



Bethany Lutheran Outlook

September 2025

Serving God, Community, and Individuals



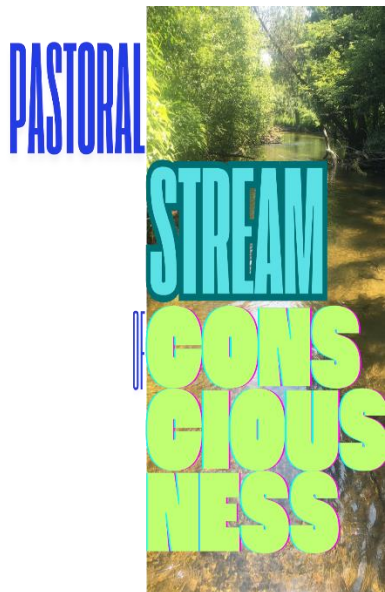
Photo courtesy of Doug Carter
Eagle Harbor, MI, 2025

³⁰”Youths will become tired and weary,
young men will certainly stumble;
³¹ but those who hope in the Lord

will renew their strength;
they will fly up on wings like eagles;
they will run and not be tired;
they will walk and not be weary.”

Isaiah 40:30-31 (CEB)





Greetings, Siblings!

I was not intending to address the Assembly this month. Instead, I had intended to give space to voices outside of our community, lifting up opportunities to vision and dream with our newly elected ELCA leadership, and the space-making our Synod partners are opening for contemplation and discernment around the Residential Boarding Schools that plague the history and present of our Indigenous neighbors. I learned something at our most recent council meeting that has rocked the foundation of my faith, leading me to wonder when we, as a community, as a church, will finally know all the harm our forebears have caused so that we can truly live into the gift of grace God offers, and faithfully invite others to see, hear, and recognize that gift of freedom for themselves. So, breaking my own intention, and with the permission of the council member, I share with you my learning, my horror, and my hope that we can embrace grace not just for our history toward healing, and also? For our future together.

In our recent lived history, I learned that it was a practice of Catechism (Confirmation) to instill within the youth participating in that time-honored practice of education and faith affirmation that, for at least one generation of our Siblings, that the Creed (Apostle's or Nicene) must be spoken in community before we could participate in Communion. If we did not recite the Creed together, we were not able to celebrate Christ's command to enjoy the gift of grace manifested through this meal that forgives sin and frees us to do Christ's work in our time and place. For those involved in our youth education program, this has been a long-held barrier to celebrating Communion together, as those children and adults were not with us when we were reciting the Creeds regularly. While that teaching is no longer shared with any generation, the echoes of that teaching inform how we live, still.

This understanding of the Creeds tied to Communion has offered a long-experienced expression of shame and hurt for those as they timidly and hesitantly approached the Table, having not followed the "rules" preceding their approaching the Table, Christ, forgiveness, and celebration. I am horrified that this learning and connection took place. I am compassionately appreciative to the person who expressed this bravery in naming their struggle, and offering a new facet to the struggle many of us have had with the Creeds not being recited every Sunday.

If your struggle was at all tied to this understanding that your celebration of Communion was somehow invalid because the Creed was not spoken, I am so deeply sorry that you were invited to bear this horrific rule that is simply untrue. It's made up; not historical, not biblical, not of God, and certainly not a companion to the open invitation that the words of our Great Thanksgiving liturgy offer in preparation for Communion. The Creed, when used, is not even a part of our worship that prepares us for the meal. It is part of our Service of the Word. Additionally, the Creed isn't required as a worship rule. It *may* be used, and is not required: at

all, ever. We have been experiencing the “may” of that worship rule for this season after Pentecost, only reciting the Creed on the first Sunday of any given month.

The Creeds do not validate worship, or your expression of our Sacraments. In this new context, I fully recognize the spiritual struggle imposed on anyone who was taught that you must recite the Creed in order to do anything, or to validate your worship experience. I humbly apologize for unwittingly offering a barrier to you in removing those words we were taught were required, and I strongly condemn the voices of our past for creating that barrier in the first place. If this revelation resonates with you, I would gladly hear your story and offer consolation for this struggle in the hope that we can heal into the freedom of God’s love expressed at the Table, without barrier or human intervention. God’s grace is unearnable, and freely offered to all, regardless of how you worship or the words we say together. There is nothing we can do to disrupt that flow of grace from God, and there is plenty we can do to remove that free flowing gift from the recognition of ourselves and our neighbors. I hope this sharing offers you space to grow into celebration and recognition of that grace without rules, and opens for you opportunities to remove barriers from the consciousness of our Siblings and neighbors to experience that grace more fully. It’s there, for everyone, no matter what we say or how we choose to worship. The only rule is to share it, and point to it, and the freedom to remove those barriers imposed by our pasts.

Peace+ be with you. Pr. J

Faith-community Celebrations

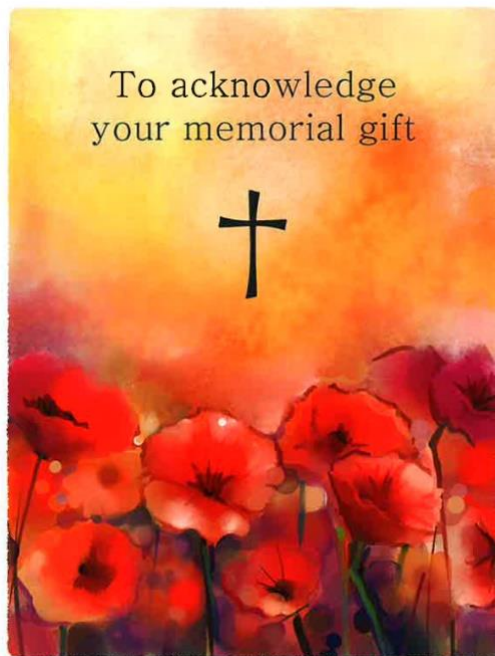
The leaders of the 4-ISH Councils will meet on October 11, 2025 for a Visioning Retreat. The Spirit is moving us forward in community, and it is exciting to see and experience! Join us as we gather in worship, community events, and fellowship. The mother we gather and get to know each other, the closer we grow together.

