

Bethesda on the Bay Lutheran Church

Day of Creation

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Setting 9

September 13, 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 What God Ordains is Good Indeed Johann Peter Kellner

*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,
our hope, our heart, our home.
Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Everlasting God, the Alpha and the Omega,
the beginning and the end,

we confess that we participate in systems
that perpetuate oppression and injustice.
We are often numb to the pain of the world around us,
resistant to change that costs us something,
and reluctant to love our neighbors as ourselves.
We sin against your good creation,
failing to be faithful stewards
of the land, the sea, and all their creatures.
Make your home among us once more, O God,

**naming us beloved and opening our hearts
to do your will.
Amen.**

All you saints and sinners, this good news is for you:
God knows you, forgives you by the self-giving of ✝ Jesus Christ,
and frees you to love the world as you have been loved.
Creation's story will not end until mourning, crying, and pain are no more.
When everything else changes, God's love is steadfast and sure.
Nothing can ever separate you from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.

***GATHERING HYMN** All Creatures, Worship God Most High! ELW 835
Stanzas 1-3

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**

O God, in whom we live and move and have our being, in Christ you created the worlds,
and your Spirit breathes life into the universe. We praise you for your wondrous
creation. Bless us and all your handiwork with your infinite light, and direct our lives to
the care of this good earth, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

The assembly is seated.

SPECIAL MUSIC

I See an Angel

Randy Grega
Soloist: Randy Grega

***PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

P: We join with Christians far and near to worship God the Creator, praying for the earth and
for all in need, responding to each petition with the words "Your mercy is great."

A brief silence.

WA: O God of mystery, mercy, and might, for the church we pray: that churches around the
globe collaborate in care for the earth, and that all the baptized nurture a zeal for the wellbeing
of creation. Hear us, O God, source of life,
Your mercy is great.

WA: For the earth we pray: that this bounteous creation receive continued divine blessing, that the air be wholesome, that the waters be plenteous and clean, that the land be treasured, and that animals be protected. Grant that what on earth has been despoiled will be healed. Hear us, O God, our creator,
Your mercy is great.

WA: For the nations we pray: that farmers, herders, foragers, fishers, and grocers provide the food humans need, that legislators strive in all things for the common good, and that science and technology lead us toward more responsible ways to live. Hear us, O God, our stronghold,
Your mercy is great.

WA: For our country we pray: that national parks, forests, and wildlife refuges be safeguarded, that all natural resources benefit the whole population, and that our children learn respect for nature. Hear us, O God, our guardian,
Your mercy is great.

WA: For those in need we pray: that humankind be sheltered from pandemic and from extreme weather, and that all who are sick or suffering receive medical attention and communal support. Give heed to those whose names we call out to *you* especially those we name out loud now... *(Pause for names to be offered)* Hear us, O God, our healer,
Your mercy is great.

WA: We praise you for Hildegard of Bingen, Francis of Assisi, and for all believers who have lived and died in communion with the earth. Grant that in your good time we join with all your creatures in your presence forever. Hear us, O God, the beginning and the end:
Your mercy is great.

P: Into your hands, O God, our maker and keeper, we commend ourselves and your whole creation, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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 This is My Father's World B. Johnson-Werner

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. 1-2



1 God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and end - less store:
2 Skills and time are ours for press - ing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:



na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom, cost - ly cross, grave's shat - tered door,
all at peace in health and free - dom, rac - es joined, the church made one.



gift - ed by you, we turn to you, of - f'ring up our - selves in praise;
Now di - rect our dai - ly la - bor, lest we strive for self a - lone;



thank - ful song shall rise for - ev - er, gra - cious do - nor of our days.
born with tal - ents, make us ser - vants fit to an - swer at your throne.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Worship assistant

O God, maker of heaven and earth,
your steadfast love embraces all creation.
You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth
and bring forth its bounty.
Through these gifts of bread and wine,
draw us into the death and life of your Son,
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.
We ask this in Jesus' name.
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-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est, 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

The gifts of creation for God's beloved creatures.
Come and share.

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

Beautiful Savior
When Long before Time

ELW 838

ELW 86I

*PASTORAL BLESSING

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Worship assistant

God of our salvation,
we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls,
reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey.
Through the body and blood of your Son,
may we become Christ's body in the world,
bearing witness to your love for all creation,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

BLESSING AND SENDING FOR MISSION

Friends in Christ: Today we give thanks to God and seek God's blessing as we send these friends on their way to Roan Mountain, Tennessee. There, they will work with siblings in faith from St. Matthew's Lutheran to serve the community still recovering after Hurricane Helene. The specific work they will do will be determined by the organization and shared upon their arrival. We will bless them now as they depart on their way and drive to their home for the next 6 nights.

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.
You made the whole earth for your glory; all creation praises you.
We lift our voices to join the songs of heaven and earth
in thanksgiving for the many blessings you have given us.
Renew in us the commitment to use our gifts in the service of others,
and especially of those in need. Let us be your hands to feed the hungry,
shelter the homeless, clothe the naked, comfort the weary and outcast,
welcome the stranger, care for creation, and be loving neighbors to all people.

