

Bethesda on the Bay Lutheran Church

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Evangelical Lutheran Worship
Setting 1

May 17, 2026
10:00 am

**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.

PRELUDE Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds Robert A. Hobby

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

In the name of the Father,
and of the ✝ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

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

The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,
we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.
Amen.

The presiding minister announces God's forgiveness with these or similar words.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the **+** Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

***GATHERING HYMN**

All Are Welcome

ELW 64I

Everyone - Stanzas 1, 2, 5; and refrain

Organ side - Stanza 3;

Pulpit Side - Stanza 4;

***GREETING**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

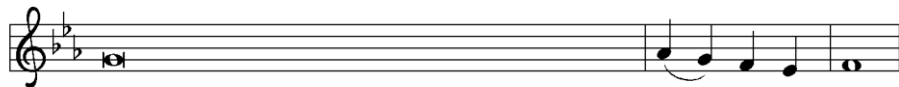
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

*KYRIE

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.

A - men, a - men.

The assembly is seated.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

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

FIRST READING

Acts 1:6-14

⁶ When [the apostles] had come together, they asked [Jesus], “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away. ¹³ When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴ All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

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

The assembly responds: Thanks be to God.

CHOIR ANTHEM

True Light

Hampton

SECOND READING

I Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

¹² Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

^{5:6} Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. ⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. ⁸ Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. ¹⁰ And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹ To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

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.

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing! ELW 393 st. 1

Sing in unison.

*A hymn of glory let us sing! New hymns throughout the world shall ring: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ, by a road before untrod, ascends unto the throne of God.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

*GOSPEL

John 17:1-11

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ After Jesus had spoken these words [to his disciples,] he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ² since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. ⁴ I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵ So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

⁶ "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, ⁸ for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹ I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹ And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one."

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** Alleluia! Sing to Jesus ELW 392

***NICENE CREED**

p. 104

Worship Assistant

***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: O God, your people sing praises throughout the church. By your Holy Spirit, inspire musicians, deacons, pastors, and bishops to proclaim the gospel of Jesus. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

WA: Your creative power fills the universe. Bring favorable weather, nurture plants and animals, protect us from natural disasters, and guide us to care for all you have made. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

WA: Your justice is exercised in society by those in authority. Instill in political leaders, business leaders, school administrators, and all who care for others a desire for peace and equity. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

WA: Your compassion and care come through the gifts of medicine and relationships. Soothe the anxious, protect widows and orphans, comfort those living with memory loss and their families, and heal the sick (*especially*). Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

WA: Your love radiates from communities gathered in your name. Bless those experiencing significant transitions in life such as graduation, retirement, new employment (*other transitions may be named*), and accompany us in our prayers during these times. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

WA: O God, your promise of eternal life is certain and sure. Inspire us by the steadfast faith of those who have gone before us, so that we may be confident in the assurances you give.
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 Come Down, O Love Divine Kristina Langlois

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.

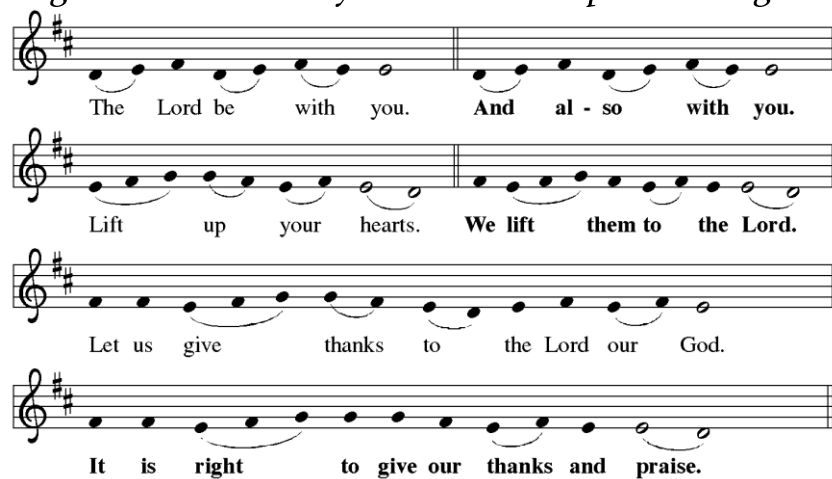
*OFFERING PRAYER

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.



