

Bethesda on the Bay Lutheran Church

21st Sunday after Pentecost

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Setting 9

October 18, 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

You Servants of God Setting, Robert J. Powell

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**

You Servants of God

ELW 825

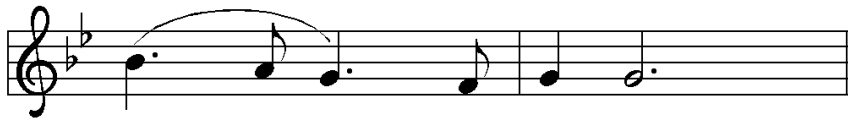
***GREETING**

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.

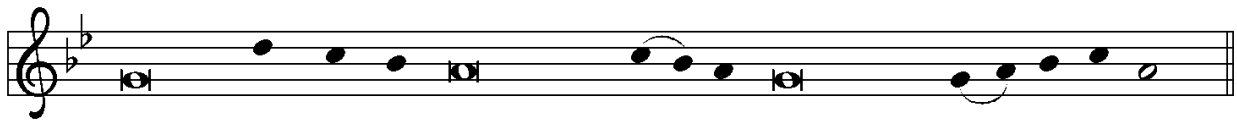
***KYRIE**



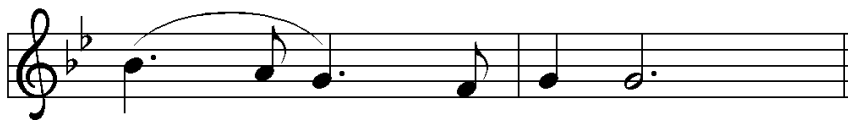
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



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

Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

ANTHEM

Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song Arr. Zebulon M. Highben
Amelia Johnson, oboe

WORD

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

FIRST READING

Isaiah 45:1-7

- ¹ Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped
to subdue nations before him
and to strip kings of their robes,
to open doors before him —
and the gates shall not be closed:
- ² I will go before you
and level the mountains;
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron;
- ³ I will give you the treasures of darkness
and riches hidden in secret places,
so that you may know that it is I, the LORD,
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.
- ⁴ For the sake of my servant Jacob
and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name;
I give you a title, though you do not know me.
- ⁵ I am the LORD, and there is no other;
besides me there is no god.
I arm you, though you do not know me,
- ⁶ so that they may know, from the rising of the sun
and from the west, that there is no one besides me;
I am the LORD, and there is no other.
- ⁷ I form light and create darkness,
I make weal and create woe;
I the LORD do all these things.

The reading may be concluded:

Word of God, Word of Life.

The assembly responds:

Thanks be to God.

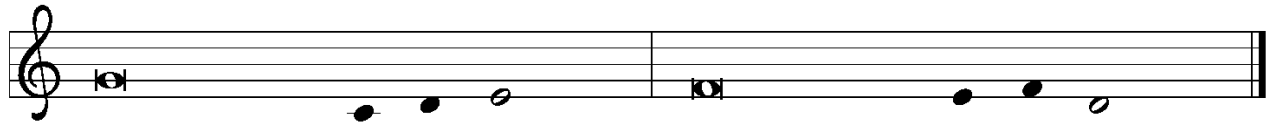
PSALM

Psalm 96:1-9

Psalm Refrain:



Psalm Tone:



- ¹ Sing to the LORD [|] a new song;
sing to the LORD, [|] all the earth.
- ² Sing to the LORD, bless the name [|] of the LORD;
proclaim God's salvation from [|] day to day.
- ³ Declare God's glory a- [|] mong the nations
and God's wonders a- [|] mong all peoples.
- ⁴ For great is the LORD and greatly [|] to be praised,
more to be feared [|] than all gods. R
- ⁵ As for all the gods of the nations, they [|] are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have [|] made the heavens.
- ⁶ Majesty and magnificence are [|] in your presence;
power and splendor are in your [|] sanctuary.
- ⁷ Ascribe to the LORD, you families [|] of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD hon- [|] or and power.
- ⁸ Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the [|] holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts [|] of the LORD. R
- ⁹ Worship the LORD in the beau- [|] ty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, [|] all the earth.

