

Morning Worship

Bethesda Lutheran Church - 8:30 AM

Immanuel Lutheran Church - 11:00 AM

July 19, 2026

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Before we begin our worship this morning, I acknowledge that Bethesda Lutheran Church/Immanuel Lutheran Church stands on the traditional grounds of the Anishinaabe People, and we honor their elders both past and present. Their presence is imbued in the lands and waters surrounding us. We nurture our relationships with our indigenous neighbors, and the shared responsibilities to their homeland where we all reside today.

HOLY COMMUNION

Prelude

GATHERING

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: ELW #821 (red hymnal) "Shout to the Lord"

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 WOV (blue hymnal) p. 28

Δ Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: ◻ Lord, have mer - cy.
 Lord, have mer - cy:

Δ Chri - ste e - le - i - son: ◻ Christ, have mer - cy.
 Christ, have mer - cy:

Δ Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: ◻ Lord, have mer - cy.
 Lord, have mer - cy:

Hymn of Praise WOV (blue hymnal) p. 29-30 "Glory to God"

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 44:6-8

There are no other gods besides God: the word of the Lord does not fail to come to pass. We can trust in God, through whom Israel—and we—are redeemed.

⁶ Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel,
and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts:

I am the first, and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.

⁷ Who is like me? Let them proclaim it;
let them declare and set it forth before me.

Who has announced from of old the things to come?
Let them tell us what is yet to be.

⁸ Do not fear or be afraid;
have I not told you from of old and declared it?
You are my witnesses!

Is there any god besides me?
There is no other rock; I know not one.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 86:11-17

Refrain: Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth. (Ps. 86:11)

¹¹ Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk | in your truth;
 give me an undivided heart to re- | vere your name.

¹² **I will thank you, O Lord my God, with | all my heart,
 and glorify your name for- | evermore. R**

¹³ For great is your | love toward me;
 you have delivered me from the | pit of death.

¹⁴ **The arrogant rise up against me, O God, and a band of violent
 people | seeks my life;
 they have not set you be- | fore their eyes.**

¹⁵ But you, O Lord, are gracious and full | of compassion,
 slow to anger, and full of kind- | ness and truth.

¹⁶ **Turn to me and have mer- | cy on me;
 give your strength to your servant, and save the child | of your
 handmaid.**

¹⁷ Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it
 and be | put to shame;
 because you, Lord, have helped me and com- | forted me. **R**

Second Reading: Romans 8:12-25

For Paul, true spirituality means that we experience the reality of the Spirit, which enables us to pray as God's children, keeps us in solidarity with creation, and gives us unseen hope that God will liberate us and creation from bondage to death and decay.

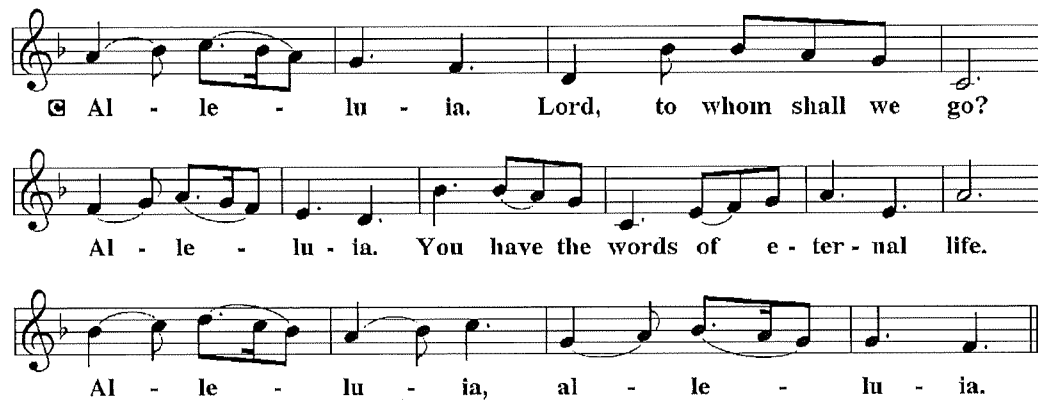
¹² So then, brothers and sisters, we are obligated, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³ for if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if we in fact suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

¹⁸ I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth

comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, ²⁰ for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, ²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel acclamation:



The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Jesus tells a parable about the coexistence of good and evil in this world. God's judgment will remove all evildoers and causes of sin, but not until the end of human history.

²⁴ [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field,²⁵ but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. ²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷ And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ ²⁸ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ ²⁹ But he replied, ‘No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰ Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’ ”

³⁶ Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” ³⁷ He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸ the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰ Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴² and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon – Pastor Connie Monson

Hymn of the Day: ELW (red hymnal) #679 *“For the Fruit of All Creation”*

Affirmation of Faith

**O God, the source of our being and the goal of all our longing,
we believe and trust in you.
The whole earth is alive with your glory
and all that has life is sustained by you.
We commit ourselves to cherish your world and to seek your face.**

**O God, embodied in a human life,
we believe and trust in you.
Jesus our brother, born of the woman Mary,
you confronted the proud and the powerful,
and welcomed as your friends those of no account.**

**Holy Wisdom of God, firstborn of creation,
you emptied yourself of power,
and became foolishness for our sake.
You labored with us upon the cross,
and have brought us forth to the hope of resurrection.**

