

**Sunday, May 10, 2015**  
**Sixth Sunday of Easter**



**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**

# Sunday, May 10, 2015

## Sixth Sunday of Easter

### INTRODUCTION

*This Sunday's image of the life the risen Christ shares with us is the image of friendship. We are called to serve others as Jesus came to serve; but for John's gospel, the image of servanthood is too hierarchical, too distant, to capture the essence of life with Christ. Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us. The Greeks believed that true friends are willing to die for each other. This is the mutual love of Christian community commanded by Christ and enabled by the Spirit.*

### CALL TO WORSHIP: “You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore”

Cranberry Hymnal #817

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### OPENING HYMN: “That’s Why We Praise Him”

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who calls us beloved children, who gathers us into one flock, who guides us into all truth.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sins, trusting that God will forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Faithful and just God,

**we confess that we are captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We have not loved our sisters and brothers as you have first loved us. Forgive us, God of mercy. Let your Holy Spirit work in us to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the abundant life given in Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.**

**Amen.**

In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us and sent the Son to atone for our sins. In the name of + Jesus Christ, I announce to you that your sins are forgiven. Let the perfect love of God cast out fear, fill you with joy, and inspire you to live for others.

**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**

**O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**PRAISE TEAM ANTHEM:                    “My Lighthouse”**

## **FIRST READING: 1 John 5:1–6**

*God's children believe that Jesus is the Messiah and love God by keeping God's commandments. Thus the world is conquered not through military might but through love and faith.*

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. <sup>2</sup>By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. <sup>3</sup>For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, <sup>4</sup>for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. <sup>5</sup>Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

<sup>6</sup>This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

## PSALM (ELW): Psalm 98

*Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands. (Ps. 98:4)*

<sup>1</sup>Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things,  
whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

**<sup>2</sup>O LORD, you have made known your victory, you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

<sup>3</sup>You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel;  
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

**<sup>4</sup>Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands;  
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing. R**

<sup>5</sup>Sing to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song.

**<sup>6</sup>With trumpets and the sound of the horn shout with joy before the king,  
the LORD.**

<sup>7</sup>Let the sea roar, and all that fills it, the world and those who dwell therein.

**<sup>8</sup>Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy before  
the LORD, who comes to judge the earth.**

<sup>9</sup>The LORD will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity. R

## GOSPEL: GOSPEL: John 15:9–17

*On the night of his arrest, Jesus delivers a final testimony to his disciples to help them in the days ahead. Here, he repeats the most important of all his commands, that they love one another.*

<sup>9</sup>As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

<sup>12</sup>This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup>I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

**SERMON: "When the Golden Rule Isn't Enough"**

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

**THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.*

Confident that the resurrection of Christ has defeated sin and death, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

*A brief silence.*

For the church on earth, for those who proclaim the gospel, and for the ministry of congregations throughout the world, that the Holy Spirit guide all to love and service, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For seas and fields, plants and animals, for the well-being of the earth, and for those who advocate for the just use of God's gifts, that all creation continue to thrive, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For the nations of the world, those who govern and those who serve, that leaders accomplish their duties faithfully and judge people with equity, let us pray

**Have mercy, O God.**

For the sick, the lonely, those who mourn, those afflicted with malaria, and those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit (especially), that God provide them with compassionate caregivers, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For diverse families in all places, for mothers celebrating this day, and for all parents and caregivers as they teach their children to know and love God, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

In thanksgiving for all the saints who have died in Christ, that their faithfulness to the gospel inspire us every day, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

Holy God, by the death and resurrection of your Son, you have granted new life, abundant renewal, and salvation. Hear our prayers for the sake of the one who has set us free, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **THE LORD’S PRAYER – LED BY THE PRAISE TEAM**

### **BLESSING**

Almighty God, who raised our Lord Jesus from death, lift you up and restore you to wholeness.

**Amen.**

Jesus Christ, the Word of life, bless you and send you to be his witnesses.

**Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit, who renews the whole earth, refresh you in the gift of baptism this day and always.

**Amen.**

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia.**

**CLOSING HYMN:            “Shout to the Lord”            Cranberry Hymnal #821**

**It has been great having you join us for worship! Please come again.**

### **THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK**

Music:                    The Praise Team

Greeters:                Marlys Le Clair, Nancy Hanson

Ushers:                    8:30 am — Dennis & Audrey Bistadeau  
                                  10:00 am – Dick & Sue Stuebbins

Lector:                    8:30 am – Char Berg

Hospitality Hosts:    Don & Donna Myhre, Kramer/Long Family

***Thank you for your service!***

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, May 3, 2015: 8:30am 98 10:00am 58

**THIS WEEK AT Bethesda May 11 through May 17, 2015**

Monday	5/11	8:00 am	Jelly Making
		1:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	5/12	8:30 am	Pastor's Text Study
		9:00 am	Quilters
		9:00am	Women's Devotions at Pat Becker's house
Wednesday	5/13	8:30am	Bible Study
		9:30 am	Hardanger
		11:00 am	Bible Study
		6:00 pm	Choir Practice
		7:00 pm	Praise Team
Thursday	5/14	8:00am	ROMEOS
		12:30 pm	Fun Timers
Friday	5/15	10:00 am	Bone Builders
		1:00 pm	4 H Project Day
Sunday	5/17	8:30 am	Worship
		10:00 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.

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

**Women's Devotions** Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am at Pat Becker's.

**Memory Garden Bricks** Orders will be taken for Memory Garden paver bricks through the first week of June. Order forms can be found in office for standard size (\$46) or large (\$75) bricks and payment is due upon delivery at summer's end. Turn completed order forms into Val Benton or place in Nature Trail/Memory Garden office mailbox.

**New Members** We receive new members the last Sunday of the month. If you are interested in membership or associate membership, please talk to Pastor Raisanen.

**Jelly Making** Remember jelly making on Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at 8:00am. Please come and join in the fun. No experience needed. We need Certo, Surejell, sugar and rhubarb. Also needed are 8oz. jelly jars, lids and rings. Please think about donating.

**Happy Birthday** Come celebrate Irene Long's 98<sup>th</sup> Birthday on May 10<sup>th</sup> at coffee between services.

**Knowledge Bites** "Puppy Imprinting & Consequences" seminar. Tuesday, May 12, 2015 at 2:00pm. Light of the Cross Lutheran Church in Garrison. Open to the community, everyone is welcome, no charge, treats and beverages served. See Poster in Fellowship Hall for more information.

**Pie & Ice Cream Social** Saturday, May 30. New items are needed for the sale and live auction that is part of the event. Direct questions to Pastor Jim or WELCA member.

**WANTED:** 2 women to attend the 2015 convention/gathering of the NE MN Synodical Women's organization in Duluth, MN. The dates are Fri. & Sat. June 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>. Registration deadline is May 15<sup>th</sup>. Our church will pay for 2 women to attend, including lodging. This is a fun, inspirational, and informative time. The keynote speaker on Saturday will be Ilene Rice, a family therapist from Colorado, speaking about suicide prevention. More information on the WELCA bulletin board. Questions to Pat Becker, Barb Forrester and Elsa Carlson.

**Pancake Breakfast** at Wealthwood Rod & Gun Club today, Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, Mother's Day. 8:00am-1:00pm. See Brochure hanging in the fellowship hall.

**Senior Games** are being held in St. Cloud May 28-31. Pickle Ball, cribbage, and bridge are just a few of the events being held. If interested see the church bulletin board.