City-wide church. Worldwide ministry.

BETHELITE

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Bethel Lutheran's Summer 2025 Worship Series

"Found by the Water"

"God is looking at you with infinite tenderness and saying, 'You are the beloved.'" Henri Nouwen

Pastor Lauren Wrightsman

In July, the pull of the lake is almost instinctive. We seek its calm, its clarity, its ability to still our minds and renew our spirits. Whether we're paddling, swimming, or just sitting at the shoreline watching the light dance across the water, the lake reminds us that something sacred often happens when we slow down.

Jesus seemed to know this too.

Much of his ministry happened by the water - especially along the Sea of Galilee. He taught from boats, calmed storms, fed thousands, and called disciples from the shore. It's easy to romanticize these moments, but the truth is, the people Jesus called weren't waiting for him. They were working. Fishing. Mending nets. Going about ordinary life.

And that's when he found them.

It's a reminder that the life of faith isn't about trying to reach God - it's about realizing that God has already reached us. Already spoken our name. Already called us beloved.

Henri Nouwen writes that God sees us with "infinite tenderness." That divine call comes not because we've perfected ourselves or found the right words to pray, but because God loves us where we are: in our boats, on our docks, in our restlessness, and even in our boredom.

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