



Bethany Lutheran Outlook

October 2025

Serving God, Community, and Individuals

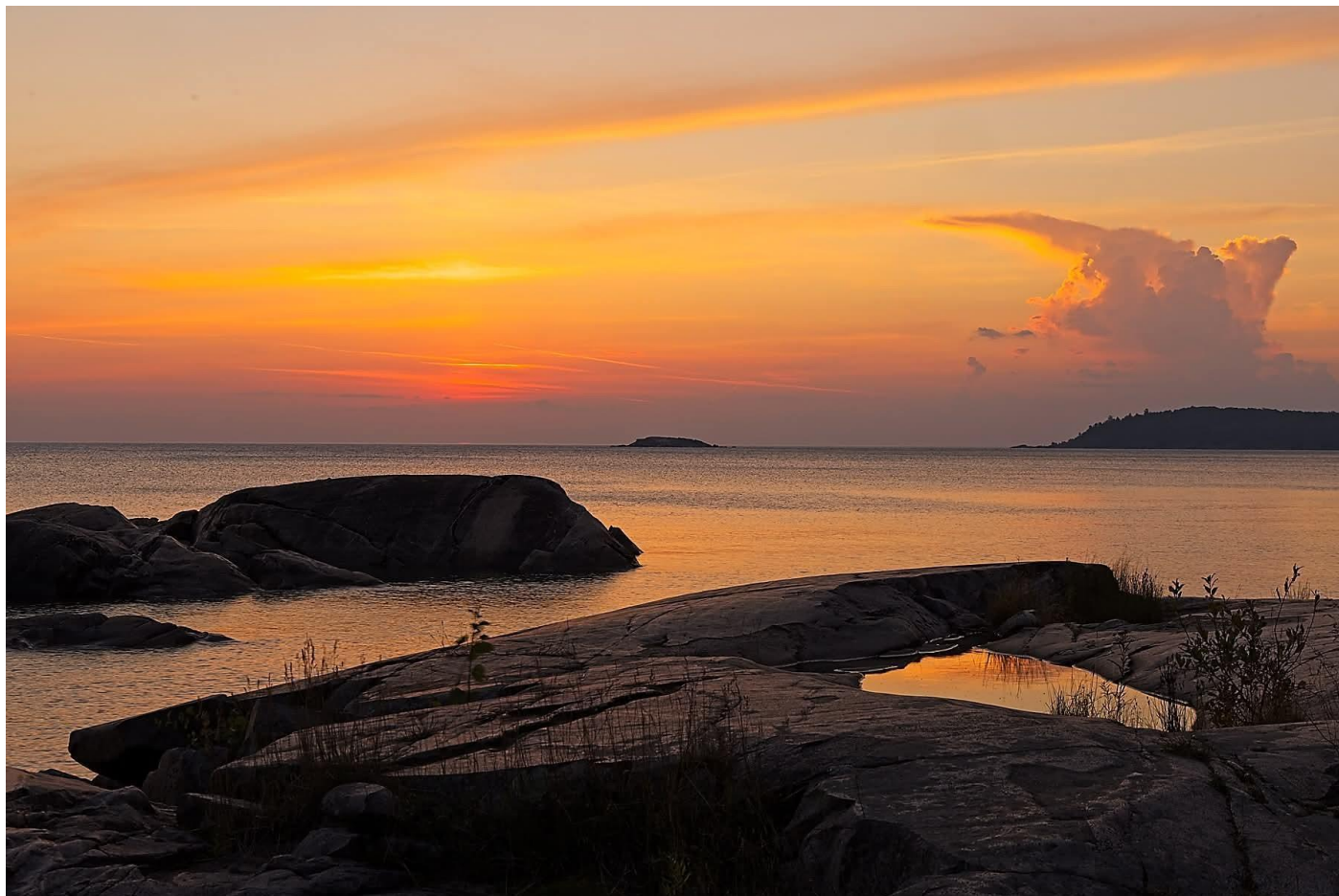


Photo courtesy of Doug Carter

²I call out to God Most High—
to God, who comes through for me.

³God sends orders from heaven and saves me,
rebukes the one who tramples me. *Selah*
God sends his loyal love and faithfulness.

⁴My life is in the middle of a pack of lions.
I lie down among those who devour humans.
Their teeth are spears and arrows;
their tongues are sharpened swords.

⁵Exalt yourself, God, higher than heaven!
Let your glory be over all the earth!

⁶They laid a net for my feet to bring me down;
they dug a pit for me,
but they fell into it instead! *Selah*

⁷My heart is unwavering, God—
my heart is unwavering.
I will sing and make music.

⁸Wake up, my glory!
Wake up, harp and lyre!
I will wake the dawn itself!

⁹I will give thanks to you,
my Lord,
among all the peoples;
I will make music to you among the nations

¹⁰because your faithful love
is as high as heaven;
your faithfulness reaches the clouds.

¹¹Exalt yourself, God, higher than heaven!
Let your glory be over all the earth!

Psalm 57: 2-11 (CEB)



Greetings, Siblings!

In preparation for the Council's discernment on renewing our partnership, I prepared and provided for them an analysis of our work, together, in the last year. I thought it might be a good time to reflect with you, too, as the Council has extended an opportunity for us to continue to grow together, and within Ishpeming, for another year as Bridge-Building partners. In short? My heart is full of gratitude. Our minutes, reports, and shared stories remind us that what we do is not simply administration or planning—it is ministry, carried out answering our Call from God. Through worship, service, learning, and fellowship, we have witnessed the Spirit moving among us in both familiar rhythms and surprising new ways.

