

**Sunday, September 23rd, 2012  
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**



**BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO**

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Pastor: Rev. James Raisanen

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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**

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## INTRODUCTION

*Today we hear James warn against selfish ambition, while the disciples quarrel over which one of them is the greatest. Jesus tells them the way to be great is to serve. Then, to make it concrete, he puts in front of them an actual flesh-and-blood child. We are called to welcome the particular children God puts in front of us, to make room for them in daily interaction, and to give them a place of honor in the assembly.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP by Bell Choir: “Sanctuary”**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**OPENING HYMN: “There is a Balm in Gilead” #614 ELW**

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**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.

**O God, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**BELL CHOIR ANTHEM:**

**“Children of the Heavenly Father”**

**FIRST READING: James 3:13—4:3; 4:7–8a**

*The wisdom God gives unites our hearts and minds. Instead of living to satisfy our own wants and desires, we manifest this wisdom in peace, gentleness, mercy, and impartiality toward others.*

## **Chapter 3**

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

## Chapter 4

Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

### PSALM: Psalm 54

*Refrain: God is my helper; it is the LORD who sustains my life. (Ps. 54:4)*

Save me, O God, by your name;  
in your might, defend my cause.

**Hear my prayer, O God;  
give ear to the words of my mouth.**

For strangers have risen up against me,  
and the ruthless have sought my life,  
those who have no regard for God.

**Behold, God is my helper;  
it is the Lord who sustains my life. R**

Render evil to those who spy on me;  
in your faithfulness, destroy them.

**I will offer you a freewill sacrifice  
and praise your name, O LORD, for it is good.**

For you have rescued me from every trouble,  
and my eye looks down on my enemies. R

### GOSPEL: Mark 9:30–37

*Jesus' teaching and action in this text are directed to the church whenever it is seduced by the world's definition of greatness: prestige, power, influence, and money. The antidote to such a concern for greatness is servanthood.*

They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into

human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

**HYMN:** "Lord, Be Glorified # 744 ELW

### **SERMON**

**HYMN:** "We Give They but Thine Own" # 686 ELW

### **OFFERING & OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**God, giver of every good and perfect gift, we bring before you these offerings of our treasure. Bless these gifts and use them in the work of your realm on earth. Give strength to hands that labor, vision to minds that create and hope to lives who serve. In Jesus' name. 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.*

O God, make your church around the world great in service and care to those who are poor. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

O God, bring favorable weather to farmlands, clean air to cities, and calm seas to coastlines. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Spirit of righteousness, bring peace to conflicts and disputes around the world (*especially*). Fill leaders with mercy and gentleness born of your wisdom. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God our helper, it is you who sustains our life. Hear the prayers of those in trouble or in any need (*especially*). Draw near to them with your healing presence. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of all, prepare us to welcome everyone into this assembly and readily accept the gifts they bring to the life and ministry of this congregation. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be made.*

Everlasting God, we give thanks for your servants of every generation. Help and defend us from all evil, until we worship and praise you around your throne with the angels and archangels and all the company of heaven. 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.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

### **BLESSING**

The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.

**Amen.**

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

The God of all grace + bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **DISMISSAL**

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Thanks be to God.**

**CLOSING HYMN:**

**“Great is Thy Faithfulness”**

**# 733 ELW**



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**REMINDER:** Next Sunday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, there will be only **ONE SERVICE AT 9:00 a.m.** followed by **BETHESDA'S ANNUAL MEETING at 10:00 a.m.**

The **2012 ANNUAL REPORTS** are available in the Narthex if you have not already gotten one. Please pick up one per family and review before the Annual Meeting.

We are in need of **Coffee Servers** for October 7<sup>th</sup> and Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> so if you can serve either of these dates, please sign up.

**FLU SHOTS** will be given at Bethesda on Tuesday, October 16<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

**CONFIRMATION CLASS** will be at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 26<sup>th</sup>.

**BETHESDA'S FALL BAZAAR** is Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Mark it on your calendar.

**Skål Klubben Spelmanslag** is a Scandinavian folk orchestra who will be performing on Friday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the Isle High School Auditorium. Admission: free will donation. All you Scandinavians (and everyone else too) come to an evening of great Scandinavian music.

### **Medicare Part D Open Enrollment – October 15<sup>th</sup> – December 7<sup>th</sup>**

Call **Senior LinkAge Line®** at **1-800-333-2433** during open enrollment for assistance with comparing Medicare prescription drug plans for 2013. New plans may be available, some existing plans may no longer be available, plan premiums and formularies may change and you may qualify for extra help with your prescription drug costs! **\*\*Senior LinkAge® does not sell or market any insurance products.\*\***

**GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP** will be starting a six week series on Thursdays beginning October 11<sup>th</sup> thru November 15<sup>th</sup> from 4:30-6:00 p.m. at Riverwood Healthcare Center. See bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

Do you help an older friend or relative? ***Powerful Tools for Caregivers*** is an educational program designed to provide you with tools to take care of yourself. There will be six 2.5 hour class sessions held weekly beginning November 1<sup>st</sup>. These will be held at IREC in Isle. Please pre-register. See bulletin board for more information.

**VARIETY SHOW** at Light of the Cross Lutheran Church , Garrison on Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>.

**MEATBALL SUPPER**, Wed., Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> at Zion Lutheran Church in Milaca.