

Bethesda on the Bay Lutheran Church

14th Sunday after Pentecost

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Setting 10

August 30, 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

Spirit, Open My Heart

Setting James Biery

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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.

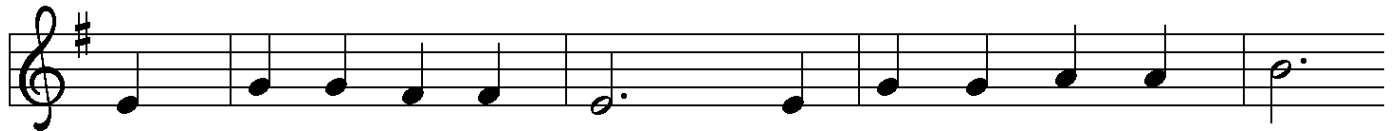
Jesus says, "Come to me,
all you who are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest."
In the name of God,
Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.
Rest in God's love.
Amen.

*GATHERING HYMN For the Beauty of The Earth ELW 879

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!

*GLORY TO GOD



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

SPECIAL MUSIC Make Me a Channel of Your Peace Arr. Sebastian Temple
Soloist: Emerson Emser

WORD

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

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 15:15-21

¹⁵ O LORD, you know;
remember me and visit me,
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.
In your forbearance do not take me away;
know that on your account I suffer insult.
¹⁶ Your words were found, and I ate them,
and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart,
for I am called by your name,
O LORD, God of hosts.
¹⁷ I did not sit in the company of merrymakers,
nor did I rejoice;
under the weight of your hand I sat alone,
for you had filled me with indignation.
¹⁸ Why is my pain unceasing,
my wound incurable,
refusing to be healed?
Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,
like waters that fail.

¹⁹ Therefore thus says the LORD:
If you turn back, I will take you back,
and you shall stand before me.
If you utter what is precious and not what is worthless,
you shall serve as my mouth.
It is they who will turn to you,
not you who will turn to them.
²⁰ And I will make you to this people
a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you,
but they shall not prevail over you,
for I am with you
to save you and deliver you,
says the LORD.

²¹ I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

The reading may be concluded:

Word of God, Word of Life.

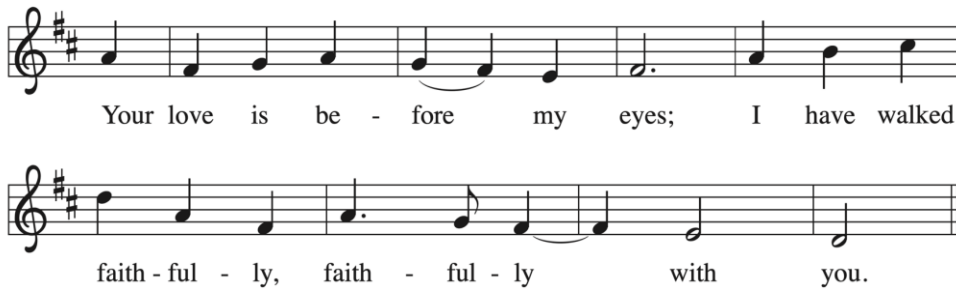
The assembly responds:

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 26:I-8

Psalm Refrain:



Psalm Tone:



¹ Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived ¹ with integrity;
I have trusted in the LORD and ¹ have not faltered.

² Test me, O ¹ LORD, and try me;
examine my heart ¹ and my mind.

³ For your steadfast love is be- ¹ fore my eyes;
I have walked faithful- ¹ ly with you.

⁴ I have not sat ¹ with the worthless,
nor do I consort with ¹ the deceitful. R

⁵ I have hated the company of ¹ evildoers;
I will not sit down ¹ with the wicked.

⁶ I will wash my hands in inno- ¹ cence, O LORD,
that I may go in procession ¹ round your altar,

⁷ singing aloud a song ¹ of thanksgiving
and recounting all your won- ¹ derful deeds.

