

Sunday, October 12, 2014
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

21590 State Highway 47, Isle, MN 56342

Phone: 320-684-2123 (1-877-684-2123) Fax: 320-684-2836

E-mail address: blcmalmo@frontiernet.net

Church Web Site: blcmalmo.org

Pastor: Rev. James Raisanen

Parish Nurses: Darlene Christensen, RN 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

Sunday, October 12, 2014
Eighteenth Day after Pentecost

Praise Team

INTRODUCTION

In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world

CALL TO WORSHIP: **“Shout to the Lord”** **#821 ELW**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

OPENING HYMN: **“Michael Row the Boat Ashore”**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the Sovereign over all the earth, the Wisdom from on high, our merciful Judge and Savior.

Amen.

Let us boldly approach the throne of grace, trusting in God's mercy and love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Generous and faithful God,
we confess to you all the ways, known and unknown, that we reject and undermine your steadfast love. Though you made us your people, we treat strangers with suspicion. Though you forgave our debts, we collect without mercy.

Yet we are quick to pass judgment on others.

**Have mercy on us, O God,
and remember your promise to us, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

Amen.

The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.
Through the living Word, + Jesus Christ, God forgives your every debt, your every sin,
and gives you a new heart and a new spirit.

Amen.

GREETING

Sisters and brothers in Christ, beloved children of God:
grace, mercy, and peace be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, source of every blessing, your generous goodness comes to us anew every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

PRAISE TEAM ANTHEM:

“Our God”

FIRST READING:

Philippians 4:1-9

Though writing from prison and facing an uncertain future, Paul calls on the Philippians to rejoice and give thanks to God no matter what the circumstance. God's peace is with us and binds together our hearts and minds in Jesus Christ, especially when things around us do not seem peaceful.

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Refrain: You prepare a table before me, and my cup is running over. (Ps23:5)

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.

You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

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

for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. R

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

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

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

and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever. R

GOSPEL:

Matthew 22:1-4

Jesus tells a parable indicating that the blessings of God's kingdom are available to all, but the invitation is not to be taken lightly.

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

SERMON:

OFFERING & OFFERTORY SONG: “Just As I Am/Jesus Take All of Me”

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.

Come near us, Lord God. Let your church rejoice at your banquet where all are invited and welcomed, washed and fed, forgiven and chosen. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Come near us, Lord God. Let your creation rejoice in green pastures, beside still waters, on mountaintops, in harvested fields, along city streets, down country roads, and throughout the valleys. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Come near us, Lord God. Let your world rejoice in peace which surpasses understanding, at tables overflowing with good food and drink, and where shrouds of sorrow are lifted. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Come near us, Lord God. Let your people rejoice with faces wiped free of tears, minds unbound from disgrace, bodies freed from suffering, and souls restored. (*Especially we pray for . . .*) Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Come near us, Lord God. Let your faithful rejoice in every assembly, in praise and singing, word and deed, unrestrained from worry and unchained from fear. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Come near us, Lord God. Let those who wait for you rejoice with all the saints, whose names are in the book of life and who now sit at the great feast with 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.

THE LORD’S PRAYER-led by the Praise Team

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is your light.
Thanks be to God!

CLOSING HYMN: “I’ll Fly Away”

Great to have you join us for worship! Please come again.

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Sunday Music: Praise Team

Greeters: Dennis and Lynne Meidlinger

Ushers: 8:30 am Lee & Barb Forrester
10:00 am Ron & Joanne Haglund

Lector: 8:30 am Lynn Hansen

Altar Care: Nancy Hansen and Marlys LeClaire

Coffee Servers: Don & Donna Myhre and Bob & Kathy Carlson

Thank you for your service!

Response to God’s Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, October 5th 8:30 am – 88, 10:00 am – 44

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda October 13th through October 19th , 2014

Monday 10/13 9:00 am Women's Bible Study
9:30 am to 11:30 am Matter of Balance
7:00 pm AA & Alanon

Tuesday 10/14 8:00 am Pastor's Text Study, Onamia
9:00 am Quilter's
5:30 pm Church Council

Wednesday 10/15 8:00 am - Noon WIC
8:30 am Bible Study
9:30 am to 11:30 am Matter of Balance
9:30 am Hardanger
9:30 am NO WELCA this month
11:00 am Bible Study
6:00 pm Choir
7:00 pm Praise Team

Thursday 10/16 8:00 pm R.O.M.E.O.S
10:00 am Altar Care
12:30 pm Fun Timers
6:00 pm Bell Choir Practice

Friday 10/17 10:00 am Bone Builders

Newsline Articles are Due! October 20th !

Operation Christmas Child

Christmas is about sharing the gift of God's son, Jesus Christ, with the world. You can share joy and hope this year with needy children across the globe by taking part in Operation Christmas Child. These are ways you can help:

- 1. Bring new, small gifts such as balls, cars, dolls, stuffed animals, school supplies, T shirts, caps and personal care items that will fit in a shoe box and bring them to the church before November 9th.*
- 2. Fill a shoebox with a child bring it to the church.*
- 3. Donate money to cover the cost of postage. It costs \$7.00 to send one shoebox.*
- 4. Come on November 9th to help fill the boxes.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mark Your Calendars, Save the Date! The **Bethesda Holiday Bazaar** is coming October 25th, 2014 (9:00 am to 2:00 pm). Watch for upcoming details on how you can contribute. Sell your raffle tickets; it would be great if each household can contribute 4 dozen homemade Christmas cookies for the cookie walk. Homemade baked goods are welcomed also. Check your Newsline and upcoming bulletin announcements for more information.

It's a Matter of Balance: Managing Concerns about Falling is conducted in 8 two-hour sessions and uses group discussion, problem-solving strategies, videos and gentle physical exercise. Classes began at Bethesda October 6th, 2014 9:30 am to 11:30 am. New participants are still welcomed. Call 218-927-1383 or toll free 1-877-810-7776 for more information.

The Church Choir Needs You! Check it out on Wednesday night 6:00 -7:00 pm. Practice soon begins for the Christmas Cantata.

Annual Fall Festival at Bethlehem Lutheran, Saturday October 11th, 7:00 pm. Pre-auction Fellowship Supper featuring pulled pork. Live auction featuring baked goods, canned goods, fresh produce and hand crafted items. Coffee and goodies served during the auction.

Knowledge Bites Belly Fat, Hormonal Balance and Calorie Expenditure. Presenter is Dan Schletty-Health & Wellness Coach Riverwood Healthcare Center. Light of the Cross Lutheran Church, Garrison. Tuesday, October 14, 2014 at 2 PM. Free.

Flu Shots Offered at Bethesda October 22, 2014 from 9:00 am to 10:00 am. This is offered by Aitkin County Public Health. Just come and take your turn.

Women's Refresh Retreat at Camp Onomia. Our theme is "Breathe". Friday Nov 14 at 6 pm to Saturday November 15 until 4:00 pm. \$56.00 per person. Call (320) 532-3767.

Powerful Tools for Caregivers is a 6 week educational series designed to help unpaid family caregivers take care of themselves while caring for a relative or friend. Wednesdays, October 15- November 19 1:00-3:30 pm. Aitkin Co CARE, INC, Aitkin Health Services, Basement Conference Room, 301 Minnesota Avenue S, Aitkin, MN. To register call 877-810-7776. Check the board in the fellowship hall for more details.

