

Sunday, January 18, 2015

Second Sunday after Epiphany



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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Church Secretary: Mary Braun

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

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

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INTRODUCTION:

All the baptized have a calling in God's world. God calls not just the clergy but also the youngest child, like Samuel. The story of the calling of Nathanael plays with the idea of place. Nathanael initially dismisses Jesus because he comes from Nazareth. But where we come from isn't important; it's where—or rather whom—we come to. Jesus refers to the story of the vision of Jacob, who called the place of his vision "the house of God, and ... the gate of heaven" (Gen. 28:17). Jesus says he himself is the place where Nathanael will meet God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

OPENING HYMN:

“This Little Light of Mine”

#677 ELW

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
who spoke light into creation,
who calls us to listen and follow,
who sends us to shine like stars.

Amen.

Let us come before God, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy and merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned against our sisters and brothers and against you.

We cherish the values of this world. We cause others to stumble.

The earth is wounded by our excess. Have mercy, O God.

Forgive us, renew us, and raise us up on eagles' wings, that we may do your will with courage and delight. Amen.

Hear the voice from heaven: "You are my own, my beloved."

God gives power to the weary and strengthens the powerless.

Be cleansed, be healed, for in the name of + Jesus Christ,

I declare to you the forgiveness of your sins

and the revealing of God's reign.

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

**Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, most merciful redeemer,
for the countless blessings and benefits you give.**

**May we know you more clearly, love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly, day by day praising you,
with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.**

FIRST READING:

1 Samuel 3:1-9

At a time when visions are rare and unexpected, the Lord comes to Samuel and calls him to speak the divine word. Though just a boy, Samuel responds to God obediently, as Eli the priest has taught him to respond. This marks the beginning of Samuel's prophetic ministry.

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

²At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; ³the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. ⁴Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" ⁵and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. ⁶The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." ⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. ⁹Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

PSALM

Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18

You have searched me out and known me. (Ps. 139:1)

¹LORD, you have searched me out;

O LORD, you have known me.

²**You know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.**

³You trace my journeys and my resting-places
and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴**Indeed, there is not a word on my lips,
but you, O LORD, know it altogether. R**

⁵You encompass me, behind and before,
and lay your ^l hand upon me.

⁶**Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.**

¹³For you yourself created my inmost parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

¹⁴**I will thank you because I am marvelously made;
your works are wonderful, and I know it well. R**

¹⁵My body was not hidden from you,
while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth.

¹⁶**Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb; all of them were written in your book;
my days were fashioned before they came to be.**

¹⁷How deep I find your thoughts, O God!
How great is the sum of them!

¹⁸**If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand;
to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours. R**

GOSPEL:

John 1:43-51

In John's gospel, Jesus' ministry begins with the call of disciples, who then bring others to Jesus. Philip's friend Nathanael moves from skepticism to faith when he accepts the invitation to "Come and see."

⁴³The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." ⁴⁴Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." ⁴⁶Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." ⁴⁷When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" ⁴⁸Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." ⁴⁹Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" ⁵⁰Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." ⁵¹And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

SERMON HYMN: "Children of the Heavenly Father"

#781 ELW

SERMON: "I'm Listening"

OFFERTORY SONG: "Be Thou My Vision"

#793 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

Called to know, love, and follow you, O God, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Gracious God, speak to your listening church, and send it to point eagerly to the many ways in which you reveal your life-giving presence. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Renew the face of the earth. Heal the wounds human carelessness inflicts on creation, and rouse us to increase our care of land and waters. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Restore and strengthen world leaders (*especially*). Give them a clear vision of your power to move hearts and minds, and enable them to act with justice and compassion. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Refresh the depressed and despairing. Comfort those who weep and mourn. Give companionship to the lonely and healing to the sick (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Fill our congregation with renewed zeal to love our neighbor as you love us. Open our mouths to invite friends and neighbors to come and see you. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We bless you for revealing yourself in the saints (*especially the apostle Peter who confessed you as Lord*). Bring us with them into the fullness of your glory. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Trusting your love and healing, O God, we commend to you all for whom we pray, knowing you will hear and answer, through Christ our Lord.
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

Everlasting God, we bless you that you have brought us to the mountaintop and fed us with the life and light of your Son.

Send us in his name from this place to bring light into dark corners, healing where lives are torn, and nourishment to every hungry heart, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

God the Father, light-creator;
God the Son, Light from Light;
and God the Holy Spirit, light-revealer,
bless you and + give you peace.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God!

CLOSING HYMN: "You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore" #817 ELW

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

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Music: Marlys Beaver
Greeters: Wayne & Janice Olson
Ushers: 9:00 am — Dick & Sandy Pullen
Lector: 9:00 am — Pat Becker
Hospitality Hosts: Char & Roy Berg, Mark & Mary Vukelich

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week/Month
Attendance: Sunday, January 11, 2015: 99

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda January 18 through January 25, 2015

Monday	1/19	7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	1/20	8:00 am	Pastor's Text Study, Onamia
		1:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle
		6:00 pm	Council Meeting
Wednesday	1/21	8:30 am	Bible Study
		9:30 am	Hardanger
		11:00 am	Bible Study
Thursday	01/22	8:00 am	ROMEOS
		12:30 pm	Fun Timers
Friday	01/23	10:00 am	Bone Builders
Sunday	01/25	9:00 am	Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance Registry Please sign and pass the attendance registry which you will find in the pew. This is a new process we are trying. This will replace the green cards. Information will be gathered for Evangelism.

Learning Opportunity for Everyone in our Congregation Bishop Patricia Lull from the Saint Paul Area Synod will be the keynote speaker on “Discipleship Today”, along with a variety of practical workshop options to attend. Saturday, March 14, 1-4 pm, Grace Lutheran Church in Mora. There is no charge plus coffee and refreshments will be served.

Coffee Servers Needed Signup sheets are to the left of the serving window by the kitchen. Please check it out and take your turn.

Message to Women of Bethesda Lutheran Did you know that all women of the church are members of Women of the ELCA (WELCA)? We welcome you to attend the WELCA meeting on Wednesday, January 21 at 9:30 AM. Our focus will be to distribute the funds raised at the fall bazaar. Each year suggestions are presented as to the organizations and agencies that we wish to support. We encourage all women of our church to be part of this sharing experience.

Vacation Bible School Reserve the week of June 15-19, 2015 for our annual VBS.

Sunday Services Note that all Sunday Services will be held at 9:00 am during the months of January, February and March.

2015 Northeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly Quilt Auction is May 1-2 at Breezy Point Resort. The Synod quilt auction team has decided to expand the usual offering of beautiful quilts to ‘quilts and all things quilted!’ Create a quilt or quilt item for the auction or plan to take a spring road trip with friends and attend. Money raised goes to the ministry of the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. Contact Amy Loken at 218-525-3933, Ruth Mills at 320-679-3462 or Mary Jo Mettler at 320-279-2010.