Faithful Rhythms: **What Has Endured**

- **Worship at the Heart:** From Advent through Easter, from quiet midweek services to joyful combined gatherings with our 4-ISH partners, worship has remained the center of our life together. Music, choirs, bells, and liturgical creativity have given voice to our praise. Even in moments of lament, we have found God's presence faithful and sustaining.
- **Christian Education & Youth:** Parents' Night Out, Confirmation retreats, Vacation Bible School with Fortune Lake counselors, and book studies for adults have reminded us that formation is a lifelong journey. Our youth have learned about mental health and faith in transparent and supportive ways, while adults have deepened their discipleship through prayer and study.
- **Hospitality & Care:** We have continued to reach out to our homebound siblings, to welcome neighbors into our space, and to extend hospitality at funerals, festivals, and Sunday gatherings. Volunteers, even when few-in-number, have carried the weight of this ministry with remarkable grace.
- **Stewardship & Generosity:** Despite challenges, Bethany has remained generous. Roof and technology needs were met, debts retired, and designated funds used faithfully. A memorial gift of \$20,000 invites us to dream of how we might support mental health, healing, and wholeness in Christ's name.
- **Collaboration with 4-ISH:** Our partnership with our Lutheran siblings in Ishpeming continues to grow. Shared worship, retreats, and mission conversations remind us that we are part of something larger than ourselves, even as we wrestle with what faithful participation looks like.

New Ministries: **Signs of Bridges being Built**

This year has also brought **new growth**, signs of resurrection life among us:

- The **Formal & Professional Wear Closet** for youth and young adults, will offer clothing, alterations, and dignity for life's milestones.
- **Restorative Yoga and Singing Bowls**, creating safe space for healing and spiritual wellness.
- **Creative outreach**, from "Crime Syndicate" t-shirts supporting Lutheran Social Services to community events like film screenings and Strawberry Festivals.
- **Technology and Communication upgrades**, strengthening livestream worship and office systems to better connect us across generations and geographies.
- **Governance renewal**, as we move toward the ratification of our constitution and bylaws, shaping how we walk together into the future.

Challenges We Name **Honestly**

It is important that we speak with honesty as well as hope. Alongside joy, this year also brought seasons of conflict and strain. At times, decisions were made outside of our shared structures, leading to confusion, hurt, or mistrust. Some felt sidelined or pressured when traditions or communications moved forward without consultation. These moments have tested us.

Yet even in conflict, God has been at work, and our growth continues in learning. Our constitution and bylaws remind us of the shared responsibilities of pastor, council, and congregation. They provide a framework where leadership is mutual, accountability is clear, and trust can be rebuilt. Confidentiality in pastoral care is not secrecy, but faithfulness. Together, we are learning again how to move from confusion to clarity, from frustration to shared purpose, and from broken trust to reconciliation.

We give thanks for those who have served faithfully in areas of long responsibility, including technology ministry, and we celebrate new hands stepping forward. This is the work of the Spirit: passing the torch, welcoming new gifts, and finding healing where there was hurt.

Looking Forward in **Hope**

As we step into a new year, let us carry with us both gratitude and vision. We give thanks for:

- Worship that centers us in growing into a Body of Christ that manifests the broad invitation of “loving our neighbors” in our time.
- Partnerships that stretch our imagination.
- Ministries of care and creativity that bring life to our community.

We look forward to:

- A renewed constitution and strengthened leadership.
- Expanded ministries of hospitality, wellness, and justice.
- Opportunities to invite new voices and younger generations into the heart of our life, together.

The apostle Paul reminds us: “*The one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ*” (Philippians 1:6). We trust that God’s good work continues among us—through every council meeting, every act of service, every note of music, every loaf of bread, every welcome offered as we meet our neighbors where they are and share the love that God offers us through grace, without strings or our merit.

Beloved Siblings, thank you—for your prayers, your presence, your gifts, and your partnership in the gospel. May we continue to walk together as people of faith, hope, and love. And may the peace of Christ, which passes all understanding, strengthen our hearts and minds, inviting us to focus on creation and service with joy, through faith.

Peace+ be with you

Pastor J



Faith-community Celebrations

The leaders of the 4-ISH Councils will meet on October 11, 2025 for a Visioning Retreat, so please keep the leaders in your prayers. The Spirit is indeed working to bring our community together, and it is exciting to see and experience! Please join this faith community as we gather in worship, community events, and fellowship. The more we gather and get to know each other, the closer we grow together.

**The future
looks bright**



We are blessed to be partnering to create new opportunities within the community! The combined 4-ISH services and activities bless so many' the Parents' Night Out will touch many young lives with enriching creativity and love; the craft sale will support Pajama Palooze. The new Card Night provides another opportunity for fellowship. The Soul Shop partnership will support many siblings struggling in the community. Our hands and fee are doing God's Work!



Thank you for your help!

We were able to fill 95 **Lutheran World Relief School Kits**, so thank you for your generous support!

NOTICE OF SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

This is a notice of the Special Congregational Meeting for Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church to be held on Sunday, October 12, 2025 following the 10:30 AM worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to ratify the Constitution approved at the Special Congregational Meeting on September 22, 2024. There are no other agenda items.

There will be a fellowship dinner following the meeting. We hope you can join us!

Ministry and Partnership Opportunities



Singing Bowls

When? 1st and 3rd Thursday
7:00 – 9:00 PM

Where? Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church, 715 Mather Avenue, Ishpeming

Join us for an evening of meditation and relaxation with singing bowls and gongs.

A peace offering can be made, supporting this and other community invitations. For information, please contact Craig at 906-362-9934 or at ckitchenmqt@gmail.com



Who remembers our Anniversary Turkey Dinners?

To celebrate our faith and fellowship, we will share a turkey dinner after the Congregational Meeting on October 12.

Addy Lemire is looking for people to help by cooking the turkeys at home and bringing them in on Sunday morning, October 12th.

She will also need people to help prep and serve the food and to help clean up. You may also sign up to bring a dessert. If you would like to help, please look on the kiosk for the sign-up sheet.

Please contact Addy Lemire at (906) 250-4732 (call or text) if you have any questions. Please leave a message if I don't answer; I promise I will get back to you. Thank you! Addy Lemire

OCTOBER NOISY OFFERING



The Social Ministry team is asking us to help support the local community by bringing non-perishable food items to church on Sundays in October. The items will be placed near the altar during the Officing time! Let help take care of our neighbors!



