

Sunday, September 13, 2015
Sixteenth 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

Church Web Site: 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 Kramer-Long & 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, September 13, 2015

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

INTRODUCTION

Three weeks ago we heard John's gospel's version of Peter's confession of faith. This week we hear Mark's version, when Peter says, "You are the Messiah." In John, the stumbling block is Jesus' invitation to eat his flesh, given for the life of the world. In Mark too the scandal has to do with Jesus' words about his own coming death, and here Peter himself stumbles over Jesus' words. But Jesus is anointed (the meaning of "messiah") in Mark only on the way to the cross (14:3); so we are anointed in baptism with the sign of the cross.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me" #660 WOV

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

O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC: “Medley of Hymns” Terry Bird Byron, MN

First Reading: James 3:1-12

This text uses various images to illustrate how damaging and hurtful the way we speak to and about others can be. Not only are we to control our speech, but what we say and how we say it is to reflect our faith.

¹□ Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ²□ For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. ³□ If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. ⁴□ Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵□ So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! ⁶□ And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. ⁷□ For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, ⁸□ but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹□ With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God.

¹⁰□ From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. ¹¹□ Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? ¹²□ Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

PSALM: Psalm 116:1-9

I will walk in the presence of the Lord. (Ps. 116:9)

¹□ I love the LORD, who has heard my voice, and listened to my supplication,

²□ **for the LORD has given ear to me whenever I called.**

³□ The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave came upon me;

I came to grief and sorrow.

⁴□ **Then I called upon the name of the LORD: “O LORD, I pray you, save my life.” R**

⁵□ Gracious is the LORD and righteous; our God is full of compassion.

⁶□ **The LORD watches over the innocent; I was brought low, and God saved me.**

⁷□ Turn again to your rest, O my soul. For the LORD has dealt well with you.

⁸□ **For you have rescued my life from death, my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling;**

⁹□ I will walk in the presence of the LORD in the land of the living. **R**

Gospel: Mark 8:27-38

This story provides the turning point in Mark’s gospel. Peter is the first human being in the narrative to acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah, but he cannot accept that as the Messiah Jesus will have to suffer. Moreover, Jesus issues a strong challenge to all by connecting discipleship and the cross.

²⁷□ Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” ²⁸□ And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” ²⁹□ He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” ³⁰□ And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹□ Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²□ He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³□ But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

³⁴□ He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become

my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ □ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶ □ For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷ □ Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸ □ Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

SERMON HYMN: “Bind Us Together” #748 WOV

SERMON: “Right Answer – Wrong Conclusion”

OFFERTORY SONG: “Be Thou My Vision” #776 WOV

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 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 throughout the world, that it not be found wanting or ashamed of its mission. Each day, inspire the church to continue to pick up the cross of Christ. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for places affected by storms, floods, and forest fires (*especially*). Grant safety to those who rescue and repair, and hope to those whose families, homes, or livelihoods have been lost. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for the nations of the world, their governments, leaders, and citizens (*especially*). Let peace and justice flourish. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for those who are victims of gossip, false accusations, or threats. Speak a word of healing to those who have been lashed by others' tongues. Heal and preserve those in any need (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for ministries of teaching and learning in this congregation and community. Bless teachers and students, and use their words and actions to build up, not rip down.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of steadfastness, we remember with joy and thanksgiving all who have taught us to pick up the cross boldly (*especially John Chrysostom, whom we commemorate today*).

With them, may we bear the life of Christ to those around 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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 HYMNS: "What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine" #780 WOV

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

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Music: Sunday – Terry Bird
Greeters: Janice & Wayne Olson
Ushers: 8:30 am — Warren & Gale Rolek 10:00 am – Dick & Sue Stebbins
Lector: 8:30 am – Lynn Hansen
Hospitality Hosts: Jack & Paula Spetz

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, September 6, 2015: 8:30am 100 10:00am 51

Offerings for August General: \$ 16,223 Building Fund: \$ 1,945

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA

September 14 – September 20

Monday	9/14	1:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	9/15	8:00-10:00am	Pastor Text Study
		9:00am	Crafters
		2:00-4:00 pm	4-H
		5:30 pm	Council Meeting
Wednesday	9/16	8:00-12:00	WIC
		8:30 am	Bible Study
		9:30 am	WELCA
		9:30 am	Hardanger
		11:00 am	Stewardship Meeting
		11:00 am	Bible Study
		6:00 pm	Choir Practice
		7:00 pm	Praise Team
Thursday	9/17	8:00am	Romeos
		12:30 pm	Fun Timers
		6:00 pm	Hand Bell Practice
Friday	9/18	10:00am	Bones
Sunday	9/20	8:30 am	Worship
		10:00 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.

DARWIN BREUESEWITZ passed away on Friday, September 11, 2015. His funeral will be Monday, September 14th at Trinity Lutheran Church in Milaca (735 2nd Street SE. Phone: 320 983-6420). Visitation – Sunday 5:00-7:00pm. Funeral – Monday at 11:00am.

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.

PICTURE WEEK Don't forget to bring your high school pictures next Sunday. We will see if we can pick each other out.

FREE FLOWERS There are some Stella D'Aura Lilly plants in the woods on a tarp if anyone wants some.

ANNUAL MEETING Our 2014-2015 Annual Meeting is set for Sunday, September 27th, at 10:00am. We will worship at 9:00am – one service that Sunday and then gather to pass a new budget, elect four council representatives, and two representatives to the NEMN Synod meeting at Breezy Point on April 30th – May 2nd. Please put this congregational meeting on your schedules and join us as we move into the future serving our Lord.

MEATBALL SUPPER & BAZAAR Zion Lutheran Church in Milaca will have their annual Men's Meatball Supper and Women's Bazaar on Wednesday, September 23rd 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 30th 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.