

Bethesda on the Bay Lutheran Church

15th Sunday after Pentecost

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Setting 10

September 6, 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

Earth and All Stars

Arr. Wayne L. Wold

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.

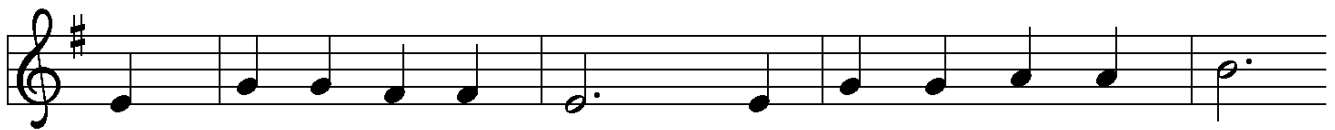
*GATHERING HYMN Earth and All Stars! ELW 731

Stanzas 1 — All
Stanza 2 — Organ side (All join on Refrain)
Stanza 3 - All
Stanza 4 — Pulpit Side (All join on Refrain)
Stanza 5 - All

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 Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

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

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 33:7-11

⁷ So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸ If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹ But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰ Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel: Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” ¹¹ Say to them: As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

The reading may be concluded:

Word of God, Word of Life.

The assembly responds:

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 119:33-40

Psalm Refrain:



Psalm Tone:



- ³³ Teach me, O LORD, the way¹ of your statutes,
and I shall keep it¹ to the end.
- ³⁴ Give me understanding, and I shall¹ keep your teaching;
I shall keep it with¹ all my heart.
- ³⁵ Lead me in the path of¹ your commandments,
for that is¹ my desire.
- ³⁶ Incline my heart to¹ your decrees
and not to¹ unjust gain. R
- ³⁷ Turn my eyes from be-¹ holding falsehood;
give me life¹ in your way.
- ³⁸ Fulfill your promise¹ to your servant,
which is for¹ those who fear you.
- ³⁹ Turn away the reproach¹ that I dread,
because your judg-¹ ments are good.
- ⁴⁰ Behold, I long for¹ your commandments;
by your righteousness en-¹ liven me. R

SECOND READING

Romans 13:8-14

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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:

In Christ God was reconciling the world | to himself,
entrusting the message of reconcilia- | tion to us

The assembly repeats the Alleluia.

*GOSPEL

Matthew 18:15-20

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵ “If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

The gospel concludes: The gospel of the Lord.

The assembly responds: Praise to you, O Christ.

REFLECTION

Mr. Chris Neumann

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY God, When Human Bonds Are Broken ELW 603



1 God, when hu - man bonds are bro - ken and we lack the
2 Through that still - ness, with your Spir - it come in - to our
3 You in us are bruised and bro - ken: hear us as we
4 Send us, God of new be - gin - nings, hum - bly hope - ful
5 Give us faith to be more faith - ful, give us hope to



love or skill to re - store the hope of heal - ing,
world of stress, for the sake of Christ for - giv - ing
seek re - lease from the pain of ear - lier liv - ing;
in - to life. Use us as a means of bless - ing:
be more true, give us love to go on learn - ing:



give us grace and make us still.
all the fail - ures we con - fess.
set us free and grant us peace.
make us stron - ger, give us faith.
God, en - cour - age and re - new!

*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.

HYMN

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts

ELW 658

1 O Je - sus, joy of lov - ing hearts, the fount of
 2 We taste you, ev - er - liv - ing bread, and long to
 3 For you our rest - less spir - its yearn, wher - e'er our
 4 O Je - sus, ev - er with us stay! Make all our

life, the light of all: from ev - 'ry bliss that earth im -
 feast up - on you still; we drink of you, the foun - tain -
 chang-ing lot is cast; glad, when your smile on us you
 mo - ments fair and bright! Oh, chase the night of sin a -

parts we turn, un - filled, to hear your call.
 head; our thirst - ing souls from you we fill.
 turn, blest, when by faith we hold we fast.
 way! Shed o'er the world your ho - ly light.

*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

P: Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

A brief silence.

