

Bethesda on the Bay Lutheran Church

Reformation Sunday

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Setting 9

October 25, 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

Ein' feste Burg ist unser Gott Johann Nicolaus Hanff

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth,
our light and our salvation.
Amen.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters
and by your Word you created the world,
calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.
Shower us with your Spirit,
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN** A Mighty Fortress Is Our God ELW 503 and 504
A Mighty Fortress Setting by Michael D. Costello

ELW 503 stanza 1

Brass Interlude

ELW 503 stanza 2

Organ interlude

ELW 504 stanzas 3-4

***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.



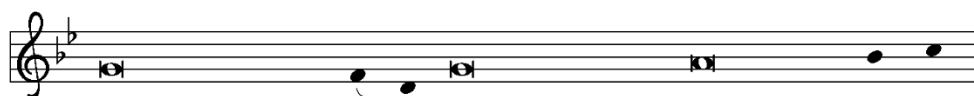
Lord, have mer - cy.



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.



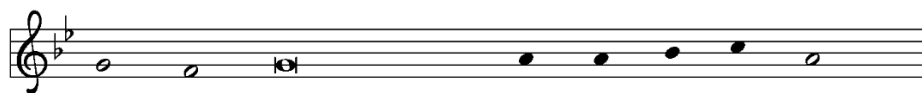
For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and



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 God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

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

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

³⁴ No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

The reading may be concluded:

Word of God, Word of Life.

The assembly responds:

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 46, from *A Festival of Psalms* John Ness Beck

SECOND READING

Romans 3:19-28

¹⁹ Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, ²² the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³ since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴ they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.

²⁷ Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works?

No, rather through the law of faith.²⁸ For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

The reading may be concluded:

Word of God, Word of Life.

The assembly responds:

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** Listen, God is Calling ELW 513

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

Worship assistant Bryan will lead the acclamation.

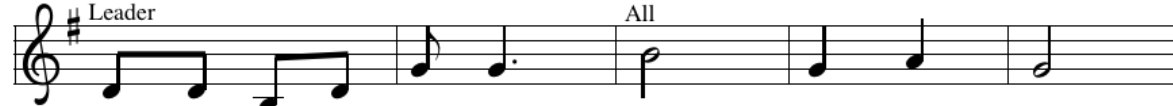
Refrain
Leader All



Ne - no, ne - no la - ke Mu - ngu la - ku - i - ta we - we,
Lis - ten, lis - ten, God is call - ing, through the Word in - vit - ing,

ne - no la wo - ko - vu, te - na je - ma.
of - fer - ing for - give - ness, com - fort, and joy.

Leader All



Ye - su a - li - se - ma, Mka - hu - bi - ri.
1 Je - sus gave his man - date: share the good news

Leader All Refrain



Ne - no la - ke Mu - ngu la wo - ko - vu.
that he came to save us and set us free.

***GOSPEL**

John 8:31-36

The gospel is announced.

The holy gospel according to St. John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹ Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." ³³ They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin.

³⁵ The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

The gospel concludes:

The gospel of the Lord.

The assembly responds:

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Laura Barbins
Bishop, Northeastern Ohio Synod, ELCA

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word ELW 517

*NICENE CREED

pg. 104

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Bishop: Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

A brief silence.

Bryan: As we celebrate Reformation Sunday, we remember the witness of Martin Luther and the reformers of the church in every generation. Empower us to continue the work of reform and renewal in our own day. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Bryan: We pray for the healing of natural places despoiled by pollution and human greed (*local places may be named*). Give all living creatures access to safe land, water, and air. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Bryan: We pray for our criminal justice systems and all those whose lives are affected by them. Give wisdom and discernment to police, probation officers, judges, and attorneys; give courage and peace to prisoners and the formerly incarcerated. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Bryan: We ask your blessing upon all people who have been harmed by the church and its leaders, that the truth may make them free. We pray for the relief of all those who are sick or suffering. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Bryan: We give thanks for those exploring or returning to a life of faith. Encourage and guide them, that they may find their hope in you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Bryan: For what else do you pray?

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Bryan: With gratitude, we remember those disciples who paved the way for us and all of our beloved dead. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Bishop: 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.

