

# Bethesda on the Bay Lutheran Church

## 17th Sunday after Pentecost

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Setting 9

September 20, 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.*

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### GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

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PRELUDE

Allegro

Attributed to G. F. Handel.

### 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** There's a Wideness in God's Mercy ELW 588

### 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



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of

God, and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and

praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.

A - men.

### \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants.  
Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train  
us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

*The assembly is seated.*

ANTHEM

I Love You Lord

Jack Schrader

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## WORD

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

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### FIRST READING

Jonah 3:10—4:11

<sup>10</sup> When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

<sup>4:1</sup> But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. <sup>2</sup> He prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. <sup>3</sup> And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” <sup>4</sup> And the LORD said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” <sup>5</sup> Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

<sup>6</sup> The LORD God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. <sup>7</sup> But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. <sup>8</sup> When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

<sup>9</sup> But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” <sup>10</sup> Then the LORD said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. <sup>11</sup> And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?”

*The reading may be concluded:*

Word of God, Word of Life.

*The assembly responds:*

**Thanks be to God.**

# PSALM

Psalm 145:1-8

## *Psalm Refrain:*



## *Psalm Tone:*



- <sup>1</sup> I will exalt you, my God and king,  
and bless your name forev-<sup>1</sup> er and ever.
- <sup>2</sup> Every day<sup>1</sup> will I bless you  
and praise your name forev-<sup>1</sup> er and ever.
- <sup>3</sup> Great is the LORD and greatly<sup>1</sup> to be praised!  
There is no end<sup>1</sup> to your greatness.
- <sup>4</sup> One generation shall praise your works<sup>1</sup> to another  
and shall de-<sup>1</sup> clare your power. R
- <sup>5</sup> I will speak of the glorious splendor<sup>1</sup> of your majesty  
and all your<sup>1</sup> marvelous works.
- <sup>6</sup> They shall tell of the might of your<sup>1</sup> wondrous acts,  
and I will re-<sup>1</sup> count your greatness.
- <sup>7</sup> They shall publish the remembrance of<sup>1</sup> your great goodness;  
they shall sing joyfully<sup>1</sup> of your righteousness.
- <sup>8</sup> The LORD is gracious and full<sup>1</sup> of compassion,  
slow to anger and abounding in<sup>1</sup> steadfast love. R

## SECOND READING Philippians 1:21-30

<sup>21</sup> For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. <sup>22</sup> If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. <sup>23</sup> I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, <sup>24</sup> but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. <sup>25</sup> Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, <sup>26</sup> so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me.

<sup>27</sup> Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel <sup>28</sup> and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. <sup>29</sup> For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, <sup>30</sup> since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

*The reading may be concluded:*

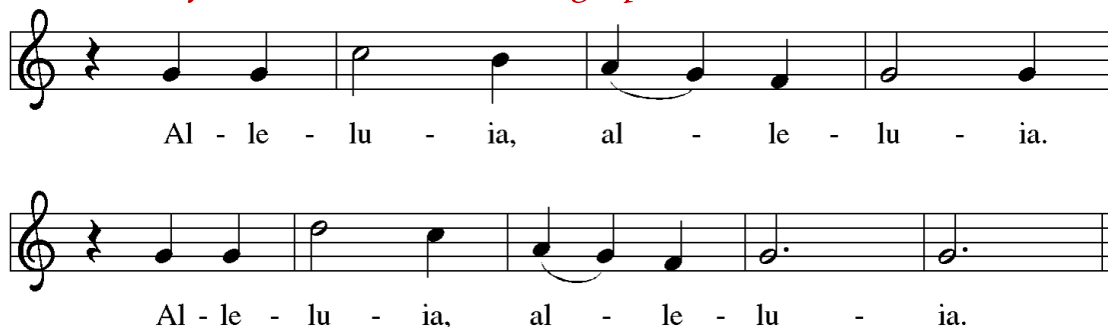
Word of God, Word of Life.

*The assembly responds:*

Thanks be to God.

## \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*



*The assisting minister sings the gospel verse:*

Open our | hearts, O Lord,  
to give heed to what is said | by your Son.

*The assembly repeats the Alleluia.*

## \*GOSPEL

Matthew 20:1-16

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup>“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup> After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup> When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, <sup>4</sup> and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. <sup>5</sup> When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. <sup>6</sup> And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ <sup>7</sup> They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ <sup>8</sup> When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ <sup>9</sup> When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius. <sup>10</sup> Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. <sup>11</sup> And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, <sup>12</sup> saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ <sup>13</sup> But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? <sup>14</sup> Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. <sup>15</sup> Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ <sup>16</sup> So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

*The gospel concludes:* The gospel of the Lord.