**The future
looks bright**



²⁸” No, not at all, but through the law of faith. We consider that a person is treated as righteous by faith, apart from what is accomplished under the Law.” Romans 3:28 (CEB)

How wonderful to know that God’s grace is a gift, given freely to all of us!



The Memorial Committee of Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church would like to thank all who made a memorial contribution to the church this year. The church is grateful for your generosity and faithfulness to this church community.

Celebrate!

Ministry and Partnership Opportunities

Adult Book Study 2025-2026

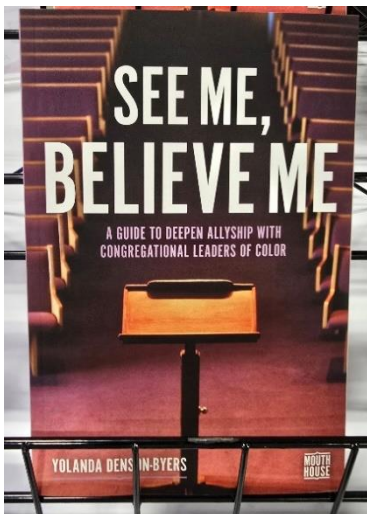
Join us for a once monthly book study (9 months long). This year we will study “Braiding Sweetgrass” by Robin Wall Kimmerer. This book explores Indigenous wisdom and teachings that offer a vision of reverence with and for the natural world. The initial meeting will be on **Tuesday, September 2** from 6:30-7:45 at Bethel, with subsequent meetings decided at the first meeting. You can get a free copy of the book from Pastor Tim (tdjohnst@gmail.com)(provided by a Thrivent grant).

BRAIDING SWEETGRASS



Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge,
and the Teachings of Plants

You are asked to **PRE REGISTER** by contacting Pastor Tim, preferably via email, and indicate if you need a copy of the book. Before the first meeting please read through page 47 (end of Asters and Goldenrod).



REGISTER TODAY! 'See Me, Believe Me' by **Yolanda Denson Byers**. A national book club and prayer celebration as the **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America** and **Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries** prepare to welcome leaders of color into their most visible leadership positions. Every Thursday at 9am PST / 12pm EST from **September 4th** - October 9th we will PRAY for them and EMPOWER our selves for supportive action, while building joyful community. You don't want to miss these stories, surprise special guests, and valuable skill build tips!

REGISTER HERE (FREE!!!):

<https://secure.lglforms.com/form.../s/bMQo0m6e10-1xbRRNPzleg>

Sponsored and made possible by [White Lutherans for Racial Justice](#), Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries, [Delaware-Maryland Synod ELCA](#), [Lower Susquehanna Synod ELCA](#), and [Augsburg Fortress](#).



**Sunday School starts
Sunday, September 7!**




Opening Day!
September 12, 2025
5-8PM, ages 5 to (any)
715 Mather Ave., Ishpeming





BIBLE STUDY

All are welcome!