Where: Bethany Lutheran Church
715 Mather Avenue, Ishpeming, MI 49849

When: Monday, October 6, 2025
3:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Blood is essential to providing lifesaving care for many patients—from a car accident victim to a cancer patient receiving treatment. The Upper Peninsula Regional Blood Center depends on community donations to supply all hospitals across the Upper Peninsula. Donating is quick, easy and safe—a single donation could save up to three lives.

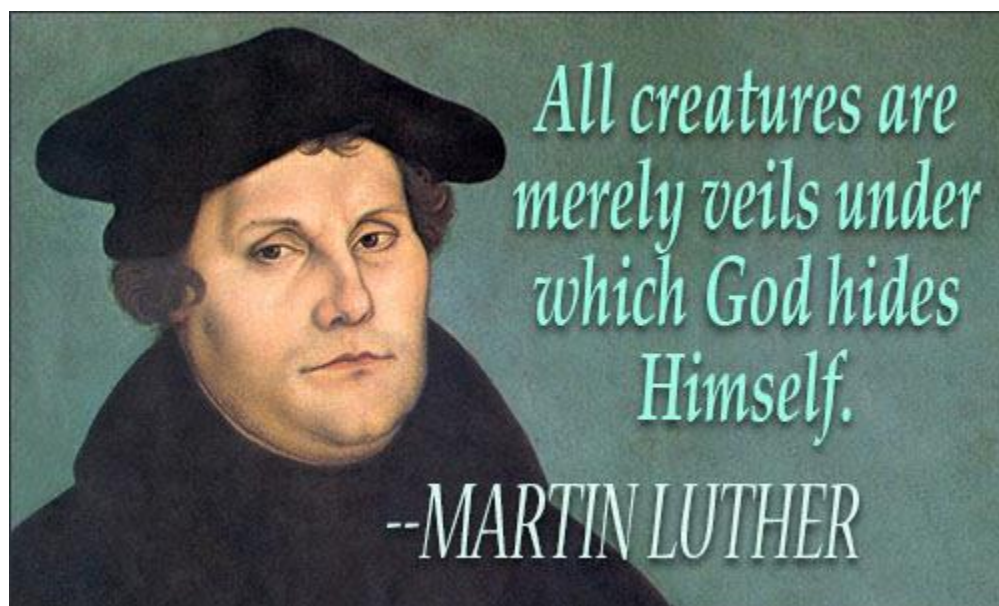
The **Marquette County Crop Walk** will be on Oct. 12th, 2024 with registration starting at 1:30 pm and the walk starting at 2:00 pm. Hosted by The Marquette Hope at the Connection Center Campus.



Join us in our quest to alleviate hunger in our local area!!!
John C. Hansen and Barbara Lucas will be walking, so let's support them with our donations!
(Please make checks payable to CWS/CROP Walk.)

Friday, October 17, 2025
5:00 – 8:00, ages 5 and up (any)
715 Mather Ave, Ishpeming

Come join the fun!



SIBLINGS OF THE 4-ISH AND OUR COMMUNITY, YOU ARE INVITED
TO

COMBINED WORSHIP

*Reformation
Sunday*

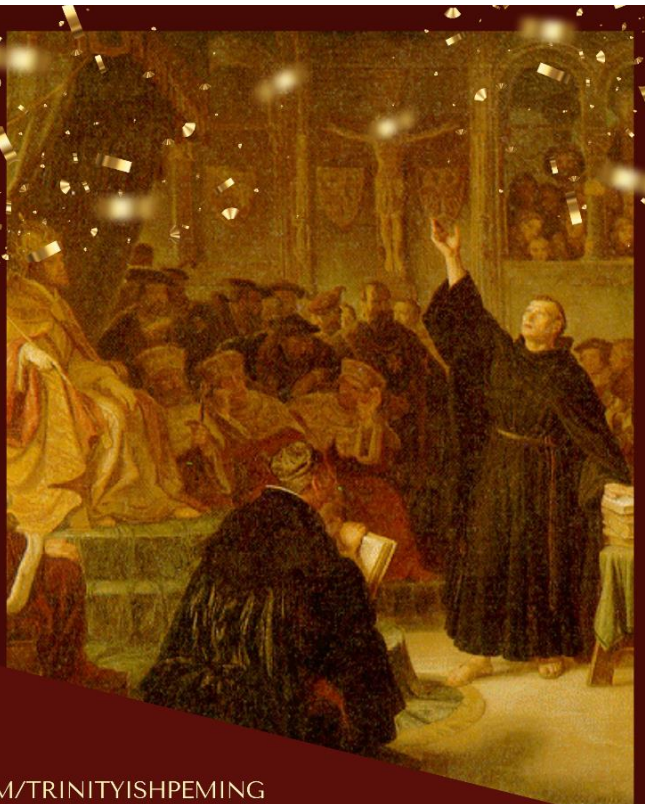
SUNDAY

26

OCTOBER



WORSHIP BEGINS AT 10AM
WORSHIP LEADER'S ORIENTATION AT 9AM
IN PERSON, AND ONLINE, AT
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
414 EAST RIDGE ST., ISHPERING, MI
LIVE STREAM: [HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/TRINITYISHPERING](https://www.facebook.com/trinityishpeming)





Create your Northern Lights Canvas Painting

- Sunday • October 26 •
1:30 pm
- Trinity Lutheran Church •
414 E. Ridge St. Ishpeming

Paint supplies will be offered to those who sign up, so please sign up on the kiosk (in the narthex) if you are interested.



UP Home Health and Hospice is having a volunteer orientation for all interested in spending some time with our hospice patients. Training will take place on

Saturday, November 8 from 9:00A-2:00P at our Marquette location (1125 W. Ridge Street, behind L & M Fleet Supply). Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

This is a wonderful opportunity to give back to the community. Any questions can be directed to Leslie at 906-485-4545 or lesliep@uphomehealth.org. Thank you so much for your time.





Hey Crafters! We are looking for you!

Do you knit, quilt, cross-stich, bake, do
something crafty?



