



# **Welcome to Bethesda Lutheran Church**

A place of healing and reconciliation in Christ



## **SEASON OF CREATION IN CHRIST FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

WITH HOLY COMMUNION

✝ September 6, 2026 | 9:30 a.m. ✝

## ✠ GATHERING ✠

\*THE ASTERISK INDICATES WHEN THE ASSEMBLY RISES THROUGHOUT THE WORSHIP SERVICE.

PRELUDE

TYLER PYLE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BIGGEST STORY TIME (FORMERLY KNOWN AS WOW)

"AND SO IT BEGINS..." (GENESIS 1 & 2)

\*GATHERING HYMN

TELL AGAIN THE JOYFUL STORY

LA 64

Tell Again the Joyful Story

LA 64



1 Tell a - gain the joy - ful sto - ry of the One who spins the world,  
2 Yet she knows the deep - est wa - ters, hears the ca - dence of our tears,  
3 So that we may join her danc - ing, feed the hun - gry, clothe the poor,



stirs the col - ors of the rain - bow, casts them in - to clouds she swirls.  
holds the sor - rows of the shad - ows, bears the weight of numb - ing years.  
sweep a - way de - bris of an - ger, si - lence des - p'rate shouts of war.



How she cheers each ris - ing day, flings the sun - light ray by ray,  
She who knows our birth - ing pains calls us to a birth a - gain  
In the mu - sic of her voice, wea - ry danc - ers may re - joice,



danc - es in the morn - ing's rap - ture! Hear a prom - ise in her laugh - ter!  
and a death that she might save us from a death that has en - slaved us,  
for she sends our sad - ness reel - ing in the rhy - thms of her heal - ing.

Text: Jeannette M. Lindholm

Music: FREU DICH SEHR, *Trente quatre psaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551

Text © 1994, rev. 2021 Jeannette M. Lindholm, admin. Augsburg Fortress

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

One Remembered by ancient and living waters, .....We give thanks to God  
for the waters and the sound waves of original blessing:

**Many**      **God called you good. You are a good creation..**

One      Since the beginning the waters have been raising arks, ..... We give thanks to God for a promise that lasts and life that overflows:

**Many**      **Nothing can separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus.**

One      It begins before it ends, new life unwilling to wait ..... God for the water we carry, oceans of wisdom for becoming one body:

**Many**      **You are my child, my beloved one. With you I am well pleased.**

One      This is a beginning, a people remembered rejoicing in the waters of baptism, loved and liberated by the Spirit of God.

**Many**      **The old has passed away. See? God is doing a new thing.  
Thanks be to God! Amen.**

SONG OF PRAISE

GOOD CREATION

LIVING VOICE OF CREATION 19

GREETING

ONE      The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**Many**      **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

ONE      O God, in whom we live and move and have our being, in Christ you created the worlds, and your Spirit breathes life into the universe. We praise you for your wondrous creation. Bless us and all your handiwork with your infinite light, and direct our lives to the care of this good earth, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Many**      **Amen.**

✠ **WORD** ✠

(Readings on screen)

NEW TESTAMENT READING ACTS 17:22A, 24-28

One      Word of God, Word of Life

**Many**      **Thanks be to God.**

\* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

LET ALL CREATION SING

LIVING VOICE OF CREATION 28

One      The holy Gospel according to John.

**Many**      **Glory to you, O Lord.**

\*GOSPEL | John 1: 1-5

One The Gospel of our Lord.  
**Many Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

GRANT VANDERFORD

HYMN OF THE DAY BEFORE THE WATERS NOURISHED EARTH

ACS 1049

Before the Waters Nourished Earth

ACS 1049



1 Be - fore the wa - ters nour - ished earth or night im -  
2 This Love re - mained as time re - vealed the loss of  
3 De - spair, so deep it bears no name, or sor - rows  
4 The Love that called cre - a - tion good all good - ness



ag - ined morn - ing, a Love con - ceived the  
E - den's glo - ry and, griev - ing, holds in  
par - a - lyz - ing can - not re - voke Love's  
still is bring - ing. This Love turns death a -



u - ni - verse and rev - eled in its form - ing.  
mem - o - ry each trag - ic hu - man sto - ry.  
faith - ful claim to dwell with - in our dy - ing.  
gain to life and si - lence in - to sing - ing.

