

Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo

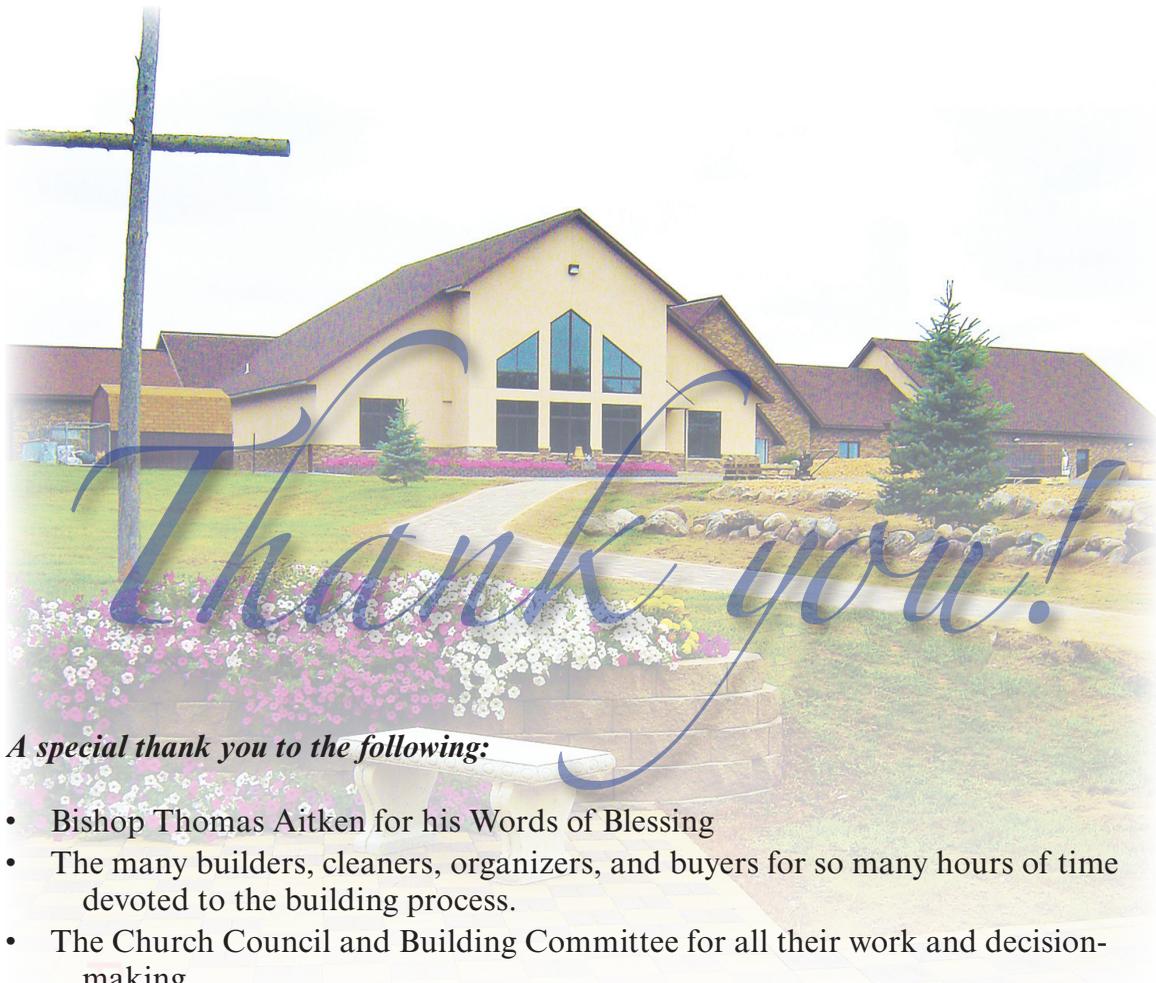


MORTGAGE BURNING SERVICE

JUNE 22, 2014

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.



A special thank you to the following:

- Bishop Thomas Aitken for his Words of Blessing
- The many builders, cleaners, organizers, and buyers for so many hours of time devoted to the building process.
- The Church Council and Building Committee for all their work and decision-making.
- For the wonders of our musical talent from the Choir, under the direction of Bill Broderius, The Praise Team and the Bell Choir.
- Pastor Jim Raisanen and his leadership and spiritual guidance, his ever-present smile and his faith in the people of Bethesda Lutheran Church.
- All the volunteers for their helping with this celebration.
- Jan Phillipp for baking and decorating the cakes.
- Melody Lackner for taking photos to document this day.
- Judie Birk for graphic design help with this booklet.
- The new members who join us today in adding talents and faith to our community.
- For each and every member of our congregation for making our church a source of faith, love and new growth.

MORTGAGE BURNING SERVICE
A Celebration of Thanksgiving
JUNE 22, 2014

BELL PRELUDE

“A Bit of Bach”

WORDS OF WELCOME

P. Brothers and sisters in Christ, this is a day of rejoicing. We have come together to consecrate this building addition of Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo. Let us open our hearts and minds to receive God’s Word with faith. May our blessed communion, born of one baptism and nurtured at one table of the Lord, become one temple of the Holy Spirit as we gather in love.

HYMN OF PRAISE

“Bind Us Together”

Refrain:

*Bind us together, Lord, bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.
Bind us together, Lord, bind us together Lord, bind us together in love.*

- 1. There is only one God, There is only one King.
There is only one God, that is why we can sing. Refrain*
- 2. You are the family of God. You are the promise divine.
You are God’s chosen desire, you are the glorious wine. Refrain*

THE LITURGY OF DEDICATION

P. Brothers and Sisters: We have come together to dedicate this church for the building up of the body of Christ. From this day forward let it be a place for the proclaiming of the Gospel through Word and Sacrament, a place that will bring life and hope to us and to this community.