Would you like to join us for a Craft Sale on **Saturday November 15th from 9am-3pm?**

I am hoping to bring together some of the talented members of our church!

Each table will cost \$10 to sell your items, and all proceeds will be going to Pajama
Palooza!

Set up will be Friday November 14th from 6-9 pm

Contact Addy Lemire 906-250-4732 or email ad7el7c7@gmail.com



“Peace be with You!”



Letter to the Congregation

I wanted to check in with you and share where I see things currently at Bethany.

I'm not speaking for anyone but myself, but I hope you will find my comments useful in your own deliberations.

In the time I've been involved with church administration, a lot has changed. We've come through an uncertain time, largely, I believe, unscathed. We are still standing. Our energy and vitality are increasing. We have added to our ministries.

But we face the same challenges churches everywhere face ... declining membership and giving, increasing expenses, shortage of safety for available clergy (there are unemployed ELCA clergy, members of the LGBTQIA+ community, women and people of color), and as a result, we face the question of our continued existence as a church family, in this building.

We have, I believe, been good stewards of the gifts given us, at least so far. Soon we must make choices, and in doing so, must rely on our spiritual gifts of wisdom, experience, and discernment.

I am asking, sincerely and humbly, that we keep our eyes on the prize: a healthy ELCA family, doing God's work in our community, as much as we can, for as long as we can answer God's Call to do so.

I'm also asking that we not allow ourselves to be distracted from this work by fears that, in the longer run, will not matter.

We have seen a number of conflicts throughout the change that we are working toward: from personnel management to partnership around our building usage and presentation, to lights, Communion, the Creeds, how we discern and engage ministry, and our presence with our 4-ISH family. We look for decisions, then complain about them to our allies instead of talking to the person who's caused our discomfort and being open to learning from that discussion.

We do have things to worry about. Worthy things. The welfare of our neighbors and their children and striving to build unity around that work as Christ calls us to recognize the widow, the poor, the unhoused, the hungry and unclothed. Paul

and Peter invite us to recognize that each human, regardless of religion, skin color, or creed, is worthy of our love and care, as they are a beloved child of God. The immigrant *is* our neighbor. These are the worries from scripture, this is the work we can do, but we can lose sight of it when we use our energy in growing anxiety about worship, or those things we used to do, or those things we have never done.

A year ago, we invited Pastor J to be our spiritual leader and to be a bridge to the three other ELCA congregations in Ishpeming, and to the larger community of believers and God's helpers. We expected change. We asked for change. We knew we needed change. Pastor J is an agent of change. The council has determined to renew his contract for a second year, as a synod-called clergy.

At our most recent council meeting we unanimously agreed that Pastor J has been a force for good as well as change. I am, as I hope we all are, profoundly grateful for his presence and his work here. No Bethany pastor has had as large a task as has he.

I am always eager to discuss anything Bethany-related, though I am perplexed at the views some of us have taken and the comments I've received. If your council and the 4lsh committee have not been clear that this is a watershed moment in the story of our four church families, then we've fallen short of our intentions.

I ask, once again, that we put aside any concern less than the survival of ELCA Lutheranism in our community and that we consider seriously what would be required of us if we were to join hands with one or more of the 4lsh family. We can do little alone and so much more together, but that would require a clear view of our combined mission and a pocketing of personal preferences. If we are serious about continuing the work, in concert with our neighbors and ELCA Siblings, and anyone seeking to "love one another, as I have loved you," for as long as we are called, we must, I believe, keep focused on what we can do together. Nothing else will last. Nothing else matters.

In Christ, Dave Leverton

Social Ministry Food Collection

Please consider donating non-perishable food items to help the local bank:



- Canned meats: Canned beef, ham, chicken, salmon, etc. Or ready to go meals like stews and chili
- Canned vegetables: potatoes, carrots, spinach, peas, etc. Low sodium preferred
- Canned fruit: unsweetened or in fruit juice without sugar added. Dried fruit is good too
- Boxes of rice (bags tear) Low sugar cereal as plain Cheerios or Raisin Bran
- Mac and Cheese cups. (regular boxes require milk and butter but the cups do not)
- Peanut butter, canned beans, pasta (consider gluten free, too) pasta sauce
- Biscuit mix, or any mix adding water
- Cans, cartons, or boxes of powdered or evaporated milk
- Snack items for kids to take to school: juice boxes, applesauce containers, granola bars, fruit snacks, etc.
- Spices like cinnamon, oregano, basil, salt, pepper

Non-food items:

- Paper products such as toilet paper, paper plates, and paper towels are also helpful
- Diapers in sizes above newborn, plus wipes
- Toiletries: toothbrushes, soap, toothpaste, lotion, shampoo & conditioner, Chapstick (consider someone living outside this time of year)
- Feminine hygiene products: unscented pads will be most universally used, not tampons

Consider donating reusable shopping bags. It takes a lot of humility for people to come to a food bank and since they'll likely be walking home or taking public transportation, it's nice to at least blend in.

WHAT I DIDN'T REALIZE ABOUT FOOD BANKS

A lot of people have diabetes in this group. Consider low-sugar dietary restrictions.

Cans and boxes are sturdier than bags. By the time families are receiving the food, it's been handled A LOT and packaging needs to be strong enough to hold up. One food bank said never bring anything in glass.

Pop-top cans are ideal; particularly for those living on the street

Kids who qualify for free lunches typically receive breakfast at school too and when schools are out for holidays or summer, these families need more support.

Thank you for your generosity!



