



Welcome to Bethesda Lutheran Church

A place of healing and reconciliation in Christ



ASCENSION SUNDAY

WITH HOLY COMMUNION

✠ May 17, 2026 | 9:30 a.m. ✠

✠ **GATHERING** ✠

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

PRELUDE

TYLER PYLE

CALL TO WORSHIP

One Because Jesus ascended and sits at the right hand of God, a new world has broken into ours--
Many a world in which justice does come for the poor, freedom comes for the prisoners, and healing for the sick.

One Because Jesus, a new community has been formed.
Many a community that loves and cares for all members, a family that welcomes all who are abandoned and rejected, a place where all find a place of belonging.

One Because Jesusa new creation has begun--.
Many all that was distorted is being restored, all that is corrupted is being renewed, all that was broken is being made whole.

One Because Jesus ascended and sits at the right hand of God,
Many God's new world has begun.

KYRIE

NOW THE FEAST AND CELEBRATION[†] PG 3

[†]Now The Feast and Celebration' is found inside the back cover of hymnal

HYMN OF PRAISE

NOW THE FEAST

NOW THE FEAST AND CELEBRATION[†] PG 4

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wow

ASCENSION

**MANY I WONDER, I WONDER. THE WONDERS OF WORSHIP, WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
I WONDER, I WONDER. THE WONDERS OF WORSHIP, WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
COME AND SEE! COME NOW AND SEE!**

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 Almighty God, your blessed Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things. Mercifully give us faith to trust that, as he promised, he abides with us on earth to the end of time, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Many Amen.

✠ **WORD** ✠

(Readings on screen)

FIRST READING: Acts 1:1-11

One Word of God, Word of Life

Many **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: EPHESIANS 1:15-23

One Word of God, Word of Life

Many **Thanks be to God.**

* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

GOSPEL VERSE NOW THE FEAST AND CELEBRATION PG 8

One The holy Gospel according to Luke

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

*GOSPEL | Luke 24:44-53

One The Gospel of our Lord.

Many **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

PASTOR GRANT VANDERFORD



HYMN BEFORE THE ANCIENT ONE, CHRIST STANDS ACS 953



1 Be - fore the An - cient One, Christ stands, en - robed in cloud and
 2 Who was, who is, and is to come as ser - vant lived in
 3 Now in the lat - ter days you call, O Christ, and plead the



bright as snow, five wounds im - print his side, feet, hands, and
 hu - man sphere; com - pas - sion was his di - a - dem; his
 prem - ise clear, that pow - er grasped is none at all, and



thorns, the gar - land on his brow. Yet thrones and
 glo - ry was the gen - tle tear; hu - mil - i -
 serv - ing shows your Spir - it near. As na - tions



pow'rs fall to the knee and weave a song of maj - es - ty,
 ty, his pur - ple garb; the heal - ing hand, his roy - al orb.
 clash and wis - dom wanes, as glo - ries tempt and greed sus - tains,



for what the world ad - mires as gain is not the es - sence
 Such love drew ire and ire drew death, but God has proved the
 you bid us choose in ev - 'ry hour the pow'r of love, the



of Christ's reign, and strength is his, and name and
 tru - er strength, and through all space the host pro -
 great - est pow'r, that love may her - ald God's do -



might, be - cause he pit - ied hu - mans' plight.
 claims the name a - bove all oth - er names.
 main, and you, at last, may come to reign.

NICENE CREED

Many: 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

One Merciful God,
Many Receive our prayer.

*SHARING OF THE PEACE

One The peace of the Risen Christ be with you all!
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.



NOISY OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

TYLER PYLE

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

AS THE GRAINS OF
WHEAT

NOW THE FEAST AND CELEBRATION PG 10

OFFERTORY PRAYER

One Merciful God, In the name of Jesus,
***Many* Amen.**

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

NOW THE FEAST AND CELEBRATION PG 11

*PREFACE: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

NOW THE FEAST AND CELEBRATION PG 11

*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

One This is the day that in joy and delight, for Christ is risen:
***Many* Christ is risen indeed.**

One This is the day that you gave light, for that light is Christ:
***Many* Thanks be to God.**

One This is the day that you broke the chains, for Christ is risen:
***Many* Christ is risen indeed.**

One On the night before he died, Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
***Many* Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

One On this day send us the power, for that light is Christ:
Many Thanks be to God.

One All holy and mighty, for Christ is risen:
Many Christ is risen indeed.

One Amen and amen:
Many Amen and amen.

