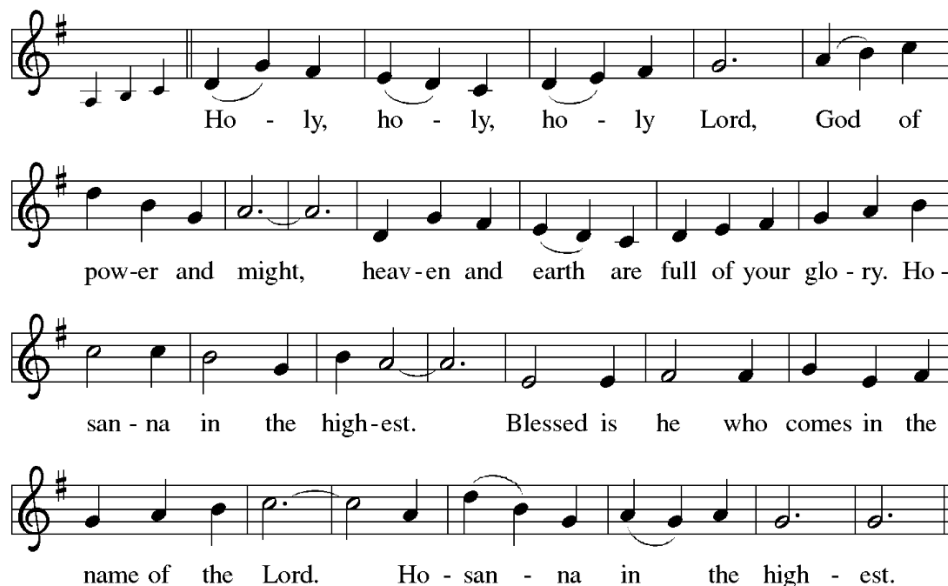
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*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.



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

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



A - men, a - men, a - men.

*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	Father, We Thank You	ELW 478
	Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life	ELW 816
	For the Bread Which You Have Broken	ELW 494

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Worship assistant

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**

Making Their Way

ACS 979



1 Mak - ing their way down through the a - ges, sin - ners and saints have
2 Mak - ing their way all the world o - ver, Chris - tians as - sem - ble
3 Mak - ing our way sea - son by sea - son, pil - grims, we jour - ney



heard God's call: wealth - y and poor, pow - er - ful, low - ly,
on this day, hear - ing the Word, shar - ing the Ban - quet,
till life's end, trav - el - ing light, shar - ing the rich - es,



Je - sus' dis - ci - ples, one and all. Gath - ered for wor - ship, of - fer - ing thanks,
learn - ing to walk in Je - sus' way. Mem - bers of Christ, u - nit - ed in love,
car - ing for strang - er as for friend, till in the joy of long - ing ful - filled,



the great - est with the least have come to share this feast.
they seek our God to know, and so to - geth - er grow.
to - geth - er we will come to our e - ter - nal home.

***DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE Erschienen ist der herrliche Tag (That Easter Day with Joy was Bright)

Johann Gottfried Walther

Leading Worship Today

The Rev. Angela Freeman
Dr. Lisa Hanson
Deb Zudell-Dickey

Senior Pastor
Substitute Minister of Music
Organist

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Next week’s scripture: First Reading: Acts 17:22-31; Psalm: Psalm 66:8-20; Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:13-22; Gospel: John 14:15-21.



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 Marcia & Allan Starr to the memory of their dear son Gregory.

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.

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

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

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.

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 LAUNCH MEETING – TODAY 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, 28 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, contact the office or show up on Thursday!

CLASS FOR 2-4 YEAR OLDS

Future Dates TBD

Bethesda is excited to announce that we have started a special class for children ages two through four along with their parents. We 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.

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!

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. The 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 in June.

COMMUNITY CUPBOARD AT ST. BARNABAS

Last 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. Please place your items in the bin located in the Narthex.

BETHESDA AND GOOD SOIL PARTNERSHIP FOR SHARED MINISTER OF CHRISTIAN FORMATION

The Exec Teams from Good Soil and Bethesda on the Bay met together with the joint Call Committee on 3/29 to review the Ministry Site Profile drafts, approve the position description, and discuss the shared breakdown of the projected expenses/compensation.

The next step in the process is for both church councils to review these documents and approve them at the April council meetings. From there, these documents will be published in the ELCA's call database for available candidates to review. Interested candidates will contact the Northeastern Ohio Synod Staff to share their candidate profiles with the Call Committee. Interviews with the Call Committee will then take place in the coming months.

Please hold our Call Committee, council leaders, and this call process in your prayers as we discern who God is calling to serve as our shared Minister for Christian Formation.

What's Christian Formation? Sunday School, Confirmation, Bible Studies, Small Group ministry, Service and Learning opportunities, Acolyte and Communion Instruction Classes, and Worship, are all examples of how we are "formed" in the Christian faith and life.