2210 US Hwy 41 S, Ste. A, Marquette

*Located between Wolverine Door Service and
Michigan Made*

*We provide clothing, bedding, hygiene,
and cleaning supplies at no cost to
people experiencing a financial
burden.*

*The Free Store welcomes anyone in need, regardless of
income, to shop for free in our store.*

Hours of Operation

Drop off donations on **Tuesdays from 11-3**

**Shop with us the first 3 Wednesdays of each month from 12-4 pm,
and the fourth Monday of each month from 5-7 pm.**

Donations Requested

We are now accepting donations:

- Gently used “in season” adult and children’s clothing and footwear
- Gently used sheets, blankets, comforters, pillows, and towels
- Children’s toys (not too large)
- Housewares (not larger than a coffee maker please)
- Menstrual pads (maxi and thin)
- Diapers (sizes 4, 5, 6)
- Baby wipes
- Shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and deodorant
- Laundry detergent, dish soap, bars of soap and hand soap
- Toilet paper

IN GOD'S ECONOMY
There is Always Enough



October 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9:30A Weight Watcher Support Group 5:15P Bell Choir practice 6:00 4-ISH ELCA meeting-Bethel 6:30P Choir practice	2 7:00P Singing Bowls	3 6:00P Card Night	4
5 9:30A Choir 10:30A Worship	6 3:00- 6:00P Blood Drive- Bethany	7 9:00A Quilters 2:00 Teal Lake Senior Center Worship- Pastor J	8 9:30A Weight Watcher Support Group 5:15P Bell Choir practice 6:30P Choir practice	9	10	11 10:00A 4-ISH Visioning Retreat
12 9:30A Choir 10:30A Worship 11:30A Special Congregational meeting Turkey Dinner 1:30P CROP Walk 1:30P Youth Grand Get- together	13	14 9:00A Quilters 10:30A Social Ministry	15 9:30A Weight Watcher Support Group 5:15P Bell Choir practice 6:30P Choir practice	16 7:00P Singing Bowls	17 5:00P Parents' Night Out	18
19 9:30A Choir 10:30A Worship 11:30A Card Sale	20	21 9:00A Quilters 5:30P Council meeting	22 9:30A Weight Watcher Support Group 5:15P Bell Choir practice 6:30P Choir practice	23 1:30P Martha Joy Circle	24	25
Reformation 26 Sunday 9:00A Worship Leader Orientation 10:00A Combined - Worship at Trinity	27	28 9:00A Quilters 2:00P Teal Lake Senior Center Worship- Pastor J	29 9:30A Weight Watcher Support Group 5:15P Bell Choir practice 6:30P Choir practice	30	Halloween 31	

Happy October Birthday!

2 Jase Hensen
2 Zach Chartré
6 Kay Frederickson
6 Tori Nault
9 Corrine Bordeaux
10 Bruce Bussone
12 Donald Meyer
14 LaVerne Koski
15 Jim Kinnunen
16 Jennifer Johnson
18 Greg Meyer
18 Matthew Waters
19 Ryan Anderson
22 Kris Rasmussen
23 Courtney Allen
26 Robert Bucan
27 Mark Slown
30 Sarah Vekaria



Happy Anniversary!

Ken & Carol Carlson
10/8/1971 54 years

Bob & Cindy Warner
10/13/1984 41 years

James & Wendy Penhale
10/15/1994 31 years

Michael & Donna DuBord
10/24/1981 44 years



**For the October “Noisy” Offering, we ask that you bring non-perishable food items to support the local community. We will place them on the altar during the Offering.
Your generosity is appreciated!**

October Coffee Hosts

10-5	Heather Swanson & Sarah Maki
10-12	Turkey Dinner
10-19	Social Ministry Team
10-26	Reformation Sunday, at Trinity Lutheran



Congregational Council Meeting Highlights

September 16, 2025

- The Council selected October 12, 2025 as the date for the Special Congregational meeting to vote to ratify the Constitution, which will be the only item of business. A turkey dinner will follow the event. Meeting notices will be distributed in a variety of methods (mail, Facebook, notice in bulletin).
- The Council received an update on the work of the 4ISH ELCA Consortium. The 4-ISH Update is in a separate article.
- The Council reviewed the details of the Bridge Pastor Contract renewal. Some minor changes were suggested and later approved by an email vote, after a meeting with Pastor J. His contract has been renewed for another year.
- They approved using \$6,000 of the Hager Bequest to sponsor a join missional effort in partnership with the Episcopal Diocese of the UP. This partnership will help “equip the faith community leaders and congregations with the tools and knowledge to effectively minister to individuals and families impacted by suicide, offering compassionate support, guidance, and hope” through a Soul Shop certificate and training event. The funds will help provide scholarships for the attendees and help cover the speaker’s honorarium and other expenses for the event.
- The Council received an update on the plans for the Sunday school curriculum for the coming year.
- The Council discussed the budget process for 2026 and the stewardship campaign. The letters and pledge cards should be mailed before the end of September.
- The Council decided not to pursue a proposal to redesign the Sanctuary wall. It has asked the Worship and Music team for their input on options.
- The Council received updates from Social Ministry that they donated \$400 to the CROP Walk and \$200 to the Lutheran Disaster Relief Fund. They will collect food for the local community instead of a Noisy Offering in October. There will be a blood drive on October 6 from 3:00 – 6:00P.
- The Council approved funds to support the Turkey Dinner on October 12 and having a craft sale on November 15 to support Pajama Palooza.
- The next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 21, 2025 at 5:30 PM.

Note: The Stewardship letters for 2026 pledges have been mailed. Please let the office know if you didn’t receive one.

Is your Pledge Up to Date?



YTD Income: \$98,621.03

YTD Expenses: 120,833.96

Total: -\$22,212.93



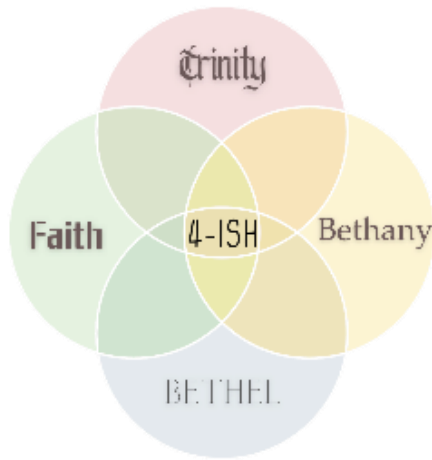
*Worship
with us
from*
HOME

Worship Options

In person worship at Bethany begins at 10:30 AM each Sunday. The worship service is live streamed each Sunday and will be available on Facebook: www.facebook.com/715mather



4-ISH ELCA Consortium Update



- The 4-ISH ELCA churches gathered for a combined service at Faith Lutheran on August 31, with about 120 people attending. The new Worship and Music team was installed, and a fellowship meal was shared. All enjoyed a relaxed atmosphere and warm feeling of community.