**We commit ourselves to struggle against evil and to choose life.
O God, life-giving Spirit, Spirit of healing and comfort,
of integrity and truth, we believe and trust in you.
Warm-winged Spirit, brooding over creation,
rushing wind and Pentecostal fire,
we commit ourselves to work with you and renew our world.
Amen.**

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Prayers of Intercession

Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

God our source, protect your church from those who sow weeds among the wheat. Where we trade grace for judgment, restore us, and where we get lost among the complexities of life, guide us. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God our creator, sustain creation in places not easily seen; the depths of oceans, microscopic plants and animals, galaxies beyond our own. May we share earth's dedication to hope for what we do not yet see. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God our soil, we yearn to live on your lands and waters with justice and in righteousness. Renew the hearts of all in authority, that our leaders guide wisely toward the flourishing of all. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God our rock, be a source of constancy for those whose lives have been uprooted by war, eviction, global climate change, unemployment, harassment, false witness to their character, or illness or injury. (*We pray especially for . . .*) God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God our teacher, guide and provide for all summer camp staff and campers, daycare professionals, librarians, summer school educators and coaches, teachers preparing for the coming academic year, and youth becoming first-time babysitters. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Other intercession: Lord, you know the need for healing, comfort, help or resolution for those we name before you today: Myrna & Richard, Kermit, Ed, Lorayne, Lois, Courtney, Bill, Chuck & Marcia, Colleen, Rhiannon, Holly, Bennett, Jennifer, Casey, Donnie, Jeanna, Jaycee, Gary & Janet, Britni, Luke, Jarrett, Darlene, Melinda, Rex, John, Shirley, and those whose names we hold in our heart. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

We pray for our migrant neighbors who, like most of us and our ancestors, came to this country for a better life. You who freed the

captives, protect them from harm. Help us guard their rights to representation and due process. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God our hope, the message of your salvation is planted among us in all times and places. We give you thanks for the witness of all the saints who shine like the sun in your presence. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus.

Amen.

Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you. (Share a sign of God's peace with one another.)

Offering

We receive two kinds of offerings in gratitude for all that God has done and is doing: a monetary offering for the work of the church in our community and the world, and a food offering for our friends at the BRICK food pantry. If you have brought food or supplies this morning, you can place them in the basket at the front of the sanctuary at any time. The offering plate is located in the narthex at the beginning of the service; if you missed it, you are welcome to approach the altar after the service with your gift, or catch us next time!

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 Lord be with you.

And also 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.

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:

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. 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

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.

The Lord's Prayer

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

Heaven has come near.
Come, share in the feast!

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

The body and the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Prayer after Communion

Compassionate God,
through the gifts of bread and wine
our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.
Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,
may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,

through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.

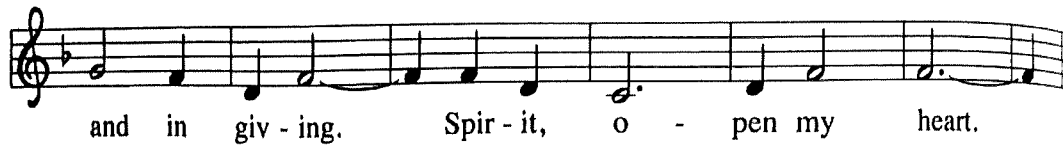
Amen.

Communion Hymn ACS #1043 *“Spirit, Open My Heart” See next page*

1043

Spirit, Open My Heart

Refrain



1 God, re - place my ston - y heart with a heart that's
 2 Write your love up - on my heart as my law, my
 3 May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of



kind and ten - der. All my cold - ness and
 goal, my sto - ry. In each thought, word, and
 friend and neigh - bor. As I live from day to

Refrain



fear to your grace I now sur - ren - der.
 deed, may my liv - ing bring you glo - ry.
 day, love will be my fin - est la - bor.

Announcements:

Sunday: AA, 7 pm, Immanuel

Monday: South Shore Quilters, 9 am; Book Study on Zoom, 1 pm

Tuesday: Brunch Bunch, 10 am, Bethesda; Bible Study, 2 pm,
Immanuel and Zoom

Wednesday: South Shore Quilters, 9 am, Scott Paavola's birthday

Thursday: Immanuel Painters, 10 am; Juliet Club, 11:30 am, Cranberry
over Superior

Friday: ROMEO, 9 am, Farmhouse; Knit Wits, 1 pm, Coffee Shop;
Bethesda Fish Fry, 4:30 – 7 pm; Judith Lindell's birthday

Blessing

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,

✝ one God,

bless, heal, and hold you
today and always.

Amen.

Sending Hymn: ELW #622 (red hymnal) “Neither Death nor Life”

Dismissal

Go in peace; serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Postlude

Reconciling in Christ Statement

*There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no
male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:28*

We welcome YOU to Bethesda and Immanuel to participate fully in our congregational life. You who may have experienced exclusion, injustice or racial inequity; You who are young, old, rich, poor; You of all abilities; You from all nations and ethnic backgrounds; You of all sexual orientations, gender identities or gender expression.

We are committed to racial equity, economic equity, gender equity, sexual equity. We are committed to learn, celebrate, advocate and welcome everyone through a series of forums and educational opportunities. May we grow in acceptance and become a voice for inclusion, equity and justice.

No matter where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.