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

- ¹ Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,
To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
Grace to you and peace.
- ² We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly
- ³ remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and
steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by
God, that he has chosen you, ⁵ because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only
but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind
of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶ And you became imitators of us and of
the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so
that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸ For the word of

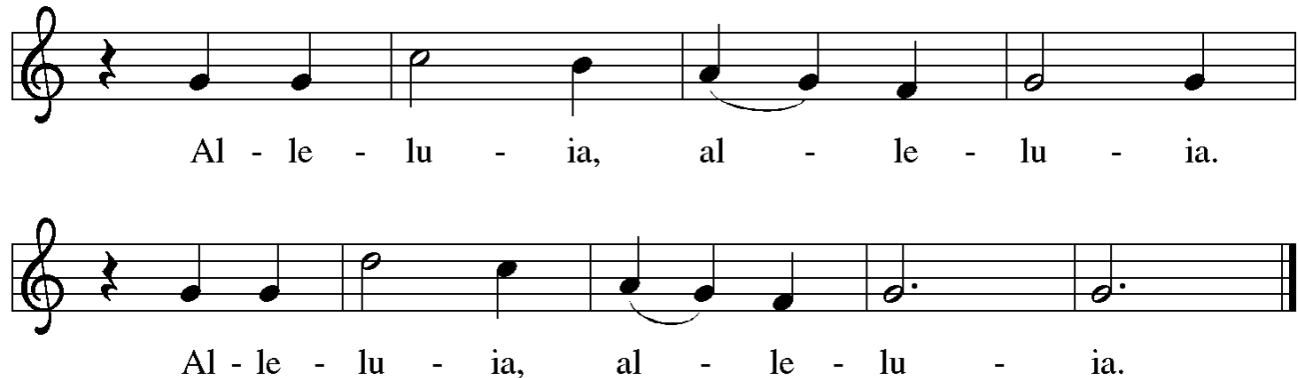
the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹ For they report about us what kind of welcome we had among you and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead — Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.



The assisting minister sings the gospel verse:

Shine like stars | in the world,
holding fast to the | word of life.

The assembly repeats the Alleluia.

***GOSPEL**

Matthew 22:15-22

The gospel is announced.

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁵ The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. ¹⁶ So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?” ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ Then he said to them, “Whose head is this and whose title?” ²¹ They answered, “Caesar’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s.” ²² When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

REFLECTION

The Rev. Laurie Miller

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good ELW 871

*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: Living and true God, you inspire us to share the message of the gospel. Give your spirit of love to seminarians and those beginning their lives in ordained ministry. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

WA: We give you thanks for the majesty of our oceans. Protect the abundant life within them and sustain all those who work to preserve them. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

WA: We seek your wisdom in all things. Direct all who hold positions of authority around the world, that they act with compassion, seeking the good of all. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

WA: We pray for all people who work in dangerous or degrading environments. Grant them safety and courage, and heal all those who are injured, sick, or suffering (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

WA: We ask your blessing on those who do the quiet, unseen work of the church. Encourage them in their work of faith and labor of love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

WA: For what do we pray?

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

WA: We thank you for our ancestors who have been called home to you (*especially*). 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.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

VOLUNTARY

Loving Spirit Arrangement, David McCarthy

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

OFFERTORY HYMN Commonwealth is God's Commandment ACS 1036 (st. 1 and refrain)

As the offering is brought forward to the altar, the congregation sings.



1 Com-mon-wealth is God's com-mand-ment; com-mon goods are meant to share.



Ta - bles set and doors wide o - pen wel-come an - gels un - a - ware.



Plead for the peace of all cre - a - tion. Pray for a place where grace is found.



Shan-ti, pax, sha - lom, mas - la - ha: com-mon good is ho - ly ground.

*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.