⁸ LORD, I love the house in ¹ which you dwell
and the place where your glo- ¹ ry abides. R

SECOND READING

Romans 12:9-21

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on

you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰ Instead, "if your

enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.”²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

The reading may be concluded:

Word of God, Word of Life.

The assembly responds:

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.



The assisting minister sings the gospel verse:

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes | of our hearts,
so that we may know the hope to which | God has called us.

The assembly repeats the Alleluia.

*GOSPEL

Matthew 16:21-28

The gospel is announced.

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹ From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷ “For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

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.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Spirit, Open My Heart

ACS 1043

Refrain



Spir-it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of
 liv-ing. As you love may I love, in re - ceiv - ing
 and in giv - ing. Spir - it, o - pen my heart.
 1 God, re - place my ston - y heart with a heart that's
 2 Write your love up - on my heart as my law, my
 3 May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of
 kind and ten - der. All my cold - ness and
 goal, my sto - ry. In each thought, word, and
 friend and neigh - bor. As I live from day to
Refrain
 fear to your grace I now sur - ren - der.
 deed, may my liv - ing bring you glo - ry.
 day, love will be my fin - est la - bor.

*APOSTLE'S CREED

pg. 105

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

P: With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

WA: For the church in every land, that its mission and ministry is anchored in the love of Christ. When threats or challenges arise, teach us to take up our cross and follow you in faith. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

WA: For the well-being of your creation, that all that lives and grows on the earth may thrive. Bring relief to areas ravaged by droughts, floods, fires, storms, and other disasters (especially). Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

WA: For the nations and all in authority, that they seek to live in peace with one another. Bless the work of international and diplomatic organizations and all who work to bring peace to a world scarred by violence. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

WA: For all those in need, that they be satisfied. Ensure all your children have safe access to food, water, shelter, and medical care. Bring healing to all who bear wounds in body, mind, and spirit (especially). Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

WA: For the congregation gathered here to serve you, that they remain strong in faith and united in purpose. Guide our committees, study groups, and other meetings toward honesty and humility, always seeking genuine love. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

For what else do God's people pray?
Here other intercessions may be offered.
Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

WA: For the faithful departed, that their witness continues to strengthen and guide the church. Renew our hope in your promises in this life and the life to come. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

P: Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
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 God beyond All Praising Arr. Wendy Lynn Stevens

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.

Let the Vineyards be Fruitful

ELW 182



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles - sing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

*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.

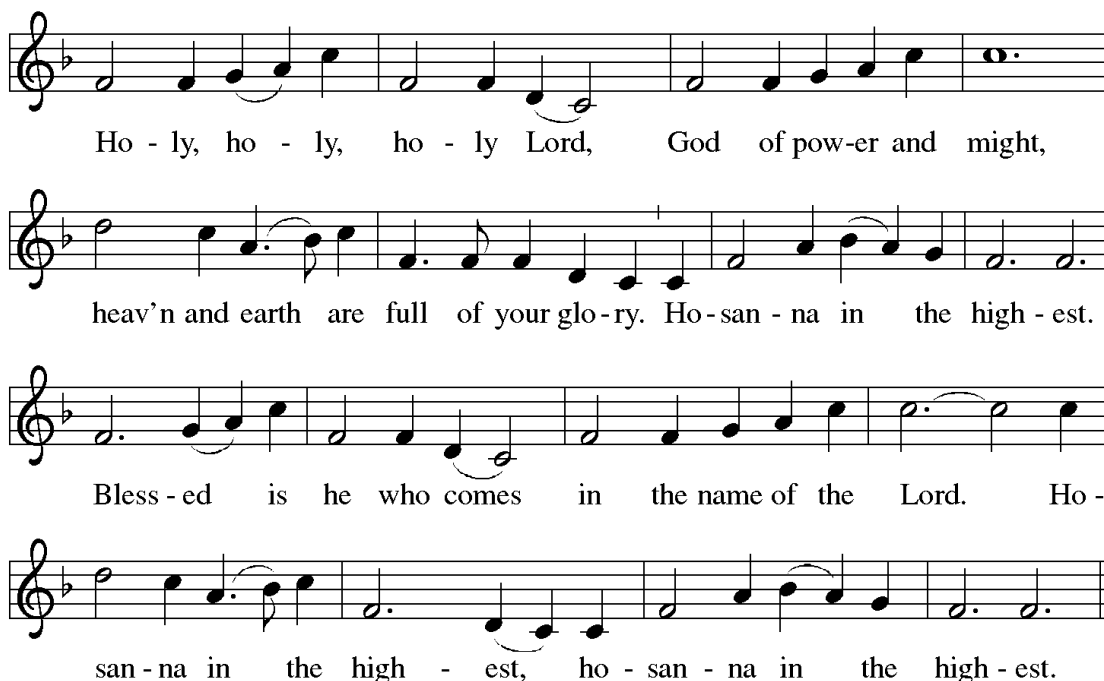
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*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