P: Let us pray:

C: Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with your most gracious favor and further us with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name and finally, by your mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ Our Lord, Amen.

P: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe. The heavens and earth cannot contain you, yet you are willing to make your home in human hearts.

C: We are the temple of your presence and this building is the house of your church.

P: Accept us and this place to which we come to share with others the covenant you make through Holy Baptism, to praise your name, to receive your forgiveness, to hear your Word, and to be nourished by the body and blood of your son. Be present always to guide and illuminate your people.

C: And now, O God, visit us with your mercy and blessing as we burn this mortgage and move into the future. We dedicate this building to Your glory and honor and to the service of all people in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

C: Most high God, whom the heavens cannot contain, we give you thanks for the gifts of those who have built this house of prayer to your glory; we praise you for the fellowship of those who by their use will make it holy; and we pray that all who seek you here may find you and be filled with joy and peace, through your son Jesus Christ Our Lord, Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM

“How Great is Our God”

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

THE LESSONS

Romans 6:1b-11

In baptism we were incorporated into the reality of Christ's death. Our lives in the present are marked and shaped by his crucifixion, just as our lives in the future will be marked and shaped by his resurrection.

Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we who have died with Christ believe, we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

PSALM

23: vs 1-6

P: The Lord is my shepherd;

C: I shall not be in want.

P: The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures,

C: and leads me beside still waters.

P: You restore my soul, O Lord,

C: and guide me along right pathways for your name sake.

P: Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil:

C: for you are with me: your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

P: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

C: you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

P: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

C: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

GOSPEL

Matthew 6:25–34

“Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add one cubit to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; Yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O men of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, “What shall we eat?” or “What shall we drink?” or “What shall we wear?” For the Gentiles seek all these things; and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well.

“So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.”

HYMN OF PRAISE

“Beautiful Savior”

*Beautiful Savior, King of creation, Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love thee, truly I'd serve thee, light of my soul my joy, my crown.*

*Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands, robed in flowers of blooming spring,
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, he makes our sorrowing spirit sing.*

*Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight, bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer than all the angels in the sky.*

*Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forevermore be thine.*

THE MEDITATION

Bishop Thomas Aitken

HYMN OF PEACE

“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand, I am tired, I am weak, I am worn. Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light. Take my hand, precious Lord lead me home.

When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near, when my life is almost gone, hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall. Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home.

When the darkness appears and the night draws near, and the day is past and gone, at the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand. Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home.

THE OFFERING OF GIFTS

All: Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life on Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need; through Jesus Christ, Our Savior and Lord. Amen.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

All: We believe in God, who created all that exists and continues to recreate the lives of those who trust. We believe in Jesus Christ, the only Son of God; whose purpose was to save

a lost world and who now works in us and others by the Holy Spirit. We believe that God is calling each of us to build up the Body of Christ, to celebrate God's presence, to love and serve others, to stand against the power of injustice and prejudice, and to declare for all the world to hear, Jesus is risen and we are his people. Thanks be to God.

BURNING OF MORTGAGE PAPERS

Ringing of old original bell

PRAYERS OF DEDICATION

P: Lord God, Master Builder, if there be any beauty or splendor in this house, the glory of it belongs to you, for if you do not build the house, the builders build in vain. We believe it was you who blessed the labor of the many hands whose fine craftsmanship raised up this place for the shelter and service of your people. We thank you that you provided the vision, the strength and the resources to raise up this house of worship, learning, praise and prayer. Grant that in this holy and beautiful house, we and our descendants and our neighbors may worship you and serve you in peace. Lord in your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer

P: Sheltered by these sturdy walls and soaring roof, build us, your people, into a house of living stones. Remind us always that while buildings are made of concrete, wood, and glass, your church is made only of people. Protect us from becoming so proud and preoccupied with our beautiful building and happy fellowship that we neglect the work of the church, which is to worship, to witness, to care for the needy, to seek the lost and to learn the obedience of faith. Grant that here we may develop the character and strength to bear your creative and redeeming Word throughout the world beyond these doors. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer

P: Let your Spirit of wisdom beam upon this place that those who teach and those who learn here may praise you with one voice. Bestow your blessing on all who will serve as ministers in this place, that their voices may ring with the power of your truth. Bless all who will make music in this place, that each voice and instrument may be tuned to the harmonies of your grace. Bless our study groups, and grant us each a deep desire to learn from you the Master. Inspire our worship. Empower our prayer. Deepen our compassion. Use us as you will that all who pass through these doors will say, "Truly the Lord is in this place." To God be the Glory.

All: Amen

THE LORDS PRAYER

Sung by the congregation

THE PRAISE TEAM

"Grace Flows Down"

WORDS OF BLESSING AND COMMISSION

P: The promise and power of the Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen

P: You are no longer strangers and aliens:

C: We are citizens with the Saints and also members of the household of God.

P: You are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets;

C: With Jesus Christ Himself, as the cornerstone.

P: In Him, the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord.

C: Our Spirits are being built together into a dwelling place for God.

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

CLOSING HYMN

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

- 1. Joyful, joyful we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love! Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee, praising thee, their sun above. Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the gloom of doubt away. Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.*
- 2. All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect thy rays, stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise. Field and forest, vale and mountain, flow'ry meadow, flashing sea, chanting bird and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in thee.*
- 3. Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest, well-spring of the joy of living, ocean-depth of happy rest! Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the gloom of doubt away. Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.*



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We believe church is some place where you belong, and where you are accepted just as you are. Church membership offers an opportunity to grow in the understanding of God's love for us in Christ Jesus, and a means to share one's self in service to God and with others. Together, we, the family of Bethesda, seek to support and care for each other along life's journey.