

Sunday, July 17, 2016
Ninth Sunday After Pentecost



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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Church Secretary: Mary Braun & Jenny Schuett

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

Perhaps the church, at its best, is “all ears.” Almighty God urges the faithful, again and again, to “listen up!”—to heed the word from above. So it was with Abraham and Sarah, with Mary and Martha, and the early church at Colossae. So it is today as we join the assembly to hear the word of God, the words of life.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: **“Lift High the Cross”** (vs. 1,2, last) **#660 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, abounding in steadfast love toward us, healing the sick and raising the dead, showering us with every good gift.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection

Just and gracious God,

we come to you for healing and life. Our sins hurt others and diminish us; we confess them to you. Our lives bear the scars of sin; we bring these also to you. Show us your mercy, O God. Bind up our wounds, forgive us our sins, and free us to love, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

The apostle Paul assures us: “When we were dead in our trespasses, God made us alive together with Christ, nailing the record of our sins to the cross.” Jesus says to you, ✚ “Your sins are forgiven.” Be at peace, and tell everyone how much God has done for you.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Eternal God, you draw near to us in Christ, and you make yourself our guest. Amid the cares of our lives, make us attentive to your presence, that

we may treasure your word above all else, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM: “Grace Alone”

First Reading: Colossians 1:15-28

Sometimes Paul preaches with great attention to theological concepts. Here, however, Paul offers a mystical teaching, that the great mystery of God is “Christ in you.” Because Christ is present in the church, Christians share in his life, suffering, and glory.

¹⁵[Christ Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation;¹⁶for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

²¹And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²²he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him—²³provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a servant of this gospel.

²⁴I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. ²⁵I became its servant according to God’s commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, ²⁶the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. ²⁷To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. ²⁸It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

Psalm: Psalm 15

LORD, who may abide upon your holy hill? (Ps. 15:1)

¹LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? Who may abide upon your holy hill?

²Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right, who speak the truth from their heart; R

³they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends; they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

⁴In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the LORD. They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.

⁵They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be overthrown. **R** (*LORD, who may abide upon your holy hill?*)

Gospel: Luke 10:38-42

Jesus uses his visit to two sisters as an occasion to remind disciples that an important aspect of obedience is singleminded devotion to Jesus and his word.

³⁸Now as [Jesus and his disciples] went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. ³⁹She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. ⁴⁰But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." ⁴¹But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; ⁴²there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

SERMON HYMN

"Day by Day"

#790 ELW

SERMON:

"Go Squeeze Someone's Hand"

OFFERTORY HYMN:

"Just as I Am"

#592 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

Rooted in Christ and rising to serve, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

You open the doors of your church, Lord, to all who feel distant or estranged. Give us courage to share your good news through conversation and love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Cultivate in all people a care for the world you have made. Make us mindful of our impact on creation for the good of our neighbor and future generations. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Reconcile and bring peace to communities that suffer (*especially*). Raise up and strengthen leaders and organizations that promote dialogue, hospitality, and restoration. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Open our eyes to see those suffering any affliction, even ourselves. Open our lips to boldly beg relief in body or spirit for all in need (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Bless and keep safe campers, counselors, and families who experience the gift of outdoor ministry at camps this summer. Continue transforming them in Christ once they are safely home. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Comfort your children with the trust that your word is stronger than death. We remember saints and loved ones who have died and rest in you (*especially the missionary Bartolomé de Las Casas*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting your promise to hear us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

O God, as a mother comforts her child, so you comfort your people, carrying us in your arms and satisfying us with this food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Send us now as your disciples, announcing peace and proclaiming that the reign of God has come near; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Proclaim the good news.

Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN: "Soon and Very Soon" (vs. 1,2,4) #439 ELW

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

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, July 10: 8:30am 83 10:00am: 46

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Music: Choir and Sound System

Greeters: Winnie Zahradka, Marg Garbo

Ushers: 8:30- Dale Siems, Judy Wozney 10:00- Darrell Kelly

Lector: Carolyn Morris

Communion Servers: Carolyn Morris; Marge Garbo and Winnie Zahradka

Hospitality Hosts: Judy Wuorio, Mike & Barb Macioch

Thank you for your service!