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

*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 By Your Hand You Feed Your People ELW 469
Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song ELW 808

*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

Let Streams of Living Justice

ELW 710

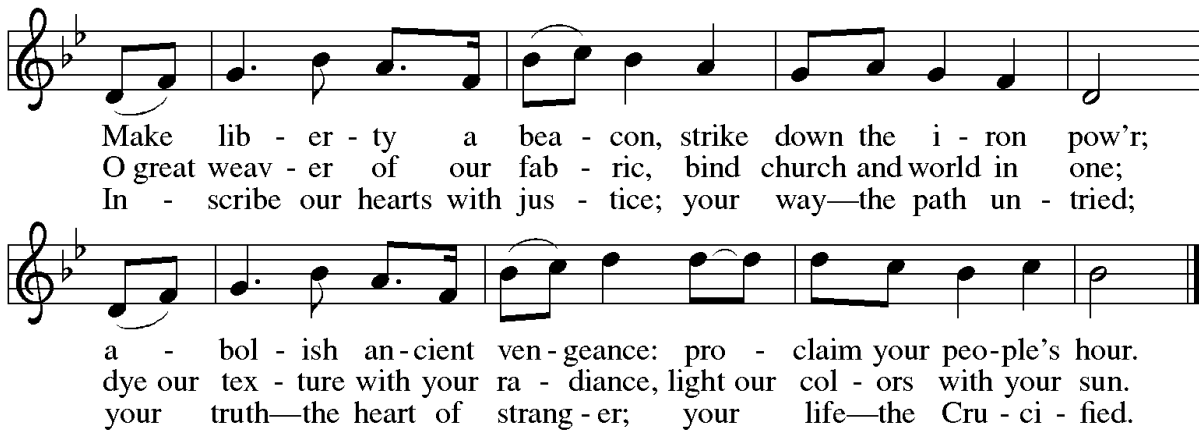


1 Let streams of liv - ing jus - tice flow down up - on the earth;
2 For heal - ing of the na - tions, for peace that will not end,
3 Your ci - ty's built to mu - sic; we are the stones you seek;

give free - dom's light to cap - tives, let all the poor have worth.
for love that makes us lov - ers, God grant us grace to mend.
your har - mo - ny is lan - guage; we are the words you speak.

The hun - gry's hands are plead - ing, the work - ers claim their rights,
Weave our var - ied gifts to - geth - er; knit our lives as they are spun;
Our faith we find in ser - vice, our hope in oth - ers' dreams,

the mourn - ers long for laugh - ter, the blind - ed seek for sight.
on your loom of time en - roll us till our thread of life is run.
our love in hand of neigh - bor; our home - land bright - ly gleams.



