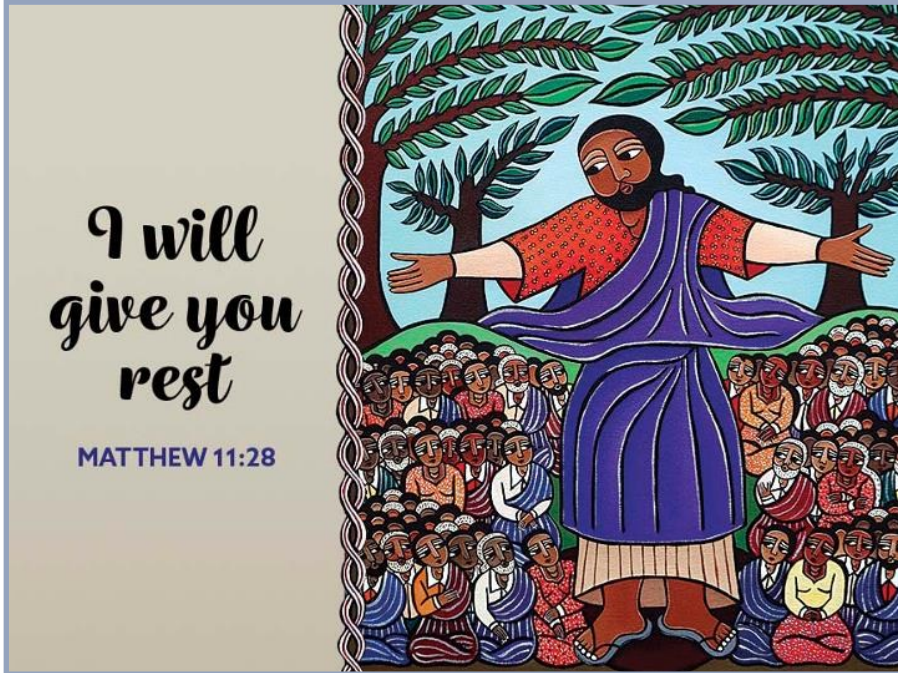


Sixth Sunday after Pentecost



Lakeside Worship
July 5, 2026 | 9:30 a.m.

*Big Bend, Borgund, Immanuel, Kviteseid,
Minnesota Valley, and Zion Lutheran Churches*

Milan Beach Resort - Lac qui Parle Lake

ORDER OF SERVICE

Welcome to worship at the lake — On this Sunday following our nation’s celebration of independence, we are grateful you have come to worship Almighty God, who continues to bless our land in countless ways. Welcome!

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN

“O Beautiful for Spacious Skies”

ELW # 888

Verse 1

O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain, for purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain: America! America! God shed his grace on thee, and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.

Verse 2

O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife, who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life: America! America! May God thy gold refine, till all success be nobleness, and ev'ry gain divine.

Verse 3

O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears: America! America! God mend thine ev'ry flaw, confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law.

EXHORTATION AND PRAYER

P : On July 4, 1776, our forefathers bravely advanced the cause of freedom and liberty by declaring this nation's independence and sovereignty and that all her citizens possessed the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness given by our Creator. It is appropriate therefore as we celebrate our nation's 250th birthday that we give thanks to that Creator for our liberties and pray for continued blessings upon our country, our government and our fellow citizens.

INDEPENDENCE DAY LITANY

P: On this holiday weekend, we acknowledge that we are located on traditional, ancestral lands of indigenous people. This area was Dakota land ceded in the Treaty of 1851. As we remember the birth of our nation, and the gifts of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, let us offer our thanks and prayers to God, the giver of all good gifts. For the brave women and men who braved the long journey by sea to come to this new world,.

C: We thank you Lord

P: For the tribes and nations who inhabited this land for generation upon generation,

C: We thank you Lord.

P: For patriots who dreamed of, and fought for, a free nation,

C: We thank you Lord.

P: For the men and women who laid the foundation of our democracy, and who pledged liberty and justice for all,

C: We thank you Lord.

P: For those who built this country brick by brick, road by road, and town by town,

C: We thank you Lord.

P: For the brave soldiers who have fought for our country, for all who paid for our freedom by their service, and those who paid by their sacrifice,

C: We thank you Lord.

P: For the innovators and artists, poets and teachers, farmers and factory workers; for all who labor and provide for the common good,

C: We thank you Lord.

P: For this land, with its peaks and valleys, coasts and deserts, fields and meadows,

C: We thank you Lord.

P: For our own community, for those who came before us in this place, and for our neighbors near and far,

C: We thank you Lord.

P: Lord, we pray for The United States, that we might always be a nation which defends and promotes liberty and freedom, truth and justice.

C: We pray to you Lord.

P: That we might always be a nation where all are free to worship and pray,

C: We pray to you Lord.

P: That we might be a beacon of freedom to all those who live under the shadow of terror and hopelessness,

C: We pray to you Lord.

P: That we might find ways to understand the story of those who were enslaved peoples.

C: We pray to you Lord.

P: That we find ways to proclaim equality and justice for **ALL** people.

C: We pray to you Lord.

P: That those who are elected to govern and lead would be guided by you, and be ever aware of the trust that has been given them,

C: We pray to you Lord.

P: That we would be a people who repent from our sins, and who always return to you and to your grace,

C: We pray to you Lord.

P: Gracious God, Father of all nations, bless and defend us and our land; prosper the work of our hands, and increase in us your grace and compassion, and our offerings of thanks to you, our rock and our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Verse 1

God bless our native land; firm may it ever stand through storm and night.
When the wild tempests rave, Ruler of wind and wave, do thou our country save
by thy great might.

