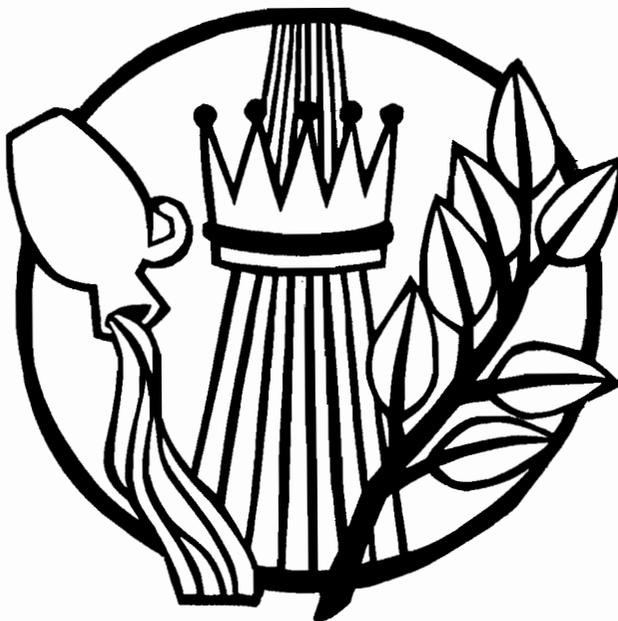


**Sunday, September 16th, 2012
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**



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, September 16, 2012
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Communion

INTRODUCTION

Three weeks ago we heard John's gospel's version of Peter's confession of faith. This week we hear Mark's version, when Peter says, "You are the Messiah." In John, the stumbling block is Jesus' invitation to eat his flesh, given for the life of the world. In Mark too the scandal has to do with Jesus' words about his own coming death, and here Peter himself stumbles over Jesus' words. But Jesus is anointed (the meaning of "messiah") in Mark only on the way to the cross (14:3); so we are anointed in baptism with the sign of the cross.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GIDEON'S PRESENTATION

OPENING HYMN: **"Lead On, O King Eternal!"** **# 805 ELW**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: **God, give us your wisdom so we might choose what serves your purpose for your world. Give us direction as we walk the uncertain journey of faith in your name. Forgive our sinful condition which pulls us away from you and the life you give. Forgive us for poor choices. Forgive our short-sightedness. Forgive our unwillingness to follow. Forgive our attitudes of self-sufficiency and our lack of love. God, give us wisdom and direction as we walk this adventure called faith.**

WE RECEIVE POWER FOR THE JOURNEY: Our God is a great God and knows our every need. God knows the wilderness we wander through. God forgives our choices, our short-sightedness, our unwillingness, our self-sufficiency and our lack of love. God, in Christ Jesus, forgives our sinful condition and promises love will replace hate and joy will replace despair. God gives us all we need for this journey and today we celebrate with joyful expectation.

GREETING

God's grace be with you today and always.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING: James 3:1–12

This text uses various images to illustrate how damaging and hurtful the way we speak to and about others can be. Not only are we to control our speech, but what we say and how we say it is to reflect our faith.

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue — a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless

the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

PSALM: Psalm 116:1–9

Refrain: I will walk in the presence of the LORD. (Ps. 116:9)

I love the LORD, who has heard my voice, and listened to my supplication,
for the LORD has given ear to me whenever I called.

The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave came upon me;
I came to grief and sorrow.

Then I called upon the name of the LORD: "O LORD, I pray you, save my life." R
Gracious is the LORD and righteous; our God is full of compassion.

The LORD watches over the innocent; I was brought low, and God saved me.

Turn again to your rest, O my soul for the LORD has dealt well with you.

**For you have rescued my life from death, my eyes from tears,
and my feet from stumbling;**

I will walk in the presence of the LORD in the land of the living. R

GOSPEL: Mark 8:27–38

This story provides the turning point in Mark's gospel. Peter is the first human being in the narrative to acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah, but he cannot accept that as the Messiah Jesus will have to suffer. Moreover, Jesus issues a strong challenge to all by connecting discipleship and the cross.

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began

to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

HYMN: "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"

611 ELW

SERMON

OFFERING & OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As disciples of Christ Jesus called to love and serve all people, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A time for silent prayer.

Lord, you are the Messiah. Grant us the willingness and courage to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow you for the sake of the gospel. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Almighty God, the heavens declare your glory. When hurricanes and floods come, keep your people safe from all harm and danger. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of justice, you are gracious and righteous. Hear the voices of all who cry out to you for an end to violence and warfare, hatred and racism, hunger and homelessness. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God, you are full of compassion. Bring hope and healing to those who are grieving, lonely, anxious, or sick (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Abiding Spirit, you are the love that binds this assembly into the body of Christ. May our words and deeds be a faithful witness to you. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be made.