Make lib - er - ty a bea - con, strike down the i - ron pow'r;
 O great weav - er of our fab - ric, bind church and world in one;
 In - scribe our hearts with jus - tice; your way—the path un - tried;
 a - bol - ish an - cient ven - geance: pro - claim your peo - ple's hour.
 dye our tex - ture with your ra - diance, light our col - ors with your sun.
 your truth—the heart of strang - er; your life—the Cru - ci - fied.

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace! Share the good news!
 Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE O God beyond All Praising Arr. Wendy Lynn Stevens

Leading Worship Today

The Rev. Angela Freeman
Eric Richardson
Deb Zudell-Dickey

Senior Pastor
Minister of Music
Organist

By entering Bethesda on the Bay and by your presence here (indoors and outdoors), you consent to be photographed, filmed, livestreamed, and/or recorded. Your entry constitutes your consent to such photography, filming, livestreaming, and/or recording and to any use, in any and all media for Bethesda on the Bay Lutheran Church. If you prefer not to be on camera during worship, please speak with the Pastor and she will direct you to where to sit in the sanctuary. Thank you.

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.

"For the Beauty of The Earth." Public Domain. **"Spirit, Open My Heart."** Text © 1996 Pilgrim Press. All rights reserved. Music © 2011 Alfred V. Fedak. **"Let the Vineyards be Fruitful."** Text and music © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress. **"By Your Hand You Feed Your People."** Text and music © 2002 GIA Publications Inc. All rights reserved. **"Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song."** Text and music © Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Tr. © 1970 Stephen Somerville, admin. Augsburg Fortress. **"Let Streams of Living Justice."** Text © 1989 William Whitla. **"Make Me a Channel of Your Peace."** Copyright © 1967, OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. "Spirit, Open My Heart", Setting James Biery; copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. DIX, Harmonization David Schelat; copyright © 1998 MorningStar Music Publishers. DIX, Harmonization Richard Hudson; copyright © 1978 Augsburg Publishing House. All rights reserved. "O God, Beyond All Praising", Arrangement Wendy Lynn Stevens; copyright © 2009 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. "O God, Beyond All Praising", Arrangement Thomas Pavlechko; copyright © 2009 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. "Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song", Arrangement: Nancy Raabe; copyright © 2009 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Next week's scripture: First Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-11; Psalm: Psalm 119:33-40; Second Reading: Romans 13:8-14; Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20.



bethesdaonthebay.org
(440) 871-2276
info@bethesdaonthebay.org



ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS ARE DEDICATED are dedicated to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for His bountiful blessings by Edna Semroc.

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.

THANK YOU!

Last Sunday's shared worship and picnic here at Bethesda with Good Soil Lutheran was a joy and a gift! Thank you to all the helpful hands who played a part in making the day a wonderful success!

PAPERGOOD COLLECTION for Knickerbocker.

The collection of paper goods for the Knickerbocker here in Bay Village wraps up today. Thank you to everyone who brought it items to help support this in-gathering. These goods will be used to help support events for the seniors at the Knickerbocker. This home in Bay helps provide affordable housing in our community. Thank you for your support!

DISASTER RELIEF WORK

Members from both St. Matthew's in Medina and Bethesda on the Bay will travel September 13 - 18, 2026 to Carter County Tennessee to provide disaster recovery assistance. 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.*** Reach out to Pastor Angela if you would like more info or to help.

DISASTER RELIEF PRE-MTG

Monday, August 31, 7:00pm, Middleburg Heights Public Library

Those traveling to TN are reminded of the final prep meeting together with our friends from St. Matthews. If you would like to carpool, reach out to Pastor Angela. Additionally, if you need a Bethesda on the Bay light blue t-shirt or a Thrivent T-shirt, please let her know and she'll bring them to the meeting.

