

Morning Worship

Bethesda Lutheran Church - 8:30 AM

Immanuel Lutheran Church - 11:00 AM

July 12, 2026

Seventh 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 #554 (red hymnal) "Lord, Your Hands Have Formed"

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

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

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

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. Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 55:10-13

God’s word to Israel’s exiles is as sure and effective as never-failing precipitation. Their return to the Holy Land in a new exodus is cheered on by singing mountains and by trees that clap their hands.

¹⁰ For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,

giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

¹² For you shall go out in joy
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

¹³ Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle,
and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 65: 9-13

Refrain: Your paths overflow with plenty. (Ps. 65:11)

⁹ You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; the river of God is | full of water.

You prepare the grain, for so you provide | for the earth.

¹⁰ **You drench the furrows and smooth | out the ridges;
with heavy rain you soften the ground and | bless its increase.**

¹¹ You crown the year | with your goodness,
and your paths over- | flow with plenty.

¹² **May the fields of the wilderness be | rich for grazing,
and the hills be | clothed with joy.**

¹³ May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak them- | selves with grain;

let them shout for | joy and sing. **R**

Second Reading: Romans 8:1-11

There is no condemnation for those who live in Christ. God sent Christ to accomplish what the law was unable to do: condemn sin and free us from its death-dealing ways. The Spirit now empowers proper actions and values in our lives and gives us the promise of resurrected life.

¹ Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³ For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶ To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For this reason the mind that is set

on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law—indeed, it cannot,⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel acclamation:



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

In Matthew’s gospel, both Jesus and his disciples “sow the seed” of God’s word by proclaiming the good news that “the kingdom of heaven is near.” Now, in a memorable parable, Jesus explains why this good news produces different results in those who hear.

¹ That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: “Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶ But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ If you have ears, hear!”

¹⁸ “Hear, then, the parable of the sower. ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³ But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

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

Sermon – Pastor Connie Monson

Hymn of the Day: ELW (red hymnal) #508 “As Rain from the Clouds”

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 gardener, you scatter grace like seed across the world. Continue to cultivate the garden of your church with your abundant Spirit. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God our joy, your bountiful creation reflects your commitment to life despite our actions disregarding its wonder. We look toward Isaiah's vision, when all creation rejoices, and the trees will clap for joy at your salvation. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God our life, you give us the same Spirit by which you raised Christ from the dead. Set our minds on that Spirit whenever fear or condemnation overwhelm throughout the world (*global concerns may be named*). God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God our host and table, we pray for children who hunger and rely on school meals, for all who toil under the hot sun without refreshment, for the chronically ill who have exhausted their resources, and for local concerns (*especially*). God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God our source, tend this assembly with your grace throughout this summer season. May those who travel for work or recreation do so safely, and may visitors find refreshment among us. 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, Dawn, 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.

We give you thanks that the roots of your goodness run deep throughout history. We remember those saints who have gone before us in faith (*especially Bishop Nathan Söderblom, whom the church commemorates today*). 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 ELW #512 (red hymnal) *“Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil”*

Announcements:

Sunday: AA, 7 pm, Immanuel

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

Tuesday: Brunch Bunch, 10 am, Bethesda; Liam LeBlanc’s birthday

Wednesday: South Shore Quilters, 9 am; Diane Fizell’s birthday; Pam Nylander’s birthday

Friday: ROMEO, 8 am, Coffee Shop; Knit Wits, 1 pm, Coffee Shop

Blessing

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,

✠ one God,

bles, heal, and hold you

today and always.

Amen.

Sending Hymn: ELW #547 (red hymnal) *“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”*

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.