*The assembly responds:* Praise to you, O Christ.

## REFLECTION

Rev. Angela Freeman

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

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

*A brief silence.*

WA: Hold your church accountable for our unwillingness to share your good news and our anger at your generosity to others. Nourish us by your grace to be witnesses to your love. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

WA: Guide scientists and researchers studying responses to the climate crisis so that all your creation may inspire us to give thanks for your great goodness. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

WA: Show employers the benefits of equal pay standards for all their employees. Reconcile conflicts between employees. Fill places of employment with camaraderie, and bring an end to employment disparity. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

WA: Encourage any who cannot work or who cannot work a full day with the truth that their value comes from your everlasting love for them. Provide for those who are injured, ill, and for all in any need (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

WA: Strengthen all those in this congregation whose labor serves the needs of others in the community (*especially*). Inspire all in this congregation to support community endeavors with our time and talents. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

WA: Comfort us with the promise of the resurrection as we remember all our loved ones whose desire to be with Jesus is fulfilled. 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.**

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## MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

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### OFFERTORY HYMN The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing ELW 531

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

1 The trum - pets sound, the an - gels sing, the feast is  
2 Ta - bles are la - den with good things; oh, taste the  
3 The hun - gry heart he sat - is - fies, of - fers the

read - y to be - gin. The gates of heav'n are o - pen wide,  
peace and joy he brings. He'll fill you up with love di - vine;  
poor his par - a - dise. Now hear all heav'n and earth ap - plaud

and Je - sus wel - comes you in - side.  
he'll turn your wa - ter in - to wine.  
the a - maz - ing good - ness of the Lord.

*Refrain*

Sing with thank - ful - ness songs of pure de - light.

Come and rev - el in heav - en's love and light.

Take your place at the ta - ble of the King.

The feast is read - y to be - gin;

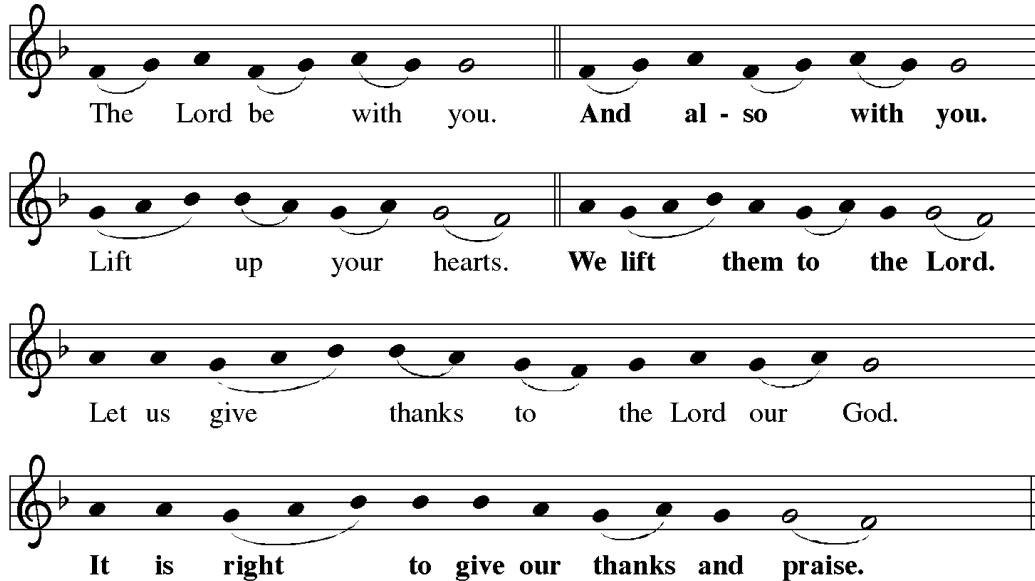
the feast is read - y to be - gin.

## \*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.

## \*GREAT THANKSGIVING

*The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.*



## \*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

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!

## 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

### Will You Let Me Be Your Servant

ELW 659

### God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me ACS 1084

1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to  
2 Bind to my-self the name of Ho - ly, great cloud of wit - ness -  
3 Bright-ness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash - ing of light - ning,  
4 Walk - ing be-hind to hem my jour - ney, go - ing a - head to  
5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that  
move my voice; God, be the strength to now up - hold me:  
es en - fold; proph - ets, a - pos - tles, an - gels wit - ness:  
strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of plan - et:  
light my way, and from be - neath, a - bove, and all ways:  
hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:

*Refrain*

O Christ, sur - round me; O Christ, sur - round me.