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA

July 18-July 24

Monday	7/18	1:00 pm 7:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle AA/Alanon
Tuesday	7/19	9:00-12:00	Crafters
Wednesday	7/20	8:00-12:00 9:30 am 6:00 pm 7:00 pm	WIC Stitchers Choir Practice Praise Team
Thursday	7/21	12:30 pm 6:00 pm	Fun Timers Bell Choir Practice
Friday	7/22	10:00 am	Bones
Saturday	7/23	8:00am	Veggie Stand
Sunday	5/22	8:30 am 10:00 am	Worship Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

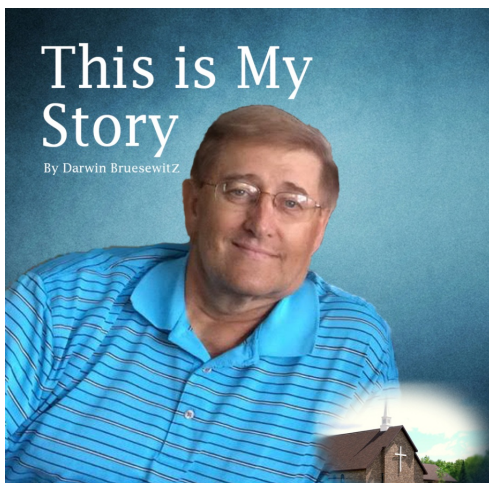
ATTENDANCE REGISTRY Please sign and pass the attendance registry which you will find in the pew.

CONGRATULATIONS and welcome to Peyton James Baldwin, Susan Losie, and Linda Nitti as they will be welcomed into the Lord's family through baptism after our worship service today. Also, welcome to Ray Piispanen who was baptized yesterday at his home.



NEW MEMBERS will be received at your convenience. Please let Pastor Jim know if that is something you are interested in.

BEEF & CORN FEED Our Annual Beef and Corn Feed will be Saturday, July 30th from 4:30pm to 7:00pm. *Volunteer signup sheets are available in the Narthex.*



THIS IS MY STORY CD A collection of melodies sung by Darwin Bruesewitz is now available. You can listen to his beautiful voice at home or in your car. They will be offered at the Veggie Stand and between Sunday services. ***Suggested Donation: \$20.*** All funds raised from the "This is My Story" CD will be used for the Bethesda Lutheran Church's music program.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(continued)



VEGGIE STAND All the donations received through the Veggie Stand are used to help local residents through the year. If you grow veggies or bake, please remember this important ministry.

FOOT CLINIC Our next Foot Care Clinic will be held on Saturday, August 6th, 2016. Call the church office to make an appointment: 320-684-2123 (M-F 11:00am – 3:00pm).

PASTOR'S RETIREMENT CELEBRATION: Sunday - August 28th

We will be celebrating Pastor Jim's retirement with one worship service at 10:00 am, with a brunch and program to immediately follow in the fellowship hall. Please join us to send off Jim and Karen into retirement with a little joy in their heart and peace in their soul. Please contact a committee chairperson or council member if you would like to help plan the details of this event. We will be forming member groups to organize and complete the various duties to prepare for this celebration. If you not sure who to contact to volunteer, please call Craig Kullberg at 320-684-2336 to get your name on the list.

NEW SOUND SYSTEM There will be training sessions on how to use the new sound system. **Wednesday, August 3rd at 1:00pm** and **Saturday, August 6th at 10:00am**. We are still looking for more people to help be operators of the system for future services at 8:30am and 10:00am. If interested please contact Winnie Zahradka or show up at one of the training sessions.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY Please join us for coffee between services on Sunday, July 24th to celebrate the 80th birthday of Marilyn Elling. A cheery card is welcome but no gifts please.