 TUESDAYS | 11:00 AM

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH



bethelish.org



333 E. Ridge Street, Ishpeming

**GET
INVOLVED**

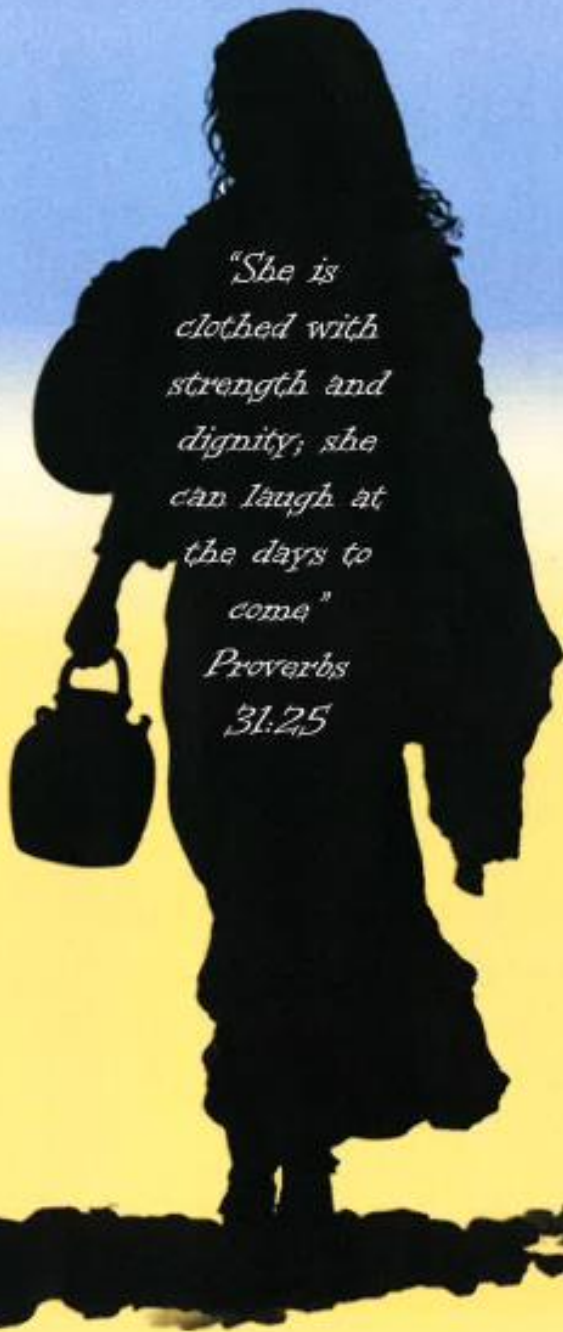


Marji Gesick Bike Race

The 4 Ish ELCA churches will have an aid/support station across from Bethel, on the Heritage trail, for the Marji Gesick bike race on September 20th. We will set up at 11:30AM and have two-hour shifts beginning at noon, through midnight. If you are interested in supporting the racers, there will be a sign-up sheet in the back of each church or you can contact Cheryl Sleeman at 906-362-0849.

*Northern Great Lakes Synodical Women's
Organization Fall Retreat
September 19-21, 2025*

*Hidden Women
of Faith*



*"She is
clothed with
strength and
dignity; she
can laugh at
the days to
come"
Proverbs
31:25*

Duplex housing \$185.00 (Bedding/towels will NOT be provided)

Emmanuel Lodge housing \$215.00 (Bedding/ towels provided) Must be at least 3 per room for this price. Two double beds can accommodate 4.

Grace Lodge housing \$215.00 (Bedding/towels provided)

Commuter cost (without lodging) \$125.00

Cost includes meals, workshop materials (unless otherwise noted), and Saturday Snack Bar.

See May Reflections newsletter available at <https://www.nglsynod.org/swo/> for registration form.

Day of Renewal Fall 2025

Superior Central Cluster 8
Northern Great Lakes Synod Women of the ELCA



Mark your calendars for **Sunday, September 28, 2025**

Come and join the Women of Grace Lutheran of Gwinn and attend an afternoon of fellowship and dinner to learn about:

Resources for Aging: Finding your way through the maze of service and funding for them.

Sue DeGroot, MSW, LMSW has 40 plus years of experience as a Social Worker working in Healthcare and as a Mental Health speciality.

Presentation will include:

Home Care: What is it? How to get it? How to pay for it?

Hospice Care: What is it? Who qualifies? How to pay for it?

Assisted Living and Nursing Home care: Who qualifies and how is it paid for?

Special assistance available for Veterans and their spouses.

Registration: 2:30 pm cost \$5.00 (checks payable to NGLSWO)

The program starts at 3pm, with a business meeting and dinner to follow.

Please sign up and have your church secretary call Gwinn by Tuesday September 22, 2025 for planning purposes. (906-346-3156)

See you there!

Women of Grace

ELCA Day of Remembrance Sunday Indian Boarding Schools



Sunday, September 28, 2025

Day of Remembrance is September 30th

On September 28, native and non-native people across the United States and Canada pause to remember that from the years 1819-1969, countless indigenous children were taken from their homes and placed in boarding schools, operated either by the US government or as mission schools partially funded by the government, by various Christian denominations. One of the government funded mission schools was operated by the Norwegian Lutheran Church—a predecessor body to the ELCA—Bethany Indian Mission at Wittenberg, Wisconsin.

Indian children often were placed in schools far from their families and their tribes in an effort to assimilate them to the dominant culture. They were forced to have western haircuts, made to wear clothing unfamiliar to them, and forbidden to speak in their native language. They were made to learn the cultural and religious values of white settlers and were not allowed to engage in any of the ceremonial or religious practices of their elders. Unable to learn practices germane to their tribal way of life, like ricing, maple sugaring, hunting and fishing, they were instead taught how to sew,

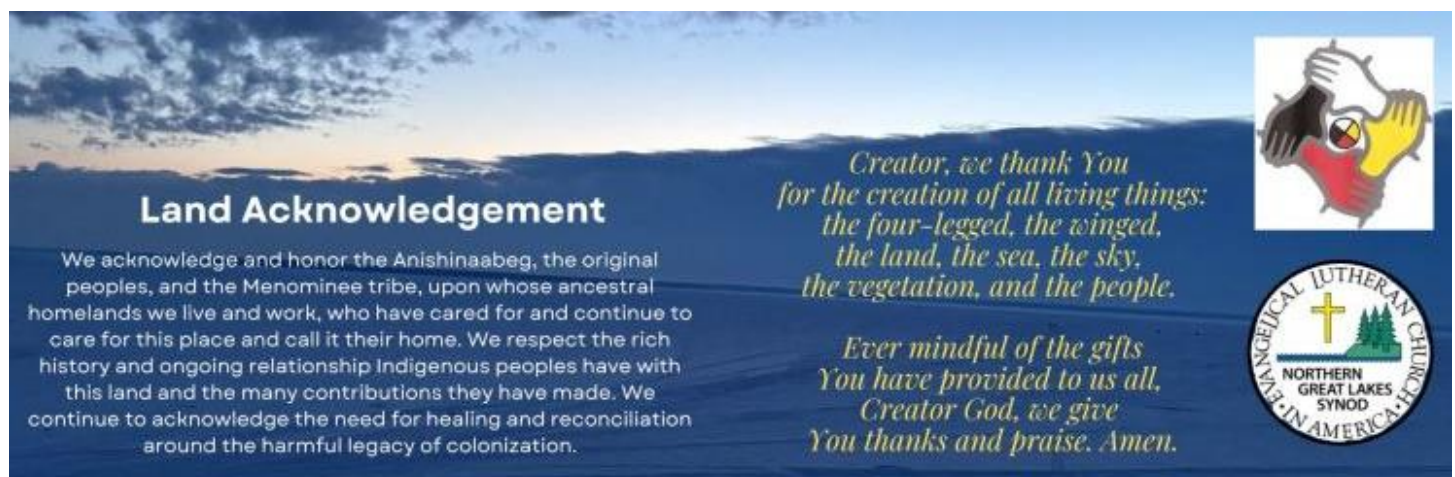
cook, clean, and work on farms, trained to be a kind of servant class in white America. The boarding school motto was “Kill the Indian and Save the Man (sic).” Often, boarding schools were also places of strict discipline. Racism was endemic. Physical and sexual abuse were common. Many native children tried to run away. Others died while at boarding schools. The burial sites of a large number of children still have not yet been identified.

