

Bethesda on the Bay Lutheran Church

19th Sunday after Pentecost

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Setting 9

October 4, 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

With High Delight Let Us Unite Emily Maxson Portor

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** Lord Christ, When First You Came to Earth ELW 727

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.



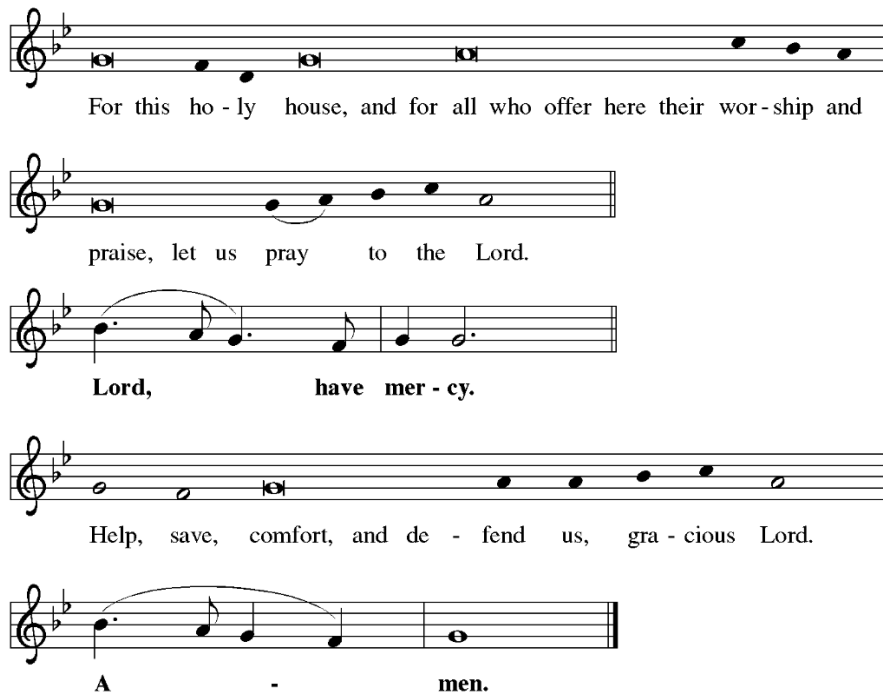
For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

ANTHEM

All Creatures of our God and King Arr. Mark Hayes

WORD

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

FIRST READING

Isaiah 5:1-7

- ¹ I will sing for my beloved
my love song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.
- ² He dug it and cleared it of stones
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
he expected it to yield grapes,
but it yielded rotten grapes.
- ³ And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and people of Judah,
judge between me
and my vineyard.

⁴What more was there to do for my vineyard
that I have not done in it?

When I expected it to yield grapes,
why did it yield rotten grapes?

⁵And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.

I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;

I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.

⁶I will make it a wasteland;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns;

I will also command the clouds
that they rain no rain upon it.

⁷For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts
is the house of Israel,
and the people of Judah
are his cherished garden;

he expected justice
but saw bloodshed;

righteousness
but heard a cry!

The reading may be concluded:

The assembly responds:

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God

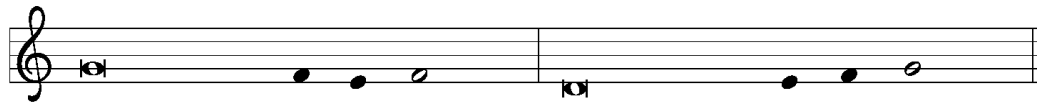
PSALM

Psalm 80:7-15

Psalm Refrain:



Psalm Tone:



- ⁷ Restore us, O ¹ God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we ¹ shall be saved.
- ⁸ **You have brought a vine ¹ out of Egypt;**
you cast out the nations and ¹ planted it.
- ⁹ You cleared the ¹ ground for it;
it took root and ¹ filled the land.
- ¹⁰ **The mountains were covered ¹ by its shadow**
and the towering cedar trees ¹ by its boughs. R
- ¹¹ You stretched out its tendrils ¹ to the sea
and its branches ¹ to the river.
- ¹² **Why have you broken ¹ down its wall,**
so that all who pass by pluck ¹ off its grapes?
- ¹³ The wild boar of the forest has ¹ ravaged it,
and the beasts of the field have ¹ grazed upon it.
- ¹⁴ **Turn now, O ¹ God of hosts,**
look ¹ down from heaven;
- ¹⁵ behold and ¹ tend this vine;
preserve what your right ¹ hand has planted. R

SECOND READING

Philippians 3:4b-14

[Paul writes:] ^{4b} If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more:

⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from

the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

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:

Jesus says, I chose you and ap- | pointed you
to go and bear fruit | that will last.

