

Bethesda on the Bay Lutheran Church

7th Sunday after Pentecost

All Creations Sings, Setting 12

July 12, 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.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE Great is Thy Faithfulness (adapted to the Chopin Valse, Op.42)
William Runyan/arr. Lenny Seidel

*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.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose compassion endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,
we confess to you all our sins.

Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.

In your mercy, call us back to you.

Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.

Restore us to dwell in your peace.

In Christ's name we pray,

Amen.

Jesus says, "Come to me,
all you who are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest."

In the name of God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love. **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**

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

CHOIR ANTHEM The Storm is Passing Over Charles Albert Tindley

WORD

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

FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:10-13

¹⁰ For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

¹² For you shall go out in joy
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

¹³ Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle,
and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

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

The assembly responds: **Thanks be to God.**

The psalm will be spoken

- ¹ You are to be praised, O God, in Zion;
to you shall vows be fulfilled.
- ² **To you, the one who answers prayer,
to you all flesh shall come.**
- ³ Our sins are stronger than we are,
but you blot out our transgressions.
- ⁴ **Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your courts to dwell there!
They will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness of your temple.**
- ⁵ Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of our salvation,
O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the oceans far away.
- ⁶ **You make firm the mountains by your power;
you are girded about with might.**
- ⁷ You still the roaring of the seas,
the roaring of their waves, and the clamor of the peoples.
- ⁸ **Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your marvelous signs;
you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy.**
- ⁹ You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; the river of God
is full of water.
You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth.
- ¹⁰ **You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.**
- ¹¹ You crown the year with your goodness,
and your paths overflow with plenty.
- ¹² **May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing,
and the hills be clothed with joy.**
- ¹³ May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak themselves with
grain;
let them shout for joy and sing.

SECOND READING

Romans 8:1-II

¹Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

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.

*GOSPEL

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹If you have ears, hear!"

¹⁸"Hear, then, the parable of the sower. ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that

person immediately falls away. ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³ But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

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.

BLESSING & SENDING

Bethesda sends those going to serve in Carter County, TN out in prayer and with God's blessing.

HYMN OF THE DAY

O God, Whose Word Well-Planted ACS 975



1 O God, whose word well-plant - ed yields fruit a hun - dred - fold,
2 O God of seed and har - vest, of sun and soil and rain,
3 O God, your fi - nal har - vest of his - t'ry's an - cient field



we praise your grac - es grant - ed to those who sowed of old,
at - tend the word we sow, lest its plant - ing be in vain.
will test with truth the proud - est that hu - man work can yield.



who by their wit - ness scat - tered good seed up - on the soil
Send show - ers of your Spir - it, bright sun - shine of your grace,
Op - pres - sion's blight will van - ish, fair free - dom's fruits in - crease;



where oth - ers, reap - ing, gath - ered the har - vest of their toil.
that mul - ti - tudes who hear it your gos - pel may em - brace.
and love and joy will flour - ish to clothe the earth with peace.

*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

P: Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

WA: God our gardener, you scatter grace like seed across the world. Continue to cultivate the garden of your church with your abundant Spirit. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

WA: God our joy, your bountiful creation reflects your commitment to life despite our actions disregarding its wonder. We look toward Isaiah's vision, when all creation rejoices, and the trees will clap for joy at your salvation. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

WA: God our life, you give us the same Spirit by which you raised Christ from the dead. Set our minds on that Spirit whenever fear or condemnation overwhelm throughout the world (*global concerns may be named*). God of grace,
hear our prayer.

WA: God our host and table, we pray for children who hunger and rely on school meals, for all who toil under the hot sun without refreshment, for the chronically ill who have exhausted their resources, and for local concerns (*especially*). God of grace,
hear our prayer.

WA: God our source, tend this assembly with your grace throughout this summer season. May those who travel for work or recreation do so safely, and may visitors find refreshment among us. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

WA: We give you thanks that the roots of your goodness run deep throughout history. We remember those saints who have gone before us in faith. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

P: Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus.
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

O Rest in the Lord

Felix Mendelssohn

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

OFFERING SONG

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

You Are Holy

ELW 525

^{1*}



Du är he - lig, du är hel. Du är all - tid myck-et mer
You are ho - ly, you are whole. You are al - ways ev - er more

än vi nån - sin kan för - stå, du är nä - ra än - då.
than we ev - er un - der - stand. You are al - ways at hand.

Väl - sig - nad va - re du som kom - mer hit just nu,
Bless - ed are you com - ing near. Bless - ed are you com - ing here

väl - sig - na - de vår jord, blir till bröd på vår jord.
to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.

2

Du är he - lig, du är hel - het,
 You are ho - ly, you are whole - ness,

du är när - het he - la kos - mos lo - var dig!
 you are pres - ent. Let the cos - mos praise you, Lord!

Ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na,
 Sing ho - san - na in the high - est!

ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na vår Gud.
 Sing ho - san - na! Sing ho - san - na to our God!

*OFFERING PRAYER

Worship assistant

Loving God,
 we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.
 Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love,
 so that all creation can taste your abundance.
 We ask this in the name of Jesus,
 through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.
 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,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*HOLY



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

*LORD'S PRAYER

Pray the version of the Lord's Prayer most comfortable to you and in the language of your heart.

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.

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those

who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Heaven has come near.

Come, share in the feast!

Holy Communion will be served at the altar rail. When you come forward, you are invited to either kneel or stand at the railing. Please indicate to the worship leader 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 on the stand to the side of the aisle 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 Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil
One Bread, One Body

ELW 512
ELW 496

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Worship assistant

Compassionate God,
through the gifts of bread and wine
our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.
Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,
may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING

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

***BLESSING**

The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.

The Author of life,
the Word of salvation,
the Breath of new birth,
+ one God, bless you
and equip you for living and serving,
today and every day.
Amen.

***SENDING HYMN**

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

ELW 547

***DISMISSAL**

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

I Will Enter His Gates/This is the Day arr. Mark Hayes

Leading Worship Today

The Rev. Angela Freeman
Eric Richardson
Lisa Miragliotta

Senior Pastor
Minister of Music
Pianist

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Next week’s scripture: First Reading: Isaiah 44:6-8; Psalm: Psalm 86:11-17; Second Reading: Romans 8:12-25; Gospel: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43.



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS ARE DEDICATED are dedicated to the glory of God by Laura English in honor of all July Birthdays.

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.

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 August 9th. Come to the 9:20 a.m. rehearsal on any or all of those dates. No audition. Easy Peazy.

OUTDOOR WORSHIP AND PICNIC

Sunday, August 23

Bethesda is excited for the annual outdoor worship and picnic shared with Good Soil Lutheran in River who will be joining us again this year! Bring a chair if you can and invite your friends to join us! Sign up to bring a side dish or dessert with you if you can. Some drinks and grilled burgers and dogs will be provided. If you'd like to plan some games or other picnic activities, please let Pr. Angela know. Sign up is available through the enews or by calling the office.

ELCA SOCIAL STATEMENT:

Faith and Civic Life: Seeking the Well-being of All

The denomination to which we belong, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, through much study and prayer, develops and approves various social statements over time regarded to our life together as God's people. Pastors Angela and Marissa discussed this statement of the ELCA in their reflection last Sunday. You may download a full copy of the statement by following this QR code. If you would like a hard copy, reach out to the church office.



PARISIH NURSE

There will be a blood pressure screening in the library on July 26 after worship.

FOLLOW UP from last Sunday

Christians Against Christian Nationalism

Last Sunday, Pastors Angela and Marissa discussed the ELCA Social Faith and Civic Life: Well-being for All. One suggestion for a follow discussion is to review and sign in solidarity the statement offered by org., Christians Against Christian Nationalism. You can follow the link on this QR code to read more about it and consider signing it for yourself.



Statement, up on that the non-profit

LADIES LUNCH

This month the ladies will be having lunch at 11:30 Wednesday July 15 at Antica, 35568 Detroit Rd., Avon. This is near Mitchell's Ice Cream and The Melt Bar & Grilled. Please let Bev Hine know if you are planning to join us by Monday July 13 at 440-812-5448 or bbhine@hotmail.com All ladies of the church are welcome to come.

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 July 15 and the book discussed will be *The River is Waiting* – Wally Lamb. 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.

COMMUNITY CUPBOARD COLLECTION

Sunday, July 19

Last month we collected over 160 lunchtime items that were donated to the Community Cupboard. Thank you to all those who contributed. Our continued support is greatly appreciated by St. Barnabas.

This month, the Community Cupboard has suggested collecting condiments, which are often overlooked items. These items would include salt, pepper, ketchup/catsup, mustard, BBQ sauce, salad dressing (non-perishable), and other salad additions like croutons, dried fruit, nuts... As always, use your imagination. So, put a few items on your shopping list and bring them to church on Sunday, July 19th. As always, donations of any non-perishable food, hygiene products, or pet food are welcome, as are monetary donations. A collection bin will be located in the Narthex.

To the gardeners out there, the Community Cupboard also welcomes fresh fruits and vegetables from our gardens. However, these items should be taken directly to the Community Cupboard at St. Barnabas.

WORSHIP ASSISTANT TRAINING

Sunday, July 19 – after worship

This training is for those interested who are simply curious to learn what being a worship assistant entails and for those eager to join the rotation of ministers. If you have questions or if you're interested but not available that day, please let Pastor Angela know.