In recent years, we’ve come to recognize that we, in the Christian church, either condoned or actively participated in operating these boarding schools, which have led to so much suffering.

But in fact, the damage inflicted on our indigenous neighbors because of the boarding schools is incalculable. Generations have struggled to regain their sense of worth and identity as native people. As they go about their healing, it is our calling as people of God to support them.

To that end, we encourage each congregation of the Northern Great Lakes Synod to observe Remembrance Day on a Sunday near September 28, by including prayers for the survivors and those who have gone missing in the worship liturgy.

Orange is the color of Remembrance Day. Invite worshippers on that day to wear orange in solidarity with our indigenous neighbors. Any orange top or shirt is just fine, or you can purchase t-shirts here: <https://nabshc.myshopify.com/collections/day-of-remembrance-orange-t-shirts> They are specifically designed for this national recognition and support the ongoing work of the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition (NABS). "The first and only national organization whose purpose is to advocate on behalf of Native peoples impacted by U.S. Indian boarding school policies. We seek truth through education and research, justice through activism and policy advocacy, and healing through programs and traditional gatherings."





Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge and honor the Anishinaabeg, the original peoples, and the Menominee tribe, upon whose ancestral homelands we live and work, who have cared for and continue to care for this place and call it their home. We respect the rich history and ongoing relationship Indigenous peoples have with this land and the many contributions they have made. We continue to acknowledge the need for healing and reconciliation around the harmful legacy of colonization.

*Creator, we thank You
for the creation of all living things:
the four-legged, the winged,
the land, the sea, the sky,
the vegetation, and the people.*

*Ever mindful of the gifts
You have provided to us all,
Creator God, we give
You thanks and praise. Amen.*





Crystal Swanson, Treasurer and Erica Thomas, Coordinator

RE: ***Save the date!***

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. Packet distribution will be in August.

New shirts for sale!

We have a new recipient this year! Feeding America (Sponsored by Silver Creek Church)! Along with our other recipient the NMU Food Bank.

Packets will be available on August 25, 2025.

Join us in our quest to alleviate hunger in our local area!!!

Any questions please call Crystal Swanson at 906-225-0595 or call/text Erica at 805-710-4752

Or email at crystaljswanson@yahoo.com and wesley@mqthope.com



“Peace be with You!”



We need your help!



Education is one of the strongest tools a community has for breaking the cycle of poverty. Ensuring that girls attend school, especially in places where their access is deprioritized, has even stronger results. **Lutheran World Relief School Kits** contain essential supplies to help children — and in some cases, adults — continue learning in the face of serious obstacles. That learning leads to a better life for children, families, and communities.

If you would like to purchase items listed above for the kits, take advantage of the sales that will start soon for school supplies. Please bring your items to the church. Call Sue Holmgren at (906) 204-6864 if you have questions. **Thank you for your generosity!**

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



Casting a Vision for the Church

Bishop Yehiel Curry to serve as fifth presiding bishop of the ELCA

by [John Potter](#) July 31, 2025, *Living Lutheran*

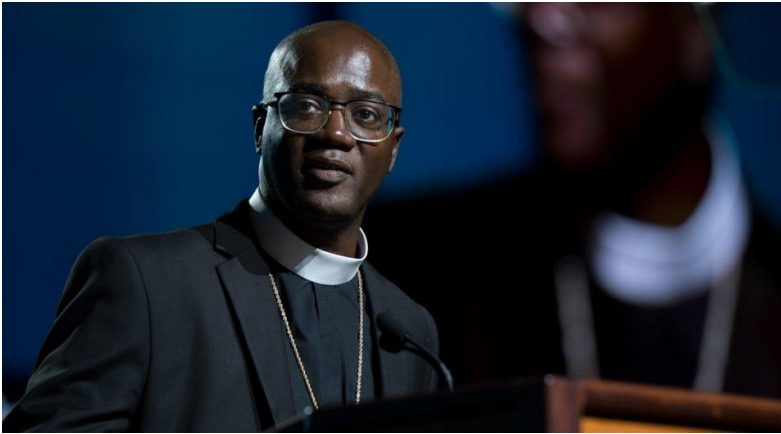


Photo courtesy of Janine Truipay/ELCA 1

When Yehiel Curry considers his vision for the future of the church, he sees an important distinction. “Part of the work is naming it,” he said, “but that next phase is embodying it.

“When we’re talking about casting a vision, I think people want to be part of a vision because they want to share in the process. But they typically will also share in the burdens as well. So part of my vision is [about] those things we’ve lifted up as a church that we said we need to do, we’re going to do, and find a way to bring more people to the table so that we might embody that work instead of it just being a written document.”