The assembly repeats the Alleluia.

*GOSPEL

Matthew 21:33-46

The gospel is announced.

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ³³ “Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away. ³⁴ When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵ But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶ Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷ Then he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ³⁸ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ ³⁹ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰ Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” ⁴¹ They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

⁴² Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures:

‘The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord’s doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes?’

⁴³ “Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits. ⁴⁴ The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶ They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

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.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Faith Begins by Letting Go

ACS 1004



- 1 Faith be - gins by let - ting go, giv - ing up what had seemed sure,
- 2 Faith en - dures by hold - ing on, keep - ing mem-'ry's roots a - live
- 3 Faith ma - tures by reach - ing out, stretch - ing minds, en - larg - ing hearts,



tak - ing risks and press - ing on, though the way feels less se - cure:
so that hope may bear its fruit; prom - ise - fed, our souls will thrive,
shar - ing strug - gles, liv - ing prayer, bind - ing up the bro - ken parts;



pil - grim - age both right and odd, trust - ing all our life to God.
not through mer - it we pos - sess but by God's great faith - ful - ness.
till we find the com - mon - place ripe with wit - ness to God's grace.

*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: Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.
A brief silence.

WA: God of every generation, we give thanks for all who have sought to renew and transform your holy church. Inspire us to follow their example in our own day. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

WA: God of every creature, bless and protect the earth and all those who dwell within it. We give thanks for those who have helped us to see your Spirit in creation especially Francis of Assisi, renewer of the church. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

WA: God of every tribe and nation, restore peace to the world's conflict zones and shelter those who live within them. We pray especially for the safety of displaced people and refugees. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

WA: God of every comfort, you made us in your own image. Grant healing and relief to all who are sick or suffering. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

WA: God of every truth, you draw us nearer to you through your holy word. We give thanks for teachers of the faith. Fill their hearts with your Spirit, that they inspire others with your truth. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

WA: God of every soul, you are the one who calls us home. We give thanks for all the saints who have been restored to perfect unity with you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P: Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for *these people*, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new *members* into the life and ministry of this congregation.

Names of new members are shared.

In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Sisters and brothers in Christ,
do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism
among God's people in this place?

Those being welcomed respond.

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

The minister addresses the assembly.

People of God,

do you promise to support and pray for *these new members* in *their* life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Welcome

Those being welcomed face the assembly. A representative of the congregation addresses the assembly.

Let us welcome *these sisters and brothers* in Christ to this community of faith.

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.

**Together we will give thanks and praise to God
and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

We give you thanks for *our new members* / [name/s],
whom you have drawn to yourself by the love of Jesus Christ
and whom we have welcomed into this household of faith.

Keep us close together in your Spirit,
in the breaking of bread and the prayers,
and in service to others.

***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.

OFFERTORY HYMN The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing ELW 531 st. 1 & refrain

