

March 16, 2014
Second Sunday in Lent



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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Pastor: Rev. James Raisanen

Church Secretary: Mary Kramer

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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, March 16, 2014
Second Sunday in Lent Communion

INTRODUCTION

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are given a new birth as daughters and sons of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN

“Morning Has Broken”

#556 ELW

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

Amen.

Come, let us acknowledge our sin and seek God's face,
that we may live.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,

we confess that we have turned away from you and from our neighbors, and in toward ourselves. We have sought security in possessions and the place of power in relationships. We have trusted ourselves most of all. Turn us back to you, O God. In your mercy, forgive our sinfulness and cleanse us from guilt and shame. Guide us on the path of freedom that is your gift to us in Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Hear for yourselves:

There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

In the waters of baptism

grace abounds for you and for all.

God turns to you in love

and puts away every sin, every wrong turn,

for the sake of + Jesus,

the one God sent to save the world.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Eternal God, it is your glory always to have mercy. Bring back all who have erred and strayed from your ways; lead them again to embrace in faith the truth of your Word and to hold it fast; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever AMEN

FIRST READING:

Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

PSALM

Psalm 121

Refrain: I lift up my eyes to the hills; my help comes from the Lord.

I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?

My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.

The LORD will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep; R
the LORD watches over you;

the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

**the sun will not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.**

The LORD will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.

**The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in,
from this time forth forevermore. R**

GOSPEL:**John 3:1-17**

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

SERMON HYMN: "Softly and Tenderly"**#608 ELW****SERMON: What if you Truly WERE Born Again?****OFFERTORY HYMN "O Lord, throughout These Forty Day****#319 ELW**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God our provider,
you have not fed us with bread alone,
but with words of grace and life.

Bless us and these your gifts,
which we receive from your bounty,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF INTERSESSION

Returning to the Lord, our God, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

We pray for the whole body of Christ. *(Pause)* That being born of the Spirit and blessed by God, your church may be a blessing to the world. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for creation. *(Pause)* For water and wind in their many forms, that they nourish and renew the earth. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for the world. *(Pause)* For all countries, tribes, races, and families, that they live in harmony and cooperation *(especially)*. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for all who are in need. *(Pause)* For the spiritually lost, the fearful, the confused, and the ill *(especially)* that the Lord will keep their going out and their coming in. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for this assembly. *(Pause)* That having received all righteousness by faith, we boldly bear witness to a God who loves the whole world. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for the faithful departed. *(Pause)* For the example of faith by which they lived, that it sustain us until we all enter the reign of God in its fullness. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Into your hands, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in your abundant mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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

God the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit
watch over your going out and your coming in,
from this time forth and forevermore.

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 March 16 – March 22, 2014

Music: Marlys Beaver
Greeters: Lloyd & Shirley Lilienthal
Ushers: Les Bolke &
Lector: Char Berg
Coffee Servers: Lynne & Dennis Meidlinger/Tom & Judy Forrester

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance:

(03/09/2014) 9:00 am – 96
(03/12/2014) 6:30 pm – 46

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda March 16 thru March 22, 2014

Sunday	03/16	10:00 am	Church Council
Monday	03/17	7:00 pm	AA & Alanon St. Patrick's Day
Tuesday	03/18	8-11am	Pastor's Text Study
Wednesday	03/19	8:00 am - Noon	WIC
		8:30 am	Bible Study
		9:30 am	Hardanger
		9:30 am	WELCA
		11:00 am	Bible Study
		5:30 pm	Pot Luck
		6:30 pm	Lenten Service
Thursday	03/20	8:00 pm	R.O.M.E.O.S
		1:00 pm	Fun Timers
			Newsline Articles Due!
			First Day of Spring!
Friday	03/21	10:00 am	Bone Builders

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HEARTLAND SPRING CONFERENCE GATHERING at Trinity Lutheran Church in Milaca Thursday, April 3. **ALL** Ladies come and we will spend a day together, with good fellowship, food and fun. Put your name on the signup sheet to join in the fun. The day is usually from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. We could car pool. For questions contact Cheri Johnson, Co-Chair of Women of the ELCA (WELCA). You can see me or call (320)-684-2891.

DECLARE HIS GLORY April 5th 9 am. This is at Glory Baptist Church. Check the board in the fellowship hall for more details. The cost for the day's activities and lunch is \$15.00 for women and \$7.50 for teens. Call 218-927-3678 to make your reservation.

LENTEN SEASON come and join us for Lenten potluck suppers at 5:30 pm and worship service at 6:30 pm. Please volunteer to help make coffee, set up or clean up. Everyone's help is most appreciated.

PERSONAL CARE KITS- Lutheran World Relief offers Personal Care Kits to third world countries in need. Bethesda WELCA would like us all to help send personal care kits to Lutheran World Relief for distribution. Each kit is to contain: One light or medium weight towel, dark in color, 52" x 27", 2 bath sized bars 4-5 oz of soap in original wrapping, one adult sized tooth brush in original packaging (toothbrush multi packs may be used by sealing an individual toothbrush in a business sized paper envelope). No plastic. One sturdy comb, no packaging, one metal nail clipper, packaging removed. You can purchase every item, wrap in the towel and tie. Return to church and place by the donation sign for Personal Care Kits.

ALL THINGS NEW- North Heights Original Easter Production Final Year. The cost is \$33.50 per person. This includes the ticket and bus transportation cost. There will be a stop for a meal on the return trip. Each one is responsible for their meal expense. The bus can pick us up right here at Bethesda. We need 47 people to sign up, pay and agree to go. There is a signup sheet in the fellowship hall for you to indicate which date you prefer to attend. You can choose April 5th or April 12th. If you have no preference and both dates work indicate that also. Contact Jan Phillips for questions and to pay your ticket price.