WA: Proclaiming God, empower your church throughout the world to announce the words you give us. Open us to receive your word in unexpected ways. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

WA: Forming God, renew the cycles of your creation that provide for the needs of all. Protect grasslands, marshes, swamps, and all places of transition. Heal communities crying out after disaster (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

WA: Governing God, turn all who create, enforce, or interpret legislation away from selfish gain and toward your promise of good for all, especially the good of all who labor. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

WA: Attending God, wake us up to any around us who are in need. Restore broken relationships, failing health, frayed emotions, and the hurts we carry with us. (*We pray especially for . . .*) Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

WA: Gathering God, resolve conflicts in this community through your righteousness and grace. Reconcile us to each other, making your good news known even through our imperfections. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

WA: Loving God, all who die in faith have life with you. We give you thanks for the nearness of your salvation for (*name/s, and*) all who have gone before us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

P: Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

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.

***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, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.	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.	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.	For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

VOLUNTARY

Although I Speak with Angel's TongueEnglish Trad.

Soloist: Bryan McGucken

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.

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending ELW 678 st. 1-3



1 God, whose giv-ing knows no end-ing, from your rich and end-less store:

3 Treas-ure, too, you have en-trust-ed, gain through pow'rs your grace con-ferred;



na-ture's won-der, Je - sus' wis-dom, cost-ly cross, grave's shat-tered door,

ours to use for home and kin-dred, and to spread the gos-pel word.



gift-ed by you, we turn to you, of-f'ring up our-selves in praise;

O - pen wide our hands in shar-ing, as we heed Christ's age-less call,



thank-ful song shall rise for-ev-er, gra-cious do-nor of our days.

heal-ing, teach-ing, and re-claim-ing, serv-ing you by lov-ing all.

*OFFERING PRAYER

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.

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

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

ELW 836

*DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee Marilyn Biery

Leading Worship Today

Chris Neumann
Eric Richardson
Deb Zudell-Dickey

Supply Preacher and Worship Leader
Minister of Music
Organist

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Next week's scripture: First Reading: **Genesis 1:1—2:4a**; Psalm: **Psalm 148**; Second Reading: **Acts 17:22a, 24-28**; Gospel: **John 1:1-5**.



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



ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS ARE DEDICATED are dedicated to the glory of God by Curt Snyder.

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 from the Knickerbocker

The collection of paper goods for the Knickerbocker here in Bay Village wrapped up last week. We received this thank you: On behalf of the staff and residents of the Knickerbocker, I would like to sincerely thank you for your generous donation of paper products. We are truly grateful for your thoughtfulness and for your commitment to helping others. Your generosity is a wonderful example of compassion and community spirit, and we deeply appreciate your support. Thank you again for thinking of us and for making such a generous contribution. The paper products will be used to help bring joy and fun to our residents through programs, presentations, and parties!

DISASTER RELIEF WORK

Members from both St. Matthew's in Medina and Bethesda on the Bay will travel next Sunday, 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 the ones who will be there to serve 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.

BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays September 9, 23 and 30 at 10:00 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.

ORGAN MOTOR FIXED

As you can tell, the organ motor has been fixed. Much gratitude to Chris Dickey (Deb's son) who is an electrical engineer and identified the problem and helped with the solution, along with Mark Larsen who took the motor to be worked on and arranged for an electrician to come complete the work. Deb Zudell-Dickey was instrumental (pun intended) in organizing the work.

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 contributed to his VeloSano Bike to Cure ride. He is at 94% of his \$8,000 goal with \$7,485 contributed by 96 donors. This is the ninth consecutive year Gary has led a team to support cancer research. Team Discovery currently has 102 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>.

ST. AUGUSTINE FUNDRAISER

St. Augustine Community Cupboard and Closet is hosting its 4th Annual Fall Fundraiser, "Help Us Help Others," on Saturday, November 14, 2026 at St. Sava Event Center 2152 West Wallings Road, Broadview Hts., Ohio from 6 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. For tickets and more information please follow this link: <https://staugustine-ccc-2024.my.canva.site/>