Text: Jeannette M. Lindholm, b. 1961  
Music: ST. COLUMBA, Irish melody  
Text © 1996 Jeannette M. Lindholm, admin. Augsburg Fortress

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

One Let us confess our faith together.  
**Many We believe in God, Creator of heaven and earth,  
who called all things into being through Love,  
whose breath gives life to every living thing,  
and who entrusts us with the care of the world God has made.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, the Living Word, Love made flesh who was born among the creatures of the earth, walked the hills and shores of Galilee, calmed the wind and the waves, fed the hungry, welcomed all to the table, died upon the cross, rose from the grave, and is making all things new.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, who breathes through creation, speaks through Scripture, gathers the church, awakens hope, calls us into communities of justice, mercy, and peace, and empowers us to join God's renewing work in the world.**

**We believe that all creation belongs to God, that every person is made in God's image, that Christ gathers us into one body, and that nothing in all creation can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

**Amen.**

**\*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**SUNG RESPONSE:**



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**\*SHARING OF THE PEACE**

*One* The peace of Christ be with you and all creation!!

**Many And also with you.**

**✠ MEAL ✠**

**OFFERING**

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. You may place your offering in the plates as they are passed by the ushers. You may also scan the QR code to the right for online giving.*



## OFFERTORY RESPONSE

WE PRAISE YOU, MAKER GOD

LIVING VOICE OF CREATION 37

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

One        O God, maker of heaven and earth, ..... We ask this in Jesus' name.  
**Many        Amen.**

## \* THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

## DIALOG

One        From the fragments and fissures.  
**Many        God calls us together.**

One        Our hearts are bruised and broken.  
**Many        We lift them to God who mends.**

One        Come repair and be restored.  
**Many        Many pieces become one body.**

## \*PREFACE:

ONE        It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,.... the table rejoicing as one  
              creation, one body in holy communion now and forever as we sing:

## \*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

## SANCTUS

LIVING VOICE OF CREATION 40

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

One:        Blessed are you, O God, our parent and provider. ....  
              We give you thanks for your tender keeping and expansive love.  
**Many        We honor you, Creator God.**

One:        Blessed are you, O God, our resurrection and life. ....  
              We give you thanks for showing us your glory.  
**Many        We worship you, Loving God.**

One:        Blessed are you, O God, advocate and comforter. ....  
              We give you thanks for your Spirit moving.  
**Many        We praise you, Abiding God.**

One: On the night in which he was betrayed. ....  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

**Many Amen.**

\*LORD'S PRAYER

One: Come to remember and be re-membered.

**Many Many voices raised to the Voice of Creation, one God, parent of us all:**

**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.**

## COMMUNAL ART PROJECT

*We now enter a time of reflection on the goodness of God within us. Take the paper leaf you chose before worship today and hold it for a moment.*

*Scripture tells us that we are created in the Imago Dei—the Image of God. Before anything else is said about us, God looks upon what God has made and calls it **very good**. That goodness is not something we have to earn. It is woven into who we are as beloved creatures of God.*

*Just as every leaf is different—each with its own shape, color, veins, and texture—each of us reflects something particular of the God who created us.*

*Think for a moment about yourself. What is one thing within you that reflects the goodness of God? Perhaps it is your compassion, your creativity, your courage, your curiosity, your ability to listen, your sense of humor, your love for others, or the way you notice beauty in the world.*

*On your leaf, write or draw **one thing you recognize in yourself that bears the Image of God—one glimpse of the goodness God has created within you.***

*You do not need to be embarrassed by that goodness or make yourself smaller. Simply name it with gratitude. Receive it as gift.*

*As you come forward for communion, bring your leaf with you and hang it on the Tree of Life located by the Candle Prayer Station on the West Wall. Together, these leaves will become a witness to the truth God spoke over creation from the beginning: **we are created in the Image of God, we belong to one another, and what God has made is very good.***

## HOLY COMMUNION

BROKEN

LIVING VOICE OF CREATION 47

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

ALL CREATURES, WORSHIP GOD MOST HIGH

ELW 835

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

One God of plenty, you have nourished our bodies with the fruits of the earth,  
... for the sake of the world you love.

**Many Amen.**

## BLESSING

One God the Creator made the tiny goldfish and elegant sharks, looked at them and said.

**Many YOU ARE GOOD!**

One God the Creator made the croaky frogs, looked at them and said,.

**Many YOU ARE GOOD!**

One God the Creator made the birds of the sky, looked at them and said,.

**Many YOU ARE GOOD!**

One God the Creator made the rainbows that shine, looked at them and said.

**Many YOU ARE GOOD!**

One God the Creator made you and me, and all of humanity, looked at us and said

**Many YOU ARE GOOD!**

## ✠ SENDING ✠

SENDING HYMN

GOD IS DOING A NEW THING

LIVING VOICE OF CREATION 37

## \*DISMISSAL

One Go in peace. Held together by Christ, listen for the Living Voice of Creation and join your voice to God' work of love in in the world.

