

Sunday, September 7, 2014
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

21590 State Highway 47, Isle, MN 56342

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Church Web Site: blcmalmo.org

Pastor: Rev. James Raisanen

Parish Nurses: Darlene Christensen, RN, C 320-684-2846

Patti Honnold, RN CNP 320-676-8421

Kathy Berland RN ANP 320-495-3988

Prayer Chain Contacts: Char Berg 320-684-2102 or Judy Forester 218-676-2667 Church

Secretary: Mary Kramer

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

and gives you a new heart and a new spirit.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God,

enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy.

Without your help, we mortals will fail;

remove far from us everything that is harmful,

and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation,

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING:

Romans 13:8-14

The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law. Clothes make the person as we "put on the Lord Jesus Christ" and live today in light of the future God has in store for us.

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

PSALM

Psalms 119:33-40

Refrain: I desire the path of your commandments. Ps. 119:35

Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes, and I shall keep it to the end.

Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching;

I shall keep it with all my heart.

Lead me in the path of your commandments, for that is my desire.

Incline my heart to your decrees and not to unjust gain. R

Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood; give me life in your way.

Fulfill your promise to your servant, which is for those who fear you.

Turn away the reproach that I dread, because your judgments are good.

Behold, I long for your commandments; by your righteousness enliven me. R

GOSPEL:

Matthew 18:15-20 5

Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals—and the church as a whole—should show wrongdoers their need for repentance.

If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

SERMON HYMN:

“Jesus, the very Thought of You”

#754 ELW

SERMON:

“143 – I Love You”

OFFERTORY HYMN

“I Love to Tell the Story”

#661 ELW

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF INTERSESSION

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

God of love, your church is a place of relationship. Give us understanding to care for you and each other with our whole hearts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of love, your creation is a precious gift. Turn our hearts to share its resources wisely rather than in selfish gain. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of love, your desire for us is peace. Lead us along paths of justice and give us delight in living with honor and loving our neighbor. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of love, your ways are goodness and life. Free us from those things that create fear and dread, loneliness and heartache, pain and disgrace (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of love, you gather us around your word, your font, and your table. Teach us to be a community of grace and witness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of love, your promise to us is resurrection. Confirm in us that promise as we remember those who have died trusting in you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Trusting in your mercy and goodness, we bring before you these prayers and whatever else you see that we need, in the name of the one who sets us free, 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

God of mercy, we give you thanks for seating us at your table and serving us with the food of eternal life. We who once were dead are now living members of your Son, awakened by the breathing of your Spirit. Send us out to awaken others to the mystery of your love, which is revealed to all the world in the one who came to give himself away, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

The blessing of almighty God, the Father of glory, + Jesus Christ our peace, and the Spirit of truth, be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God!

CLOSING HYMN: "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" #742 ELW

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

THOSE SERVING TODAY

Music: Marlys Beaver

Ushers: 8:30 Dennis & Audrey Bistodeau 10:00 Dick & Sue Stebbins

Lector: 8:30 Lynn Hansen

Greeters: Keith & Dawn Kellen

Thank you for volunteering!

Response to God's Word Last Week/Month

Attendance:

(08/30/2014) 5:00 pm – 29 (08/31/2014) 8:30 am – 74 (08/31/2014) 10:00 am-39

Month of August

Monthly amount needed

ANNOUNCEMENTS-For Activity Details Check the Board in the Fellowship Hall

COMMUNION SUNDAY Please fill in the green communion card found in the pew in front of you. Visitors and Members are all encouraged to fill it out and place in the offering plate. Thank you.

FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH. THE BLESSING BOX is to be passed after the regular offering. God has blessed us to be a blessing to others. The monies received are used for Bethesda's Wish List. On our current Wish List is: working microphones, video cameras for the Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall, new insulation and additional storage cabinets for the classrooms.

Knowledge Bites Retirement-Rust or Renewal. Presenter: Mike Koechler, Dir. RSVP. Offered at Light of the Cross church. Tuesday, September 9, 2014 at 2:00 pm. FREE.

Living Proof Live Simulcast Experience Beth Moore's Dynamic Event. FREE. Opstead Baptist Church. Saturday, September 13, 2014 at 8:15 am - 3:30 pm. To reserve your seat contact Jen Homan 763-442-6060.

Jamboree Friday, September 19th and Saturday, 20th 7:00 pm. "Music of the Movies" Adults \$5 and children are FREE. All are welcome!

Grief Support Group 6 week series Fall 2014. Meets September 18 and 25 and October 2, 9, 16, and 23 4:30-6 pm. The group meets THURSDAY'S at Riverwood Health Care Center, 200 Bunker Hill Drive, Aitkin, Support Services Wing Conference Room E. Contact Val Thompson 218-927-5524 Riverwood Healthcare Center Social Worker.

Meatball Supper Silent Auction, Bake Sale, and Drawings Wednesday, September 24, 2014 5:00 – 8:00 pm by Zion Lutheran Men and Women ELCA Zion Lutheran Church, 245 Central Avenue South, Milaca, MN Menu: meatballs, mashed potatoes & gravy, garden vegetables, scalloped corn, coleslaw, bread & butter, homemade pie and beverages. Adults \$9.00 kids (under 10) \$4.00.

Annual Meeting September 28, 2014. This meets right after our 9:00 am Worship Service. Come and learn about this year's activities and finances at Bethesda. It is time to volunteer to be part of the church council, be a delegate or find nominations for others to

serve. We have a presentation from the Strategic Planning committee. It is important that you come and participate.