

**September 15th, 2013
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

21590 State Highway 47, Isle, MN 56342

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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

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 15, 2013
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Communion

INTRODUCTION

The grumbling of the Pharisees and the scribes in today's gospel is actually our holy hope: This Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. That our God wills to seek and to save the lost is not only a holy hope, it is our only hope. As Paul's first letter to Timothy reminds us, "The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." Thanks be to God.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: **"Let All Things Now Living"** **# 881 ELW**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Let us confess,

We confess that we live in a world of shattered dreams and broken promises. We confess that we use and abuse our world and the creatures of our planet. We confess that we are not willing to share the world's resources but we would rather keep them for ourselves. God of the soil, water, and air, forgive our sinful nature and make us a new creation fashioned in your image.

Hear the Good News of the Creators love: People of God's world – God is alive and at work in this world and the next. God's creative power continues to recreate love where there is hate and healing where there is hurt. Through Jesus Christ all things were created. Through Jesus Christ all creation is sustained. Through Jesus Christ our sin is forgiven and we are free to live as God's people
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

O God, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM

FIRST READING: 1 Timothy 1:12–17

The letters to Timothy are called the Pastoral Epistles because they contain advice especially intended for leaders in the church. Here the mercy shown to Paul, who once persecuted the church, is cited as evidence that even the most unworthy may become witnesses to the grace of God.

I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners — of whom I am the foremost. But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

PSALM: Psalm 51:1–10

Refrain: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love. (Ps. 51:1)

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;

so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment. R

Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother's womb.

Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,

and would have me know wisdom deep within.

Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

Let me hear joy and gladness; that the body you have broken may rejoice.

Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. R

GOSPEL: Luke 15:1–10

Jesus tells two stories that suggest a curious connection between the lost being found and sinners repenting. God takes the initiative to find sinners, each of whom is so precious to God that his or her recovery brings joy in heaven.

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

So he told them this parable: Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it,

she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

HYMN:

"Softly & Tenderly Jesus Is Calling"

608 ELW

SERMON

OFFERING & OFFERTORY PRAYER

Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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 time for silent prayer.

Holy God of reconciliation, pour out your mercy upon us when we stray to ways of sin and disobedience. Turn us back to you, and fulfill your righteous covenant. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Show the earth with abundant water, especially where there is drought and clean drinking water is scarce. Refresh all people with flowing rivers and springs. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Send your Spirit of forgiveness and renewal to all families, communities, and nations. Reconcile us to one another, as you have graciously reconciled us to you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Seek out those who struggle on their own with illness and despair (*especially*). Join yourself to them, bear their burdens, and lift them up to find hope and strength in you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Accompany refugees, displaced persons, and all who wander without homes. Shelter them from all enemies. Give them stability through others sent to serve them. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be made.

Living God, your mercy transforms us. Speak to us through the lives of the saints, and use our lives to proclaim the healing power of your salvation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Into your hands, O Holy One, we entrust all for whom we pray, confident in your abundant and abiding mercy; through Jesus Christ our 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

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

**Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, 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:

“Amazing Grace”

779 ELW

**This is the day the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Psalm 118: 24**

LOSERS

Why does Jesus congregate with losers? "This fellow," grumble the religiously righteous, "welcomes sinners and eats with them" (Luke 15:2). Jesus doesn't retaliate or accuse them of unkindness, but instead starts to tell them little stories.

"The Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost" (Luke 19:10). But how can he reach those who don't recognize their need to be found? Jesus longs to welcome the scribes and Pharisees to his table. Maybe he can catch them off guard by appealing to their imaginations. He attempts to hook what Daniel Erlander calls "the grumpy people" by inviting them—not in so many words, not so they consciously notice—to identify with God. After all, they already go through life trying to act more righteous than God. Jesus sees their bluff, and raises it.

Whether or not they can admit to ever having lost something precious, they can still be enticed by the parables. What would it be like to be a man who leaves 99 sheep in the wilderness and doesn't rest until he finds the one that strayed? Or a woman who overturns her entire house to find a single tiny coin? The sheep might know it's lost. The coin certainly doesn't. The point of view is that of the owner. Could you imagine being frantic with anxiety, relentless in your search, and then relieved—even giddy with joy—over finding what had been lost . . . by you? Could you imagine inviting all the neighbors in for a party to celebrate being a loser—and a finder? The finding is so good that the losing no longer stings.

Erlander's picture book, *A Place for You*, includes a handful of "grumpy people" who frown on every page throughout the earthly ministry of Jesus. But after the resurrection they smile and dance at his party along with everyone else. All are found, all are home, and the angels rejoice.

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THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 15TH, 2013

Organist: Marlys Beavers
Greeters: Wally & Bev Swensen
Ushers: 8:30 Dennis & Audrey Bistodeau, 10:00 Marilyn Andrews & Judy Seifert
Lectors: 8:30 Myra Honl, 10:00 Randy Tofteland
Coffee Servers: Joni & Ron Mehlhop, Rich & Marge Nelson

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD LAST WEEK (9/8/13)

Attendance: 8:30 – 84 10:00 – 45
Offering: \$ 3,501.00 Building Fund: \$ 280.00

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

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

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA SEPTEMBER 15TH THRU SEPTEMBER 21ST, 2013

Mon., Sept. 16 th	9:00 a.m.	Women's Devotions at Dianne Jones home
	7:00 p.m.	AA & Alanon
Tues., Sept. 17 th	9:00 a.m.	Crafters
	9:30 a.m.	Bells
Wed., Sept 18 th	NO BIBLE STUDIES	
	9:00 a.m.	WIC
	9:30 a.m.	WELCA
	9:30 a.m.	Hardanger
	6:30 p.m.	Choir
	7:30 p.m.	Praise Team
Thurs., Sept. 19 th	8:00 a.m.	R.O.M.E.O.S.
	1:00 p.m.	Funtimers
Fri., Sept. 20 th	10:00 a.m.	Bone Builders

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **ANNUAL REPORTS** are ready to be picked up. We will be handing them out after the 8:30 service so be sure you get one to review before the **Annual Meeting** on September 29th.

Our **ANNUAL MEETING** will take place following the 9:00 a.m. worship service on September 29th. There will be only one service that morning.

CORRECTION TO IRENE LONG'S ADDRESS: 206 Elm Street
Apt 270, Onamia, MN 56359

MEATBALL SUPPER at Zion Lutheran Church in Milaca on Wednesday, September 25th from 5:00-8:00 p.m.

CONFIRMATION classes will begin Wednesday, September 25th at 7PM.

Remember to save Saturday, October 26th as the day to attend Bethesda's **ANNUAL BAZAAR**. We will be open 9a.m to 2p.m.

RAFFLE TICKETS will be distributed today also so be sure to get yours.