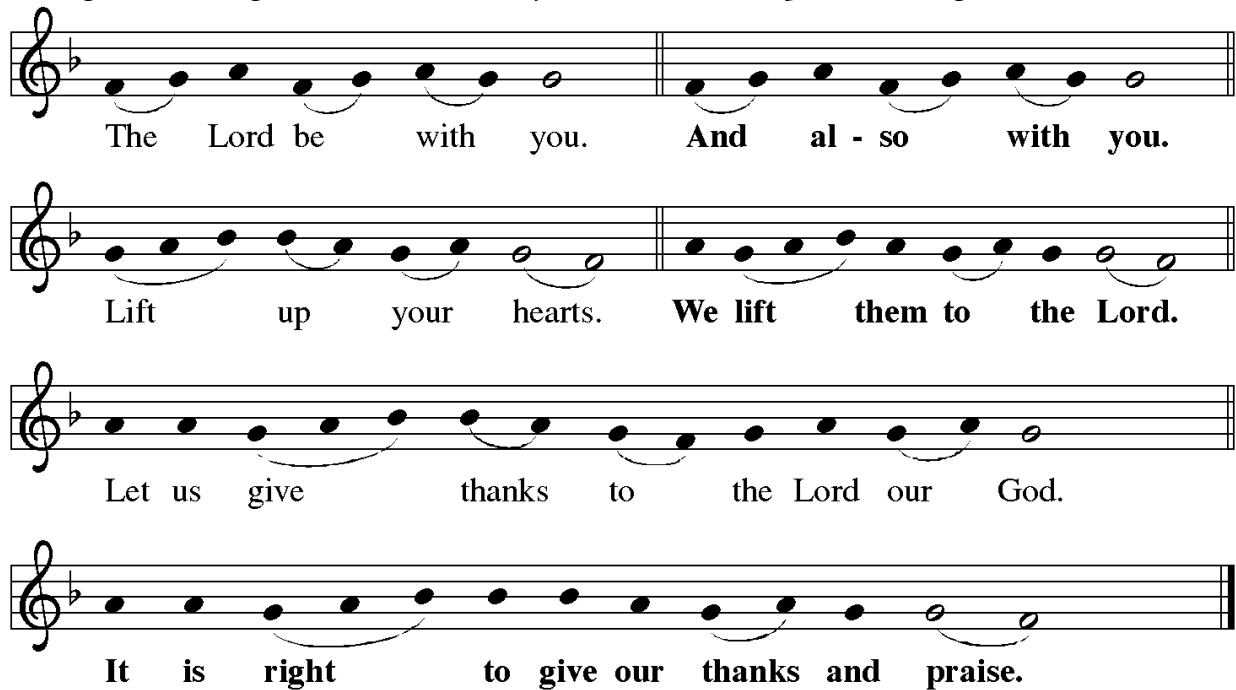
We ask this in the name of Jesus,

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

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.
Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.
Amen.

***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,	Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be your name,	hallowed be thy name,
your kingdom come,	thy kingdom come,
your will be done,	thy will be done,
on earth as in heaven.	on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.	Give us this day our daily bread;
Forgive us our sins	and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those	as we forgive those
who sin against us.	who trespass against us;
Save us from the time of trial	and lead us not into temptation,
and deliver us from evil.	but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,	For thine is the kingdom,
and the glory are yours,	and the power, and the glory,
now and forever. Amen.	forever and ever. Amen.

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Christ invites you to this table.
All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

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

O God, You Search Me

ACS 1082



1 O God, you search me and you know me.
2 You know my rest - ing and my ris - ing.
3 Be - fore a word is on my tongue, Lord,
4 Al - though your Spir - it is up - on me,
5 For you cre - at - ed me and shaped me,



All my thoughts lie o - pen to your gaze.
You dis - cern my pur - pose from a - far,
you have known its mean - ing through and through.
still I search for shel - ter from your light.
gave me life with - in my moth - er's womb.



When I walk or lie down you are be - fore me:
and with love ev - er - last - ing you be - siege me:
You are with me be - yond my un - der - stand - ing:
There is no - where on earth I can es - cape you:
For the won - der of who I am, I praise you:



ev - er the mak - er and keep - er of my days.
in ev - 'ry mo - ment of life or death, you are.
God of my pres - ent, my past, and fu - ture, too.
e - ven the dark - ness is ra - diant in your sight.
safe in your hands, all cre - a - tion is made new.

By Your Hand You Feed Your People ELW 469

PASTORAL BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ,
bless you, and keep you in God's grace.

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 God of love
draw you into full accord and one mind,
in the body of Christ Jesus.
Amen.

The God of hope
grant you strength and joy in all circumstances
through the interceding of the Spirit.
Amen.

The God of grace
✠ bless you now and forever.
Amen.