Curry, who was elected July 30 to serve a six-year term as ELCA presiding bishop, knows something about embodying a vision and discerning a call.


Before he became a pastor, then a bishop, then the chair of the Conference of Bishops, and now presiding bishop-elect, he was a social worker, then a teacher, then in sales. “I went from being a social worker to a teacher in the same community where I was helping those families, and in both cases, what I learned is passion is very important. And if you can align a person’s passion with a need, then it doesn’t feel like work sometimes.

Curry wrestled with the passion he feels for his current ministry as he discerned his new call in the days leading up to the 2025 Churchwide Assembly. “I take my role [as bishop of] the Metropolitan Chicago Synod very seriously,” he said. “And I started the process of thinking about what the next six months would look like, even the next year. And some people discern differently. I didn’t have some voice saying to me, ‘Here’s what you ought to do.’ But last Friday, what started to happen was the calls of family, friends and mentors—the nudging, the text messages, the emails—served as a form of discernment for me.”

“I only arrived at this place Friday or Saturday where I felt like maybe this is something I should do,” he said of being considered for presiding bishop.

Now that Curry has been elected the fifth presiding bishop of the ELCA—and the first of African descent—how does he feel? “That reality hasn’t really set in,” he said. “Even at this moment, I’m feeling a certain kind of way in understanding the weight and the impact.

“I’m hopeful that, if presence matters, me being here does something for allowing others to consider, ‘Someone who looks like me, or is from my community, or speaks with an accent, or their mother tongue isn’t English [could take on a similar role].’ Hopefully that’s what that means.”




“It wasn’t until I was in the church that I said, ‘I could do this for the rest of my life.’”

A return on investment

An immediate answer comes to mind for Curry when asked about what he believes should be among the ELCA's top priorities. "I think there's this unique opportunity around lay equipping and lay education," he said. "The ethos and the structures of many of our congregations are changing. In some cases, they've gone from full-time pastors to part-time pastors; we have leaders who are serving two- and three-point congregations.

"Our lay leaders are being asked to do more. And in many cases, they're saying, 'Yes, I want the education—as long as you're not trying to steer me and tell me I need to be a pastor or a deacon. Tell me how to be a better leader in my community, in my context.'"

Curry's passion for, and awareness of, equipping lay leaders stems from his own ministry beginnings.



"I didn't know that I was actively discerning and being called into this ministry."

He was a Chicago Public Schools teacher when he first visited Shekinah Chapel, then a synod-authorized worshiping community. "I didn't even realize it was Lutheran," he said. "I was invited by a friend." What drew him to Shekinah was Safe in My Brother's Arms (SIMBA), a mentoring program there sponsored by the ELCA. "I had

these unique students," he said. "And I was interested in services for them. ... There was a worship service I stayed for. And I loved it."

Curry went home and told his wife, LaShonda, about the great experience he had had there, and they returned together the following weekend. "We came back and joined," he said. "And we didn't understand the organizations of the Lutheran church. We just saw a home, we saw a community."

Eventually, the community, and the synod staff, asked Curry to consider being a lay mission developer. He was unsure. "I knew I had this thing in my heart, but I didn't have the right vocabulary for it," he said. "I didn't know that I was actively discerning and that I was being called into this ministry."

After becoming mission developer, Curry enrolled in the Theological Education for Emerging Ministries program at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago and received his ordination certification in 2009. In 2012, when Shekinah became an official ELCA congregation, it called Curry to be its pastor. He served in that role until he was elected bishop of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod in 2019.

"This was a process I was honored to be involved in, because I didn't think many people knew who I was," he said. "I was working in poverty ministry in the outskirts of Chicago. So it was an honor to have my name lifted up and to ultimately be elected bishop." In 2024, he was elected chair of the ELCA Conference of Bishops.

"I'm what a return on your investment looks like," he told the assembly. "Perhaps I'm out there in one of you. I never saw myself as good enough, so for two years, I said no. I finally said yes. When I said yes, your support, this church's support, of that ministry meant everything. So if you want to know what your benevolence dollars look like, it looks like me. And I want to say thank you. Thank you for your investment."

Bishop Curry will be [installed Oct. 4](#) at Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis.



September 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 9:00A Quilters 2:00 Teal Lake Senior Center Worship- Pastor J. 6:30P Book study @ Bethel- "Braiding Sweetgrass"	3 9:30A Weight Watcher Support Group 5:15P Bell Choir practice 6:00 4-ISH ELCA meeting-Bethany 6:30P Choir practice	4 7:00P Singing Bowls	5 6:00P 4-ISH Card Night	6
ELCA Day 7 of Service 9:30A Choir 10:30A Worship Sunday School starts 3:00 Conf. Youth Kick Off Party	8	9 9:00A Quilters 10:30A Social Ministry 7:00P Volunteer Orientation (this is mandatory if working with children)	10	11	12 5:00 P Parents' Night Out	13
14 9:30A Choir 10:30A Worship	15	16 9:00A Quilters 5:30P Council meeting	17 9:30A Weight Watcher Support Group 5:15P Bell Choir practice 6:30P Choir practice	18 7:00P Singing Bowls	19 NGLSWO Fall Convention	20 Marji Gesick Bike Race
21 9:30A Choir 10:30A Worship 11:30A Card Sale for Social Ministry	22	23 9:00A Quilters	24 9:30A Weight Watcher Support Group 5:15P Bell Choir practice 6:30P Choir practice	25 2:00P Martha Joy	26	27
ELCA Day of 28 Remembrance-Indian Boarding Schools-wear orange 9:30A Choir 10:30A Worship 2:30P WELCA Fall Cluster, Gwinn	29	30 9:00A Quilters				

Happy September Birthday!

