

September 29th, 2013
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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Church Web Site: blcmalmo.org

Pastor: Rev. James Raisanen

Church Secretary: Acting Secretary Mary Kramer

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

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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.

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PRELUDE

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.

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.

SPECIAL MUSIC

FIRST READING: 1st Timothy 6:6-19

Timothy is reminded of the confession he made at his baptism and of its implications for daily life. His priorities will be different from those of people who merely want to be rich. Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many. But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he will bring about at the right time — he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

PSALM: Psalm 146 *Refrain: The LORD gives justice to those who are oppressed. (Ps. 146:7)*

Hallelujah! Praise the LORD, ¹O my soul!

I will praise the LORD as long¹ as I live;

I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

Put not your trust in rulers, in mortals in whom there is no help.

When they breathe their last, they return to earth, and in that day their thoughts perish. R

Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the LORD their God;

‘who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that¹ is in them; who keeps promises forever;

who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.

The LORD sets the captive free.

The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;

the LORD loves the righteous.

The LORD cares for the stranger; the LORD sustains the orphan and widow,

but frustrates the way¹ of the wicked.

The LORD shall reign forever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah! R

GOSPEL: Luke 16:19-31

Jesus tells a parable in which the poor one is "lifted up" and the rich one is "sent away empty." Jesus makes it clear that this ethic of merciful reversal is not new but is as old as Moses and the prophets.

There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.' But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.' He said, 'Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father's house — for I have five brothers — that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.' Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.' He said,

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.

PRAYER FOR HEALING: Let us pray

Father, we thank you for your Blessing to us. May your strength and grace surround us. May Jesus Christ, your Son, share with us this courage and His forgiveness. May the Holy Spirit lead us to the way of right and goodness for all. May your Holy Angels hold us in their arms and guide us on our Journey here in this world and into the next. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen.

A TIME OF BLESSING, PRAYER AND LIGHTING OF CANDLES

THE 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:

“Go My Children”

#543 ELW

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **ANNUAL MEETING** will take place today following the 9:00 am worship service.

STARTING Tuesday OCTOBER 1ST, Bells will practice at 5:30 pm.

CONFIRMATION class Wednesday, October 2nd at 7 pm.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP -having trouble coping from the loss of a loved one? Don't ride it out alone. Thursdays, October 3- December 19th 3:00-4:00 pm. Meet at the Long Term Care building at Mille Lacs Health System Onamia Campus, East Conference Room. Pre-register: Sue Lyback, LSW, 320-532-2742.

Women of the ELCA Heartland Conference Fall Gathering, Saturday, October 12th. First Lutheran-Aitkin 107 Second St SE www.flc-aitkin.com. The conference is titled, **Always Being Made New!** "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." 2 Corinthians 5:17. Register on the signup sheet in the fellowship hall and attend. Coffee and conference registration 8:30-9:30 am Saturday morning.

Sunday October 13th, the Praise Team will be leading a Polka Service at 8:30 am and 10:00 am. We need someone to house our guest musicians Lindy and Diane West overnight on Saturday October 12th. If you can help, please contact Sheila Penoyer at 218-534-5337 Thank you.

Remember to save Saturday, October 26th to attend Bethesda's **ANNUAL Holiday BAZAAR**. We will be open 9 am to 2 pm. To volunteer, find your activity and sign up on the sheets in the fellowship hall.

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

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 29th, 2013

Organist: Marlys Beavers
Greeters: Dennis & Audrey Bistodeau
Ushers: 9:00 Maynard & Kathy Berland
Lector: 9:00 Dee Olson
Coffee Servers: Annual Meeting No Coffee Fellowship

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week (9/22/13)

Attendance: 8:30-87 10:00-35

Offering: \$3,021 Building Fund: \$383 09-15-2013
\$1,993 \$422 09-22-2013

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

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda September 30th thru October 5th, 2013

Monday	09/30	7:00 pm	AA & Alanon
Tuesday	10/01	5:30 pm	Bells
Wednesday	10/02	8:30 am	Bible Study
		9:30 am	Hardanger
		11:00 am	Bible Study
		6:00 pm	Choir
		7:00 pm	Praise Team
		7:00 pm	Confirmation
Thursday	10/03	8:00 pm	R.O.M.E.O.S
		1:00 pm	Fun Timers
Friday	10/04	10:00 pm	Bone Builders