Bless those who go out from here to labor in Roan Mountain and the surrounding area.
Prosper the work of their hands.

Bless those who receive them and the fruits of their labor,
and may those who are sent receive blessing in return.
May the gifts they use and share be signs of your love to all people.

Bless these quilts made lovingly and faithfully by the quilters here at Bethesda.
May those who receive them find dignity in their use and comfort in their warmth,
and may these gifts be a sign of your love to all people.

To you, O God, be glory and honor through your Son, Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, in your church and in the world, now and forever.
Amen.

WORD

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

FIRST READING

Genesis 1:1—2:4a

¹When God began to create the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

⁶And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” ⁷So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. ⁸God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. ¹⁰God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. ¹²The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. ¹³And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

¹⁴And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. ¹⁶God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

²⁰And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” ²¹So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. ²²God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” ²³And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

²⁴And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. ²⁵God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind and the cattle of every kind and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶Then God said, “Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”

²⁷ So God created humans in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

²⁸ God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” ²⁹ God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. ³⁰ And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the air and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. ³¹ God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

^{2:1} Thus the heavens and the earth were finished and all their multitude. ² On the sixth day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. ³ So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

^{4a} These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

The reading may be concluded:

Word of God, Word of Life.

The assembly responds:

Thanks be to God.

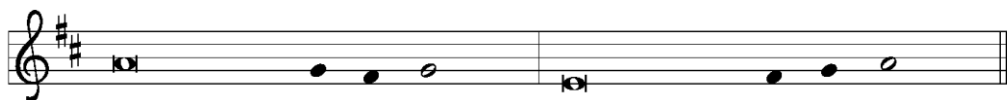
PSALM

Psalm 148

Psalm Refrain:



Psalm Tone:



¹ Hallelujah! Praise the LORD¹ from the heavens;
praise God¹ in the heights.

² Praise the LORD,¹ all you angels;
sing praise, all you¹ hosts of heaven.

³ Praise the LORD,¹ sun and moon;
sing praise, all you¹ shining stars.

⁴ Praise the LORD, heav-¹ en of heavens,
and you waters a-¹ bove the heavens. R

⁵ Let them praise the name¹ of the LORD,
who commanded, and they¹ were created,
⁶ who made them stand fast forev-¹ er and ever,
giving them a law that shall not¹ pass away.

⁷ Praise the LORD^l from the earth,
you sea monsters^l and all deeps;
⁸ **fire and hail,^l snow and fog,**
tempestuous wind, do-^ling God's will;
⁹ mountains^l and all hills,
fruit trees^l and all cedars;
¹⁰ **wild beasts^l and all cattle,**
creeping things and^l flying birds;
¹¹ sovereigns of the earth^l and all peoples,
princes and all rulers^l of the world;
¹² **young^l men and maidens,**
old and^l young together. R

¹³ Let them praise the name^l of the LORD,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over^l earth and heaven.

¹⁴ **The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all^l faithful servants,**
the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD.^l Hallelujah! R

SECOND READING

Acts 17:22a, 24-28

^{22a} Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, ²⁴ “The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶ From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷ so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸ For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,
‘For we, too, are his offspring.’

The reading may be concluded:

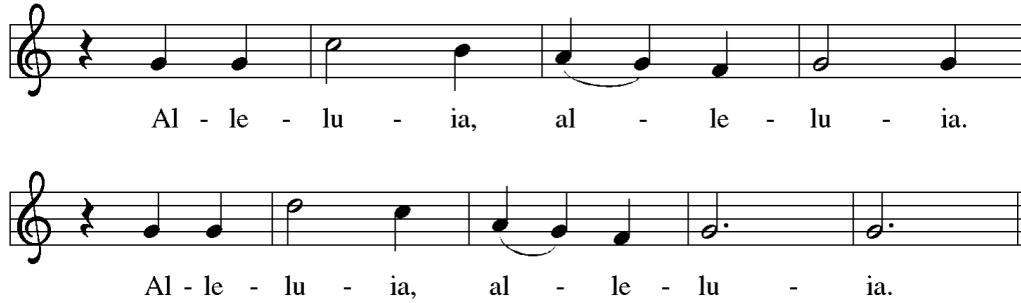
Word of God, Word of Life.

The assembly responds:

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.



The assisting minister sings the gospel verse:

We have an advocate, Jesus¹ Christ the righteous;
your sins are forgiven on account¹ of his name.

The assembly repeats the Alleluia.

*GOSPEL

John 1:1-5

The gospel is announced.

The holy gospel according to St. John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

The gospel concludes:

The gospel of the Lord.

The assembly responds:

Praise to you, O Christ.

REFLECTION

The Rev. William Weidenbach

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.