*SENDING HYMN God of Grace and God of Glory ELW 705

*DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good Setting, Walter L. Pelz

Leading Worship Today

Rev. Laurie Miller
Eric Richardson
Deb Zudell-Dickey

Supply Pastor
Minister of Music
Organist

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Next week's scripture: First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm: Psalm 46; Second Reading: Romans 3:19-28; Gospel: John 8:31-36.



bethesdaonthebay.org
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS ARE DEDICATED are dedicated to the glory of God by Barb & Todd Semroc for October birthdays for: Todd, Harlow, Mitchel, Eric, Owen, and Edna. Also celebrating breast cancer survivors as October is breast cancer awareness month. Thank you God for all our blessings.

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 LAURIE MILLER

Pastor Laurie Miller is an ELCA pastor living in Lorain County. She retired from Christ Lutheran (Lorain) and Redeemer Lutheran (Elyria) in 2023 after 40 years of active ministry. She also served the Northeastern Ohio Synod as the Director of Candidacy for 15 years. Her retirement interests include playing in a community band, reading, travel, and being "Nana" to three darling grandchildren in Virginia.

BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday October 28 at 10am

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.

LADIES LUNCH

This month the ladies will be having lunch at 11:30 am Wednesday October 21 at Carrabba's Italian Grill, 25054 Sperry Rd., Westlake. Please let Bev Hine know if you are planning to join us by Monday October 19th 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 October 21 and the book discussed will be *The Cardinal* by Allison Weir. 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.

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.

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

Nurse Deb Roski will be doing blood pressure screening TODAY after worship.

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

October 24, 10:00 am

Bethesda is excited to continue our 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. Future dates are to be determined by group consensus.

REFORMATION SUNDAY – Bishop's visiting!

Next Sunday, October 25th come and give thanks for the gifts of the reformation and celebrate the life of the church with Reformation Sunday worship! Bishop Laura Barbins will be visiting with Bethesda that day, presiding and preaching! Wear your favorite red outfit and come to celebrate and give thanks to God!

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.

DINNER CHURCH AT UPCAM

November 15 – 6:00 pm

Bethesda is heading back to UPCaM on November 15 to bring dinner and join in worship again! We will be providing a Taco Bar, so we will need lots of donations to make a great taco dinner. UPCaM (United Protestant Campus Ministry), serves students from Cleveland State University, Case Western Reserve University, and Cuyahoga Community College, and has been a valued ministry partner of Bethesda for years.

Please sign up on the sign up genius to donate taco toppings or desserts, which can be dropped off at Bethesda's kitchen on the morning of November 15th. 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 6:00 PM.

Bishop Barbins will be visiting that night! Come along and represent Bethesda and help support the Bishop in connecting with the Campus Students!

Reach out to Chris Webner or sign up on the SignUp Genius in the enews if you'd like to help with dinner and/or attend worship that evening!

Church of the Covenant
11205 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, OH

Let parking lot attendant know you are with UPCaM Dinner church and parking will be free.

YOUTH GATHERING MEETING

Sunday, October 25 *After Worship*

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!

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).

SECOND ROUND OF AGAPE FUND ALLOCATIONS

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

Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries	\$1,000
ELCA World Hunger Ministry	\$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 sharing information about two new ministry partners that received Agape Fund allocations in the second round, ELCA World Hunger Ministry and Love Restored.

Our congregation has individual members who give to ELCA World Hunger Ministry, but this is the first time that we have ever provided an allocation from the congregation's Agape Fund. ELCA World Hunger Ministry partners with congregations across the United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, as well as Lutheran churches worldwide and other entities to provide daily bread for the more than 720 million hungry people – both near and far away - in today's world. ELCA World Hunger Ministry helps fund clinics, microloans, clean water, livestock, meals and advocacy, all sustainable resources that address the root causes of hunger. Please see [ELCA World Hunger Ministry](#) for more information about the organization.

Love Restored, an organization created by a Christian missionary family, the Stones, from Wadsworth, Ohio, was brought to our attention by one of our members. The Stone family has been working in the Dominican Republic as pioneer missionaries since 2017 and their mission is to serve those most vulnerable within that nation, namely, women and their children, through a rescue center they operate. Their focus is on four pathways of ministry: Preventive Education, Relief Work, Soul Rescue, and Holistic Restoration. You can learn more about the Stone family and Love Restored at [HOME | loverestored](#).

Jerry Kiel, Chair
Mission & Ministry Team

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