*LORD'S PRAYER

One: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit let us pray as Jesus taught us.
**Many 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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

ONE Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.

HOLY COMMUNION

LAMB OF GOD

NOW THE FEAST AND CELEBRATION PG 14

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

AROUND YOU, O LORD JESUS

ELW 468

BREAD OF LIFE FROM HEAVEN

ELW 474

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

One Holy One, ... In the name of Jesus,
Many Amen.

BLESSING

One God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the
firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, ✠ bless
you now and forever.
Many Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

*SENDING HYMN

THINE THE AMEN

ELW 826

*DISMISSAL

One Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!
 Many **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

*POSTLUDE

Tyler Pyle

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, SOURCES, & PERMISSIONS

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	SERVING TODAY MAY 17 2026	SERVING NEXT SUNDAY - MAY 24 2026
SUNDAY	Ascension Sunday	Pentecost
PRESIDING MINISTER	Grant Vanderford	Grant Vanderford
PIANIST	Tyler Pyle	Tyler Pyle
CHOIR DIRECTOR	Jillian Jaros	Jillian Jaros
ASSISTING MINISTER	Tammy Costin	Alex Brings
READER	Terrie Jo Wold	
ALTAR GUILD	Sue Reinhart	Jennifer Knutson
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Nancy Lund Petra Vanderford	Petra Vanderford HELP NEEDED
CLICKER	Aaron Wenaas	HELP NEEDED
CAMERA	Becky Erickson	Jane Johnson
USHERS		
CPOD	Nancy Lund	Libby Sternhagen Schwenk

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If you want help signing up or desire training - call 218-236-1420 or email janej@bethesdamhd.org.

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH

✠ -MAY 17-23, 2026 ✠

TIME	DAY	Event
9:30 AM	SUNDAY	Worship
10:30		Coffee Fellowship
10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.	MONDAY	Office Hours
8	Worship	

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH

‡ -MAY 17-23, 2026 ‡

10:00 A.M.

Lectionary Study -Lounge

TUESDAY:

10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Office Hours

9:00 A.M.

Women's Bible Study- Lounge

WEDNESDAY

9:00 A.M.

Quilting

10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Office Hours

6:00 P.M.

Bell Set up

6:30 P.M.

Bell Rehearsal

7:30 P.M.

Choir

THURSDAY

3:45 P.M.

BAS Chapel

10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Office Hours

FRIDAY

ALL DAY

Office Closed

9:00 P.M.

NA Meeting



SECOND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH
NOISY OFFERING
NEXT DATE: MAY 10
TODAY



Congratulations
Senior Recognition
May 31, 2026
Seniors (high school and college)
Please RSVP church office by May 17th if
you will be able to attend,
218-236-1420 or
janej@bethesdamhd.org

SUMMER EVENING
Campfire Worship

Date & Time
**WEDNESDAY
 MAY 20
 6 PM**

Location
**BETHESDA
 COURTYARD**

Featuring
**HOT DOGS
 & SMORES**



Bethesda Lutheran

**MUSIC
 MINISTRY
 CELEBRATION**

Sunday, May 31
 at 4 p.m.



Save the Date!

**BETHESDA
 MUSIC CAMP**

JULY 13-16
 1-4:30 P.M. DAILY

FOR KIDS ENTERING PRE-K THRU
 6TH GRADE IN THE FALL
 ♦ REGISTRATION COMING SOON ♦



OUTREACH

DOWN HOME We are collecting wall decorations & lamps for Down Home. Bring items by Sunday, May 17. After that, feel free to check out the wish list on their website!


YOUTHWORKS & DOROTHY DAY The need at local food pantries is constant. Please continue to bring non-perishable food items to support these programs. (i.e. canned vegetables, soup, beans, boxed cereal, pasta)

CHURCHES UNITED MICAH'S MISSION Volunteers set up & serve the evening meal on the fourth Monday of every month from 5-7 p.m. Contact the office or talk to Sandy Retzlaff or Joel Westby for more info!

May prayer prompt
"Holy Spirit"

Pray that the Holy Spirit will fill our hearts with fire giving us the boldness and courage to live out our lives in Faith.





AFTERNOON OF FUN AND FELLOWSHIP

Where: **The Linden**
 (1500 7th St. S., Moorhead)

Time: **1-4 p.m. on 4th Tuesdays** each month.

Parking is available in the lot.
Come enjoy visiting and friendships!
 Any questions, contact Sharon Bungum Olson at 701-799-6428 or olsonmom58103@yahoo.com.

BETHESDA
 LUTHERAN CHURCH