

Service of Blessing, Prayer and Healing
June 30th, 2013
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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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

We have no good apart from God. That makes our Lord's call to follow him an invitation to freedom. This is freedom to revel in the Spirit's fruits: love, joy, peace, patience, and the like. This is the path of life.

Today's service of Blessing, Prayer and Healing is a time for reflection, forgiveness and healing in our lives. It is a time to thank God for the many blessings He has given us and to make our requests known to Him. Please spend a few moments in silent prayer to prepare your hearts to receive His healing power.

CALL TO WORSHIP by Bell Choir: “Ring”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: “Be Thou My Vision” # 793 ELW

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Leader: Let us confess before God and those present our sins against God and others.

Congregation: Have mercy upon us, O God, for having abused the power of prayer, for using it so often to ask for things for ourselves, and not using it to express our gratitude. Forgive us for being selfish and forgetting to pray for those in need of healing. Pardon us wherein we are carrying larger burdens than necessary, because we have relied upon our own weak strength instead of seeking Your power through prayer. Forgive us, and renew us, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Leader: May the Holy Spirit strengthen and lead us as we live our lives.

Congregation: Amen. Hallelujah.

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.

Sovereign God, ruler of all hearts, you call us to obey you, and you favor us with true freedom. Keep us faithful to the ways of your Son, that, leaving behind all that hinders us, we may steadfastly follow your paths, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Living God, today we pray for our brothers and sisters who are in need of your healing whether it be of body, mind or spirit. Grant comfort in suffering to all who are in need of healing. When they are afraid, give them courage; when afflicted give them patience; when dejected, give them hope and when alone assure them of the support of their brothers and sisters in Christ. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BELL CHOIR ANTHEM: “Here I am to Worship”

FIRST READING: Galatians 5:1, 13–25

For Paul, the freedom Christ gives is not permission to do whatever we want. It is the invitation to be what we could not be otherwise. The power and guidance of Christ's Holy Spirit produce a different kind of life, one marked by the fruit of this Holy Spirit.

For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

PSALM: Psalm 16

Refrain: I have set the LORD always before me. (Ps. 16:8)

Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you;

I have said to the LORD, "You are my Lord, my good above all other."

**All my delight is in the godly that are in the land,
upon those who are noble among the people.**

But those who run after other gods shall have their troubles multiplied.

**I will not pour out drink offerings to such gods,
never take their names upon my lips. R**

O LORD, you are my portion and my cup; it is you who uphold my lot.

My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; indeed, I have a rich inheritance.

I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel; my heart teaches me night after night.

**I have set the LORD always before me;
because God is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken. R**

My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices;
my body also shall rest in hope.

For you will not abandon me to the grave, nor let your holy one see the pit.

You will show me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy,
and in your right hand are pleasures forevermore. R

GOSPEL: Luke 9:51–62

Jesus is unwavering in his commitment to his mission in Jerusalem and will not be swayed by pettiness. In a series of striking cases in point, he calls his disciples to a similar single-mindedness.

When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" But he turned and rebuked them. Then they went on to another village.

As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." But Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home." Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

HYMN: "Just a Closer Walk with Thee"

697 ELW

SERMON

HYMN: "Give Me Jesus"

770 ELW

OFFERING & OFFERTORY PRAYER

God, giver of every good and perfect gift, we thank you for the daily blessings of life. May these gifts bring hope and healing to a world in need. Amen.

PRAYERS OF HEALING

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A part of our work as a congregation is to pray for the sick. Prayer for the sick is an important Christian discipline and a biblical injunction. We want it to be a part of our worship program.

A theology of wholeness and wellness, however also would include a work of thanksgiving and support for those who are healthy and are seeking to be good stewards of all God's blessings.

Leader: Teach us, O God, how to walk in paths of wholeness and hope.

Congregation: Helps us to care for those among us who are sick, and to challenge those who are well to embrace the fullness and vigor of life that you bring.

Leader: Let those who are lonely or sorrowing be comforted and called back into community.

Congregation: Let those who are depressed or suffering from mental anguish be helped through compassionate care and support.

Leader: Let those who are facing illness of body be encouraged and assisted as they seek to recover or be released from their pain.

Congregation: Let those who are healthy celebrate with joy.

Leader: Let those of us who are able honor your creation through thankful enjoyment of nutritious food, clear air and water and vigorous exercise.

Congregation: Let us rejoice in the splendid variety of your creation.

All: Help us to be a healthy and healing congregation, O God, a place where all are free to live fully in body, mind and spirit. This we pray in your precious name. Amen.

A TIME OF BLESSING, PRAYER AND LIGHTING OF CANDLES

You are invited this morning to come forward to receive a blessing and the sign of the cross in oil on your hand to strengthen you in your faith walk. You can also light a candle as you say a prayer. If you have a special prayer request you can record it on paper and place it in the basket on the altar. These will be offered up to God.

