

Celebration of Freedom
July 5th and 6th, 2014
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost



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, July 5 & 6, 2014
A Celebration of Freedom

PRELUDE

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

(Congregation please respond with the bold print)

Welcome, fellow human beings, to the worship of the God who created us.

We gather here in wonder. God made us in His image and likeness. We often forget that.

Life is a great mystery – intellect, body, and spirit – earth-bound and yet reaching up to heaven; confined to space and time, yet destined for eternal life.

We stop to fix our thoughts on who we really are in God's sight.

Let us begin our worship with words of praise.

Lord, You have flooded us with your love; You have led us into real life; You have given us every good gift which is ours. We are astounded by your grace toward us. Accept now our gratitude and praise. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O Lord God, we bring before you the cries of a sorrowing world. In your mercy set us free from the chains that bind us, and defend us from everything that is evil, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

MEDITATION MUSIC

FIRST READINGS CONCERNING FREEDOM

Galatians 5:1

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.”

2 Corinthians 3:17

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

John 8: 31-32

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free?”

MEDITATION MUSIC

SECOND READINGS CONCERNING FREEDOM

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

I Peter 1:16-17

Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God. Show proper respect to everyone. Love the gathering of believers, fear God, and honor the king.

Matthew 11:28-30

“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.”

MEDITATION SONG

THE MEDITATION

THE OFFERING AND OFFERING MUSIC

A PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL FREEDOM

We pray for our common lives together, O Lord, and for purpose and meaning in our activities and experience.

We pray for freedom:

From our tempers

which makes us do things and say things we don't mean,

from our selfishness

which makes us place ourselves before others and makes us insensitive to the concerns and feelings of our family and friends.

from our pride

which makes us say we are better than others,

from our anger

which makes us try to hurt one another and unable to forgive,

from our envy and jealousy,

which makes us covet those material goods we do not have and resent another's well being,

from our fears

which makes us unable to risk ourselves in our relations with others, unable to face the truth when we encounter it, and unable to live fully the life God has given us,

from our insecurities

which cause us to be defensive, make us unable to come to decisions, and unable to affirm ourselves with God's act of creation in each one of us.

from our prejudices

which make us judge others superficially,

from apathy

which makes us ignore our neighbor who is anyone in misery.

Most of all, we pray for freedom from the sin of despair, that despair which makes us say, "it's not worth the effort," which denies the present reality of hope and denies the promises of God who is the God of hope.

We pray for those who are alienated and separated from us by reason of sickness, poverty, race, war, justice, disaster, and misunderstanding.

Help us to live in the knowledge that God's promises are faithful, and God's promises are that we should be free.

MEDITATION MUSIC

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE BENEDICTION

As you leave this service, you will go forth into a world filled with hatred, apathy, and selfishness. Will you seek to strengthen your faith so that you might be able to accept the challenges that come to you? Will you spread faith, hope, and love among your fellow human beings?

We will endeavor to allow the spirit of Christ to shine into our lives in a greater way, and to shine through us in thought, word, and deed.

Go forth with the blessing of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

CLOSING SONGS

POSTLUDE MUSIC

**Welcome Visitors-we're glad you are here with us!
Come again!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to Bethesda's 2014 Celebration of Freedom Worship Service. Today we will hear freedom songs from James Taylor, Carole King and songs from Simon and Garfunkel. Our great performing artists are keyboardist John Kozial, Jr., the "Fishin' Musician", Sherri Lohmann on flute and vocals, retired Pastor Bill Strom from Mora on vocals, Pastor Doug Thompson on guitar and vocals, and his wife Maggie on vocals. **Let us together rejoice and celebrate our great freedom we have in Christ.**

The **Veggie Stand** opened for the season on the morning of Saturday, July 5th. Come check out the sweet corn and homemade baked goodies that show up every Saturday. You can help by providing baked goods and garden produce. It would be greatly appreciated. If you are not a baker, then help by purchasing ingredients needed to make delicious baked goods. Check the board in the entry way. Pick a slip and purchase the item. Mark it for veggie stand and return it to the church kitchen.

The **Mille Lacs Patchworker Quilt Show** will be held Saturday, July 12 from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm at the Isle High School Gym. The Show is part of Isle Days.

The next **Church Council** meeting will be held Tuesday, July 15, 2014 at 5:30 pm.

WELCA invites ALL women to listen to, Inez Streasick, "a former migrant worker" speak, July 16, 9:30 am in the fellowship hall. You will learn much about the history of people who work in the fields to feed the nation.

We are in need of coffee servers for July 27, 2014 and the entire month of August. If you can provide coffee and goodies any of those Sundays, please sign up on the board next to the kitchen serving window. People so enjoy the coffee fellowship. Won't you please help support this activity?!

THOSE SERVING THIS 4th of July Weekend, 2014

Music: 8:30 a.m. Sun. July 6th – Marlys Beavers, Organist
5:00 p.m. Sat., July 5th & 10:00 a.m Sun., July 6th
– John Koziol, Jr. & friends.

Ushers: 5:00 p.m. Sat., July 5th – Skip & Lynn Hansen
8:30 a.m. Sun., July 6th – Bill & Cheri Johnson
10:00 a.m. – Ron & JoAnne Haglund

Coffee Servers: Bill & Cheri Johnson, Marilyn Anderson,
Audrey & Dennis Bistodeau

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda July 5 thru July 19, 2014

Saturday	07/05	5:00 pm	Celebration of Freedom Service
Sunday	07/06	8:30 am	Worship with Communion
		10:00 am	Celebration of Freedom Service
Monday	07/07	9:00 am	Golf
		7:00 pm	AA & Alanon
Tuesday	07/08	8-11am	Pastor's Text Study
		9:00 am	Stewardship Meeting
Wednesday	07/09	8:30 am	Bible Study
		9:30 am	Hardanger
		11:00 am	Bible Study
		4:00 pm	Strategic Planning
		6:00 pm	Choir
		7:00 pm	Praise Team
Thursday	07/10	8:00 pm	R.O.M.E.O.S
		12:30 pm	Fun Timers
Friday	07/11	10:00 am	Bone Builders
Saturday	07/12	5:00 pm	Saturday evening service
Sunday	07/13	8:30 am	& 10:00 am Worship



It is for

FREEDOM

That Christ has set us free.

GALATIANS 5:1