FULLER CENTER FOR HOUSING

Wednesday, July 22 - 23

Fuller Cyclists, a team of volunteer cyclists of varying ages and backgrounds, are riding 4,000 miles for those in need from Seaside, OR to Portland, ME. They will be in our area July 22, and for the second year, Bethesda will be hosting them overnight. Come hear about the work God is doing through them and how you can become part of it. Dinner will be provided for the cyclists. Anyone attending the informational meeting is invited to join the cyclists for cookies, coffee, tea and lemonade. Come and greet our guests and make them feel welcome.

GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS. - SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, September 20

God's Work. Our Hands. is an ELCA National Day of Service where all congregations are invited to provide service and outreach to their communities. A variety of projects will be provided as opportunities for the congregation to serve together in the community. If you would like to help organize any of the service projects or help organize a sack lunch for the congregation, please contact the church office.

HELP WANTED

The Property Committee seeks additional members. We attend to the appearance and structure of the Church's physical assets and assist the Bethesda Childcare Center in maintaining and updating its facilities. We recommend any actions to the Church Council.

You may choose your degree of involvement. Activities include: attending occasional meetings—whether in-person or virtual, identifying and prioritizing needs, consulting with people affected, describing work to be done, screening vendors, obtaining estimates and eliciting volunteers.

If you're interested, please contact Chrissy in the Church office or email info@bethesdaonthebay.org.

SHARE YOUR FAVORITE HYMNS FOR SUMMER WORSHIP

If you have a favorite hymn that you would like us to sing during a summer service, we invite you to send your suggestions to our Minister of Music, Eric Richardson, at ersingsi@yahoo.com. Please submit the following: Hymn Title, its ELW # (if applicable), also let us know if you would like to be included as the nominator. For example: ELW 759 – “My Faith Looks Up to Thee.” (Donald Smith).

CHRISTMAS IN JULY AT GOOD SOIL

You're invited to Christmas in July Worship: A Musical Tour of the People and Places of the Nativity on Sunday, 7/26 at 9:30am at Good Soil (20300 Hilliard Blvd). Through song and scripture, we'll visit again the story of Christ's birth unfolding among us. A noisy offering will be gathered to benefit ELCA Good Gifts' School Supplies and Uniforms, so please bring your change and bills if you'd like to contribute to that ministry cause. O come let us adore!

GUARDIANS GAME WITH LMM

Tuesday, August 4, 5:30 PM

LMM is heading to Progressive Field on Tuesday, August 4, and you're invited to join the fun as the Cleveland Guardians face off against the New York Mets!

Tickets include:

- Private pregame reception with buffet, unlimited soft drinks, and cash bar
- Game seating near our reception area (Sections 424-426).
- Optional free parking at LMM with shuttle service to and from the game
- Most importantly, a portion of your ticket supports LMM's life-changing programs

It's summer, it's the Guardians, and it's a great way to give back. Tickets are limited and going quickly, so reserve your spot today at www.lutheranmetro.org/2026-night-out-at-progressive-field/. Seating is flexible, so don't worry about your seat assignment. Contact the office if you need help purchasing a ticket. Finally, let Lisa Hanson know if you purchase a ticket so Bethesda people can plan to attend together.

DISASTER RELIEF WORK

"So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all men, and especially to those who are the household of faith." Galatians 6:10

The first team of workers leaves today, July 12 to head to Carter County, TN. Watch the social media pages of both Bethesda and St. Matthew's Medina for updates. Please pray for the travel, the work, and the relationships built between participants and the homeowners. You can offer food donations for the trip or support with a monetary gift. Also, if applicable, please consider designating a Thrivent Grant for this ministry. Reach out to Pastor Angela if you would like more info or to help.

JUNE COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

June 17, 2026

- The organizational structure of council was reviewed with the decision made to work toward establishing committees for Finance, Property, Stewardship and Outreach
- The Fellowship Committee (under The Spiritual Growth Team) has met twice and is working on organizing several activities for the summer and fall
- A new cleaning crew started June 15th
- An annual maintenance contract of \$4295.00/year for the Air conditioners and boilers was approved
- Food collections through St. Barnabas continue monthly
- The August collection will be for paper goods (paper plates, napkins, cups) for the Knickerbocker. You can bring all of your mismatched plates, napkins and cups that can be used for their activities.
- The Call Committee is moving towards posting the position of Minister of Christian Formation on the ELCA database where interested candidates will be able to review the profiles and express interest.
- Work on updating the church library is in process
- God's Work Our Hands will be held on Sunday, September 20th
- Financial reporting is in the process of moving to Clergy Financial, a company that specializes in servicing the financial needs of churches