1 God of the fer - tile fields, sha - per of
 2 We would be stew - ards true, hold - ing in
 3 As grows the hid - den seed, to fruit that
 4 God of the coun - try - side, dear to the



earth that yields our dai - ly bread: forth from your
 trust from you all that you give; help us in
 serves our need, so your reign grows. Let all our
 Christ who died to make us one: we pledge our



boun - teous hand come gifts your love has planned,
 love to share, teach us like you to care
 toil be used, no gift of yours a - busied,
 lives a - new in faith - ful love to you.



that all in ev - 'ry land be clothed and fed.
 for peo - ple ev - 'ry - where, that all may live.
 no hum - ble task re - fused your love be - stows.
 Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.

***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.

SENDING

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

***SENDING HYMN**

This Is My Father's World

ELW 824

***BLESSING**

The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.

Creator God bless you and keep you.

Creating Christ shine through you with grace and mercy.

Creative Spirit nourish you and give you peace.

Amen.

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Flourish with creation.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Toccata In F Major

Dietrich Buxtehude

Leading Worship Today

The Rev. Angela Freeman

Senior Pastor

The Rev. William Widenbach

Supply Pastor

Eric Richardson

Minister of Music

Deb Zudell-Dickey

Organist

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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.



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info@bethesdaonthebay.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Last week's altar flowers from Curt & Judi Snyder were to celebrate their 46th wedding anniversary! They were married at Bethesda!

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.

WELCOME PASTOR WEIDENBACH!

Today, we welcome Pastor William Weidenbach from Messiah Lutheran in Fairview Park who will be participating in worship leading. Messiah has two pastors and they are sharing one with Bethesda today! Pastor William will bless and send out the mission workers to serve, which includes Pastor Angela. He will carry on with worship after those being sent have left for their journey. Thank you to Pastor William and to Messiah for sharing this gift of leadership today!

DISASTER RELIEF WORK

Today, we will bless the members of the congregation and members of St. Matthew's Lutheran in Medina who will be traveling and being sent out for mission. They will be leaving today and driving to Roan Mountain, TN where they will work with local organizations to do the work of helping people recover after Hurricane Helene. Thank you for the prayers and support of their work on behalf of all of us! Follow along on Bethesda's social media and emails to hear about their mission work!

TODAY - DAY OF CREATION

Supported by the Lutheran World Federation and World Council of Churches, ELCA worshipping communities are encouraged to celebrate this new day, using the lectionary texts provided by the Consultation on Common Texts. Since the seventh century, September 1 has symbolized the day of the creation of the world in the Byzantine tradition and has been the opening feast of its liturgical year (known as the Feast of the Indiction), in parallel with Rosh Hashanah marking the Jewish New Year. Creation in Christ celebrates the ongoing creation of the world in and through Christ, who sustains, unites, and holds all created things. We hear today of the triune God who creates all things: sun and moon, shining stars, sea monsters, creeping things and flying birds—and, yes, even human beings. God-in-Christ still takes care of all things and invites us to join in as caretakers of God's good creation.

BIBLE STUDY

September 16, 23 & 30 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.

BETHESDA CHANCEL CHOIR

Bethesda's choir kicked off rehearsals on September 10th. 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. 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!

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECK TODAY

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!

LADIES LUNCH

This month the ladies will be having lunch at 11:30 am Wednesday September 16th at The Original Pancake House, 35514 Detroit Rd. Avon. It's located behind Mitchell's Ice Cream where the first Heck's was located. Please let Bev Hine know if you are planning to join us by Monday September 14th 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 1:30 pm in the lounge at church. The next meeting is September 16th and the book discussed will be *The Glassmaker* by Tracy Chevalier. 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.

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](mailto:Marjie.Koons@stbarnabasBV.org).

SERVICE PROJECT– Lake Erie Nature and Science Center

Saturday, September 19, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

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.

COMMUNITY CUPBOARD COLLECTION

Sunday, September 20th

Last month we collected several dozen items that were donated to the Community Cupboard. St. Barnabas greatly appreciates our continued support. Thank you to all those who contributed. This month, St. Barnabas has requested **peanut butter and jelly, mac-n-cheese, and canned fruit or fruit cups**; items which are always needed. The collection will occur on the third Sunday, September 20th. So, put a few of these items on your shopping list and bring them to church on **Sunday the 20th**. Monetary donations are also welcome. 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.

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 Metropark, 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 8:00 am – 10:00 am

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. Contact Ellen Menzies (emenzies33102@gmail.com) to sign up! There is a waiver to complete also.

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.

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.

YOUTH GATHERING MEETING

Tuesday, September 29 6:00 pm, 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, 2:00 pm

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.

VELOSANO BIKE TO CURE

Gary Weiland thanks everyone who has contributed to his VeloSano Bike to Cure ride. With less than one week to go until his ride, Gary is at 98% of his \$8,000 goal with \$7,824 contributed by 101 donors. This is the ninth consecutive year Gary has led a team to support cancer research. Team Discovery currently has 104 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 this Saturday, Sept. 19. Support Gary's ride at <https://give.velosano.org/gweiland>.

