

September 22nd, 2013
Eighteenth 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

As we are invited today to consider what it means to be managers (rather than owners) of all that we have, it is crucial to recall that we are bought with a price. "Christ Jesus, himself human, . . . gave himself a ransom for all." Apart from the generosity of God we have nothing—we are nothing. By God's gracious favor we have everything we need.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: **"Praise to the Lord Almighty"** **#858 ELW**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Amen.

LET US CONFESS: God of overflowing grace, we come to you with repentant hearts. Forgive us for shallow thankfulness. Forgive us for passing by the ones in need. Forgive us for setting our hopes on fleeting treasures. Forgive us our neglect and thoughtlessness. Bring us home from the wilderness of sin, and strengthen us to serve you in all that we do and say; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Hear the good news of the creator's love: There is joy in heaven over every sinner who repents. By the grace of God in + Christ Jesus, who gave himself up for us all, your sins are forgiven and you are made free. Rejoice with the angels and with one another! We are home in God's mercy, now and forever. **Alleluia!**

GREETING

Sisters and brothers in Christ, beloved children of God:
grace, mercy, and peace be with you all.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord God, you call us to work in your vineyard and leave no one standing idle. Set us to our tasks in the work of your kingdom, and help us to order our lives by your wisdom; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BELLS ANTHEM

“Come, Now is the Time to Worship”

FIRST READING: Amos 8:4-7

Amos was called by God to prophesy in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Peace and prosperity in Israel led to corrupt business practices and oppression of the poor. The prophet declares that God will not tolerate such a situation.

Hear this, you that trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land, saying, "When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain; and the Sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale?"

We will make the ephah small and the shekel great, and practice deceit with false balances,

buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals, and selling the sweepings of the wheat."

The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

PSALM: Psalm 113

Refrain: The LORD lifts up the poor from the ashes. (Ps. 113:7)

Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants of the LORD;
praise the name of the LORD.

**Let the name of the LORD be blessed,
from this time forth forevermore.**

From the rising of the sun to its going down
let the name of the LORD be praised.

The LORD is high above all nations,

God's glory above the heavens. R

Who is like the LORD our God,
who sits enthroned on high,

but stoops to behold the heavens and the earth?

The LORD takes up the weak out of the dust and lifts up the poor from the ashes,
enthroning them with the rulers, with the rulers of the people.

The LORD makes the woman of a childless house to be a joyful mother of children.
Hallelujah! *Refrain: The LORD lifts up the poor from the ashes.*

GOSPEL: Luke 14:25-33

Jesus tells the curious story of a dishonest man who cheats his employer and then is commended by him for having acted so shrewdly. Jesus wonders why his own followers are less creative and diligent in their stewardship given that they are managers of a far more valuable household.

Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.' Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes. Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

Encourage and inspire ethical business practices. By your Holy Spirit, move employers to pay fair wages. Let your justice permeate economic systems, that none may suffer want. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Living God, giving thanks for the saints, whose lives point toward Christ, we pray you lead us in faithful living, until the day when heaven and earth are united before him. 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.

BLESSING

God Almighty send your light and truth to keep you all the days of your life. The hand of God protect you; the holy angels accompany you; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit be with you now and forever.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN:

“This is my Father’s Will”

#824 ELW

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEL HAMMAN (husband of Ruth Hamman) passed away Tuesday September 17th. The funeral will be held at Bethesda 11:00 am Wednesday September 25th. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service. All are invited to attend a light luncheon served in the fellowship hall at Bethesda. Memorials are to be gifted to the Music Program at Bethesda.

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

MEATBALL SUPPER at Zion Lutheran Church in Milaca on Wednesday, September 25th 5:00-7:00 pm.

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

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

RAFFLE TICKETS for the bazaar have been distributed. If you haven't received yours contact Jan Phillip at (320)684-2526. Have a fun time selling the tickets.

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 22ND, 2013

Organist: Marlys Beavers
Greeters: Winnie Zahradka, Grace Iverson
Ushers: 8:30 Dennis & Audry Bistodeau 10:00 Marilyn Andrews, Judy Seifert
Lectors: 8:30 Barb Bray 10:00 Carolyn Morris
Coffee Servers: Wayne & Janice Olson, John & Grace Iverson

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week (9/15/13)

Attendance: 8:30-105 10:00-33

Offering: Building Fund:

\$ 3,077.00 Weekly Amount needed for operating expenses
\$ 580.00 Weekly Amount (building fund) needed for mortgage payment

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda September 22nd thru September 28, 2013

Monday 9/23 7:00 pm AA & Alanon

Tuesday 9/24 No Quilters
9:30 am Bells

Wednesday 9/25 NO BIBLE STUDIES
9:30 Hardanger
11:00 Mel Hamman Funeral
6:00 Choir
7:00 Praise Team
7:00 Confirmation

Thursday 9/26 8:00 R.O.M.E.O.E.S
1:00 Fun Timers

Friday 9/27 10:00 Bone Builders