

May 5th, 2013
Sixth Sunday of Easter



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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Church Web Site: blcmalmo.org

Pastor: Rev. James Raisanen

Church Secretary: Evelyn Richter

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

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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

FIRST READING: Acts 16:9–15

A vision compels Paul to move his ministry into Greece. There he meets Lydia, an important person in the business community, whose heart has been opened by God to receive the gospel. Her conversion and baptism provide the impetus for the founding of the church at Philippi.

During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

PSALM: Psalm 67

Refrain: Let the nations be glad and sing for joy. (Ps. 67:4)

May God be merciful to us and bless us;
may the light of God's face shine upon us.

**Let your way be known upon earth,
your saving health among all nations.**

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

**Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations on earth. R**

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

The earth has brought forth its increase; God, our own God, has blessed us.

May God give us blessing, and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe. R

GOSPEL: John 14:23–29

As Jesus talks of returning to the Father, he promises to send the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, who will teach Jesus' followers and remind them of all that Jesus taught. Even more, those in whom God makes a home will experience a peace that overcomes fear.

Jesus answered him, "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.

HYMN:

"Old Rugged Cross"

See Insert

SERMON



OFFERING & OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rejoicing with all the witnesses of the resurrection, let us pray in confidence for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A time for silent prayer.

Send your Holy Spirit to teach and remind us of the ways of your love. Shape the church by your word and guide the proclamation of your grace for the sake of the whole world. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Reveal to us the splendor of creation and inspire gratitude in our hearts for the yield of the earth. Show us your ways of abundance and healing for the sake of our world. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Guide judges, magistrates, and juries to deliberate with equity and fairness. Be the hope and inspiration of all who are imprisoned or detained. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Relieve the fears and troubles of those who suffer. Grant shelter to the homeless, assistance to those in any need, and healing to the sick (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Inspire the community by the enthusiasm and joy of the newly baptized. Enliven this congregation by stories of conversion and transformation in the gospel. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be made.

Shelter us in the shade of the tree of life, granting refreshment and healing in our weariness and despair. Strengthen our faith with the witness of all the saints and join our voices together in the song of praise that never ends. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In resurrection hope we commend to you all for whom we pray, trusting in the promise of new life; through Jesus Christ, our risen 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

Let us pray.

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 through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

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

CLOSING HYMN: "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" # 807 ELW

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK OF MAY 5TH, 2013

Organist: Marlys Beavers
Greeters: Jerry & Pat Becker
Ushers: 8:30 Don & Donna Myhre, 10:00 Ron & JoAnn Haglund
Lectors: 8:30 Lynn Hansen, 10:00 Carol Bipes
Coffee Servers: Irene Long's 96th Birthday Bash! Served by Irene's Family.

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD LAST WEEK (4/28/13)

Attendance: 9:00 – 96

Offering: \$ 1,552.95 Building Fund: \$ 170.00

\$ 3,077.00 – Weekly amount needed for operating expenses

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

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA MAY 5TH THRU MAY 11TH, 2013

Mon., May 6 th	9:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	Women's Devotions @ Pat Becker's AA & Alanon
Tues., May 7 th	9:00 a.m.	Bells
Wed., May 8 th	8:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Bible Study Hardanger Bible Study Choir Praise Team
Thurs., May 9 th	8:00 a.m. 8:30 a.m.-1:00p.m. 10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m.	R.O.M.E.O.S. Foot Care Clinic Altar Care Funtimers
Fri., May 10 th	10:00-11:00AM	Bone Builders

ANNOUNCEMENTS

During this morning's coffee hour come join **Irene Long** and her family as they celebrate her **96th birthday**. Congratulations, Irene on reaching this milestone birthday—**HAPPY BIRTHDAY FROM ALL OF US!!**

THANK YOU this morning to Valerie Benton & Pat Becker for leading our services. It is greatly appreciated.

BETHESDA'S MEMORY GARDEN COMMITTEE will be taking orders for new bricks till Memorial Day. Forms are available in the Memory Garden mailbox or contact Val Benton. Bricks will be place in the garden at summer's end (if the snow is melted by then!) Here's to Spring....

There are lists of new members names, addresses & telephone numbers in the narthex if you wish to have one to add to your directory.

Come join us at 10:00 a.m. on Fridays for **RSVP/Bone Builders** exercises right here at Bethesda. They are also meeting on Wednesdays at Malmo Evangelical Church so you can get in two sessions per week.

Next week John Koziol, Jr. & Sherri Lohmann will lead the music at our worship services.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT BETHESDA:

Saturday, May 11th – **Fishing Opener** (???)

Monday, May 13th – **Jelly Making** at 8 a.m.

Tuesday, May 21st – **Crafters** will meet at 9 a.m

Wednesday, May 22nd – Plans are to **plant the Memory Garden** at 10 a.m.

Monday-Friday, June 17th-21st –VBS

COMMUNITY EVENTS (Posted on the community bulletin board)

Immanuel Lutheran Church of Hillman – **Spaghettl Supper** on Friday, May 10th from 5-7:30 p.m.

Sacred Heart Church in Wahkon – **Craft & Bake Sale** on Saturday, May 11th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran Church of Milaca – **“Syttende Mai” Smorgasbord** on Friday, May 17th from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Old Rugged Cross

**On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
The emblem of suffering and shame;
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain.**

Refrain

*So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
Till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
And exchange it some day for a crown.*

**O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,
Has a wondrous attraction for me;
For the dear Lamb of God left His glory above
To bear it to dark Calvary.**

Refrain

**In that old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine,
A wondrous beauty I see,
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died,
To pardon and sanctify me.**

Refrain

**To the old rugged cross I will ever be true;
Its shame and reproach gladly bear;
Then He'll call me some day to my home far away,
Where His glory forever I'll share.**

Refrain