

Bethesda on the Bay Lutheran Church

20th Sunday after Pentecost

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Setting 9

October 11, 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

Prelude in A Major, BWV 536

J. S. Bach

*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** Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

ELW 553

***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.



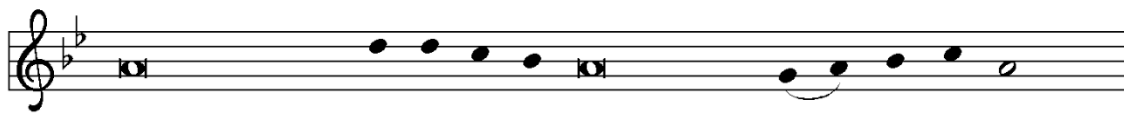
For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



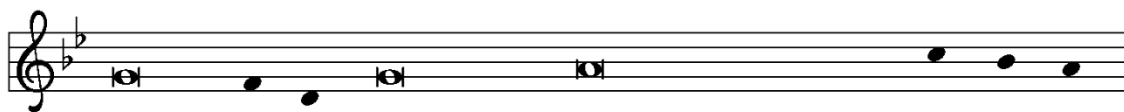
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



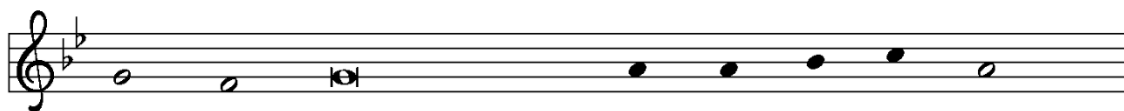
For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and



praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



A - men.

*GLORY TO GOD



- 1 Come, let us join our cheer - ful songs with an - gels round the throne;
- 2 “Wor - thy the Lamb that died,” they cry, “to be ex - alt - ed thus!”
- 3 Je - sus is wor - thy to re - ceive hon - or and pow’r di - vine;
- 4 Let all cre - a - tion join in one to bless the sa - cred name



ten thou-sand thou-sand are their tongues, but all their joys are one.
“Wor - thy the Lamb,” our lips re - ply, “for he was slain for us!”
and bless-ings, more than we can give, be, Lord, for - ev - er thine.
of God who sits up - on the throne, and to a - dore the Lamb.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

ANTHEM

Hymn of Devotion

Mary McDonald

Cellist: Arisa Boonpongmanee

WORD

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

FIRST READING

Isaiah 25:1-9

¹ O LORD, you are my God;

I will exalt you; I will praise your name,
for you have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.

² For you have made the city a heap,
the fortified city a ruin;

the palace of foreigners is a city no more;
it will never be rebuilt.

³ Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;

cities of ruthless nations will fear you.
⁴ For you have been a refuge to the poor,
a refuge to the needy in their distress,
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.
When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,
⁵ the noise of foreigners like heat in a dry place,
you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;
the song of the ruthless was stilled.

⁶ On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.
⁷ And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the covering that is spread over all nations;
⁸ he will swallow up death forever.
Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.
⁹ It will be said on that day,
“See, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the LORD for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

The reading may be concluded:

Word of God, Word of Life.

The assembly responds:

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 23

Psalm Refrain:



Psalm Tone:



- ¹ The LORD¹ is my shepherd;
I shall not¹ be in want.
- ² The LORD makes me lie down¹ in green pastures
and leads me be-¹ side still waters.
- ³ You restore my¹ soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways¹ for your name's sake.
- ⁴ Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall¹ fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they¹ comfort me. R
- ⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence¹ of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is¹ running over.
- ⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days¹ of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the¹ LORD forever. R

SECOND READING

Philippians 4:I-9

- ¹ My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.
- ² I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³ Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my coworkers, whose names are in the book of life.
- ⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

The reading may be concluded:

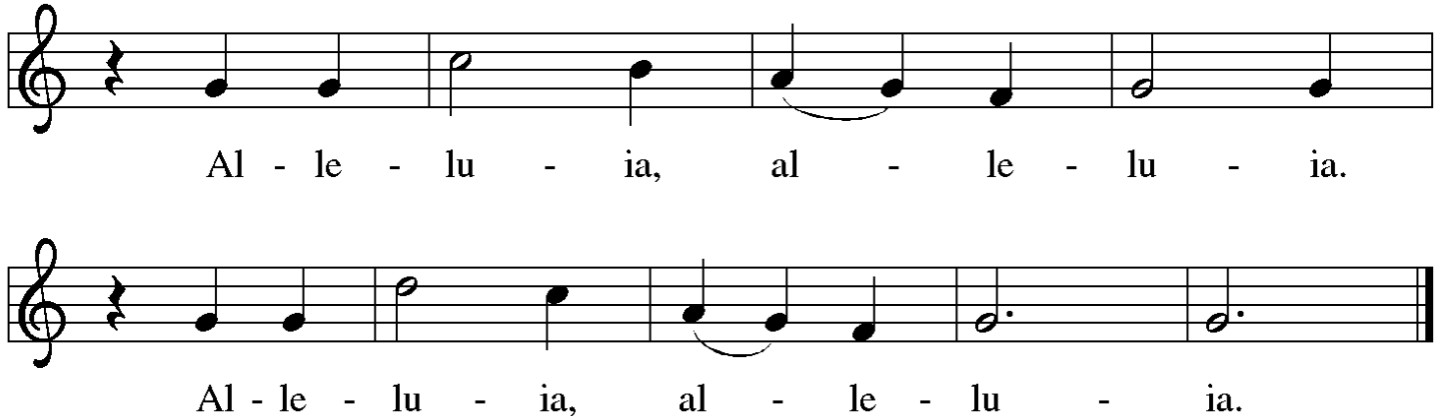
Word of God, Word of Life.

The assembly responds:

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.



The assisting minister sings the gospel verse:

This is the Lord for whom | we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in | God's salvation.

The assembly repeats the Alleluia.

*GOSPEL

Matthew 22:I-I4

The gospel is announced.

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ² "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³ He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴ Again he sent other slaves, saying, "Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet." ⁵ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶ while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷ The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸ Then he said to his slaves, "The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹ Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet." ¹⁰ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹ "But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹² and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. ¹³ Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand

and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’¹⁴ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

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

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!

ELW 873

*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: Holy God, we remember your promise of unity on your holy mountain. Empower the World Council of Churches and all those working across religious difference, that the world may know your undivided love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

WA: We remember your promise of green pastures and quiet waters. Preserve all places of natural beauty and restore our relationship with the land. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

WA: We remember your promise to not abandon us amid storm and disaster. Renew all communities facing disasters (*regions in crisis may be named*) and give your courage to those leading relief efforts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

WA: We remember your promise to wipe away every tear. Heal and console all who are sick or suffering (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

WA: We remember your promise of a banquet open to all people. Challenge this congregation to open wide our doors and welcome everyone to the table. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

WA: We remember your promise to swallow up death forever. We give thanks for those who have gone before us. 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.

***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.

Pray the version of the Lord's Prayer most comfortable to you and in the language of your heart.

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.

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

read - y to be - gin. The gates of heav'n are o - pen wide,

and Je - sus wel - comes you in - side.

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

Let us pray.

Holy God, gracious and merciful, you

bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation.

Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way,

that all may know your care;