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

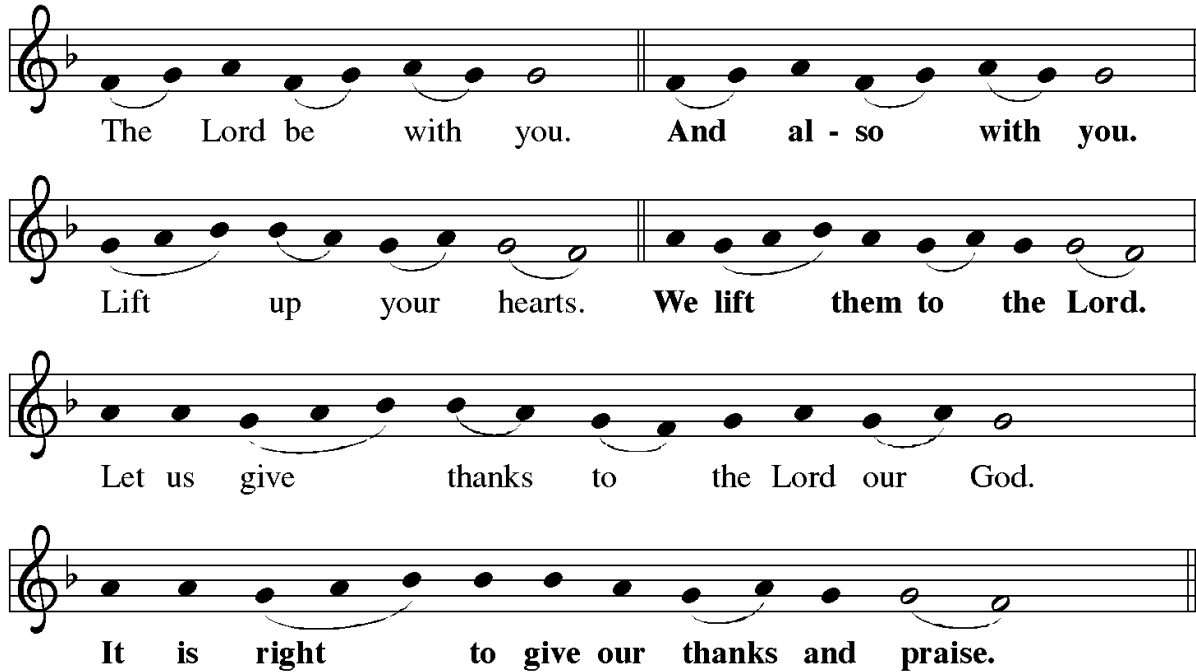


*OFFERING PRAYER

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.



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

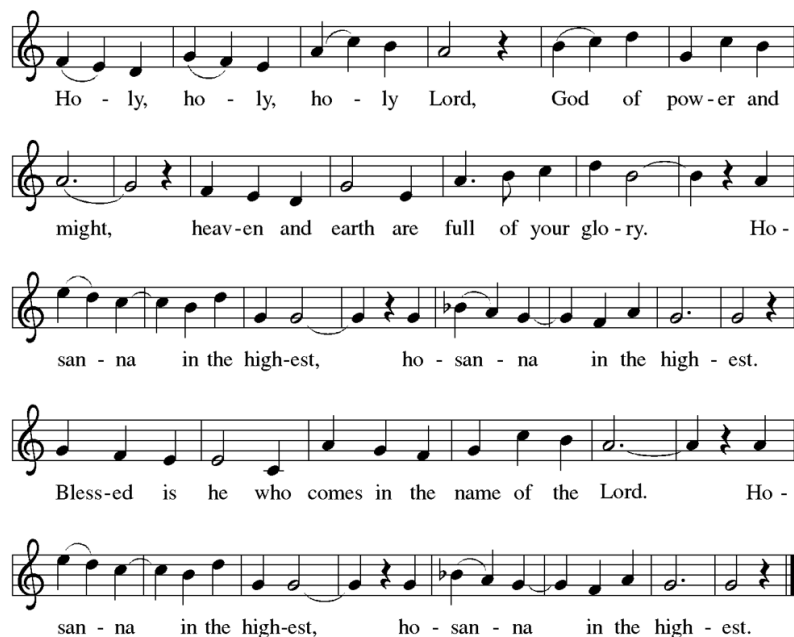
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*PREFACE

The presiding minister continues.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,...
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

P. 201

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.

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Heaven has come near.
Come, share in the feast!

LAMB OF GOD



COMMUNION MUSIC

Jesus Loves Me!
There in God's Garden

ELW 595

ELW 342

*PASTORAL BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Sustaining God,
with this bread and cup,
you nourish us with mercy and abundant life.
By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world.
Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love,
following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.
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 The Church of Christ, in Every Age ELW 729

*DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Jesus Loves Me

Robert A. Hobby

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: Isaiah 25:1-9; Psalm: Psalm 23; Second Reading: Philippians 4:1-9; Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14.



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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

TODAY, 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 piece-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.

FELLOWSHIP TODAY - WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Today, Bethesda welcomes new members among us. It is a gift to be the body of Christ in the world as we each come with unique gifts and blessings. Please take a moment after worship to share in fellowship and welcome our newest members! Fellowship is offered in the hall in the central part of the building. Thank you to Nancy Fetterman for hosting today!

ANIMAL BLESSING – Feast of St. Francis

TODAY, October 4, 2:00pm

Bethesda is hosting Animal Blessing service this year. All pets are invited to come to worship for a special blessing! Come to worship on the north lawn and patio. Even if you don't have an animal but would like to pray and give God thanks for the gifts of creation, come!

BIBLE STUDY

Bible study will be on break now until Wednesday October 28 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.

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!

CLASS FOR 2-5 YEAR OLDS

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.

ST. B'S HIVE (ST. BARNABAS)

Presents Haunted History of Halloween

October 28, Noon – 2:00 pm, reservations required

Julie Koenig explores Halloweens' origins, including its pagan roots, ancient traditions from around the world, and the story of Jack O'Lantern. Luncheon at noon with presentation. Reservations are required - Marjie Koons care@stbarnabasBV.org.