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## SENDING

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

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### \*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**      God's Work, Our Hands ACS 1000



1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,  
 2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,  
 3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,  
 4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,  
 fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,  
 prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,  
 seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,  
 walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,  
 pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,  
 Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.  
 run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.  
 claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.  
 gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,  
 Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,  
 Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,  
 Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.  
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.  
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.  
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.

**\*DISMISSAL**

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

**POSTLUDE**

Fugue in C Major a 3 Attributed to G. F. Handel

## Leading Worship Today

Rev. Angela Freeman  
Eric Richardson  
Deb Zudell-Dickey

Senior Pastor  
Minister of Music  
Organist

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**Next week's scripture: First Reading: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32; Psalm: Psalm 25:1-9; Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-13; Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32.**



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info@bethesdaonthebay.org



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS ARE DEDICATED** are dedicated to the glory of God by Liza Heinig in thanksgiving for those who give their time and talents to inspire us to be the best people and servants of God that we can.

**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](mailto:info@bethesdaonthebay.org). There are also guest name tags for any guest attending worship.

### **DISASTER RELIEF WORK**

Members from both St. Matthew's in Medina and Bethesda on the Bay were in Carter County Tennessee last week to provide disaster recovery assistance. If you haven't already, check out our social media for more details.

### **BIBLE STUDY**

Wednesdays September 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.

### **BETHESDA CHANCEL CHOIR**

Bethesda's choir is back! 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!

## **SERVING OUR COMMUNITY & WALK THROUGH HUNTINGTON PARK TODAY**

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.

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 Dave & Andie Pohlod for hosting today!

## **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!

## **INVITATION TO DINNER CHURCH AT UPCAM Sunday, September 27**

UPCaM (United Protestant Campus Ministry), which serves students from Cleveland State University, Case Western Reserve University, and Cuyahoga Community College, has been a valued ministry partner of Bethesda for years. Bethesda has provided financial support through the Agape Fund and this year will be providing and serving the meal at UPCaM's Dinner Church on Sunday, September 27 at 6:30 PM. Please consider joining the Mission & Ministry Team that evening as it helps feed the bodies, minds, and spirits of some of Cleveland's excellent college students. Dinner Church is located in Fellowship Hall at Church of the Covenant, 11205 Euclid Ave., in Cleveland. If you would like to be part of Bethesda's delegation and enjoy great food and fellowship with the students, please be at Church of the Covenant by 6 PM. Please see this link for more information about Dinner Church: [www.upcam.com/dinner-church-1](http://www.upcam.com/dinner-church-1). Please contact Jerry kiel at [kielsathome@gmail.com](mailto:kielsathome@gmail.com) or (440) 488-5816 if you have questions.

## **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.

## **ALTAR FLOWERS**

There is one open date on the altar flower calendar (November 29). Help to adorn the altar for Sunday worship services by offering flowers in honor of God and, when desired, in memory of a loved one, a special person or a special event. When you sign up, please include your first and last names! Cost is still \$25 (paid by check, cash, or Tithe.ly) and the arrangement is yours to take after worship. Contact the office with questions.

## **BETHESDA TO WORSHIP AT GOOD SOIL**

**Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup> 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 27<sup>th</sup>**

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 6:00pm, Lounge**

Those planning on traveling to Minneapolis for the ELCA Youth Gathering next summer are invited and reminded of our planning meeting on Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>. Those who are still discerning must let Pastor Angela know by October 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

## **VELOSANO BIKE TO CURE**

Gary Weiland thanks everyone who contributed to his VeloSano Bike to Cure ride that took place yesterday. Gary reached his \$8,000 goal with \$8,350 contributed by 108 donors. This is the ninth consecutive year Gary has led a team to support cancer research. As of last Wednesday, Team Discovery had 105 riders with more than \$111,000 raised, which will fully fund one cancer research pilot. You can still support Gary's ride at <https://give.velosano.org/gweiland>.

## **COUNTER NEEDED**

We are in need of a counter for once a month (the last Sunday of the month). Duties include staying after worship and adding cash and checks and preparing a deposit. You will be partnered with an experienced counter. Please contact Jeff Darkow if you are interested ([jbdarkow@gmail.com](mailto:jbdarkow@gmail.com)).

Lt. Col. Ernest C. Minichello