- 2 Sally Grant
- 3 Travis Allen
- 4 John Lusardi
- 4 Preston Smith
- 5 Tom Ryan
- 8 Matthew Price
- 11 Killeen Ryan
- 12 Kenneth Kinnunen
- 13 James Carlyon
- 13 Elizabeth Chartré
- 13 Kathy Kish
- 13 Debora Paavo
- 13 James C. Sodergren
- 13 Aurora Holeva
- 15 Cindy Warner
- 17 Jacob Dault
- 18 Natalie Rasmussen
- 19 Katherine Kitchen
- 22 Robert Maki
- 22 Bryan Smith
- 23 Janine Johns
- 23 Jenna Chartré
- 23 Elizabeth Bureau
- 26 John Levertton
- 27 John Waters
- 29 Kathleen Slown



**The September Noisy
Offering will support
the Pastor's
Discretionary Fund.
Your generosity is
appreciated!**

Happy Anniversary!

Byron & Wendy Koski
9/2/2000 25 years

Robert & Danielle Nelson
9/2/2000 25 years

Ray & Barbara Yunkari
9/2/1972 53 years

Sean & Jennie Garrett-Bureau
9/5/2003 22 years

Clifford & Karen Mattson
9/8/1973 52 years

Ron & Sheree Mariani
9/8/1979 46 years

Robert & Gwen Bruhnke
9/16/1995 30 years

Michael & Kathy Harrington
9/16/1989 34 years

Tom & Sue Ryan
9/17/1966 59 years

Alex & Sara Urcavich
9/27/2014 11 years

Mia & Brendan Wentworth
9/27/2014 11 years

September Coffee Hosts

- 9-7 Martha Joy Circle/WELCA
- 9-14 Deb & Bruce Bussone
- 9-21 Social Ministry team
- 9-28



Congregational Council Meeting Highlights

July 22 and August 26, 2025

- The Council held a Town Hall on July 27 and August 24 to explain the process of ratifying the Constitution and answer questions. The draft will now be updated based on the Synod's notes received. The Council will select a date for the special Congregational meeting in October and notify the congregation.
- Bethany representation in the 4-ISH ELCA Consortium continues, as Cheryl Sleeman joined the group. The 4-ISH Update is in a separate article.
- Bethany received a bequest from Jerry Hagar; discernment and discussion are ongoing regarding how to best use the funds.
- A new fee schedule for facility use and related services is being developed.
- Two new laptops have been purchased for staff use. The migration to a different computer system is expected to be completed by year-end.
- The Council reviewed a quote to update the Sanctuary and is considering options.
- The process for a contract renewal for Pastor J has begun.
- The Council adopted a Child Protection Policy. Education and training will be offered on September 9 at 7:00P. Training will be mandatory for parents and volunteers working with children.
- The Council received updates on coming events and discussed new events for the coming year, suggested by council members. The Worship & Music team shared plans for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany.
- The Council received an updated Personnel Policy for review and consideration next month.
- The Council approved two facility use requests.
- The Council approved recognition of the ELCA Day of Remembrance for Indian Boarding Schools and adoption of the Land Acknowledgement in the Welcome Statement in the bulletin.
- The next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 16, 2025 at 5:30 PM.

Is your Pledge Up to Date?



YTD Income: \$87,520.38

YTD Expenses: 107,890.78

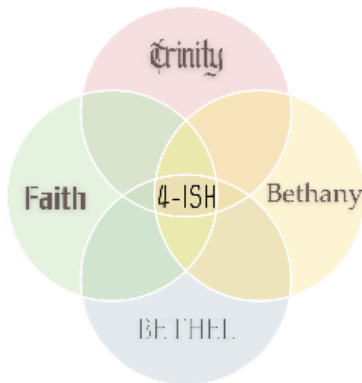
Total: -\$20,371.42



Worship Options

Worship
with us
from
HOME

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 celebrated a successful Vacation Bible School, featuring Fortune Lake staff, in June. They discussed improvements to the event and made plans to do it again.

-The 4-ISH ELCA churches collected over 1,000 bottles of water and distributed them during the Ishpeming Independence Day Parade on July 5.

-They worked together quickly to arrange a combined service on July 13, when a shortage of musicians occurred.

- The group has created a Worship and Music Team to plan combined worship events.

-The group has created a Community Activities team to help the 4-ISH community engage and support the surrounding community throughout the year. Watch for opportunities to get involved in the fun!

-A Visioning Retreat is planned for October 11 for the leadership of the 4-ISH ELCA churches.

Plans are in place for additional combined worship services, for Reformation Day, Christmas, Epiphany, and Lent.

Remember, the group's meetings are open, so feel free to come and listen to the conversations! **The next meeting will be on September 3, 2025 at 6:00 PM at Bethany 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!



