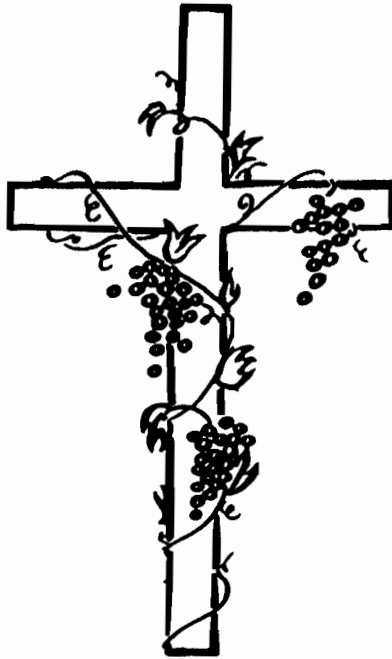


**May 6th, 2012
Fifth Sunday of Easter**



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

21590 State Highway 47, Isle, MN 56342

Phone: 320-684-2123 (1-877-684-2123) Fax: 320-684-2836

E-mail address: blcmalmo@frontiernet.net

Church Web Site: blcmalmo.org

Pastor: Rev. James Raisanen

Pastor Emeritus: Reverend Winfield Johnson

Church Secretary: Evie Richter Youth: Susie Modrow

Parish Nurses: Darlene Christensen, RN, C 320-684-2846

Patti Honnold, RN CNP 320-676-8421

Kathy Berland RN 320-495-3988

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

MISSION STATEMENT

We will grow spiritually and in numbers as we serve Christ. We will reach out and address the hurts and hopes in our community. We will maintain a church home that is reverently joyous and extend a welcome to all who seek to join us in our mission.

Hearing Assistance is available during the service.

Please notify usher if you would like assistance

Sunday, May 6, 2012/ Holy Communion

Fifth Sunday of Easter

INTRODUCTION

This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding that we read of in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: “Let All Things Now Living” # 881 ELW

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM: “In Remembrance of Me”

**BAPTISM: 10:00 a.m. Grace Evelyn Ward,
 daughter of Megan King & Wayne Ward**

FIRST READING: 1 John 4:7–21

We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved

us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

PSALM: Psalm 22:25–31

Refrain: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD. (Ps. 22:27)

From you comes my praise in the great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied, Let those who seek the LORD give praise!

May your hearts live forever!

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;

all the families of nations shall bow before God.

For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations. R

Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;

all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

Their descendants shall serve the LORD,

whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.

They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,

saying to them, "The LORD has acted!" **R**

GOSPEL: John 15:1–8

On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love would bear fruit, for apart from him, they could do nothing.

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

HYMN: “Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us”

789 ELW

SERMON

OFFERING & OFFERING SONG

Congregation sings:

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Enlivened in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we pray for the life of the church, for those in need, and for all of God's creation.

A time for silent prayer.

Holy, abiding God, breathe your love into your people. By your Spirit shape us to share your love with one another, so that others see your love and come to know you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Spread your sheltering presence over all new things in your creation: plants sprouting out of soil and young animals growing stronger. Protect all that is fragile. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Go forth with all missionaries in their work of serving others and sharing the good news of salvation we have in Christ. Make their work both welcomed and welcoming. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Abide with people who feel unloved, who deal with crisis, and who struggle with illness (*especially*). Surround them with people who will show compassion. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Be a steadfast presence for migrant workers, refugees, and all who do not have permanent homes. Guide them, care for them, and give them security. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other prayers of intercession may be made.

Giving thanks for the saints who abide with you eternally, we ask you to open us to your presence in our midst until the day when you gather all people into your eternal presence. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Trusting in your abundant mercy, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray into your care, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN: “This Is My Father’s World” # 824 ELW

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 6, 2012

Fruits of Love

The idea of Jesus as the vine and believers as the branches isn't that hard for most of us to grasp. Most of us have watched plants grow, and we understand that one branch of the plant won't do well if we separate it from the main stalk.

To continue the plant metaphor, Jesus is the one who delivers water and nutrients to the rest of the plant. We won't thrive when we're disconnected from the life source. In fact, Jesus makes clear what happens to those of us who separate from Christ: we wither.

Today's gospel emphasizes that we are not planted simply to avoid withering. We are to bear much fruit. Congregations will hear the reading this week, and many will ponder how to translate these verses into action. Are we to bring more people into our church? Are we to go out and create some sort of intentional community? Should we work more vigorously to alleviate hunger and poverty? Are we to be light and leaven in our workplaces?

The answers to all those questions might be yes. Or perhaps no. Let's return to the vine metaphor and think about what kinds of fruit we might bear. Some of us are naturals for inviting friends to church. Others of us would prefer to pray for others in private. Some of us have a passion for visiting sick parishioners, at home or in the hospital. Some of us might be called to create or sustain organizations that provide health care, food, or shelter. Others of us are already being cared for in a nurturing community.

There is no single right or wrong answer. But we need to make sure we're asking the right questions. Are we withered husks or are we bearing fruits of love?

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THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK OF MAY 6TH, 2012

Organist: Marlys Beavers
Greeters: Jerry & Carolyn Morris
Ushers: 8:30 Don, Donna Myhre, 10:00 Tom, Gloria Christensen
Lectors: 8:30 Lynn Hansen, 10:00 Darwin Bruesewitz
Coffee Servers: Carolyn & Jerry Morris, Grace & John Iverson

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD LAST WEEK (4/29/12)

Attendance: 8:30 – 125 10:00 – 49

Offering: \$ 1,957.20 Building Fund: \$ 210.00

\$ 3,846.00 – Weekly amount needed for operating expenses.

\$ 580.00 – Weekly amount (building fund) needed for mortgage payment.

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA MAY 6TH THRU MAY 12TH, 2012

Mon., May 7 th	8:00 a.m.	Jelly making
	7:00 p.m.	AA & Alanon
Tues., May 8 th	9:00 a.m.	Quilters
	9:30 a.m.	Bells
Wed., May 9 th	8:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	9:30 a.m.	Hardanger
	11:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	6:00 p.m.	Choir
	7:00 p.m.	Praise Team
Thurs., May 10 th	8:00 a.m.	R.O.M.E.O.S.
	1:00 p.m.	Funtimers
Sat., May 12 th	5:00 p.m.	Sat. Evening Worship Service

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, IRENE!!

Come join Irene Long and her family as they celebrate her 95th birthday today at 2 p.m. in Bethesda's Fellowship Hall.

LAWN MOWERS NEEDED – Sign up sheet in the Narthex.

COFFEE SERVERS NEEDED for upcoming Sundays – May 27th, June 17th & 24th and all Sunday in July & August. Check the sign up sheets next to the serving window in the Fellowship Hall.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICES begin next Saturday, May 12th at 5:00 p.m.

NEW MEMBERS will be received on May 20th. If you are interested in becoming a member or an associate member, please talk to Pastor Jim.

WANTED: Adventurousome women for BWCA Canoe Trip. Contact: Pat Becker.

May 22nd **PRESENTATION ON ISRAEL** at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.
Everyone Welcome!

Sign up will begin soon for the **new picture directory**. Life Touch will be here June 28th-30th taking photos for the new directory so watch the bulletins and newsletter for further information.

NEW TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

Gloria Christensen – 218-251-2781

Tom Christensen – 218-251-4894

DON'T FORGET: Jelly making tomorrow (Monday, May 7th) at 8:00 a.m.

VBS will be held June 18th -22nd.

June 30-July 1 will be an **Independence Day Worship** with John Koziol, Jr.

July 20th will be our **Beef & Corn Feed**