and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life,

Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

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

*BLESSING

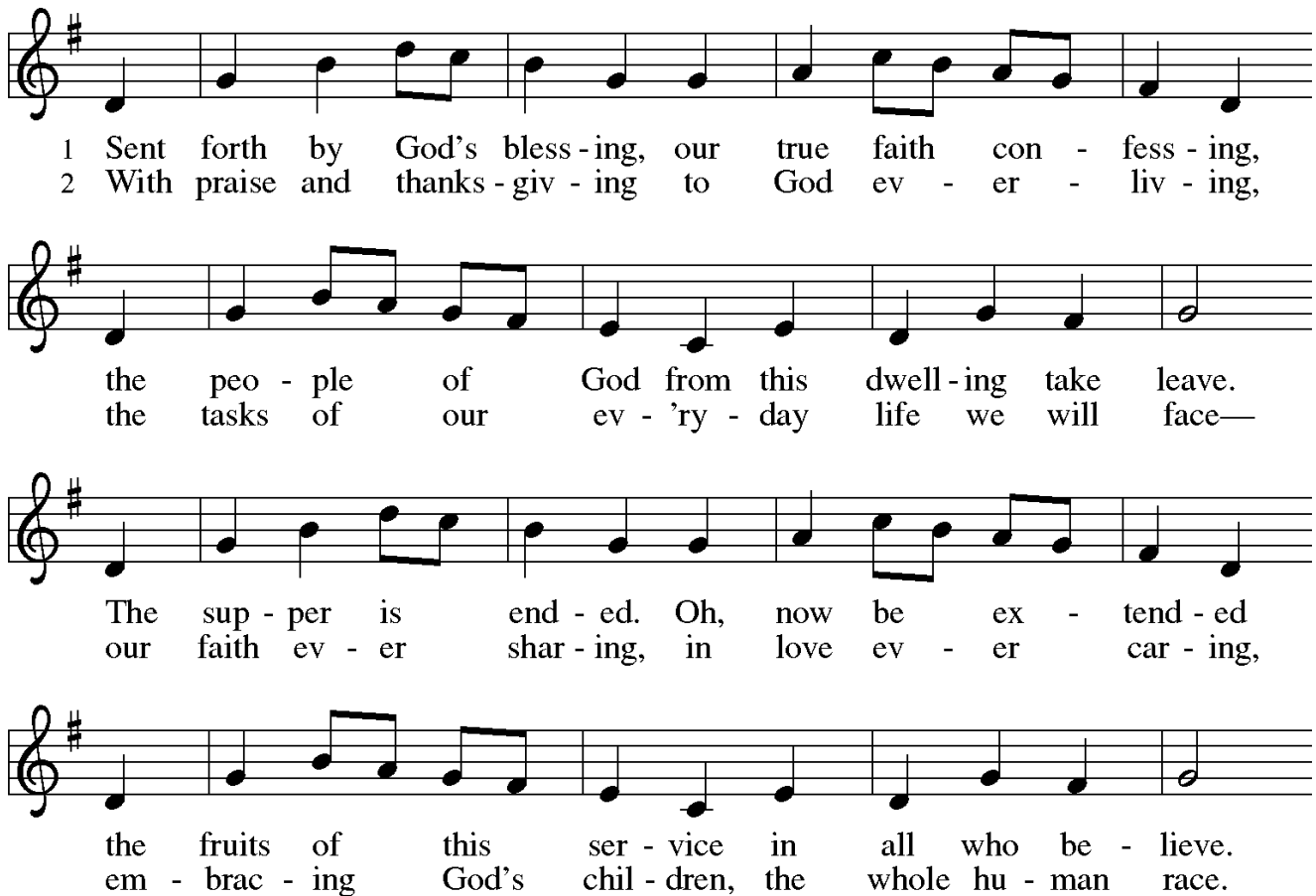
The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.