- The 4-ISH ELCA churches volunteered to pass out water at the Marji Gesick Race on September 20. Thanks to those who participated!

- The new Community Activities team will host its first event on October 26, which is Reformation Sunday, following the service at Trinity Lutheran. You can read information about the "Create your Northern Lights Canvas" in the "Ministry and Partnership" section found earlier in this newsletter.

- A Visioning Retreat will be held on October 11 at the Ski Hall of Fame for the leadership of the 4-ISH ELCA churches.

- The group has formulated plans for Advent and is looking forward to Lent next year.

- The group discussed broadening the reach of Bethel's Monday Night, 6pm, worship service to all the 4-ISH churches. If this is a good time to worship for your family rhythm, please partake of this opportunity.

Remember, the group's meetings are open, so feel free to come and listen to the conversations!
The next meeting will be on November 5, 2025 at 6:00 PM at Faith, in the fellowship hall.



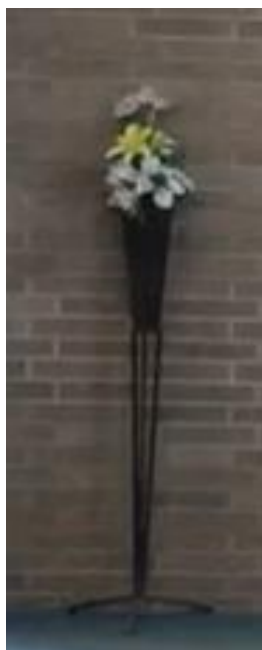
Did you know that we (the church) have a subscription to Zoom? Did you know that we can schedule meetings for you to engage ministry beyond our walls? Or attend events, training, or education opportunities from right here, or at home? The Congregational Council would like to make this resource available to the whole community, as you each have need. Simply coordinate with the Office about the availability of the account for your use and let us know what kind of meeting you'd like to build, and we'll help you out! Reach out to the Office, by email or phone, and we'll help you out. Never let your geography limit your opportunity to partner in the expression of ministry, and of us.

FLOWER DEDICATIONS

We invite you to sign up for flowers in honor or memory of a loved one, special date, or other reason. You may sign up on the Flower Chart outside the office or contact the office. (Printed, not cursive, information is appreciated on the chart.)

Two vases of flowers will be purchased for \$52. We will include your dedication in the bulletin for the sponsored day.

Thank you for your participation and offering a bit of creation-presence in our worship space!



October Flower Dedications

10-5 In memory of Marjorie and Arnold Rosten by Terra Frustaglio

10-12 In honor of Alice and Allan Bjork, by Vickie Skewis

10-19 *available*

10-26 Reformation Sunday at Trinity

Beginning in January 2026, we will no longer use flowers in the sanctuary, switching instead to plants. If you would like to purchase a plant to grace our altar space, please see Pastor J or a member of the Worship and Music Team (Denise K-M., Ruby K., Sue H., Kay C., Tonya P., or Linda H.). We look forward to honoring our creation story with God in a new way, and delight in the opportunity to partner with you!

Prayer Chain Update: Bethany established an active prayer chain in 2013. A prayer chain is a way for people to gain assistance through the power of prayer. It is also a way for any person to act on God's commandment to love one another (John 13:34-35). Prayers have been offered for family, friends, non-church people; we pray for ALL. Please contact Pastor J. Mills (906) 486-4351 or pastor@jmichaelsmills.org or Rae Elliot (906) 362-1908 if you would like to become a part of this ministry.

The prayer chain is activated when Pastor J. or Rae Elliot receives a request for prayers and contacts the first person on the prayer chain list and that person calls the next person. If no one answers, the caller continues until a person is reached. This keeps the process moving forward.

You may join the prayer chain at any time and since we are refreshing our ministry's membership list, we thought we'd let the congregation know.



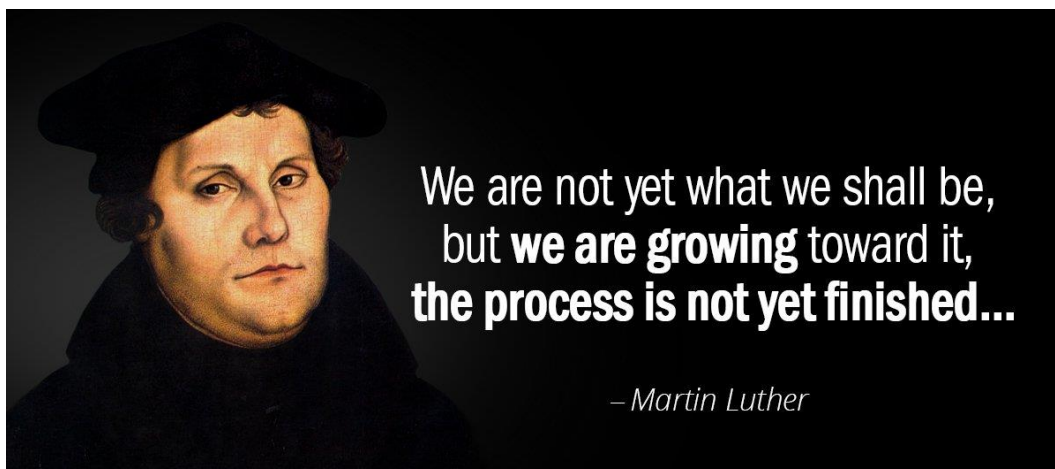
Deep cleaning - 8-29-2025

There is something incredibly satisfying about taking what is dirty through the harsh process of restoration, making it useful again. This skillet will be cooked in again. These sheets will become bandages, quilts and more. All these items that would take up space in a landfill are now made beautiful and called into service for the world's good.

