

Sunday, July 26, 2015
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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Church Secretary: Mary Braun & Mary Kramer-Long

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:

Today is the first of five Sundays with gospel readings from John 6, the first four of which focus on Jesus as bread of life. Today Jesus feeds thousands of people with five loaves and two fish. What we have, what we bring to Jesus' table seems like it is not nearly enough to meet all the needs we see around us. But it is not the adequacy of our supplies or our skills that finally makes the difference: it is the power of Jesus working in the littlest and least to transform this world into the world God desires, a world where all the hungry are satisfied.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

OPENING HYMN:

“Joy to the World”

#267 ELW

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthens you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious God, you have placed within the hearts of all your children a longing for your word and a hunger for your truth. Grant that we may know your Son to be the true bread of heaven and share this bread with all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

CHOIR ANTHEM: “You Give”

Reception of New Member: Today we receive **Julie Swaggert** as a member of Bethesda. Welcome!

FIRST READING: Ephesians 3:14–21

We have been rooted and grounded in the love of Christ, which surpasses all human knowledge. Because Christ dwells in our hearts, our lives are continuously strengthened and empowered by the ongoing presence of the Spirit.

¹⁴For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. ¹⁶I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, ¹⁷and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. ¹⁸I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

²⁰Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

PSALM (ELW): Psalm 145:10–18

You open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. (Ps. 145:16)

¹⁰All your works shall praise you, O LORD, and your faithful ones shall bless you.

¹¹**They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your power,**
¹²that all people may know of your power and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

¹³**Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures through- out all ages. You, LORD, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your works. R**

¹⁴The Lord upholds all those who fall and lifts up those who are bowed down.

¹⁵**The eyes of all wait upon you, O LORD, and you give them their food in due season.**

¹⁶You open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

¹⁷**You are righteous in all your ways and loving in all your works.**

¹⁸You are near to all who call upon you, to all who call up- on you faithfully. R

GOSPEL: John 6:1–21

In John's gospel, the miracles of Jesus are called "signs," because they reveal the true character of God. As such, they remain within the mystery of God and cannot be brought under human control.

After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. ²A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. ³Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. ⁴Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. ⁵When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" ⁶He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. ⁷Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." ⁸One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, ⁹There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people? ¹⁰Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. ¹¹Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. ¹²When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." ¹³So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they

filled twelve baskets. ¹⁴When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world."

¹⁵When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

SERMON HYMN: “Spirit of Gentleness” #396 ELW

SERMON: “The World’s Largest Hot Dish Lunch”

OFFERTORY SONG: “Here I Am, Lord” #574 ELW

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer 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.

Gathered by the Holy Spirit and fed by the word, we come together as the people of God to pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

God our provider, awaken hunger for your truth in the church around the world so all are fed with your love and mercy. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Give rain to the fields that supply our bread, and care for those who tend the crops. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Raise up leaders who love truth and seek justice. Prosper the work of those who supply and oversee feeding programs in our community and around the world. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Comfort those who fear that they will not be able to feed their children. Send them healthy food and surround them with people who care. With your Spirit, strengthen those who are unsatisfied, lonely, rejected, or ill (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Strengthen this congregation in its service to food pantries and community meal programs. Open our eyes to your abundance when we see only scarcity. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

With all the saints, root and ground us in love until we know the breadth, length, height, and depth of fullness in your kingdom. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Into your hands, loving God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in the grace of Jesus our Savior.

LORD'S PRAYER

BLESSING

Almighty and merciful God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you this day and forevermore.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live in love, as Christ loved us.

Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN: "On Our Way Rejoicing"

#537 ELW

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

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Music: Saturday: Marilyn Samuelson & Kathy Berland

Sunday: Marlys Beavers & Choir

Greeters: Lee & Barb Forrester

Ushers: 8:30 am — Wayne & Janice Olson

10:00 am — Darrel Kelly

Lector: 8:30 am – Karen Carron

Hospitality Hosts: Marilyn & Warren Samuelson, Eric & Sunny Emmerson

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: Saturday, June 13, 2015: 15

Sunday, June 14, 2015: 8:30 am 107 10:00 am 32

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA

July 27 – August 2

Monday	7/27	8:00 am	Stewardship & Budget Meeting
		9:00 am	Personnel Meeting
		1:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	7/28	8:30-10:00am	Pastor's Text Study, Onamia
		9:00 am	Quilters
Wednesday	7/29	8:30 am	Bible Study
		9:30 am	Hardanger
		11:00 am	Bible Study
		6:00pm	Choir Practice
		7:00pm	Praise Team
Thursday	7/30	8:00 am	ROMEOS
		12:30 pm	Fun Timers
		6:00 pm	Hand Bell Choir Practice
Friday	7/31	10:00 am	Bone Builders
Saturday	8/1	5:00 pm	Worship
Sunday	8/2	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.

Saturday Evening Worship services continue on Saturday nights – join us at 5:00pm. Music provided by Marilyn Samuelson and guests.

Coffee Servers Needed Please check the list on the wall to the left of the serving windows by the kitchen. Please check it out and take your turn.

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.

Can You Help? The church has two very expensive problems that need to be addressed; the replacement of parts of our sound system and the repair of our parking lot. With the Jamboree approaching in September and winter closing in soon after that, both of these problems have approaching deadlines. The total costs for these projects are still being finalized, but the repairs could be as high as \$25,000 or more. Therefore we obviously need to begin fundraising now to see if we can afford to begin these projects soon. If you can help, please use the Building Fund line on your giving envelopes for your financial gifts towards these needs. Thank you in advance. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. God Bless.

Veggie Stand is now open every Saturday from 8:00am – 11:00am.

Membership Information Update If you haven't done so already, please fill out the Membership Information Update sheets that were mailed to you this week. We would appreciate getting the forms back by July 31st. There should be one form for each household member.

THANKS – to everyone who worked so hard on this year's Beef & Corn Feed. The money raised went to support the Biloxi Medical Clinic and our Parking Lot Repair project.

Blessing Box Next week's Blessing Box will be dedicated to paving our parking lot. We hope you will consider your many blessings and make a special offering for this important project.

Triad of Aitkin County invites you to hear "Alzheimer's: Patient & Caregiver" presented by Jenna Herbig program manager of the Duluth Regional office Alzheimer's Association MN-ND. Tuesday, August 18, 2015 at 11:00am, Fireside Restaurant in McGregor, MN. Free Lunch to following presentation. Reservations for free lunch required. Call either Sandy Liepins at 218-768-3355 or email her at liepins@frontiernet.net or Ginny Ekstrand at 218-752-1111 or email her at ekstrand@frontier.com