

# ABOUT BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH

Founded in 1880, Bethesda Lutheran Church is one of the oldest congregations in the city of Moorhead. Named for the healing pool near the Sheep Gate in Jerusalem where the angel of the Lord stirred up the waters and healed those who immersed in them, Bethesda seeks to be “a place of healing.”

We are a multi-generational faith community gathered by the Holy Spirit around God’s Word and the sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion. We proclaim in our life together the crucified and risen Christ as source and seed of our faith.

In 2020, the congregation expanded its mission and ministry by founding Table of Mercy, a newly forming ministry that walks with our neighbors experiencing housing insecurity and homelessness. As a longtime supporting member of Churches United for the Homeless, this new ministry of radical welcome, spiritual care, and faith formation for all, seeks to support all our siblings where they need it most, meeting people wherever they may be.

In 2021, Bethesda Lutheran Church became a partner with Reconciling Works, making the commitment to affirming welcome and radical love and advocacy for those who have been previously marginalized by the greater church. Our Reconciling in Christ statement reads:

*Bethesda Lutheran Church, a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, is a reconciling, affirming, and inclusive community. Through worship, love, and service, we recognized that each person is a unique creation of God through grace, we all belong together as children of God.*

*We value people of all gender identities, gender expressions, sexual orientation, cognitive and physical abilities, races, nationalities, economic, and immigration statuses. We will advocate for and be steward of all God’s creation.*

*We pledge to live as reconciling people, in our life together, working to be a sign in the community that Jesus Christ is here.*

Bethesda Lutheran Church celebrates the Eucharist liturgy every Sunday morning at 9:30am and on Facebook Live. Fellowship with coffee and donuts follow the liturgy in the fellowship hall.

# SACRED MUSIC SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The Sacred Music Scholarship Program is designed as a practical training module for music majors interested in sacred music. Bethesda Lutheran Church is pleased to offer four Sacred Music Scholarships for the 2022-2023 academic year. Scholars will have the opportunity to sing in the Bethesda choral program while developing rehearsal planning and leadership skills, keyboard proficiency, and conducting skills in a sacred and nurturing environment. This program is to meet the dire need of church musicians the world, and more importantly the Fargo-Moorhead area, is facing today by training musicians in the art of sacred music.

Under the direction and supervision of the Cantor, the Sacred Music Scholars assist in the enrichment of the musical and liturgical life of the Bethesda Lutheran Church community while developing professional skills and understanding in Sacred Music. The following constitute the major responsibilities of the Sacred Music Scholars:

## 1. Attendance

- Sacred Music Scholars will participate in the Bethesda Choir which rehearses on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:15pm and sings for the weekly Sunday Eucharist liturgy at 9:30am with a 9:00am warm-up.

## 2. Absences

- If a Sacred Music Scholar is unable attend any weekly rehearsals or Sunday Eucharist services, notice should be given to the Cantor as far in advance as possible via email and a substitute should be found by the Scholar. If sudden absence is required because of an urgent necessity or sudden illness, the Sacred Music Scholar should notify the Cantor by phone.
- If a Sacred Music Scholar develops a pattern of unexcused absences, the Cantor reserves the right to terminate their participation in the Sacred Music Scholarship Program.
- This program will observe and honor academic breaks/time off during both semesters.

## 3. Scholarship Expectations & Opportunities

- Sacred Music Scholars are expected to arrive on time for all choral occasions.
- Scholars should prepare music outside of rehearsal to ensure they can effectively lead and support the volunteer members of the Bethesda Choir.
- Scholars will prepare to conduct and rehearse the Bethesda Choir once a semester.
- Scholars will prepare to accompany the Bethesda Choir once a semester.
- Scholars will meet as a cohort with the Cantor once a month for professional development of practical sacred music skills and understanding.

- Scholars may also personalize their training and time in the program by taking advantage of the various experiences the Bethesda Music Ministries has to offer including the adult and children’s choirs, beginner and advanced bell choirs, and seasonal instrumental ensembles. The Cantor will help pair the Scholar’s interests with current opportunities.

**Skills and Qualifications:**

1. Pursuing an undergraduate degree at a local college or university with a major or minor in music.
2. Strong musical ability, energy, enthusiasm, leadership.
3. Proficient keyboard ability for basic rehearsal leading and accompanying.
4. Willingness to learn and develop skills and understanding in sacred music.
5. Sacred Music Scholars may come from any religious affiliation and will at no time be required to become members of Bethesda Lutheran Church, but respect for and engagement in the music program and liturgical life of the church are required.

**Summary of Work & Stipend:**

Wednesday Rehearsal (7:00-8:15pm)

Sunday Eucharist (9:00am warm-up and 9:30-10:45am liturgy)

\$25/week (weeks defined in rehearsal-Sunday pairs)

Fall 2022 Semester		Spring 2023 Semester	
Rehearsals	Liturgies	Rehearsals	Liturgies
August 24	September 11	January 11	January 22
August 31	September 18	January 18	January 29
September 7	September 25	January 25	February 5
September 14	October 2	February 1	February 12
September 21	October 9	February 8	February 19
September 28	October 16	February 15	February 22*
October 5	October 23	March 1	February 26
October 12	October 30	March 8	March 5
October 19	November 6	March 22	March 26
October 26	November 13	March 29	April 2
November 2	November 20	April 5	April 2*
November 9	November 27	April 12	April 6*
November 16	November 27*	April 19	April 7*
November 30	December 4	April 26	April 9
December 7	December 11	May 3	April 23
			April 30*
			May 7
Weeks: 15 Total: \$375		Weeks: 18 Total: \$450	