

February 2nd, 2014
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany



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

Sunday, February 2, 2014

Holy Communion

INTRODUCTION

Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, mourners, the meek, those who hunger for righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: "Oh for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

#886 ELW

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us come into the light of Christ, confessing our need for God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy and faithful God,

we so often choose our own way instead of yours.

We think we can evade your commandments. We have spoken in ways that kill, strayed with our hearts, betrayed friends, and hated enemies.

We have broken our promises. Search us deeply and create us anew.

Lift the heavy burden of our sin and free us to follow your way of life.

Amen.

"Call upon me," says the Lord, "and I will answer."

Our God has come among us to loose every bond and set us free from all that weighs us down. Receive the forgiveness of all your sins

in the name of + Jesus Christ, our crucified and risen Savior.

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

Let us pray.

O God, you know that we cannot withstand the dangers which surround us. Strengthen us in body and spirit so that, with your help, we may be able to overcome the weakness that our sin has brought upon us; through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord. Amen

FIRST READING:

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

According to the world's standards of power and might, the message of the cross seems stupid and offensive. Yet this word reveals the paradoxical way God has chosen to work power and salvation through weakness, rejection, and suffering. Hence the message of the cross becomes true wisdom and power for believers.

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Psalm 15

LORD, who may abide upon your holy hill? (Ps. 15:1)

LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your^l holy hill?

**Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,
who speak the truth from their heart; R**

they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;
they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

**In their sight the wicked are rejected,
but they honor those who fear the LORD.**

**They have sworn upon their health
and do not take back their word.**

They do not give their money in hope of gain,
nor do they take bribes against the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be overthrown. **R**

GOSPEL:

Mathew 5: 1-12

Jesus opens the Sermon on the Mount by naming those who are blessed in the reign of God.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

HYMN: “God, Whose Almighty Word” #673 ELW
SERMON: “The Foolishness of God”
HYMN: “Blessed Assurance” #638 ELW

OFFERING & OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever.
You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine.
Nourish us with these gifts that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Guided by the light of Christ, who has been made known to the nations, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

A brief silence.

God, you call the church on earth to witness to the life we receive in Jesus. Help us to share your good news with the world. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

All creation is holy. Lead us to restore the hills and valleys, lakes and rivers, forests and coastlands to the beauty you created. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Call those who are wise and powerful to use their gifts to do justice in a world longing for peace. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Comfort those who mourn, ease the suffering of all who are lonely or in pain, heal the sick (*especially*). Bring to your table all who hunger and thirst. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Continue to uphold this community of faith to proclaim Christ crucified and reach out to those who are poor, hungry, homeless, or easily overlooked. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Protect us in our weakness until you gather us with all your saints upon your holy hill. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Radiant God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who has made his dwelling among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord, it is good for us to be here, for we have tasted your glory in this holy meal. Continue your goodness as we go out from here. Open our eyes to see your face shining in every person, and send us to be your servants in every place, for you are the life and light of all, both now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

May the God of glory dwell in you richly, name you beloved, and shine brightly on your path; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is your light.

Thanks be to God!

CLOSING HYMN: "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"

674 ELW

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK OF FEBRUARY 2-8, 2014

Organist: Marlys Beavers
Greeters: Mary Swanson, Marlys LeClaire
Ushers: Ardie & Harold Kendall
Lector: Val Benton
Communion Servers: Judy Wuorio, Bev Ferdelman, Darrell Kelly
Coffee Servers: Rick & Marge Nelson, Joni & Ron Mehlhop

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD LAST WEEK/MONTH

Response to God's Word Last Week (01/26/2014)

Attendance: 9:00 am - 66

Response to God's Word Last Month (January 2014)

Monthly Total: 9:00 am - 322

	Month of January	Monthly amount needed
General Offering:	\$ 9,249	\$15,340
Building Fund:	\$ 2,150	\$2,500

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA FEBRUARY 2 THRU FEBRUARY 8TH, 2014

Mon Feb 3rd 7:00 p.m. AA & Alanon

Wed Feb 5th 8:30 a.m. Bible Study
9:30 a.m. Hardanger
11:00 a.m. Bible Study
6:00 p.m. Praise Team
6:30 p.m. Confirmation

Thurs Feb 6th 8:00 a.m. R.O.M.E.O.S.
10:30 a.m. Worship & Music
12:30 p.m. Funtimers

Fri Feb 7th 10:00 a.m. Bone Builders

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY IS SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY. Your donations of food and/or cash are greatly appreciated. Let's forgo the **blessing box** this first Sunday of the month in lieu of your donations for **Souper Bowl Sunday**. All donations given today will be divided between the local food shelves.

LOVE LIKE JESUS-WORSHIP read the "tents" on the tables in the fellowship hall and offer your answers on the paper provided. Put your responses in the basket. No names are necessary but **your opinion matters**. You will have all month to respond.

LAST CHANCE TO SIGN UP for a fun day at THE OLD LOG THEATER on February 10TH! The play is called "Almost Maine", it is a British comedy. Contact John Hudson, Aitkin Community Education at 218-927-7130. Also inform him that you would like the bus to pick you up at Bethesda. To register, find a slip on the bulletin board on the left when entering the fellowship hall, decide on your lunch choice, write a check and mail to the address on the form.

ANOTHER LAST CHANCE! Paper, lace, markers, glue and scissors are setting on tables in the fellowship hall for you to make a Valentine to decorate our tree in the narthex. If you haven't taken time to read them stop to day and check the messages put on the Valentines hanging on the tree. Remember to make your own and add it to the tree!

BAPTISM NEXT WEEK. Will Roseberg and his wife, Kellie will have their little son Hunter Thomas Roseberg baptized at Bethesda. He will be welcomed into the Family of God on February 9, 2014.

PLEASE PICK UP YOUR 2014 OFFERING ENVELOPES AND YOUR YEAR END STATEMENTS.

APPRECIATION- There are numerous **thank you cards** pinned on the board in the fellowship hall. Each expresses sincere appreciation for Bethesda's generosity in their lives. Your donations to the Benevolence Program at Bethesda have been distributed to area families who needed a boost to make life work. This is a mission field right in our backyard. Let's pray that these families learn they have a very real God that loves them. **THANK YOU!** Thank you to Dianne & Del Jones and Judy Wuorio for coffee and treats last Sunday. I listed the wrong last name for Dianne and Del. Remember "To err is human and to forgive is ~divine."