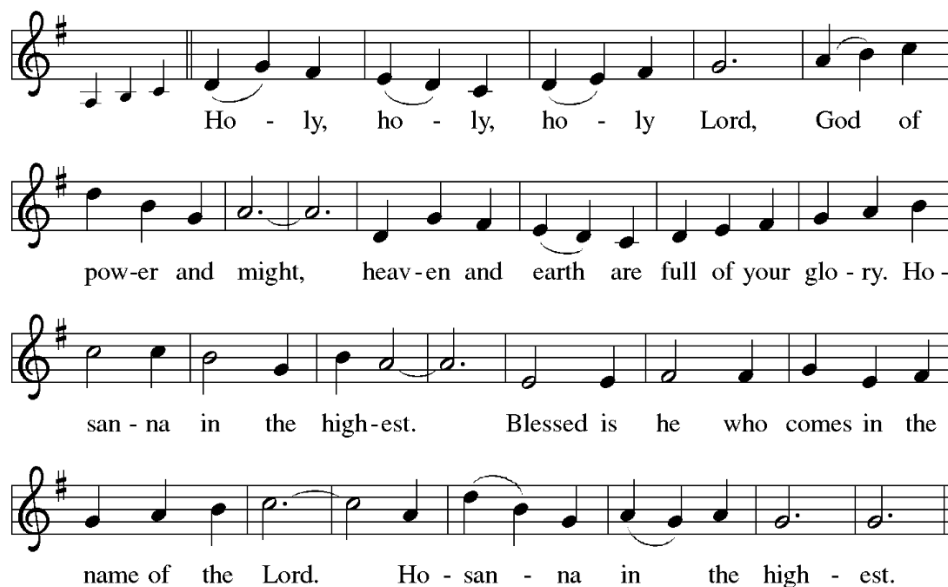
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*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;
who, enthroned forever at your right hand,
intercedes for us as our great high priest.
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.

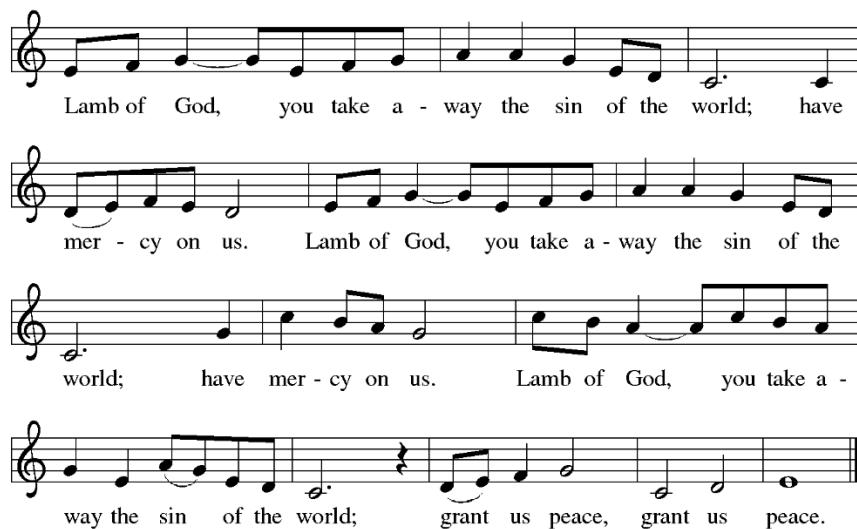
*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table of new life.

Receive the risen Lord.

Holy Communion will be served in a continuous fashion at the altar rail. 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

This Is Christ's Body

ACS 967



This is Christ's bod - y, bro - ken and blest. Feed us with
mer-cy and love. We are Christ's bod - y,
bro-ken and blest. Heal us and make us one.

I Come with Joy
Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

ELW 482

ELW 470

***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** Come Down, O Love Divine ELW 804

***DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE Come Down, All Love Divine Jan Bender

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.

“All Are Welcome.” Text and music © 1994 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission. **“True Light.”** c 2002 by Dr. K. T. Productions. **“Alleluia! Sing to Jesus.”** Public Domain. **“This Joyful Eastertide.”** Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress. **“This Is Christ’s Body.”** Text and music © 2020 Augsburg Fortress. **“I Come with Joy.”** Text © 1971, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission. **“Draw Us in the Spirit’s Tether.”** Text from Songs of Praise, Enlarged Edition © Oxford University Press 1931. Music © 1957, 1985 H. W. Gray, admin. CPP/Belwin. **“Come Down, O Love Divine.”** Public Domain. “Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds” by Robert Hobby; copyright © 1999 MorningStar Music Publishers. All rights reserved. “All Are Welcome” Arrangement Wayne I. Wold; copyright © 2007 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. HYFRYDOL Harm. Edmnd Shay; copyright © 1993 MorningStar Music Publishers. HYFRYDOL Harm. Robert Wetzler; copyright © 1963 Augsburg Publishing House. “I Come with Joy” Arrangement Lynn L. Petersen; copyright © 2008 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. “Come Down, O Love Divine” by Kristina Langlois copyright© copyright © 1996 MorningStar Music Publishers. “Come Down, O Love Divine” Setting by Wilbur Held; copyright © 1979 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. “Come Down, O Love Divine” Arrangement Thomas Pavlechko; copyright © 2009 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. “Come Down, O Love Divine” Arrangement Jan Bender; copyright © 1971, 1994 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Next week’s scripture: First Reading: Acts 2:1-21; Psalm: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13; Gospel: John 20:19-23.