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

Sent Forth By God's Blessing

ELW 547

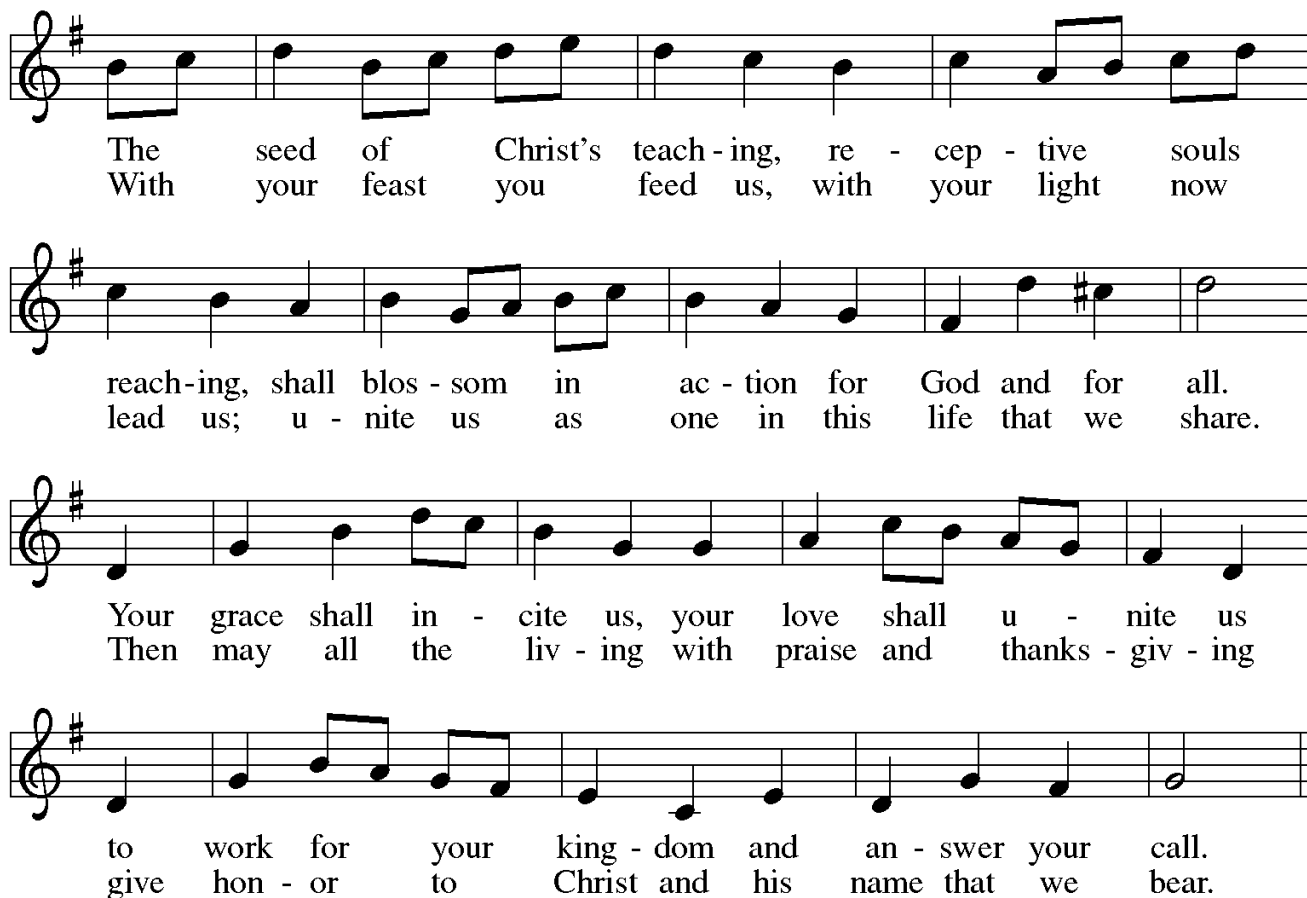


1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er - liv - ing,

the peo - ple of our God from this dwell - ing take leave.
the tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face—

The sup - per is end - ed. Oh, now be ex - tend - ed
our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing,

the fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.
em - brac - ing God's chil - dren, the whole hu - man race.



The seed of Christ's teach-ing, re-cep-tive souls
With your feast you feed us, with your light now
reach-ing, shall blos-som in ac-tion for God and for all.
lead us; u-nite us as one in this life that we share.
Your grace shall in-cite us, your love shall u-nite us
Then may all the liv-ing with praise and thanks-giv-ing
to work for your king-dom and an-swer your call.
give hon-or to Christ and his name that we bear.

***DISMISSAL**

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

POSTLUDE

Fugue

J. S. Bach

Leading Worship Today

Mr. Chris Neumann Supply Preacher and Worship Leader
Eric Richardson Minister of Music
Deb Zudell-Dickey Organist

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Next week’s scripture: First Reading: Isaiah 45:1-7; Psalm: Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]; Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Gospel: Matthew 22:15-22.



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



ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS ARE DEDICATED are dedicated to the glory of God by Bob Emmerich in celebration of Malinda's birthday on October 10.

Last week's altar flowers were in honor of Bob Kretschmann from 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.

CELLIST

Arisa Boonpongmanee, Cellist, Senior at Westlake High School
Special thanks to Hilary Patriok, WHS Director of Orchestras

BIBLE STUDY

On break 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. 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 rehearses on Thursdays at 7:00 pm with a shorter rehearsal and warm-up before worship on Sundays around 9:30 am. Everyone is welcome! Speak with Eric Richardson with questions.

CLASS FOR 2-5 YEAR OLDS

Saturday, October 24 at 10:00 am

Bethesda is excited to continue a special class for children ages two through five 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.