It doesn't take a theological rocket scientist to see why a pastor like me would enjoy deep cleaning. This is what the sacrament of baptism is about: God drowning us to sin, raising us to new life, calling us to serve for the sake of the world. God takes our flaws – those same imperfections that keep us from being what we were initially intended to be – and repurposes them so that we can be the hands, feet, heart and voice of Christ. A deep cleaning of who we are, baptism restores our relationship with God for the sake of the holy, beloved world.

This message is excerpted from "God's deep cleaning" by Kara Shaw in the July/August 2023 [Gather](#) magazine.

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Pray Unceasingly, with and for:

Remember our home-bound and nursing home residents:

Valente: Pat Liivoja

Teal Lake Senior Living Community: Colleen Sundblad,
Marilyn Ponti

Eastwood: Loreth Johnson, Louise Spickerman

Brookridge Heights: Carol Holmgren



Remember Our Homebound Members

- Bob Maki
- Jerry Plaisier
- Those who have contracted COVID-19
- Those who are on the front lines caring for the sick
- Marilyn Pontti
- Sandee Sundquist
- Cindy Warner
- The Slown Family
- Judy Hogan
- Mark
- Zander Atkins
- Jim Bjorne
- Angie Kempainen
- Those in the military, that they may remain safe
- Amanda and her family
- Karen Mattson
- Carol Holmgren
- Cooper Bjorn
- Betty Swift
- Victims of gun violence
- Kaye Frederickson

If you would like to make a submission to the Outlook Newsletter, contact our Office Administrator, **Jan Shaffer:** 906-486-4351, secretary@bethanyishpeming.org, or by dropping a note in the newsletter mailbox at church.

If you would like to receive the Outlook by email, instead of by postal service, please give Jan your email address. **Snowbirds:** Get the Outlook in your email or give your winter address to the office to receive the Outlook there.

Bethany Lutheran
Church, Ishpeming



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THE OUTLOOK.

We are approaching the time of year when activities pick up, and information is a struggle to share. We endeavor to grow through our communication and calendaring lessons of the past year.

For the Outlook Newsletter, and in support of our valued ministry support staff, if you wish to submit an article for the Outlook, please note the following:

- Prepare the article/ announcement/ invitation as you would like to see it in the Outlook.
 - **If you need help, that's totally fine; reach out and schedule a time to partner with one another, or our Administrator, or Pastor**
 - The Office has access to Adobe, Canva, Word, PowerPoint and can partner to build anything; let's dream a dream together and build your vision of invitation.
 - The Office cannot build every invitation for you, without you.
- Gather graphics, photos, or fonts to accompany their submission and include all supporting information in the submission (pictures help)
- Any submission received after the posted deadline, (grace is available, within reason) without accompanying cookies, cupcakes, or beverages for the Editor in Chief will be posted in the following month's Outlook

November issue deadline: Tuesday, October 21st, noon

December issue deadline: Tuesday, November 18^{ht}, noon

Helpful tips and notes:

- Fonts in the body of the article/announcement/invitation should be Aptos, 14 pitch
- Pictures, graphics, should at a minimum be 1280×720 pixels (smaller than that reduces the print quality to the point of being unable to read by struggling eyes)
- We might start looking ahead, at least 2 months (ideally 3), and coordinating our activities across the teams here, *and* within the ELCA community here in Ishpeming
 - The general open-invitation structure is 11 times, in at least 3 modalities (verbal, non-verbal, listening, etc.)
 - This structure helps our siblings see it *and* remember it *and* discern their ability to engage the invitation.
- Information without BLC contacts, leadership, or partnership, through team support or community bridges, will be questioned, lovingly 
 - Recycling someone else's information to fill pages isn't what we're looking for in the Outlook

We're inviting people to ministry, engaging BLC's neighbors and the outreach that answers the needs of those neighbors and siblings.

October 2025

Year C 2024/2025

Year C focuses on the Gospel of Luke. The semi-continuous first testament readings are of prophetic proclamation chosen in chronological order and highlighting Jeremiah. The second testament, readings are chosen mainly from Galatians, Colossians, 1 and 2 Timothy and 2 Thessalonians.

Advent Dec. 1, 2024 through Dec. 23, 2024		Christmas Dec. 24, 2024 through Jan. 6, 2025	
Time after Epiphany Jan. 7 through Mar. 4, 2025		Lent Mar. 5 through Apr. 16, 2025	
The Three Days Apr. 17 through Apr. 19, 2025		Easter Apr. 20 through June 11, 2025	
Time after Pentecost June 12 through Nov. 8, 2025			
Wed – Oct 1	Hosea 12:2-14	Matthew 19:16-22	Psalms 62
Thu – Oct 2	2 Kings 18:1-8, 28-36	Revelation 2:8-11	Psalms 37:1-9
Fri – Oct 3	2 Kings 19:8-20, 35-37	Revelation 2:12-29	Psalms 37:1-9
Sat – Oct 4	Isaiah 7:1-9	Matthew 20:29-34	Psalms 37:1-9
Sun. Oct. 5 — Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost - Lectionary 27 Readings: Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4; Psalm 37:1-9 (5); 2 Timothy 1:1-14; Luke 17:5-10 Prayer of the Day: Benevolent, merciful God: When we are empty, fill us. When we are weak in faith, strengthen us. When we are cold in love, warm us, that with fervor we may love our neighbors and serve them for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia. The word of the Lord en- ^l dures forever. That word is the good news that was an- ^l nounced to you. Alleluia. (1 Pet. 1:25) Color: Green			
Mon – Oct 6	Habakkuk 1:5-17	James 1:2-11	Psalms 3
Tue – Oct 7	Habakkuk 2:5-11	1 John 5:1-5, 13-21	Psalms 3
Wed – Oct 8	Habakkuk 2:12-20	Mark 11:12-14, 20-24	Psalms 3
Thu – Oct 9	Leviticus 14:33-53	2 Timothy 1:13-18	Psalms 111
Fri – Oct 10	Numbers 4:34 —5:4	2 Timothy 2:1-7	Psalms 111
Sat – Oct 11	Numbers 12:1-15	Luke 5:12-16	Psalms 111
Sun. Oct. 12 — Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost - Lectionary 28 Readings: 2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c; Psalm 111 (1); 2 Timothy 2:8-15; Luke 17:11-19 Prayer of the Day: Almighty and most merciful God, your bountiful goodness fills all creation. Keep us safe from all that may hurt us, that, whole and well in body and spirit, we may with grateful hearts accomplish all that you would have us do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia. Give thanks in all ^l circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Je- ^l sus for you. Alleluia. (1 Thess. 5:18) Color: Green			
Mon – Oct 13	2 Kings 5:15-19a	Acts 26:24-29	Psalms 61
Or Mon. Oct. 13 — Day of Thanksgiving (Canada) Readings: Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 100 (4); Philippians 4:4-9; John 6:25-35			
	2 Kings 5:19b-27	Ephesians 6:10-20	Psalms 61
Wed – Oct 15	2 Kings 15:1-7	Matthew 10:5-15	Psalms 61