BETHESDA ON THE BAY LUTHERAN
CHURCH & CHILDCARE CENTER

(440) 871-2276

info@bethesdaonthebay.org

bethesdaonthebay.org



ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS ARE DEDICATED are dedicated to the glory of God in honor of Amelia Grace Gregory's 10th birthday from her family. God bless Amelia!

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 – ON BREAK May 20

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.

FOOTSTEPS OF ST. PAUL

October 12-23, 2026

Spots are still available! Registration and final payments are due on June 1st. Sign up now to participate in this special experience to explore the ancient Church and follow in St. Paul's footsteps. Register soon to secure your place. Registration forms are available in the narthex, email enews, or by contacting Pastor Angela directly.

SUMMER 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.

DISASTER RELIEF TRIPS

Registrar today! 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. Registration is due by June 1st.

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 May 20th, and the book discussed will be Homecoming by Kate Morton. 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.

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

May 30 – 10:00am

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.

NEW MEMBERS

Have you been worshiping with Bethesda for a while? Are you interested in learning more about the ministry and the community? You're invited to share in conversation with Pastor Angela on Tuesday, May 26 at 6:45 in the church library. Please RSVP by Sunday May 24th. New members will be received on Sunday, May 31st, Holy Trinity Sunday. If you would like to be received as a member, please let Pastor Angela know.

LIBRARY RENOVATION

As Bethesda continues to refresh and update our facilities, the next project will be to renovate the current library space. The library has not been very well utilized over the last many years and could be more functional as meeting space. The goal is to not only modernize with fresh paint and flooring, but to make the space more user friendly, less cluttered, and more practical for education ministry and meeting space. This Sunday you are invited to take home any of the books on the shelves that could be meaningful for you. Some of the helpful reference books will be kept in the library for use by the education ministry. Those are marked.

GRADUATES

It's that time of year when there are graduates to celebrate! We will post our graduates in the showcase in June. 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.)

AGAPE FUND DISTRIBUTION

At its April meeting Church Council approved \$9,000 for first-round disbursements from the Agape Fund for 2026, as shown here: First Lutheran Church, Ghana Mission for Akrampa School (Breakfast Program - \$4,800) and (Junior High Renovation Project - \$3,000), University Protestant Campus Ministry (UpCAM) (\$1,000), and St. Barnabas Community Cupboard (\$200).

A second round of disbursements, which will include some of our other ministry partners, will be made in the fall. On behalf of Church Council, thank you for your generous financial support to the Agape Fund and we ask that you please continue to support these ministries as we move through the year.

STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

Thank you to the generous support of church members, the Church Council is happy to share that all of the sanctuary stained glass windows have been cared for and received the maintenance needed. They have each been resealed, all of the panels carefully looked over and attended to where needed, and the original caulking was replaced. The stained glass windows are roughly 30 years old this year. Thank you to the congregation and its members for stewarding these gifts well for future generations.

CALL PROCESS UPDATE — PROFILE COMPLETE!

Bethesda and Good Soil in Rocky River are partnering together to offer a call for a new Rostered Minister, either a deacon or pastor for the role of Christian Formation. The Executive Council committees from Good Soil and Bethesda on the Bay met together with the joint Call Committee on 3/29 to review the Ministry Site Profile (MSP) drafts, approve the position description, and discuss the shared breakdown of the projected expenses/compensation.

Both church councils have reviewed these MSP documents and they have been submitted to Pastor Mitch Phillips at the synod office for final approval. Soon 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.

CLEVELAND POPS ORCHESTRA CHORUS "MUSIC SPRINGS FORTH"

Sunday, May 17, 2026, 4:00 p.m.

Avon Lake United Church of Christ, 32801 Electric Blvd, Avon Lake, Ohio

Join members Mary Beth Larsen, Brian Webner and Eric Richardson for this FREE concert. Donations appreciated.

Next concert at SEVERANCE HALL with POPS Orchestra.

Saturday, June 6, 7:30 p.m. "Music Made In America"