LORD'S PRAYER

BLESSING

May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ fill you with every spiritual blessing. **Amen.**

May the God of faithfulness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

May 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.**

DISMISSAL

May the Lord walk beside you to comfort you
May the Lord walk above you to watch over you
May the Lord walk behind you to keep you safe
May the Lord walk before you to show you the way

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

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK OF JUNE 30TH, 2013

Organist: Marlys Beavers
Greeters: Ron & Jan Aho
Ushers: 8:30 Les Bolke, Betty Sandell, 10:00 Marilyn Andrews, Judy Seifert
Lectors: 8:30 Patti Honnold, 10:00 Pat Becker
Coffee Servers: Warren & Marilyn Samuelson, Eric & Sunny Emerson

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD LAST WEEK (6/23/2013)

Attendance: Sat. – 18 Sun. 8:30 – 74 10:00 – 40

Offering: \$ 2,036.00 Building Fund: \$ 525.00

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

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

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA JUNE 30TH THRU JULY 6TH, 2013

Mon., July 1st 7:00 p.m. AA & Alanon

Tues., July 2nd 9:00 a.m. Crafters
 9:30 a.m. Bells

Wed., July 3rd 9:30 a.m. Hardanger
 6:00 p.m. Choir
 6:30 p.m. Praise Team

Thurs., July 4th INDEPENDENCE DAY

Fri., July 5th 10:00 a.m. Bone Builders

Sat., July 6th Morning Veggie Stand Opens
 5:00 p.m. Sat. Eve. Celebration of Freedom in
 Fellowship Hall with
 John Koziol, Jr. & Libby Turner

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to **Dennis and Audrey Bistodeau** as they celebrate their **60th Wedding Anniversary** today.

Come join in on the fun at the **July 4th Independence Day Parade at Glen** starting at 10:30 a.m.!!

Reminder: There are no Bible Studies on Wednesday & Thursday this week.

Thanks to Bethesda's very kind donation of over \$2,000 to Save the Aids Orphans/Uganda, Pastor Nelson Lufafa and STAO are now able to begin the plumbing and installation of toilets in the girls' wing of the Agape Children's Home. Pastor Lufafa said "Bethesda has a big-heart for the children"...and we do!

We are still in need of **COFFEE SERVERS**. Please consider signing up on the bulletin board next to the kitchen serving window.

Our WELCA group has chosen to donate money to pay for the shipping of the Quilts which are donated to the Lutheran World Relief--This is our **WELCA In-Kind Focus Project**. Today is the last day to make your donation to this project—there is a basket on the table in the Narthex with envelopes in which to put your donation.

The Northeastern Minnesota Synod will be sponsoring a **choir concert tour to Russia** in May. If you are interest in this wonderful opportunity to sing the praises of our Lord and help build mission outreach, please consider applying. There is a flyer on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Information is also available on www.nemnsynod.org or speak to Pat Becker.

The church council is **seeking a new council secretary** to replace Judy Wozney who has resigned. If you have any interest, please contact our Council President Sandy Pullen. If asked to serve, please give these duties serious consideration.

GOLF at 10:00 a.m. on Mondays at Wealthwood Golf Course. Come join us!

Next weekend our **Saturday evening service at 5:00 p.m.** and the **10:00 a.m. service on Sunday** will feature accomplished musicians **John Koziol, Jr. and Libby Turner**. Come join us for some outstanding music.

The 8:30 a.m. service on Sunday, July 7th will be a traditional communion service.

INTENT ON OUR GOAL

What is our mission? Towards what is our face set? What gives our interactions and our comings and goings a sense of purpose? What is it that consumes us so fully that everything extraneous just drops away?

Jesus is heading towards Jerusalem, moving towards the culmination of his time as a teacher and healer. He is so intent on his goal, his confrontation with the earthly powers and his ultimate victory over them, that when a whole Samaritan village refuses to receive him, he brushes off the rejection and keeps right on walking. When James and John seek vengeance against its inhabitants, Jesus rebukes them. His aim is not to punish but to redeem. He asks that his followers be likewise dedicated. But "as for you," he tells a conflicted man, "go and proclaim the kingdom of God" (Luke 9:60).

We might proclaim God's kingdom through visiting the sick, teaching, fundraising for worthy causes, contributing our time and talent, or being a loving parent. However we do it, Jesus asks that our efforts be whole-hearted and an offering to God. Too often we mean to live purpose-driven lives, yet we have a million excuses for why we're too busy to listen for and pursue our vocations. We say, as did another waffler in this gospel, "I will follow you, Lord; but let me first . . ." (v. 61).

"No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God," Jesus chides (v. 62). Without commitment, we spin our wheels. There are so many ways we can "go and proclaim" God's kingdom, but we must seek them out. Towards what is God calling us? Let us listen and set willing faces towards it.

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