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!

BETHESDA FINANCIAL UPDATE

You may recall that council (and voted by the congregation) outsourced portions of the church's bookkeeping and reporting. This was put in place beginning May 1 and after a successful transition we have had timely reporting now for two months (July and August).

Our offerings are currently under budget by \$16,000 and under last year by approximately \$9,000. Our expenses are at budget and \$16,000 over last year. This combined is a loss of \$31,000 through August compared to budgeted loss of \$22,000 and compares to a loss of \$13,600 last year. We are still in a strong cash position; however, we are under where we planned to be at this time. If you are behind in your annual giving this would be a great time to catch up.

Finance Committee Members Needed

We are looking to reinstitute a finance committee, which is a small group of members with relevant professional experience willing to review reports and attend quarterly meetings. If interested please contact me, Pastor or anyone on church council.

Bill Zeidler, Treasurer

216-536-4830 or treasurer@bethesdayonthebay.org

LITANY OF SAINTS

It is tradition to name the faithful departed within the prayers of the people on All Saints' Day (November 1). If you have the name of a loved one who died in the last year who you would like to include, please reach out to the church office or fill out a pew contact card and place it in the offering plate. If you have a photo you would like displayed on the altar, please email it to the office, or leave in the office. Deadline is October 28.

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

Nurse Deb Roski will be doing blood pressure screening on October 18 after worship.

PILGRIMAGE

Please stay tuned to Bethesda social media as well as this enews for details about the pilgrims who are on their way to Greece. The first meeting of the group will be on Oct 12, Monday evening in Thessaloniki. Please pray for their travels and the faith experience they will have together. If you'd like to see their full brochure and follow along each day, contact the office.

CHORAL SCHOLARS

We have four choral scholars with us this year. Marina Bendaly, a sophomore from Westlake High is our soprano. Maeve Murray, a senior at Lakewood High, is singing alto. Returning as tenor is Will McLoney, a senior at Westlake High, and returning as bass is Charlie Felker, also a senior at Westlake High.

COMMUNITY CUPBOARD AT ST. BARNABAS

Last month, our congregation donated a generous collection of snack items to the Community Cupboard. St. Barnabas is deeply grateful for our ongoing support, and we extend heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed.

With cooler weather approaching, St. Barnabas is requesting canned soups and stews for this month's collection — chicken noodle is a favorite. Donations will be gathered on Sunday, October 18th, the third Sunday of the month. Please consider adding a few of these items to your shopping list and bringing them to church that day.

As always, contributions of any non-perishable food, hygiene products, or pet food are welcome, as are monetary donations. A collection bin will be available in the Narthex.

SECOND ROUND OF AGAPE FUND ALLOCATIONS

At its September 23, 2026, meeting, Church Council approved the following second-round allocations from the Agapa Fund for 2026:

Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries	\$1,000
ELCA World Hunger	\$1,000
Love Restored (ministry in Dominican Republic)	\$1,000
First Lutheran Church Lorain – Front Door Ministry	\$500
Total Second-Round Allocations	\$3,500

This week, I am providing information about the two recipients of funding that are continuing ministry partners for Bethesda on the Bay, Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries and the Front Door Ministry at First Lutheran Church in Lorain. Next week, I will provide information on the two new ministry partners that received allocations.

Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries is located in Cleveland and provides programs and services for those who are oppressed, forgotten, and hurting by providing responsive solutions, voice and hope in four areas: Housing & Shelter, Workforce Development, Youth Resiliency Services, and Guardianship Services (see <https://www.lutheranmetro.org> for more information on each of the four program areas). We did not specify that our allocation be used for any specific LMM program.

The Front Door Ministry of First Lutheran Church in Lorain again received an allocation from the Agape Fund this year. The Front Door Ministry assists individuals in need of financial support and/or other resources for their basic needs such as food, transportation, shelter, and

health care. Frequently requested items are food, gasoline, birth certificates, IDs, bus tickets, prescriptions, utilities, and rent deposits. Funding to provide these services comes from donations from churches and community agencies. Front Door Ministry is open every Tuesday from 9:30 am - 11:30 am at First Lutheran Church in Lorain.

Jerry Kiel, Chair
Mission & Ministry Team