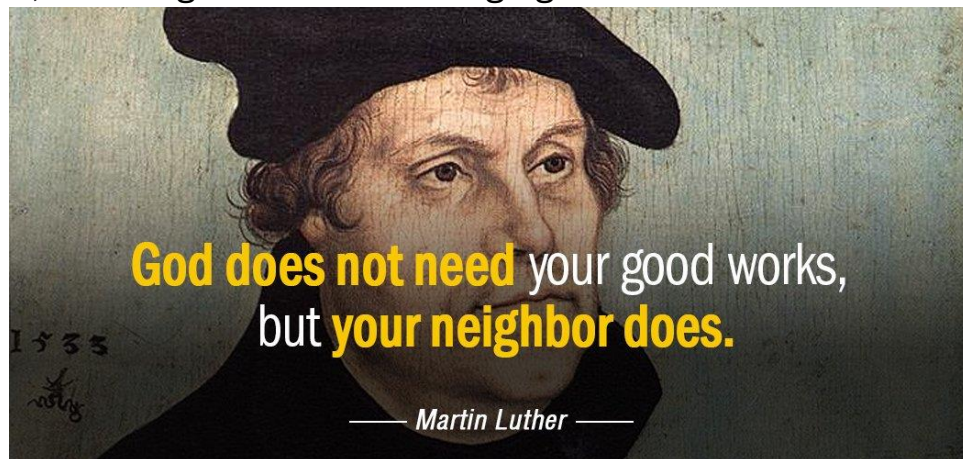
September Flower Dedications

- | | |
|------|---|
| 9-7 | In honor of Fred Blewett's and Sue Norell's birthdays,
by Paul F. Blewett Fund |
| 9-14 | in Memory of Steven and Ethan Chartre,
by the Chartre' Family |
| 9-21 | In memory of Lowell, Hilda and Scott Holmgren,
by the Moyle/Holmgren family |
| 9-28 | |

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@jmichaelmills.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.



Practicing your discernment -7-31-2025

You've probably heard the word "discernment" used primarily in relationship to a clergy person's call or vocation. Or perhaps you've heard people talk about discernment at a major crossroads in their lives. But God invites all of us to discernment, not only for big decisions but also for the whole of our lives, for the daily things as well as the big stuff.

The word "discern" comes from the Latin *discernere*, which means "to separate apart." From all the options in front of us, and from all the information that comes to us each day, we "separate apart" those things that seem to be God's unique call to us. So how we treat others, how we vote, how we use our time, talent, and money, and how we care for ourselves and the details these involve all require the practice of discernment. By learning to practice discernment in everyday life, we'll be far better equipped to hear God's guidance at any major crossroads we reach.

Discernment requires practice. Doing it regularly, in the daily course of our lives, equips us to practice it under high-stress circumstances when we need to.

This message is excerpted from "Listening to God" by Debra Farrington, a 2013 [resource](#) of the Women of the ELCA.

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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

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



To view the latest edition of the Outlook, with live links, please visit us at:

www.bethanyishpeming.org



Find us on:
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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

October issue deadline: Tuesday, September 16th, noon

November issue deadline: Tuesday, October 21st, 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.

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. 26, 2025				
Mon – Sep 1	2 Chronicles 12:1-12	Hebrews 13:7-21	Psalm 119:65-72	
Tue – Sep 2	Isaiah 2:12-17	Titus 1:1-9	Psalm 119:65-72	
Wed – Sep 3	Isaiah 57:14-21	Luke 14:15-24	Psalm 119:65-72	
Thu – Sep 4	Genesis 39:1-23	Philippians 2:25-30	Psalm 1	
Fri – Sep 5	Deuteronomy 7:12-26	Colossians 4:7-17	Psalm 1	
Sat – Sep 6	Deuteronomy 29:2-20	Matthew 10:34-42	Psalm 1	
Sun. Sep. 7 — Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost - Lectionary 23 Readings: Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 1 (3); Philemon 1-21; Luke 14:25-33 Prayer of the Day: Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia. Let your face shine upon your servant, and teach me your statutes. Alleluia. (Ps. 119:135) Color: Green				
Mon – Sep 8	2 Kings 17:24-41	1 Timothy 3:14 — 4:5	Psalm 101	
Tue – Sep 9	2 Kings 18:9-18	1 Timothy 4:6-16	Psalm 101	
Wed – Sep 10	2 Kings 18:19-25; 19:1-7	Luke 18:18-30	Psalm 101	
Thu – Sep 11	Genesis 6:1-6	1 Timothy 1:1-11	Psalm 51:1-10	
Fri – Sep 12	Genesis 7:6-10; 8:1-5	2 Peter 2:1-10a	Psalm 51:1-10	
Sat – Sep 13	Genesis 8:20—9:7	John 10:11-21	Psalm 51:1-10	
Sun. Sep. 14 — Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost - Lectionary 24 Readings: Exodus 32:7-14; Psalm 51:1-10 (1); 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10 Prayer of the Day: O God, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia. There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents. Alleluia. (Luke 15:10) Color: Green				

Or

Sun. Sep. 14 — Holy Cross Day

Readings: Numbers 21:4b-9; Psalm 98:1-4 (1); Psalm 78:1-2, 34-38 (35) {alternate}; 1 Corinthians 1:18-24
John 3:13-17

Prayer of the Day: Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross so that he might draw the whole world to himself. To those who look upon the cross, grant your wisdom, healing, and eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia. May I never boast of | anything except the cross of our Lord | Jesus Christ. Alleluia. (Gal. 6:14)

Color: Scarlet/Red

Mon – Sep 15	Amos 7:1-6	1 Timothy 1:18-20	Psalm 73
Tue – Sep 16	Jonah 3:1-10	2 Peter 3:8-13	Psalm 73
Wed – Sep 17	Job 40:6-14; 42:1-6	Luke 22:31-33, 54-62	Psalm 73
Thu – Sep 18	Exodus 23:1-9	Romans 3:1-8	Psalm 113
Fri – Sep 19	Ezekiel 22:17-31	Romans 8:31-39	Psalm 113
Sat – Sep 20	Isaiah 5:8-23	Mark 12:41-44	Psalm 113

Sun. Sep. 21 – Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost - Lectionary 25

