

Bethesda on the Bay Lutheran Church

8th Sunday after Pentecost

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Setting 10

July 19, 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 Settings on Bunesan (Tune Name for "Praise and Thanksgiving")

J. Bert Carlson and Kenneth T. Kosche

*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.

***GATHERING HYMN**

Praise and Thanksgiving

ELW 689



1 Praise and thanks-giv - ing, God, we would of - fer for all things
 2 God, bless the la - bor we bring to serve you, that with our
 3 Fa - ther, pro - vid - ing food for your chil - dren, by Wis - dom's
 4 Then will your bless - ing reach ev - 'ry peo - ple, free - ly con -



liv - ing, you have made good: har - vest of sown fields, fruits of the
 neigh-bor we may be fed. Sow - ing or till - ing, we would work
 guid - ing teach us to share one with an - oth - er, so that, re -
 fess - ing your gra - cious hand. Where you are reign - ing, no one will



or - chard, hay from the mown fields, blos - som and wood.
 with you, har - vest - ing, mill - ing for dai - ly bread.
 joic - ing with us, all oth - ers may know your care.
 hun - ger; your love sus - tain - ing show - ers the land.

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.

KYRIE



1 Have mer-cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol-emn prayer.
2 Have mer-cy on us, Christ, and wash a-way our sin.
3 Have mer-cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de-part.

We come to hear your liv-ing word; it saves us from de-spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be-gin.
Re-new us with your sav-ing pow'r; cre-ate in us new hearts!

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Lord, Here Am I

John Ness Beck

Soloist: Charlie Felkner

WORD

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

FIRST READING

Isaiah 44:6-8

⁶ Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel,
and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:

I am the first, and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.

⁷ Who is like me? Let them proclaim it;
let them declare and set it forth before me.

Who has announced from of old the things to come?
Let them tell us what is yet to be.

⁸ Do not fear or be afraid;
have I not told you from of old and declared it?
You are my witnesses!

Is there any god besides me?
There is no other rock; I know not one.

The reading may be concluded:

Word of God, Word of Life.

The assembly responds:

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 86:11-17

The psalm will be spoken

- ¹¹ Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth;
give me an undivided heart to revere your name.
- ¹² **I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart,
and glorify your name forevermore.**
- ¹³ For great is your love toward me;
you have delivered me from the pit of death.
- ¹⁴ **The arrogant rise up against me, O God, and a band of violent people seeks my life;
they have not set you before their eyes.**
- ¹⁵ But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.
- ¹⁶ **Turn to me and have mercy on me;
give your strength to your servant, and save the child of your handmaid.**
- ¹⁷ **Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be put to
shame;
because you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.**

SECOND READING

Romans 8:12-25

¹² So then, brothers and sisters, we are obligated, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³ for if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if we in fact suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

¹⁸ I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, ²⁰ for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, ²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

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.



*GOSPEL

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁴ [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field,²⁵ but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. ²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷ And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ ²⁸ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ ²⁹ But he replied, ‘No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰ Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’”

³⁶ Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” ³⁷ He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸ the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰ Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴² and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

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.



1 Come, ye thank-ful peo - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.
 2 All the world is God's own field, fruit un - to his praise to yield;
 3 For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his har - vest home;
 4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to thy fi - nal har - vest home.



All be safe - ly gath - ered in ere the win - ter storms be - gin.
 wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown.
 from his field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way;
 Gath - er then thy peo - ple in, free from sor - row, free from sin,



God, our mak - er, doth pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied.
 First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear.
 give his an - gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
 there, for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in thy gar - ner to a - bide.



Come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home.
 Lord of har - vest, grant that we whole - some grain and pure may be.
 but the fruit - ful ears to store in his gar - ner ev - er - more.
 Come, with all thine an - gels, come, raise the glo - rious har - vest home!

*APOSTLE'S CREED

pg. 105

*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 source, protect your church from those who sow weeds among the wheat. Where we trade grace for judgment, restore us, and where we get lost among the complexities of life, guide us. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

WA: God our creator, sustain creation in places not easily seen; the depths of oceans, microscopic plants and animals, galaxies beyond our own. May we share earth's dedication to hope for what we do not yet see. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

WA: God our soil, we yearn to live on your lands and waters with justice and in righteousness. Renew the hearts of all in authority, that our leaders guide wisely toward the flourishing of all. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

WA: God our rock, be a source of constancy for those whose lives have been uprooted by war, eviction, global climate change, unemployment, harassment, false witness to their character, or illness or injury. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

WA: God our teacher, guide and provide for all summer camp staff and campers, daycare professionals, librarians, summer school educators and coaches, teachers preparing for the coming academic year, and youth becoming first-time babysitters. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

WA: God our hope, the message of your salvation is planted among us in all times and places. We give you thanks for the witness of all the saints who shine like the sun in your presence. 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

For the Fruit of All Creation Arr. Frederick Frahm

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.

For the Fruit of All Creation ELW 679 st. 3



3 For the har-vests of the Spir-it, thanks be to God.



For the good we all in-her-it, thanks be to God.