Verse 2

So shall our prayers arise to God above the skies, on whom we wait. Thou who
art ever nigh, guarding with watchful eye, to thee aloud we cry: God save the
state!

OPENING PRAYER*Romans 6:12-23*

P: God of grace, you have brought us from slavery to freedom, from despair to hope,
from death to life! Holy is Your name!

We gather together in Your presence with gratitude and praise for all that You have
done for us. May the presence of Your Holy Spirit inspire our worship. May our
words and music, our thoughts and prayers, even our very lives, bring honor and
glory to You. This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, whose death and resurrection
have brought us everlasting life.

C: Amen

CALL TO WORSHIP*Matthew 10*

P: Jesus said, “Anyone who receives you, receives me, and anyone who receives me,
receives the Father who sent me.” We gather together in the presence of the God who
receives us with open arms, who loves us unconditionally, and who bids us do the
same to one another. Let us worship God together!

CALL TO CONFESSION

P: It is in our confession where we realize our desire for God and our hope for God’s
mercy. It is in admitting the truth of our lives that we take the first step toward
wholeness and healing. So let us make our confession, first in silent prayer.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**C: God of all the saints, God of all the sinners, hear our prayer. We would be
saint-like — holy, good, patient, loving. But we end up feeling more like sinners
— full of failures of morality, selfish, mean. Perhaps you see us simply as
human — as beloved, and flawed, and trying, and failing and succeeding. In all
of this, forgive the wrong that we have done, and bless the good we have
accomplished. Keep on loving us, and helping us, and molding us more and
more into the image of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

P: Friends, hear this Good News: the love of God is beyond measure, and you are included in that love. Know that you are forgiven and thus freed to love and serve.
Alleluia! Amen. —*Beth Merrill Neel, posted on holdfasttowhatisgood.com.*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

C: You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: ZECHARIAH 9: 9-12

Nancy Streed

The coming messianic king will inaugurate an era of disarmament and prosperity. Because of God's covenant with Israel, the people are designated as "prisoners of hope."

SECOND LESSON: ROMANS 7: 15-25a

Nancy Streed

Life captive to sin is a catch-22 existence in which we know good but do not do it and do things we know to be wrong. Through Jesus Christ, God has set us free from such a futile existence.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 11th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:16--19, 25-30

Jesus chides people who find fault with both his ministry and that of John the Baptist. He thanks God that wisdom and intelligence are not needed to receive what God has to offer.

P: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

Pastor Linda Estling

Verse 1

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
 What a privilege to carry ev'rything to God in prayer!
 Oh, what peace we often forfeit; oh, what needless pain we bear—
 all because we do not carry ev'rything to God in prayer!

Verse 2

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
 We should never be discouraged— take it to the Lord in prayer.
 Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?
 Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness—take it to the Lord in prayer.

Verse 3

Are we weak and heavy-laden, cumbered with a load of care?
 Precious Savior, still our refuge—take it to the Lord in prayer.
 Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.
 In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a solace there.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

P: Together let us affirm our common faith:

C: We believe in the church as a community of believers and doubters who strive always to rise to our greater selves as we work to accomplish more than we could ever dream possible. We believe in the Holy Spirit, who comforts and strengthens us even when we are not paying attention. We believe in Jesus who gives us the courage to endure when the way before us seems impossible to navigate. We believe in God whose love will never let us go, even when we are tempted to let go of God when life gets difficult. We believe in the gift of grace, which is a kindness beyond comprehension, and which gives us a resilience of the spirit to try again and again. We believe in the power of prayer when we are tempted in ways of unbelief. We believe. Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE NATION**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**C: 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.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him all creatures here below.
Praise him above ye' heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

****OFFERING PRAYER**

P: Make us thankful every day, O God, for the gifts that alight upon us from your bounty. Guide us to use these offerings to your glory for the health of your people and this creation.

C: Amen

BENEDICTION

P: God of peace and mercy, send us into your world with confident joy.
Help us to reach out to others and care for them as you always care for us.

C: Amen

SENDING HYMN "Lord of all Nations, Grant Me Grace" LBW 419

Verse 1

Lord of all nations, grant me grace to love all people, ev'ry race; and in each person may I see my kindred, loved, redeemed by thee.

Verse 2

Break down the wall that would divide thy children, Lord, on ev'ry side.
My neighbor's good let me pursue; let Christian love bind warm and true.

Verse 3

Forgive me, Lord, where I have erred by loveless act and thoughtless word.
Make me to see the wrong I do will crucify my Lord anew.

Verse 4

Give me thy courage, Lord to speak whenever strong oppress the weak.
Should I myself the victim be, help me forgive, rememb'ring thee.

Verse 5

With thine own love may I be filled and by thy Holy Spirit willed,
that all I touch, where'er I be, may be divinely touched by thee.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord

C: Amen.

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WELCOME

to all those joining us today for this Lakeside Worship

Serving You Today

Pastor Linda Estling Immanuel Lutheran Church
Bart Hill Minnesota Valley
Dorothy Anderson Organist

Today’s undesignated offering will be given to food shelves in Chippewa, Lac qui Parle and Swift counties.

*Please join us following worship for coffee and fellowship.
Free will donation for coffee and goodies.*

Please mark your calendars and join us again on:

Sunday, September 6 (Labor Day Weekend)
at 9:30 a.m. at the Milan Beach Resort

Remember to bring a lawn chair!

Pastor Linda Estling

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