

Sunday, February 14, 2016

First Sunday in Lent



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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Pastor: Rev. James Raisanen

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Church Secretary: Mary Braun & Mary Kramer

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

(Please turn off your cell phone)

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INTRODUCTION

These forty days called Lent are like no other. It is our opportune time to return to the God who rescues; to receive the gifts of God's grace; to believe with the heart and confess with the mouth the wonder of God's love in Jesus; and to resist temptation at every turn. This is no small pilgrimage on which we have just embarked. It is a struggle Jesus knew. It is a struggle Jesus shares. The nearness of the Lord, in bread and wine, water and word, will uphold and sustain us.

OPENING HYMN: "Change My Heart, O God" CCLI# 1565 (Page 801)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN "They Will Know We Are Christians by Our Love" CCLI#26997

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 brings us safely through the sea, who gives us water from the rock, who leads us into the land of milk and honey.

Amen.

Let us come home to God, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful Father,

we have sinned against heaven and before you. We do not fully live as your sons and daughters. We use your gifts to our own ends. Forgive us and restore us, that we may resist all that draws us away from you, and be at peace with one another.

Amen.

We are reconciled to God through Christ; for his sake, God does not count our trespasses against us. Once dead in sin, we are now alive to God. Once lost, we now are found. God clothes you in the finest robe of all, the righteousness of ✝ Jesus Christ, forgiving you all your sins and making of you a new creation.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

PRAISE TEAM ANTHEM:

“Carrier”

CCLI# 5502725

FIRST READING:

Romans 10:8b-13

Paul reminds the Christians at Rome of the foundation of their creed, the confession of faith in the risen Christ as Lord.

^{8b}“The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

PSALM

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

God will give the angels charge over you, to guard you in all your ways. (Ps. 91:11)

¹You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty—

²you will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my stronghold, my God in whom I put my trust.” R

⁹Because you have made the LORD your refuge, and the Most High your habitation,

¹⁰no evil will befall you, nor shall affliction come near your dwelling.

¹¹For God will give the angels charge over you, to guard you in all your ways.

¹²Upon their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against

a stone. R

¹³You will tread upon the lion cub and viper; you will trample down the lion and the serpent.

¹⁴**I will deliver those who cling to me; I will uphold them, because they know my name.**

¹⁵They will call me, and I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and honor them.

¹⁶**With long life will I satisfy them, and show them my salvation. R**

(God will give the angels charge over you, to guard you in all your ways)

GOSPEL:

Luke 4:1–13

After being filled with the Holy Spirit at his baptism, Jesus is led in the wilderness. Through his responses to the temptations of the devil he defines what it means to be called “the Son of God.”

¹Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ²where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. ³The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” ⁴Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’ □”

⁵Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶And the devil said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. ⁷If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” ⁸Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’ □”

⁹Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,’

¹¹and

‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ □”

¹²Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ □” ¹³When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

SERMON:

“Are You Giving Up Chocolate for Valentine’s Day?”

OFFERTORY HYMN:

“Dance with Me”

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF INTERSESSION

Hearing the call to return to the Lord, let us join the whole people of God in prayer for all who cry out in pain and in hope.

A brief silence.

Break down and mend divisions within your church, Holy One. Bring together rich and poor, homeless and housed, and those who hold differing political views as the one body of Christ. Unite us in worship of you. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Sustain citrus groves and orchards, divine Gardener. Provide rich soil and water in due season for an abundant harvest. Help us share the fruit of your harvest with all people.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Raise up peacemakers, almighty God. In nations ravaged by war, pour out your Spirit of wisdom on their leaders. Equip them to respond with your mercy and justice. Make peace flourish in all the world (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Protect all who flee oppression, eternal Father. Grant refuge on their journey. Provide shelter as there is need. Turn the hearts of those who oppress. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Teach us to love as you love, gracious Lord. Open us to encounter our enemies as our neighbors. Give us courage to trust in your redeeming love and proclaim your gospel to all people. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Show all people your salvation, Alpha and Omega. Bring us to eternal joy with all the saints who have gone before us (*especially the missionaries Cyril and Methodius*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

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

hear our prayer.

Trusting your love and healing, O God, we commend to you all for whom we pray, knowing you will hear and answer, through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE LORD’S PRAYER – LED BY THE PRAISE TEAM

BLESSING

The blessing of God Almighty, the wisdom and power of + Christ Jesus, and the light of the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN:	“LOVE THE LORD”	CCLI# 4572938
	“JESUS IS THE ROCK”	CCLI# 214455

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

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

- Music: The Praise Team
- Greeters: Wally & Bev Swenson
- Ushers: Harold & Ardie Kendall
- Hospitality Hosts: Rick & Marge Nelson, Ron & Joni Melhop

Thank you for your service!

Response to God’s Word Last Week/Month

Attendance: Sunday, February 7, 2016: 81

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda **February 15 through February 21, 2016**

Monday	2/15	1:00 pm 7:00 pm	Pinochle AA/Alanon
Tuesday	2/16	10:00-Noon 5:30 pm	Pastor's Text Study Council Meeting
Wednesday	2/17	8:00-Noon 8:30 am 9:30 am 5:30 pm 6:30 pm 7:30 pm	WIC Bible Study Hardanger Pot Luck Lenten Service Praise Team
Thursday	2/18	8:00am 12:30 pm	ROMEOS Fun Timers
Friday	2/19	10:00 am	Bone Builders
Sunday	02/21	9:00 am	Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ATTENDANCE REGISTRY Please sign and pass the attendance registry which you will find in the pew. This 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.

WEDNESDAY POT LUCK & SERVICE There will be a potluck on Wednesday, February 17, at 5:30pm and Service at 6:30pm, this Wednesday and every Wednesday during Lent.

SUNDAY SERVICES Note that all Sunday Services will be held at 9:00 am during the months of January, February and March until Easter.

2015 YEAR END STATEMENTS Please note that your yearend statements are available on the table in the fellowship hall. Please remember to pick up your statement if you haven't already.

MEMORY GARDEN BRICKS If you would like to purchase a brick to honor a loved one, you can pick up an order form in the Secretary's office.

4H FRUIT SALES The East Side Eagles 4H Club meets at Bethesda Lutheran Church. If you are interested in supporting our club through the annual 4H fundraiser of fruit sales, please contact Mary, Emilie or Will Vukelich by phone or email. (Some order forms are on the table near the entrance to church too.) All orders must be placed by Sunday, February 21 (with payment made to our club) and delivery will be made on Friday, March 11 in the afternoon and evening hours. The Vukelich family can be reached by email at mmvuke@yahoo.com or by phone at 651-230-4512. Thanks in advance for your support; it helps offset our costs to 4H summer camp, the State Dog Show and other similar expenses.

NEW BIBLE STUDY Now would be a good time to join one of our Bible Studies. At our Wednesday morning 8:30 class we will be beginning "The Parables of Jesus".

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.

FOOT CLINIC our next Foot Care Clinic will be held on Saturday, March 5th, 2016. Call the church office to make an appointment: 320-684-2123 (M-F 11:00am – 3:00pm).