Risen Christ, you have rescued our life from death. May we continue to walk in your presence with (*Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, and*) all the faithful who have gone before us, until that day when you come again in glory. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Hear our prayers, faithful God, and renew us by your Spirit, that we may joyfully love and serve you and one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

WORD OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

O God, our life, our strength, our food, we give you thanks for sustaining us with the body and blood of your Son. By your Holy Spirit, enliven us to be his body in the

September 16, 2012

Becoming Good News

As humans, we all have needs and expectations for which we seek fulfillment. It's been said that the most urgent and consistent desire we have in us is to have our basic and other needs met. And in our fast-paced society, we usually don't want that to take too long!

We have needs and expectations concerning physical things, but also spiritual things, things that we can't touch but can still talk about. That seems to be the nature of the discussion Jesus was having with his disciples in Caesarea Philippi. Underneath his question to his disciples concerning public speculation about him (Mark 8:27) could have been a desire to know more about the real needs of the people. Jesus' question, "Who do people say that I am?" could also have been asking, "What do the people really need from me?"

The question is important, because in the midst of all the public and private speculation about who and what Jesus is that has happened over the past two thousand years, we can't forget that Jesus is also good news. Jesus came to be and to bring good news (Mark 1:15). He opens up his good news wherever people open up their bad news. His talk and his touch are good news. His death and resurrection are good news. Both are the kind of good news that people need to see and hear. The best good news you can be is a living, breathing testimony of God's love.

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THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 16TH, 2012

Organist: Marlys Beavers
Greeters: Jack & Paula Spetz
Ushers: 8:30 Dee Olson & Lynn Hansen, 10:00 Darrell Kelly
Lectors: 8:30 Marilyn Samuelson, 10:00 Patti Honnold
Coffee Servers: Bill & Cheri Johnson, Marilyn Andrews

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD LAST WEEK (9/9/12)

Attendance: 8:30 – 105 10:00 – 44

Offering: \$ 2,490.00 Building Fund: \$ 370.00 Blessing Box: \$ 80.00

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

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

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA SEPTEMBER 16TH THRU SEPTEMBER 22ND, 2012

Mon., Sept. 17 th	7:00 p.m.	AA & Alanon
Tues., Sept. 18 th	9:00 a.m.	Crafters
	9:30 a.m.	Bells
	3:00 p.m.	Council Meeting
Wed., Sept. 19 th	8:30 a.m.	NO BIBLE STUDY
	9:30 a.m.	Hardanger
	9:30 a.m.	WELCA
	11:00 a.m.	NO BIBLE STUDY
	1:00 p.m.	WIC
	6:00 p.m.	Choir
	7:00 p.m.	Praise Team
	7:00 p.m.	Confirmation Begins
Thurs., Sept. 20 th	8:00 a.m.	R.O.M.E.O.S.
	8:30 a.m.	Women's Bible Study
	1:00 p.m.	Funtimers

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFIRMATION CLASSES BEGIN Wednesday, September 19th at 7:00 p.m.

NOTICE: There will be **NO BIBLE STUDIES** this Wednesday, September 19th.

Sunday, September 30th there will be **only one service at 9:00 a.m.**

ANNUAL MEETING will be held Sunday, September 30th at 10:00 a.m. following the Sunday Church Service.

The **ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2012** is ready to be picked up this Sunday so be sure and get yours before you leave church. This will give you time to look it over before the annual meeting on September 30th.

BETHESDA'S ANNUAL FALL BAZAAR will take place on October 27th this year. We open the doors at 9:00 a.m. So come walk the walk down the Cookie Walk, and around all the other displays to find those special somethings to take home with you.

MILLE LACS LAKE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT GROUP will meet Monday, September 17, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. at the Hazelton Town Hall. **Special Presentation:** Conservation Easements with Paula West of the Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation.

WELCA MEETING is Wednesday, September 19th. Our speaker will be Beth Leaf, Executive Director of Aitkin County CARE. All women of Bethesda are welcome to attend. Hope to see you there!

First Lutheran Church of Aitkin invites all women to the **Creation Care Retreat** on Tuesday, October 2nd from 5-8 p.m. with worship, supper & discussion. RSVP to Sunny Johnson, WELCA Pres. at 218-429-0015. See poster on Community Bulletin Board.

Check out the Messenger article, **Summer Camp at Chanhassen**, featuring our own **Holly Grap**. It is on the Community Bulletin Board.

Meatball Supper on Wednesday, Sept. 26th from 5-8 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church in Milaca. See Bulletin Board.

Variety Show, October 6th at 7 p.m. at the Light of the Cross Lutheran Church in Garrison. See Bulletin Board for details.

Quilt Auction and Fall Family Fest at Camp Onamia on Saturday, September 22nd. See Community Bulletin Board for details.