Thu – Oct 16	Isaiah 54:11-17	Acts 17:22-34	Psalms 121
Fri – Oct 17	Genesis 31:43—32:2	2 Timothy 2:14-26	Psalms 121
Sat – Oct 18	Genesis 32:3-21	Mark 10:46-52	Psalms 121

Or

Sat. Oct. 18 — Luke, Evangelist

Readings: Isaiah 43:8-13; Isaiah 35:5-8 {alternate}; Psalm 124 (8); 2 Timothy 4:5-11; Luke 1:1-4; 24:44-53

Prayer of the Day: Almighty God, you inspired your servant Luke to reveal in his gospel the love and healing power of your Son. Give your church the same love and power to heal, and to proclaim your salvation among the nations to the glory of your name, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our healer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia. How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation. Alleluia. (Isa. 52:7)

Color: Scarlet/Red

Sun. Oct. 19 — Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost - Lectionary 29

Readings: Genesis 32:22-31; Psalm 121 (2); 2 Timothy 3:14—4:5; Luke 18:1-8

Prayer of the Day: O Lord God, tireless guardian of your people, you are always ready to hear our cries. Teach us to rely day and night on your care. Inspire us to seek your enduring justice for all this suffering world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia. The word of God is living and active, able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. Alleluia. (Heb. 4:12)

Color: Green

Mon – Oct 20	1 Samuel 25:2-22	1 Corinthians 6:1-11	Psalms 57
Tue – Oct 21	1 Samuel 25:23-35	James 5:7-12	Psalms 57
Wed – Oct 22	1 Samuel 25:36-42	Luke 22:39-46	Psalms 57
Thu – Oct 23	Jeremiah 9:1-16	2 Timothy 3:1-9	Psalms 84:1-7
Fri – Oct 24	Jeremiah 9:17-26	2 Timothy 3:10-15	Psalms 84:1-7
Sat – Oct 25	Jeremiah 14:1-6	Luke 1:46-55	Psalms 84:1-7

Sun. Oct. 26 — Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost - Lectionary 30 *Reformation Sunday may be observed (see Oct. 31).* Readings: Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22; Sirach 35:12-17 {alternate}; Psalm 84:1-7 (5); 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18; Luke 18:9-14 Prayer of the Day: Holy God, our righteous judge, daily your mercy surprises us with everlasting forgiveness. Strengthen our hope in you, and grant that all the peoples of the earth may find their glory in you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia. All who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted. Alleluia. (Luke 18:14) Color: Green

Mon – Oct 27	1 Samuel 2:1-10	1 Peter 4:12-19	Psalms 84:8-12
Tue – Oct 28	Daniel 5:1-12	1 Peter 5:1-11	Psalms 84:8-12

Or

Tue. Oct. 28 — Simon and Jude, Apostles

Readings: Jeremiah 26:[1-6] 7-16; Psalm 11 (1); 1 John 4:1-6; John 14:21-27

Prayer of the Day: O God, we thank you for the glorious company of the apostles, and especially on this day for Simon and Jude. We pray that, as they were faithful and zealous in your mission, so we may with ardent devotion make known the love and mercy of our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia. You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Alleluia. (Acts 1:8)

Color: Scarlet/Red

Wed – Oct 29	Daniel 5:13-31	Matthew 21:28-32	Psalms 84:8-12
Thu – Oct 30	Proverbs 15:8-11, 24-33	2 Corinthians 1:1-11	Psalms 32:1-7
Fri – Oct 31	Job 22:21—23:17	2 Peter 1:1-11	Psalms 32:1-7

Or

Fri. Oct. 31 — Reformation Day

May be transferred to Sun. Oct. 26.

Readings: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 46 (7); Romans 3:19-28; John 8:31-36

Prayer of the Day: Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Or

Gracious Father, we pray for your holy catholic church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia. If you continue in my word, you are truly¹ my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will¹ make you free. Alleluia. (John 8:31-32)

Color: Red



God isn't put off by our weaknesses – 9-26—25

The question is not whether or not we fail, but how do we recover? Are we able to harbor the losses and grow stronger because of them, or do we break under the weight of defeat? Can we learn from our mistakes and renew our efforts to succeed?

St. Paul is famous for struggling with some sort of flaw that he called a “thorn in his flesh.” Whatever it was, Paul felt that the “thorn” made him appear foolish in public and hampered his ability to do God’s work effectively. He took his concerns to God, begging at least three times that his painful situation be remedied. He records God making this response: “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” (2 Cor. 12:9a).

We may wish that the pain of failure, humiliation, and rejection would go away, but we need to know that it may not. This is not because God does not care or does not hear us when we plead for mercy. It means, simply, that God is not dissuaded from partnering with us, no matter how inadequate or overwhelmed we may feel.

This message is excerpted from “Tears, thorns and the power of failure” by Susan Schneider in the September 2022 [Café](#) online magazine. Copyright © 2025 Women of the ELCA. Inquiries Used with permission. Learn more about Daily Grace at welca.org/dailygrace.

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