

# Sunday, September 6, 2015

## Fifteenth 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](mailto:blcmalmo@frontiernet.net)

Church Web Site: [blcmalmo.org](http://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 218-678-2667

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

*James tells us to stop showing favoritism in the assembly, treating the rich visitor with more honor than the poor one. Jesus himself seems to show partiality in his first response to the Syrophoenician woman in today's gospel. Was he testing her faith in saying Gentiles don't deserve the goods meant for God's children? Or was he speaking out of his human worldview, but transcended those limits when she took him by surprise with her reply? Either way, the story tells us that God shows no partiality. Everyone who brings her or his need to Jesus is received with equal honor as a child and heir.*

### OPENING HYMN:

**“Rock of Ages”**

**#623 ELW**

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 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, whose name is majestic in all the earth, who rescues and heals in every time of trouble, who does all things well.

**Amen.**

Let us come before God, seeking forgiveness and life.

*Silence is kept for reflection*

Steadfast and saving God,

**have mercy on us. We confess to you all the ways we turn from you and harm one another. In your compassion, forgive our sins and heal our hurts. Bring forth from us a harvest of righteousness, the fruits of gentleness and peacemaking, the sheaves of wisdom and justice; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

In the name of ☩ Jesus, the Son of God, receive mercy and find grace in your time of need. Your transgressions are forgiven; God's love is healing balm for your wounds. Rejoice, for God raises you up to new life in Christ.

**Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord. Amen.**

**CHOIR ANTHEM: “Heavenly Father”**

**FIRST READING: James 2:1-5**

*Faithful Christians do not show partiality to the rich and powerful of the world, especially at the expense of the poor and weak. Likewise, faith does not pay mere lip-service to God’s will. Instead, a living Christian faith expresses itself in acts of compassion and mercy for those in need.*

<sup>1</sup>☐ My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? <sup>2</sup>☐ For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, <sup>3</sup>☐ and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, “Have a seat here, please,” while to the one who is poor you say, “Stand there,” or, “Sit at my feet,” <sup>4</sup>☐ have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? <sup>5</sup>☐ Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him?

**PSALM (ELW): Psalm 146**

*I will praise the LORD as long as I live. (Ps. 146:2)*

<sup>1</sup>☐ Hallelujah! Praise the LORD, O my soul!

<sup>2</sup>☐ **I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

<sup>3</sup>☐ Put not your trust in rulers, in mortals in whom there is no help.

<sup>4</sup>☐ **When they breathe their last, they return to earth, and in that day their thoughts perish. R**

<sup>5</sup>☐ Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the LORD their God;

<sup>6</sup>☐ **who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps promises forever;**

<sup>7</sup>□ who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger. The LORD sets the captive free.

<sup>8</sup>□ **The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous. R** (*I will praise the LORD as long as I live.*)

<sup>9</sup>□ The LORD cares for the stranger; the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

<sup>10</sup>□ **The LORD shall reign forever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah! R** (*I will praise the LORD as long as I live.*)

## **GOSPEL: Mark 7:24-37**

*In Mark's gospel, encounters with women usually signify turning points in Jesus' ministry. Here, a conversation with a Syrophenician woman marks the beginning of his mission to the Gentiles.*

<sup>24</sup>□ [Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,<sup>25</sup>□ but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet.<sup>26</sup>□ Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter.<sup>27</sup>□ He said to her, “Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.”<sup>28</sup>□ But she answered him, “Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.”<sup>29</sup>□ Then he said to her, “For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.”<sup>30</sup>□ So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

<sup>31</sup>□ Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis.<sup>32</sup>□ They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him.<sup>33</sup>□ He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue.<sup>34</sup>□ Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.”<sup>35</sup>□ And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly.<sup>36</sup>□ Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it.<sup>37</sup>□ They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

**SERMON: “Blessed are the Abnormal”**

**OFFERTORY HYMN: “Beautiful Savior” #838 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.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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

With confidence in God’s compassion and generosity, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of God’s creation.

