

**Sunday, August 26th, 2012
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**



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

Church Secretary: Evelyn Richter

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

Patti Honnold, RN CNP 320-676-8421

Kathy Berland RN ANP 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, August 26, 2012

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

INTRODUCTION

In today's gospel many people take offense at Jesus' invitation to eat his flesh and drink his blood; even many of Jesus' disciples peel off. This is the backdrop in John's gospel for Peter's confession of faith. "To whom can we go?" asks Peter, in words we sometimes sing just before the gospel is read. "You have the words of eternal life." In order to take such a stand, as Peter and Joshua did, Paul tells us to arm ourselves with the word of God. We pray in the Spirit that we might be bold ambassadors of the gospel.

CALL TO WORSHIP by Bell Choir **"This is the Day"**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: **"Morning Has Broken" # 556 ELW**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

WE CONFESS OUR NEED FOR LIFE: God of life, you created the world as a beautiful garden filled with abundant life. Each day we make choices that destroy the garden and kill all that lives in it. You created each one of us in love and for love. Each day we make choices that lead us away from your love. You gift us with wisdom, knowledge and creativity. Each day we choose to turn our back on you and presume to be our own god. God of life, we have sinned and we are sorry. We are in need of your forgiveness. God of life, give us your life.

WE HEAR OF GOD'S FORGIVING LIFE: People of God's beautiful garden, God knows our sin yet chooses to love us with an everlasting love. God knows our destructive choices and our hardened hearts, yet chooses to forgive us. God knows our daily wandering and our turning away, yet chooses to send Jesus Christ to save us. People of God, the sin of our human condition is forgiven by the life-giving presence of Jesus Christ. He lived, died and rose from the grave to give us life. God gives us new life each day through the Holy Spirit. Praise God for life! **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

Let us pray.

Holy God, your word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth, that, renouncing what is false and evil, we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

BELL CHOIR ANTHEM: “Beautiful Savior”

FIRST READING: Ephesians 6:10–20

Like a general giving a rousing speech to troops before battle, this letter closes by calling on Christians to be equipped for spiritual warfare against evil. The full armor of God includes truth, righteousness, peace, faith, the gift of salvation, and the word of God inspired by the Spirit.

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

PSALM: Psalm 34:15–22

Refrain: The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous. (Ps. 34:15)

The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous,
and God's ears are open to their cry.

**The face of the LORD is against those who do evil,
to erase the remembrance of them from the earth.**

The righteous cry, and the LORD hears them
and delivers them from all their troubles.

**The LORD is near to the brokenhearted
and saves those whose spirits are crushed. R**

Many are the troubles of the righteous,
but the LORD delivers them from every one.

**God will keep safe all their bones;
not one of them shall be broken.**

Evil will bring death to the wicked
and those who hate the righteous will be punished.

**O LORD, you redeem the life of your servants,
and those who put their trust in you will not be punished. R**

GOSPEL: John 6:56–69

The "hard saying" that offends Jesus' disciples is his claim that his followers must eat his flesh and drink his blood. The followers who return to their old lives know something about how odd this sounds. Simon Peter, on the other hand, knows something about the scarcity of living, gracious words. He asks the most important question: "To whom shall we go?"

Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever." He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said

to them, "Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father."

Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

HYMN: **"Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"** **# 752 ELW**

SERMON

HYMN: **"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"** **# 742 ELW**

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY PRAYER

In loving response to your gracious blessing, we come with the offering of our time and treasure. May these gifts bring hope and healing to a world in need. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With reverence for the earth, those in need, and the whole human family, let us offer our prayers to God.

A time for silent prayer.

That you nourish the church with words of eternal life and the food and drink of the Lord's supper. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

That public leaders and officials serve with faithfulness and humility. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

That forests and streams, hills and meadows, trees and flowers will reveal to us the beauty of your creation. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

That all who are hungry or downtrodden, anxious or alone, depressed or ill may be strong in the Lord (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

That this community turn from false gods to serve the Lord, praying with boldness and proclaiming the gospel of peace. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be made.

That you unite us with all your holy ones who served you with reverence and faith in your promises. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Receive our hopes and prayers, O God of mercy, for great is your faithfulness in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

BLESSING

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

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN:

“I’m so Glad Jesus Lifted Me”

860 ELW

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK OF AUGUST 26TH, 2012

Organist: Marlys Beavers
Greeters: Steve Long & Mary Kramer Long
Ushers: 8:30 Les Bolke & Del Jones, 10:00 Darrell Kelly
Lectors: 8:30 Dawn Kellen, 10:00 Joan Niskanen
Coffee Servers: Joyce Rimer, Chuck & Elsa Carlson, Barb & Lee Forrester

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD LAST WEEK (8/18 & 8/19/12)

Attendance: Sat. 5:30 – 16 Sun. 8:30 – 101 10:00 – 54
Offering: \$ 3,231.80 Building Fund: \$ 550.00

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

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

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA AUGUST 26TH THRU SEPTEMBER 1ST, 2012

Mon., Aug. 27 th	7:00 p.m.	AA & Alanon
Tues., Aug. 28 th	9:00 a.m.	Quilters
	9:30 a.m.	Bells
Wed., Aug. 29 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., Aug. 30 th	8:00 a.m.	R.O.M.E.O.S.
	1:00 p.m.	Funtimers
Sat., Sept. 1 st	5:00 p.m.	Last Sat. Evening Service

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JAMBOREE—Don't forget the big nights for Bethesda's Jamboree are September 14th and 15th at 7 p.m. Bring your friends, bring your neighbors and enjoy a great evening of entertainment.

On Saturday, September 5th from 4-7 the **Light of the Cross Lutheran Church** in Garrison will be serving an **Old Fashioned Chicken Dinner**. See poster on bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

ATTENTION!! All Committee Heads!! Annual Reports are due by September 2nd.

We are still looking for **lawn mowers for the month of September** so if you can help please put your name on the signup sheet in the Narthex.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES will begin September 19th at 7 p.m.

OCTOBER 27TH the doors open at 9 AM to begin **Bethesda's ANNUAL BAZAAR**. Crafts, baked goods, cookie walk, lunch, raffle tickets and much more so come join us.

On Saturday, September 15th there will be a **simulcast of Beth Moore** in a live internet streaming of a Living Proof Live event. This event will be at the **Isle High School Auditorium from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.** For information or questions contact: Tracy Shimer at 320-630-4422.

NEW ADDRESS: Dick & Anita Nelson
3707 E Hwy 83 Box 346
Donna, Texas 78537
Tel: 956-464-3711