**Many Thanks be to God.**

## \*POSTLUDE

TYLE PYLE

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, SOURCES, & PERMISSIONS**

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|                           | <b>SERVING TODAY SEPT 6, 2026</b>       | <b>SERVING NEXT SUNDAY SEPT 13, 2026</b> |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <b>SUNDAY</b>             | 14 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost | 15 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  |
| <b>PRESIDING MINISTER</b> | Pr. Grant Vanderford                    | Pr. Grant Vanderford                     |
| <b>ORGANIST/PIANIST</b>   | Tyler Pyle                              | Tyler Pyle                               |

|                             |                         |                                 |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>CHOIR DIRECTOR</b>       | Jillian Jaros           | Jillian Jaros                   |
| <b>ASSISTING MINISTER</b>   | Pr. Mary Wallum         | Jane Johnson, PhD               |
| <b>READER</b>               | Alex Brings             | Daniel Westphal                 |
| <b>ALTAR GUILD</b>          | Theo Baspaly            | Shannon Vanderford              |
| <b>COMMUNION ASSISTANTS</b> | Deb Fogel<br>Nancy Lund | Tammy Costin<br>Daniel Westphal |
| <b>CLICKER</b>              | Theo Baspaly            | <b>Help needed</b>              |
| <b>CAMERA</b>               | <b>Help needed</b>      | Kristin Ohren                   |
| <b>USHERS</b>               |                         |                                 |
| <b>CPOD</b>                 | Nancy Lund              | Drew Robinson                   |

If you want help signing up or desire training - call 218-236-1420 or email [janej@bethesdamhd.org](mailto:janej@bethesdamhd.org).

### THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH\*

✠ SEPT 6 TO SEPT 12, 2026 ✠

| TIME                      | DAY              | Event                           |
|---------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|
|                           | <b>SUNDAY</b>    |                                 |
| 9:30 A.M.                 |                  | Worship/followed by fellowship  |
|                           | <b>MONDAY</b>    |                                 |
| 10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.    |                  | Labor Day Holiday Office Closed |
|                           | <b>TUESDAY:</b>  |                                 |
| 10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.    |                  | Office Hours                    |
|                           | <b>WEDNESDAY</b> |                                 |
| 9:00 A.M.                 |                  | Quilting                        |
| 10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.    |                  | Office Hours                    |
| 6:00 PM/ 6:30 - 7:30 P.M. |                  | Bell set-up/rehearsal 6:30      |
| 6:30                      |                  | Confirmation                    |
| 7:30 - 8:30 P.M.          |                  | Choir Rehearsal                 |
|                           | <b>THURSDAY</b>  |                                 |
| 10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.    |                  | Office Hours                    |
| 3:45 P.M..                |                  | BAS Chapel-Sanctuary            |
|                           | <b>FRIDAY</b>    |                                 |
| ALL DAY                   |                  | Office Closed                   |
| 9:00 P.M.                 |                  | NA Meeting                      |





GOD'S WORK.  
OUR HANDS.

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13**  
FOLLOWING WORSHIP

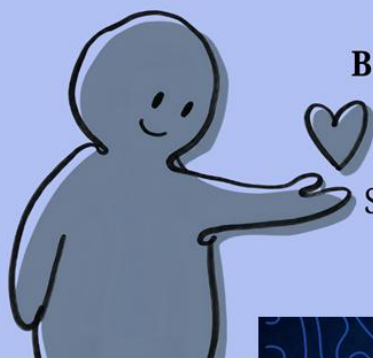
## ASSEMBLY OF SCHOOL SUPPLY KITS



Fargo-Moorhead Area Walk

## OUT OF THE DARKNESS

Presented by the American  
Foundation for Suicide Prevention



**Walk with the  
Bethesda team!**

Sunday,  
September 20  
at 2 p.m.  
**SCHEELS Arena**

Contact Mary Wenaas  
with questions



LUTHERAN  
WORLD RELIEF

**WE'RE SO CLOSE...  
LET'S PUT TOGETHER 120**

**STILL NEEDED:**

**SCHOOL SUPPLY  
KITS BEFORE  
SEPTEMBER!**

**26** NOTEBOOKS (70 sheet spiral)

**10** RULERS (30 centimeter)

\$ LWR estimates it costs \$4 per kit to transport, process, store and deliver kits near and far. Make checks payable to Bethesda with "LWR Kits" in the memo.



## ROCKS WANTED!



Please bring fist-size or larger rocks to the SW corner of the Bethesda courtyard area.

We will be painting them during God's Work Our Hands Sunday on September 13, then using them to complete Gwen's Garden and to add to the new native garden at Evergreen Cemetery.

## LEARN MORE ABOUT CUB SCOUTS! INFO & SIGN-UP NIGHT



**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17**

**6:00 TO 7:30 PM**

Bethesda Lutheran Church

401 40th Ave S, Moorhead, MN 56560

Join us for Legos and fun for the kids while adults learn about the Cub Scout programs in Moorhead!