OFFERTORY HYMN God's Word is Our Great Heritage ELW 509

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



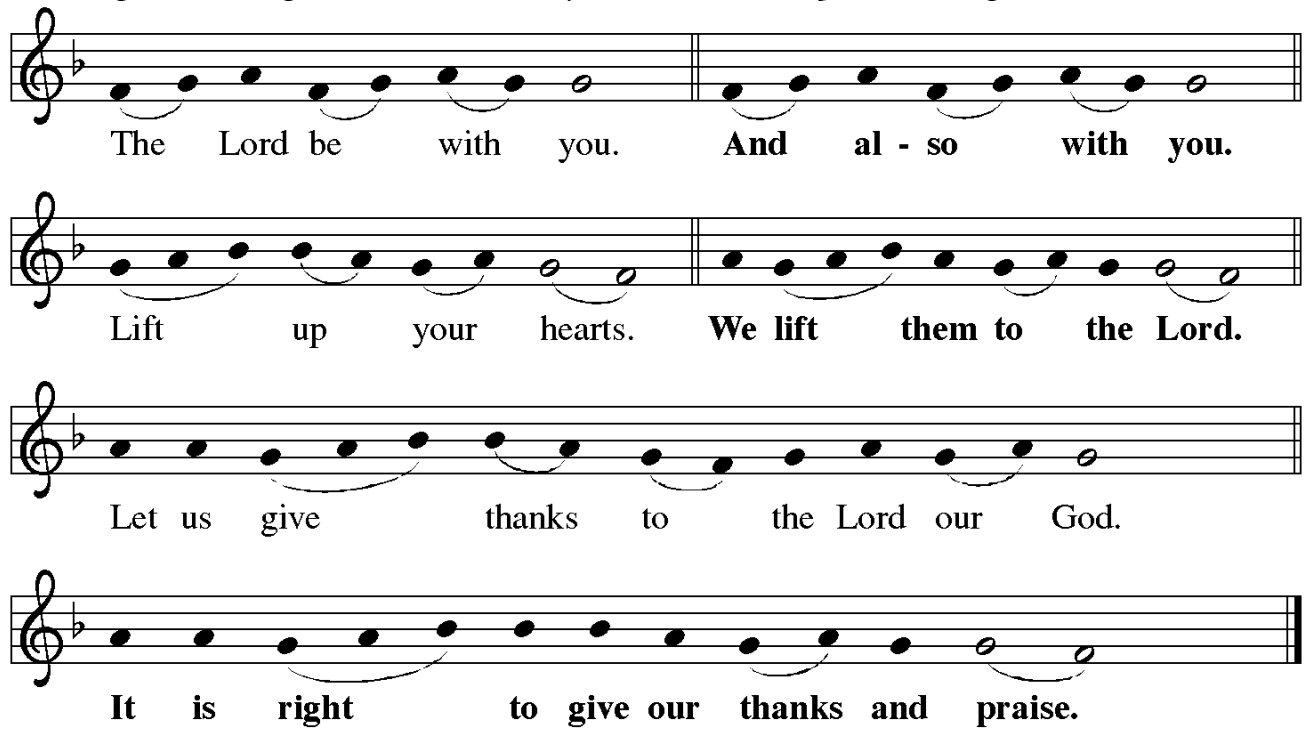
God's word is our great her - i - tage and shall be ours for - ev - er;
to spread its light from age to age shall be our chief en - deav - or.
Through life it guides our way; in death it is our stay. Lord, grant while
time shall last your church may hold it fast through-out all gen - er - a - tions.

*OFFERING PRAYER

Bryan: 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.

*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.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The first staff has a double bar line after the first phrase. The second staff also has a double bar line after the first phrase. The third and fourth staves are continuous lines of music.

*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



*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.
You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish
but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world
to fulfill for us your holy will
and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



Christ has died. Christ is ris-en. Christ will come a - gain.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,
his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension,
and the promise of his coming again,
we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,
not as we ought but as we are able;
we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,
may be formed to live as your holy people
and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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**

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

Holy Communion will be served at the altar rail. When you come forward, you are invited to either kneel or stand at the railing. Please indicate to the worship leader if you need gluten free bread. The worship assistant will have a tray with small cups of wine. Light colored wine in the center of the trays is nonalcoholic. Place empty cups into the tray on the stand to the side of the aisle before returning to your seat.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you

take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION MUSIC Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table ACS 977



