

October 26th, 2014
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO
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Prayer Chain Contacts: Char Berg 320-684-2102 or Judy Forester 218-676-2667

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

Church Secretary: Mary Kramer

MISSION STATEMENT

We will LIVE and SERVE through FAITH
we will ACT with LOVE and KINDNESS
we will GIVE hope and SUPPORT to all.

Hearing Assistance is available during the service.
Please notify usher if you would like assistance

Sunday, October 26, 2014

Jesus' summary of the law in today's gospel echoes our first reading from Leviticus. We are called not only to love God with heart, soul, and mind, but also to love our neighbor as ourselves. It is out of such deep care that Paul shares the gospel with the Thessalonian community. In the confession of sins, we acknowledge that we have not loved God, neighbor, and self; yet we gather to hear the word of forgiveness and to be strengthened by word and meal to be signs of God's love and mercy in the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: **“A Mighty Fortress is our God”**

#504 ELW

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

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God, you are the holy lawgiver, you are the salvation of your people. By your Spirit renew us in your covenant of love, and train us to care tenderly for all our neighbors, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

BELLS

FIRST READING:

1 Thessalonians 2: 1-8

Paul uses maternal imagery to depict the caring and nurturing relationship he shares with the Thessalonian Christians. When he first came to their city it was not to benefit himself but to share the gospel with them, which was his responsibility as an apostle of Christ.

You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

Psalm 1

Refrain: Their delight is in the law of the Lord. (Ps. 1:2)

Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

**Their delight is in the law of the LORD,
and they meditate on God's teaching day and night. R**

They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves
that do not wither;

everything they do shall prosper.

**It is not so with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council^l of the righteous.

**For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed. R**

GOSPEL:

MATTHEW 22:34-40

Put on the spot by the Pharisees, Jesus displays wisdom by summarizing the law of God in just two commandments and by demonstrating the Messiah must be more than the son of David.

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest? He said to him, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

SERMON HYMN:

“Rock of Ages”

#623 ELW

SERMON:

“A Lesson From Jay Leno’s Mom”

OFFERTORY HYMN:

“This is My Father’s World”

#824 ELW

OFFERING & OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of mercy and grace,

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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.

As the whole church, focus us to love you and our neighbors in the ways we create policy, define our mission, determine budgets, and vision for the future. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

As stewards of creation, instruct us to love you and our neighbors in the ways we use the gifts of this planet. Keep us mindful of the needs of the generations to come. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

As people of the world, teach us to love you and our neighbors in the ways we judge one another, work for peace, set aside prejudice, and work for justice. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

As ministers of your word, teach us to love you and our neighbors in the ways we care for those who suffer (*especially*). Give us compassionate hearts, gentle hands, and minds that craft healing. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

As a community, guide us to love you and our neighbors in the ways we share ourselves with others. Support us in building relationships, having open minds, and being confident in the gospel. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

As your children, lead us to love you and our neighbors in the ways we remember those who have died, but still guide our faith (*especially Philipp Nicolai, Johann Heermann, Paul Gerhardt, and the men and women of the Reformation*). 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.

LORD'S PRAYER

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN:

“Jesus Loves Me”

#595 ELW

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK OF October 26-November 2, 2014

Organist: Marlys Beavers

Greeters: Skip and Lynn Hansen

Ushers: 8:30 am Chuck and Elsa Carlson
10:00 am Darrell Kelly

Lector: 8:30 am Sandy Pullen

Coffee Servers: Sue and Dick Stebbins, Shirley Moe, Marge Garbo

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD LAST WEEK

Response to God's Word Last Week

(10/19/2014) Attendance: 8:30 am - 90 and 10:00 am - 70

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA Oct 26 – Nov 2 , 2014

Sun Oct 26 8:00 am Worship Service
9:30 am – 10:00 Bazaar Leftover Sale
10:00 am Worship Service

Mon Oct 27 9:90 am – 11:30 Matter of Balance
7:00 pm AA & Alanon

Tues Oct 28 8:00-10:30 Pastor's Text Study
9:00 am Quilters

Wed Oct 29 8:30 am Bible Study
9:30 am Hardanger
9:30 am - 11:30 Matter of Balance
11:00 am Bible Study
6:00 pm Choir
7:00 pm Praise Choir

Thurs Oct 30 8:00 am R.O.M.E.O.S.
9:30 am Mission and Evangelism
12:30 pm Funtimers
6:00 pm Bell Practice

Fri Oct 31 10:00 am Bone Builders

Sun Nov 02 8:30 am Worship Service with Communion
10:00 am Worship Service with Communion
After Second Service
Pack Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you to everyone for all the help and support by everyone for Bethesda's Holiday Bazaar!

Operation Christmas Child is about sharing the gift of God's son, Jesus Christ, with the world. You can share joy and hope this year with a needy child 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 shoebox on or before **Nov 2nd**.
2. Fill a shoebox with a child and bring it to church-if you need a shoebox, there are wrapped shoe boxes in the narthex.
3. Donate money to cover the cost of postage. It costs \$7.00 to send one shoebox.
4. Come on **November 2nd** to help pack the shoeboxes.

Notice as the price of aluminum has fallen; Bethesda Lutheran Church will no longer be recycling aluminum cans. Please recycle them with your other recyclables or to the Aitkin or Isle Boy Scout recycling fund raising projects. We have found that they blow around the yard and attract creatures that should not be living in our metal recycling bin. Thank you for your past support.

Lutefisk Dinner Trinity Lutheran Lutefisk Dinner, Saturday November 1, 2014. The address is 735 2nd Street SE, Milaca, MN 56353. Serving 3:30- 7:30 pm. Lutefisk, Ham and Potato Sausage Dinner. Also included are boiled potatoes, white sauce, ham gravy, melted butter, rutabagas, coleslaw and Scandinavian desserts. Meal price with all three entrees is \$15.00. Meal price for Ham and Potato Sausage Dinner is \$10.00. Meals for Children 5-12 years are \$5.00. Five and under are free. Sponsored by Trinity Men & Women ELCA.

Church Basement Ladies The original show returns! Playing through November 15th Call 763-553-1600 or go online to plymouthplayhouse.com

Medicare Part D Open Enrollment through December 7th. Contact Senior Linkage Line for assistance with comparing Medicare prescription drug plans for 2015. Just call: 1-800-333-2433.