

Sunday, September 20, 2015

Seventeenth 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 we hear James warn against selfish ambition, while the disciples quarrel over which one of them is the greatest. Jesus tells them the way to be great is to serve. Then, to make it concrete, he puts in front of them an actual flesh-and-blood child. We are called to welcome the particular children God puts in front of us, to make room for them in daily interaction, and to give them a place of honor in the assembly.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: “I Want Jesus to Walk with Me” #325 ELW

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, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM: “Walk By Faith”

FIRST READING: James 2:13—4:3, 7-8a

The wisdom God gives unites our hearts and minds. Instead of living to satisfy our own wants and desires, we manifest this wisdom in peace, gentleness, mercy, and impartiality toward others.

¹³□ Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. ¹⁴□ But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. ¹⁵□ Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. ¹⁶□ For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. ¹⁷□ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. ¹⁸□ And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.^{4:}

¹□ Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? ²□ You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³□ You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. ⁷□ Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ^{8a}□ Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

Psalm: Psalm 54

God is my helper; it is the LORD who sustains my life. (Ps. 54:4)

¹□ Save me, O God, by your name; in your might, defend my cause.
²□ **Hear my prayer, O God; give ear to the words of my mouth.**
³□ For strangers have risen up against me, and the ruthless have sought my life, those who have no regard for God.

⁴☐ **Behold, God is my helper; it is the Lord who sustains my life. R**

⁵☐ Render evil to those who spy on me; in your faithfulness, destroy them.

⁶☐ **I will offer you a freewill sacrifice and praise your name, O LORD, for it is good.**

⁷☐ For you have rescued me from every trouble, and my eye looks down on my enemies. **R** (*God is my helper; it is the LORD who sustains my life*)

GOSPEL: Mark 9:30-37

Jesus' teaching and action in this text are directed to the church whenever it is seduced by the world's definition of greatness: prestige, power, influence, and money. The antidote to such a concern for greatness is servanthood.

³⁰[Jesus and the disciples went on] and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; ³¹for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." ³²But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

³³Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" ³⁴But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. ³⁵He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." ³⁶Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

SERMON HYMN "Spirit of God Descend upon My Heart" #800 ELW

SERMON: "Moving On Up"

OFFERTORY HYMN: "You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore" #817 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.

Gracious God, we pray for the church in its many expressions. Give it the gift of discernment to know what is needed and the humility to ask for what is necessary. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We give thanks for another year of harvests, for farmers, gardeners, farmers markets, and community gardens. Teach us to share the earth's abundance with all who hunger. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for the leaders of all nations. Take away selfish ambition, conflicts, and disputes, and guide leaders to work for the good of all people. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for those affected by shortened daylight hours, for those who struggle with envy, and for those who suffer from impulses that are at war within them. We pray for all those in any kind of need (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for children in this congregation and community. Give them compassionate and patient families, caregivers, mentors, teachers, and friends. Assure them that Jesus is always with them and loves them. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for the saints and all those who have seasoned our lives of faith (*especially*). Preserve us in faith until we join them in your eternal kingdom. 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

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, September 13, 8:30am: 85 10:00am: 52

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA

Sept. 21 – Sept. 27

Monday	9/21	1:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	9/22	9:00 am	Quilters
		5:30 pm	Church Council Meeting
Wednesday	9/23	9:30 am	Hardanger
		6:00 pm	Choir Practice
		7:00 pm	Praise Team
Thursday	9/24	8:00 am	Romeos
		12:30 pm	Fun Timers
		6:00 pm	Hand Bell Practice
Friday	9/25	10:00 am	Bones
Sunday	9/27	9:00 am	Worship (One Service Only)
		10:00 am	Annual Meeting

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.

HIGH SCHOOL PICTURE DAY is TODAY. Can you pick out who is who? Take a look in the fellowship hall between services.

HIGHWAY CLEANUP Volunteers Needed! Please meet at the church on Tuesday, September 29th at 11:00am to help with the highway ditch cleaning. If raining, we will try again on Wednesday morning at 11:00am.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (continued)

PASTOR RAISANEN will be attending a conference meeting this Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday so there will be no Wednesday morning Bible Study.

BIBLE STUDY A new Wednesday morning Bible Study will begin soon. If you have been thinking of working on your theological journey, please join us at 8:30am. Also, the Romeos are soon to begin a new book. Men – please join us at 8:00am on Thursdays.

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.

FOOD SAFETY CLASS Calling all women who work in the kitchen. There is a food safety class scheduled October 22nd from 9:00am – 12:00 noon at Bethel Lutheran Church in Palisade. These classes are very informative and necessary for everyone who works in the kitchen. Signup sheet is in the narthex. If you have taken the class before it needs to be repeated at least every 3 years.

LIONS CLUB A new Lions club is forming in Malmo/Glen. An organizational meeting will be held at Sunrise Café, on Thursday, September 24th, 6:30pm.

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.

MISSION & EVANGELISM meeting on Wednesday, Sept 30th at 9:30am.

BAKE & CRAFT SALE Bethesda Lutheran Church of Rossburg will have a Bake & Crafts Sale on Sept. 25th from 9:00am – 1:00pm at Bremer Bank.

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.