1 Look who gath - ers at Christ's ta - ble! Hear the sto - ries
 2 Clouds of light sur - round the ta - ble; an - cient fol - low -
 3 Their sad sto - ries are re - peat - ed in a thou - sand
 4 Bring your joy and bring your sad - ness, and pre - pare to



that they bring. Some are weep - ing; some are laugh - ing;
 ers ap - pear, saints con - fess - ing how they wres - tled
 dif - f'rent ways, but they share one thing in com - mon:
 be sur - prised by the host whose hands are wound - ed,



some have songs they want to sing. Oth - ers ask why they're in -
 with their guilt, their doubt and fear. Pe - ter tells of his de -
 they all end in thanks and praise for the host who has in -
 who will o - pen wide your eyes when he bless - es bread and



vit - ed, bur - dened by the wrong they've done. Christ in - sists they
 ny - ing Christ was ev - er in his sight; Paul re - lates his
 vit - ed north and south and east and west to con - verge a -
 breaks it— truth and man - na from a - bove!— and then pass - es



all are wel - come. There is room for ev - 'ry - one.
 fruit - less ef - forts to ob - lit - er - ate the light.
 round this ta - ble, where all life is fed and blest.
 wine that wa - kens in your heart the taste of love.

COMMUNION HYMNS

That Priceless Grace
 O Lord, We Praise You

ELW 591
 ELW 499

PASTORAL BLESSING

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

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Bryan: Let us pray. 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 Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
Amen.

*RECESSIONAL HYMN

Built on a Rock ELW 652
Built on a Rock Setting by Michael Burkhardt

*DISMISSAL

WA, Laura: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Kirken den der et gammelt Hus Theodore Beck

Leading Worship Today

The Rev. Dr. Laura Barbins	Presider
Bishop, Northeastern Ohio Synod, ELCA	
Eric Richardson	Minister of Music
Deb Zudell-Dickey	Organist

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Next week's scripture: First Reading: **Micah 3:5-12**; Psalm: **Psalm 43**; Second Reading: **1 Thessalonians 2:9-13**; Gospel: **Matthew 23:1-12**.



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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

The additional altar flowers this morning are given to the Glory of God by Stanley Johnson in memory of Beverly, his wife, on what would have been Beverly's 91st Birthday.

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 BISHOP BARBINS

Laura Barbins was elected bishop on September 11, 2020 and took office December 1, 2020. She was elected to a second term as bishop in June of 2026. Prior to her call to the Office of Bishop, she was the pastor of Celebration Lutheran, Chardon, Ohio for 19 years, Interim Pastor at Messiah Lutheran, Fairview Park, Ohio for 1 year, and Associate Pastor for Youth at Holy Trinity, Nashville, Tennessee for 2 years.

Holding a PhD in New Testament and Homiletics, Bishop Barbins has also been an Adjunct Professor for Preaching at Trinity Seminary at Capital University from 2015-2018. She still contributes to that teaching through workshops and educational offerings throughout the ELCA. Bishop Barbins lives in Mentor, Ohio with her husband and is the mother of four grown daughters. When able, she enjoys gardening and traveling.

FELLOWSHIP TODAY in the fellowship hall! You are invited to the fellowship hall after worship for a time of celebration. Thank you to Eric and Teresa Peace for coordinating.

TIME CHANGE

Please remember that we will “fall back” next Sunday, November 1. Please make sure to show up to church on time!!

YOUTH GATHERING MEETING

TODAY, October 25 *After Worship*

Those planning on traveling to Minneapolis for the ELCA Youth Gathering next summer are invited to meet today after worship in the lounge. Reach out to Pastor Angela with questions or to learn more about The Gathering!

OUTDOOR CLEAN UP

Saturday, October 8, 9:00 am

We could use a few people to help with some outdoor tasks on Saturday, October 8. Contact Mark Larsen with any questions.

BIBLE STUDY

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.

PEACEMAKERS QUILTERS – no meeting October 29

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.

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.

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).

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.

ST. B'S HIVE (ST. BARNABAS)

Presents Haunted History of Halloween

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

Julie Koenig explores Halloween's origins, including its pagan roots, ancient traditions from around the world, and the story of Jack O'Lantern. Luncheon at noon with presentation following. Reservations for lunch required.

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 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 <https://www.elca.org/how-we-serve/relief-and-development/world-hunger> 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 <https://www.loverestored.org/>.

Jerry Kiel, Chair
Mission & Ministry Team