Readings: Amos 8:4-7; Psalm 113 (7); 1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13

Prayer of the Day: God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia. Live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ; strive side by side for the faith of the gospel. Alleluia. (Phil. 1:27)

Color: Green

Mon – Sep 22	Proverbs 14:12-31	Acts 4:1-12	Psalm 12
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Or

Mon. Sep. 22 — Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist (transferred from Sep. 21)

Readings: Ezekiel 2:8—3:11; Psalm 119:33-40 (33); Ephesians 2:4-10; Matthew 9:9-13

Prayer of the Day: Almighty God, your Son our Savior called a despised tax collector to become one of his apostles. Help us, like Matthew, to respond to the transforming call of 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

Tue – Sep 23	Proverbs 17:1-5	1 Corinthians 9:19-23	Psalm 12
Wed – Sep 24	Proverbs 21:10-16	Luke 20:45—21:4	Psalm 12
Thu – Sep 25	Proverbs 22:2-16	2 Corinthians 8:8-15	Psalm 146
Fri – Sep 26	Proverbs 28:3-10	Ephesians 2:1-10	Psalm 146
Sat – Sep 27	Proverbs 28:11-28	Luke 9:43b-48	Psalm 146

Sun. Sep. 28 — Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost - Lectionary 26

Readings: Amos 6:1a, 4-7; Psalm 146 (7); 1 Timothy 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31

Prayer of the Day: O God, rich in mercy, you look with compassion on this troubled world. Feed us with your grace, and grant us the treasure that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia. You know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. Alleluia. (2 Cor. 8:9)

Color: Green

Mon – Sep 29	Amos 6:8-14	Revelation 3:14-22	Psalm 62
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Or

Mon. Sep. 29 — Michael and All Angels

Readings: Daniel 10:10-14; 12:1-3; Psalm 103:1-5, 20-22 (20-21); Revelation 12:7-12; Luke 10:17-20

Prayer of the Day: Everlasting God, you have wonderfully established the ministries of angels and mortals. Mercifully grant that as Michael and the angels contend against the cosmic forces of evil, so by your direction they may help and defend us here on earth, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God whom we worship and praise with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, now and forever.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia. Bless the Lord, you angels, you mighty ones who do God's bidding. Alleluia. (Ps. 103:20)

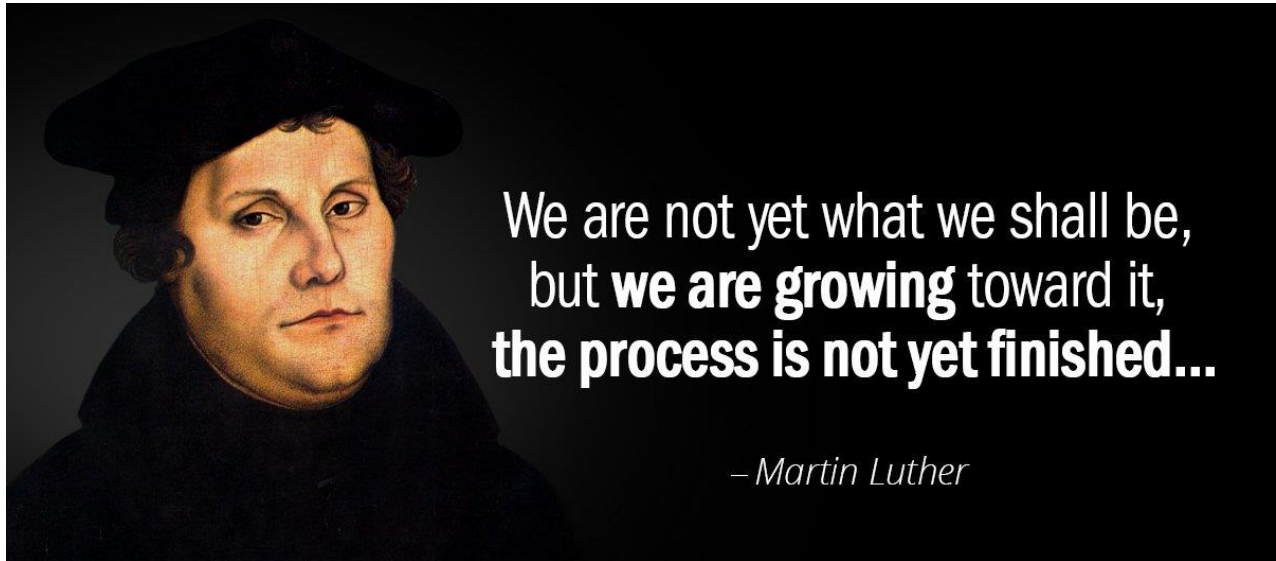
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Tue – Sep 30

Hosea 10:9-15

James 5:1-6

Psalm 62



Christ has no body but yours - 8-11-25

Nowhere is the role of the faith community more eloquently expressed than in the image of the church as the body of Christ. This image conveys both unity and diversity. As Ephesians 4:4-5 states, we are members of “one body and one Spirit...one Lord, one faith, one baptism.” Our different gifts and roles are like the various parts of the human body, according to Romans 12:4-8. This is more than a metaphor. The community of Christ doesn’t just function *like* Christ’s body. The community of Christ *is* Christ’s body. Through baptism, communion and the proclamation of the Gospel, God’s Holy Spirit forms individual people into a community – a community in and through whom Jesus is truly present. As St. Teresa of Ávila, a contemporary of Martin Luther, wrote: “Christ has no body but yours/ No hands, no feet on earth but yours/ Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassion on this world.”

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