BIBLE STUDY

September 2, 10:00 am – 11:00 am

Come and share in fellowship and bible study centered around the up-coming Sunday scripture lessons. No expertise is needed and you can come when you're able. While the library is under renovation, Bible study will be held in the lounge. Come and share in the fellowship.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

September 3, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Seventh and Eighth graders are encouraged and invited to participate in Confirmation, which is a fun and meaningful learning and faith growth opportunity. Bethesda hosts confirmation for the Conference of Lutheran Churches. The students are in classes with kids from other area congregations. They learn about the Lutheran Church, the Bible, and other helpful material to aid in their faith development. Classes start September 3rd! Speak with Pastor Angela if you or your child would like to participate!

BETHESDA CHANCEL CHOIR

Bethesda's choir will kick off rehearsals on Thursday, September 10th at 7:00 pm. Rehearsals continue on Thursdays at 7:00 pm. A shorter rehearsal and warm-up before worship meets on Sundays around 9:30 am. Everyone is welcome! Speak with Eric Richardson with questions.

PEACEMAKERS QUILTERS

The Peacemakers is an outside group that meets at Bethesda Thursdays at 9:00 am, September 10 through May 2027. 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!

GATHER TOGETHER, a young adult ministry for 20s/30s

Saturday, September 12, at 4:00 pm

Young Adults are invited to come for an afternoon of faith and fellowship at the Rocky River Nature Center on September 12. We will meet in the parking lot at 4 pm. The group will walk for about an hour and conclude with a contemplative prayer. Please feel free to bring family and pets! RRNC is located in the Cleveland Metroparks Rocky River Reservation: 24000 Valley Parkway, North Olmsted, OH 44070. Kindly RSVP to emmacsleva@gmail.com. Look forward to seeing you there!

"Gather Together" is a self-organized young adult group across several Lutheran communities focused on building affirming community through meaningful engagement with one another, with God, and with our wider world. See gathernetwork.org/ more information about the ELCA's Gather Ministry.

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECK

Parish Nurse Debbie Roski will be doing a blood pressure check again on **September 13th after worship**. Please remember that Nurse Debbie is available for other health related questions and support other times as well. Reach out to her by emailing her or calling the church office. She has her own secure phone mailbox. God cares about your whole self and so does Bethesda and Nurse Debbie!

ST. B'S HIVE (ST. BARNABAS)

Presents Women in Space

September 16, Noon – 2:00 pm, reservations required

Laura Blair highlights women in space including 3 US astronauts! Luncheon at noon with presentation. Reservations are required - Marjie Koons care@stbarnabasBV.org.

SERVICE PROJECT– Lake Erie Nature and Science Center

Saturday, September 19

Our neighbors across the street have a need for some help and support getting ready for the busy season. They need help in their preschool classroom doing some light cleaning and dusting along with some craft preparation. Are you able to help on Saturday, September 19th? Please contact the church office to sign up.

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY & WALK THROUGH HUNTINGTON PARK

On Sunday, September 20, Bethesda will have our regular fellowship hour time after worship. Everyone is encouraged to stay after worship for fellowship and a brief message about God's Work, Our Hands presented by the Church Council Spiritual Growth Team. Afterward, all are invited for a walk through our Huntington metro park, along the Porter Creek trail, weather permitting. (*Wear comfortable clothes and shoes to church!*) We will end by Lake Road, where we can cross to go to the lake and maybe get a snack or ice cream, or you can go back to Bethesda to return home. Please join us on September 20 for refreshment, fellowship, and a walk through God's nature.

SERVICE PROJECT – Huntington MetroPark Beach and Park Clean Up

Saturday, September 26

Mark your calendars and plan on helping out with some beach and park clean up at Huntington. Details are being arranged and will be announced soon! Thank you to Ellen Menzies for helping to organize the day and reach out to our neighbors. For now, save the date and thank you for helping us serve our neighbors!

