

February 16th, 2014
Sixth 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 16th, 2014

Holy Communion

INTRODUCTION

In today's reading from Deuteronomy we are called to choose life by loving and obeying God. Much of today's gospel reading echoes portions of the Ten Commandments. Jesus' instructions to the crowd reveal a pattern of behavior that honors both God and the neighbor, resulting in life and health for the whole community. We, too, are invited to embrace these commandments, not out of fear of retribution, but because God has promised that to do so means life for us.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: "FAITH OF OUR FATHERS"

#812 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, the strength of all who hope in you, because we are weak mortals we accomplish nothing good without you. Help us to see and understand the things we ought to do, and give us grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

Special Music

Randy & Laurina Tofteland

FIRST READING:

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Human leaders in the church are not the ones who control ministry. Rather they are fellow workers who belong to God, the one who truly controls and continuously empowers the ministry of the church.

And so, brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? For when one says, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apollos," are you not merely human?

What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

Psalm 119: 1-8

Refrain: Happy are they who follow the teaching of the LORD. (Ps. 119:1)

Happy are they whose way is blameless, who follow the teaching of the LORD!

Happy are they who observe your decrees

and seek you with all their hearts,

who never do any wrong, but always walk in your ways.

You laid down your commandments, that we should fully keep them. R

Oh, that my ways were made so direct
that I might keep your statutes!

**Then I should not be put to shame,
when I regard all your commandments.**

I will thank you with a true heart,
when I have learned your righteous judgments.

I will keep your statutes; do not utterly forsake me.

Refrain: Happy are they who follow the teaching of the Lord.

GOSPEL:

Mathew 5:21-37

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus exhorts his followers to embrace standards of righteousness that exceed legal requirements and traditional expectations.

"You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not murder'; and 'whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, 'You fool,' you will be liable to the hell of fire. So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.

"It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

"Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.' But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let your word be 'Yes, Yes' or 'No, No'; anything more than this comes from the evil one.

HYMN: "Softly and Tenderly" #608 ELW

SERMON: A MESSAGE FROM VAL BENTON

HYMN: "Let us Break Bread Together" #471 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:

“On Our Way Rejoicing”

537 ELW

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK OF FEBRUARY 16-22, 2014

Message: Val Benton
Service Leader: Mary Kramer
Organist: Marlys Beavers
Greeters: Wally and Bev Swenson
Ushers: Lloyd and Shirley Lilenthal
Lector: Audrey Kulberg
Communion Servers: Wally & Bev Swenson, Judy Wozney
Coffee Servers: Berg, Lackner, Bruesewitz, Korngable & Lowe

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD LAST WEEK/MONTH

Response to God's Word Last Week (02/09/2014)
Attendance: 9:00 am - 101

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA FEBRUARY 16th THRU FEBRUARY 22nd, 2014

Mon Feb 16th 7:00 p.m. AA & Alanon

Tues Feb 17th Pastor Back from Vacation

Wed Feb 18th 8:00 a.m. WIC
8:30 a.m. Bible Study
9:00 a.m. WELCA
9:30 a.m. Hardanger
11:00 a.m. Bible Study
6:00 p.m. Praise Team
6:30 p.m. Confirmation

Thurs Feb 19th 8:00 a.m. R.O.M.E.O.S.
10:30 a.m. Worship & Music
12:30 p.m. Funtimers

Fri Feb 20th 10:00 a.m. Bone Builders
Newline Articles are DUE!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ONLY ONE WORSHIP SERVICE IN MARCH-The Worship and Music Committee has decided to extend holding only one service at 9:00 am through March 2014. Ushers have been assigned for both early and late services in March. The people assigned for the 8:30 a.m. service will continue ushering through March. Those assigned for 10:00 am will get a break.

BAPTISM NEXT WEEK-MacKensie Lee Charles will be baptized into the family of God. She is the 17 year old granddaughter of Judy and the late Bill Wuorio. What a blessed event. Let's keep this family in our prayers this week.

LOVE LIKE JESUS-WORSHIP please take a moment to read what is written on the "orange tents" on the tables in the fellowship hall. There are two questions. Offer your answers on the paper provided. Put your responses in the basket by the kitchen. No names are necessary but **your opinion matters**. So far 3 people have responded.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP-The Mille Lacs Health system offers a Grief Support Group the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month. It meets in the Isle Recreation Center from 3:00-4:30 p.m. Enter through the West double doors and take the first left. The group is facilitated by Sue Lyback, LSW. She can be reached at (320) 532-2742 if you have questions.

BENEFIT FOR Shara Martineau Saturday, March 15th – Shara is a postal carrier that was hit by a truck and sustained multiple injuries including 2 broken legs, a crushed ankle, two broken ribs and a bruised spleen. The car was completely totaled and her recovery will be costly. There is a dinner and silent auction to help Shara and her family. She is the mother of 5 kids. The Fund Raiser is at THE BRIDGE TAVERN, 26969 State Hwy 6, Crosby, MN 56441 from noon to 4 pm. Come enjoy pulled pork sandwiches, sides and chips. The cost is \$10.00. The flyer advertising this event is on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Shara is also a volunteer in the Crow Wing County Mounted Police.