*A brief silence.*

O God, we pray for the church. Give it the courage to translate faith into action. Guide the hands and feet of the faithful to answer the needs so abundant in this world. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for streams, pools, springs of water, oceans, lakes, and rivers (*local water sources may be named*). Protect all water sources that refresh and sustain the land, animals, and human beings. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for the world’s leaders, that they act for the good of all. We pray for all workers, those who can find no work, those who work in unsafe conditions, and those whose labor is exploited. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who lack daily food, who are fearful, and who suffer in body, mind, or spirit (*especially*). Come and save them. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for this assembly. Make it a place of equality, welcome, and full inclusion. Empower us to live out radical hospitality. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

O God, we remember all who have gone before us and give thanks for their faith and their works. Give us the fortitude to carry on in the work left for us. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**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**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**We give you thanks, O God, that you welcome us to your table and satisfy our deepest hunger and thirst. By your gifts of word and holy meal, strengthen us to take up the cross as we go about our callings in this world, following after Jesus Christ, our servant Lord.**

**Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

Like children in the arms of Jesus, receive blessing: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**Amen.**

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**Thanks be to God.**

**CLOSING HYMN: "Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us"**

**#789 ELW**

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

**THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK**

Music: Marlys Beavers & Choir  
Greeters: Dick and Sandy Pullen  
Ushers: 8:30 am Warren & Gale Rolek  
10:00 am Dick & Sue Stebbins  
Lector: 8:30 am Dawn Kellen  
Hospitality Hosts: Dale Siems, Dennis & Lynn Meidlinger  
Communion Servers: Dawn and Keith Kellen and Shirley Moe

*Thank you for your service!*

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: Sat, Aug. 29, 5:00pm: 10 Sun, Aug. 30, 8:30am: 98 10:00am: 48

**THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA**

Sept. 7 – Sept. 13

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Monday	9/7	MEMORIAL DAY	
		1:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	9/8	7:30 am	Pastor at Aitkin County CARE
		10:00 am	Property Clean-up
		9:00 am	Crafters
Wednesday	9/9	8:30 am	Bible Study
		9:30 am	Hardanger
		11:00 am	Bible Study
		5:30 pm	Jamboree Dress Rehearsal
Thursday	9/10	8:00 am	Romeos
		12:30 pm	Fun Timers
		6:00 pm	Hand Bell Practice
Friday	9/11	10:00 am	Bones
		7:00 pm	Jamboree
Saturday	9/12	7:00 pm	Jamboree
Sunday	9/13	8:30 am	Worship

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**ATTENDANCE REGISTRY** Please sign and pass the new attendance registry folders 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.

**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.

**GOD'S WORK-OUR HANDS** On Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, Bethesda will join with all other NEMN Synod churches to take on a Creation Care project to make our community and world a cleaner, better place to live. Each of our members is challenged to come up with a project either individually or together to be God's presence in the world. Pick ditches, clean up the beaches, visit someone in the nursing home or someone who is home bound. Let us join together and be God's hands in the world.

**PROPERTY CLEAN-UP** Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am you are invited to come and help work on church property clean-up projects. Edging in the gardens, trimming, removal of bee hives, light bulbs changed, flashing on the building, thinning of lilies and more are being planned. We could use all your help.

**JAMBOREE** Don't forget the Bethesda Jamboree is this Friday and Saturday evenings at 7:00pm. Join us for a great night of entertainment.

**MEATBALL SUPPER & BAZAAR** Zion Lutheran Church in Milaca will have their annual Men's Meatball Supper and Women's Bazaar on Wednesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> from 5:00-8:00pm. Meal includes mashed potatoes & gravy, garden vegetables, scalloped corn, coleslaw, bread/butter, homemade pies and beverages. Cost is \$9 for adults and \$4 for children under 10.

**FLU SHOTS** Jan West from Aitkin County Public Health will come with their mobile clinic on Wednesday, September 30<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am – 9:45am. Aitkin Public



Health can bill insurance for your shot so be sure to bring your insurance card with you that day.