BETHESDA TO WORSHIP AT GOOD SOIL

Sunday, September 27th at 9:30 am – outdoors

Bethesda will travel to Rocky River to worship with Good Soil. Mark your calendars and plan on journeying down the road to continue the relationship building and shared worship! It is a blessing to be the One Body of Christ! *Carpooling and shared rides are encouraged due to space constraints at Good Soil. Meet at Bethesda at 9:00 am if you would like to carpool. Please note that service begins at 9:30 and that there will NOT be service at Bethesda that morning. Good Soil is located at 20300 Hilliard Blvd., Rocky River.*

CHOIR ANTHEM on SEPT 27th

A combined choir from both churches will sing an anthem during worship at Good Soil. The rehearsal will be at 9:00 am at Good Soil.

CLASS FOR 2-5 YEAR OLDS

September 26, 2026

Bethesda is excited to announce that we will continue our 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. Future dates are to be determined by group consensus.

YOUTH GATHERING MEETING

Tuesday, September 29 6:00pm, Lounge

Those planning on traveling to Minneapolis for the ELCA Youth Gathering next summer are invited and reminded of our planning meeting on Sept. 29th. Those who are still discerning must let Pastor Angela know by October 1st that you'll be coming along. Registration forms will be available that night. A non-refundable fee of \$175/attendee is needed to save your spot. Reach out to Pastor Angela with questions or to learn more about The Gathering!

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Sunday, October 4 at 11:30 am in the Lounge

Outreach committee is being formed to help Bethesda continue to reach out into the community and the wider church. Come together to plan and organize outreach events and help encourage and grow the work of caring and loving our neighbors! Most of the organizing in the past was done peace-meal and usually church staff led. Creating a committee is an opportunity for the congregation to engage further and explore how to serve the community in new ways. Contact Pastor Angela if you have questions or want to participate but can't be at the meeting.

NEW MEMBERS

Sunday, October 4

Have you been visiting with Bethesda for a while now and are feeling called to connect to the ministry in a deeper way? Curious about the congregation and would like to learn more? Wherever you are in your life of faith, you are welcomed here. New members will be received during worship on Sunday, October 4th. Please reach out to Pastor Angela for a further conversation or with any questions.

ANIMAL BLESSING – Feast of St. Francis

Sunday, October 4, 2:00pm

Bethesda will be hosting Animal Blessing service this year. Save the date and plan on sharing in a celebration and thanksgiving for the gift of creation. All pets are invited to come to worship for a special blessing! Would you be willing and able to help Pastor Angela host the worship? She could use some help setting up a couple of tables and getting the worship space outdoors ready. Please reach out to her if you are able to lend a hand.

ALTAR GUILD UPDATE

Altar guild is the ministry of caring for the congregation through holy communion preparation, altar decorations, preparing for a baptism, etc. There are a number of tools used during the serving of Holy Communion that periodically need care. Bethesda's old flagon (*pitcher for Communion wine*) had to be retired a few years ago. The congregation was gifted a lovely flagon by St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Ontario, OH as that congregation was closing. Recently, the guild realized the inside was needing some care and it was decided re-surface the silver, so it will be safe to use. A new flagon can cost upwards of \$2,000 or more, so re-surfacing was much more cost effective. The altar guild is happy to report that the flagon has returned and looks beautiful! Feel free to check it out before or after worship when it is on the altar. Thank you to Marianne Schmidt for making this all happen! If you're interested in helping to serve on the altar guild, contact the church office!

VELOSANO BIKE TO CURE

Gary Weiland thanks everyone who has donated to Velosano. He has now raised \$6,708 toward his personal \$8,000 goal. This is the ninth consecutive year Gary has led a team to support cancer research. Team Discovery currently has 100 riders with a goal of 110 riders and \$130,000, which will fully fund one cancer research pilot. This year, Team Discovery will surpass Gary's ultimate goal of raising \$1/2 million for cancer research since 2018. The Bike to Cure ride is Sept. 19. Support Gary's ride at <https://give.velosano.org/gweiland>.