For the won-ders that as-tound us, for the truths that still con-found us,



most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to 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 also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

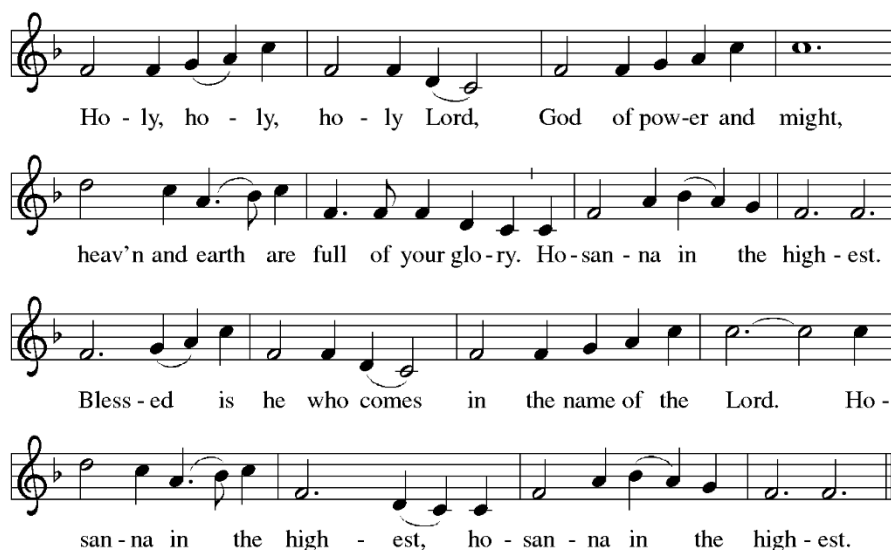
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*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-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

*WORDS OF INSTITUTION

*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



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

COMMUNION MUSIC

As the Grains of Wheat
Eat This Bread

ELW 465

ELW 472

*PASTORAL BLESSING

*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**

Sing to the Lord of Harvest

ELW 694



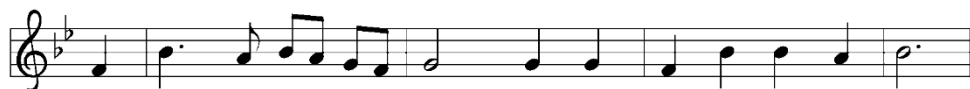
1 Sing to the Lord of har - vest your songs of love and praise;
2 God makes the clouds drop fat - ness, the des - erts bloom and spring,
3 Bring to this sa - cred al - tar the gifts his good-ness gave,



with joy - ful hearts and voic - es your al - le - lu - ias raise;
the hills leap up in glad - ness, the val - leys laugh and sing.
the gold - en sheaves of har - vest, the souls Christ died to save.



by him the roll - ing sea - sons in fruit - ful or - der move;
God fills them with his full - ness, all things with large in - crease,
Your hearts lay down be - fore him when at his feet you fall,



sing to the Lord of har - vest a joy - ous song of love.
and crowns the year with good - ness, with plen - ty and with peace.
and with your lives a - dore him who gave his life for all.

***DISMISSAL**

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Kremser

Charles Callahan

Leading Worship Today

The Rev. Angela Freeman
Eric Richardson
Deb Zudell-Dickey

Senior Pastor
Minister of Music
Organist

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Next week's scripture: First Reading: 1 Kings 3:5-12; Psalm: Psalm 119:129-136; Second Reading: Romans 8:26-39; Gospel: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52.



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS ARE DEDICATED are dedicated to the glory of God by Alison Gregory in honor of Anna Josephine Gregory's 15th birthday from her family. God bless Anna!

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.

FELLOWSHIP TODAY after worship

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

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. 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. You can sign up on the SignUp Genius to attend, help set up, clean up and to bring a side dish or dessert. If you aren't able to use SignUp Genius, contact the office for assistance.

BETHESDA CHILD CARE CENTER

Thank you notes!

You are invited to sign a thank you card and leave a little note to our childcare center children. They sent sweet notes of thanks to the church. Find all the notes and sweet cards on the Welcome Stand.

PAPER GOOD DONATIONS FOR KNICKERBOCKER SENIOR APARTMENTS

The Knickerbocker Senior Apartments requested help from the four Bay Village Congregations that support it to collect donations of paper goods to support their programming for residents. Each Sunday during the month of August, we will be accepting donations of the following items for the Knickerbocker:

- Paper plates (dessert and dinner size)
- Paper bowls
- Dinner napkins
- Paper towels
- Clorox wipes
- Paper coffee cups (10 or 12 oz)
- Compostable, dinner-sized take-out containers

The donated items will be used for birthday celebrations, coffee hours, and community lunch and dinner events, gatherings that mean a great deal to the residents. By donating these essential supplies, we will be helping the Knickerbocker to stretch its program dollars further, allowing them to invest more deeply in engaging entertainment, educational opportunities, and meaningful social experiences for the residents. Thank you in advance for your support of this initiative, which is sponsored by the Mission & Ministry Team of Church Council.

ASSISTING MINISTER TRAINING

TODAY – after worship

This training is for those interested who are simply curious to learn what being an Assisting Minister 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, 6:30pm, Sanctuary

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.

PARISIH NURSE

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

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.



FOLLOW UP

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

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.

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).

ST. B'S HIVE (ST. BARNABAS) PRESENTS I HEAR AMERICA SINGING

August 12, Noon – 2pm, reservations required

Bette Lou Higgins will present historical moments marked with music at this storytelling program at St. Barnabas. Luncheon will be at noon with the presentation beginning at 1pm. Reservations are required - Marjie Koons care@stbarnabasBV.org).

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.

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

Members from both St. Matthew's in Medina and Bethesda on the Bay will travel September 13, 2026 to Carter County Tennessee to provide disaster recovery assistance. The group will drive to Tennessee on Sunday and return on Friday. Last year the congregations were extremely generous supporting of the relief work and trip. Thank you for your generosity in helping to make this all happen for the sake of the Gospel. For those unable to travel in person, you are still invited and encouraged to participate! 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.

