

Sunday, July 31, 2016
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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Pastor: Rev. James Raisanen

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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

Today's texts offer instruction and encouragement for all who are occasionally overwhelmed by the "unhappy business" of life. Jesus urges us to take care and be on guard against all kinds of greed. We who have died with Christ in holy baptism have also been raised with him and are encouraged to elevate our thinking, seeking the "things that are above." To that end we seek the sustenance of the Lord's supper and the encouragement of God's word.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN **"My Hope is Built on Nothing Less"** #597 ELW
(verses 1,2,4)

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

Benevolent God, you are the source, the guide, and the goal of our lives. Teach us to love what is worth loving, to reject what is offensive to you, and to treasure what is precious in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

First Reading: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23

The teacher of wisdom who wrote Ecclesiastes sees that working for mere accumulation of wealth turns life into an empty game, a “vanity of vanities.” Nevertheless, he asserts in the next verse, it is good to find enjoyment in one’s work because such enjoyment is a gift from God.

²Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

¹²I, the Teacher, when king over Israel in Jerusalem, ¹³applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to human beings to be busy with. ¹⁴I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun; and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind.

^{2:18}I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to those who come after me ¹⁹—and who knows whether they will be wise or foolish? Yet they will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. ²⁰So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, ²¹because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. ²²What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? ²³For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.

Psalm: Psalm 49:1-12

My mouth shall speak of wisdom. (Ps. 49:3)

¹Hear this, all you peoples; give ear, all you who dwell in the world,

²**you of high degree and low, rich and poor together.**

³My mouth shall speak of wisdom, and my heart shall meditate on understanding.

⁴**I will incline my ear to a proverb and set forth my riddle upon the harp. R**

⁵Why should I be afraid in evil days, when the wickedness of those at my heels surrounds me,

⁶**the wickedness of those who put their trust in their own prowess, and**

boast of their great riches?

⁷One can never redeem another, or give to God the ransom for another's life;

⁸**for the ransom of a life is so great that there would never be enough to pay it,**

⁹in order to live forever and ever and never see the grave.

¹⁰**For we see that the wise die also; like the dull and stupid they perish and leave their wealth to those who come after them.**

¹¹Their graves shall be their homes forever, their dwelling places from generation to generation, though they had named lands after themselves.

¹²**Even though honored, they cannot live forever; they are like the beasts that perish. R** (*My mouth shall speak of wisdom*)

Gospel: Luke 12:13-21

In God's reign, the "rich will be sent away empty." Jesus uses a parable to warn against identifying the worth of one's life with the value of one's possessions rather than one's relationship with God.

¹³Someone in the crowd said to [Jesus,] "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." ¹⁴But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" ¹⁵And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." ¹⁶Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. ¹⁷And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' ¹⁸Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' ²⁰But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' ²¹So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

SERMON HYMN

"Just a Closer Walk with Thee"

#697 ELW

(Refrain, vs.1, Refrain, vs. 2)

SERMON (Sunday)

"Stuff"

OFFERTORY SONG

"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

#773 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.

O God, enliven the body of Christ with energy and creativity. Work through partnerships across towns, denominations, and ministry contexts, that Christ be shared with all. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Guard your creation against greed and over-consumption. Restore polluted air and waters, protect animal habitats, and send new growth where it is needed. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Break down barriers between neighborhoods, peoples, and nations (*especially*). Sustain community leaders, legislators, volunteers, peacemakers, and all who seek the good of their communities. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Soothe furrowed and fevered brows. Give energy and compassion to caregivers, those who sit at bedsides or wait by the phone. Comfort all in need of healing (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Inspire our congregation to live in the present moment, O God, and to trust in you. In committee meetings, classrooms, and all ministries, give us flexibility to follow where you lead. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for those who have died recently and across the ages (*especially*), and we rejoice in the hope of the resurrection. 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.

LORD'S PRAYER

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: "Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing" #389
ELW

(verses 1,2,5)

Great to have you join us for worship! Please come again.

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Guest Minister: Val Benton
Music: Digital Hymnal
Greeters: Dennis and Lynne Meidlinger
Ushers: 8:30am Lee & Barb Forester 10:00am Steve Long
Lector: Ruth Hamman
Hospitality Hosts: John & Grace Iverson, Keith & Dorothy Munding

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: July 24th, 2016: 8:30am 81
10:00am 41

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA

August 1 - August 7

Monday	8/1	1:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	8/2	10:00 - Noon	Pastor Text Study

Wednesday	8/3	8:30 am	Bible Study
		9:30am	Hardanger
		5:30 pm	Praise Team
		6:00 pm	Confirmation

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA

August 1 - August 7 (continued)

Thursday	8/4	8:00am	Romeos
		10:30 am	Worship & Music Committee Mtg.
		12:30 pm	Fun Timers
Friday	8/5	10:00am	Bones
Saturday	8/6	8:00am	Veggie Stand
		1:00-4:00pm	Foot Care – Nurses Office
Sunday	8/7	8:30 am	Worship
		10:00 am	Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

PASTORAL TRANSITION: We have officially began the transition process for our pastor position. Pastor Jim has recently submitted his retirement paperwork with the NE Minnesota Synod office. Hence, on Monday-July 25th a collection of council and personnel committee members met with a Synod representative to discuss our plan for the hiring of an Intentional Interim Pastor. Based upon availability, our goal is to have a person in place by September 1, 2016. We are contacting a potential candidate supplied through the Synod and will keep you updated with our progress.

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).



Join the team! Please take a turn with lawn mowing this summer. The signup sheet is in the Narthex.

SERVICE OF ORDINATION Bethesda Lutheran Church will be hosting John Ansell's ordination. It will be at 2:00pm on Sunday afternoon on August 21st. All are welcome.

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. If you know how to use a remote control for your TV, you can run the sound system.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (continued)

ANNUAL MEETING REPORT All committee and event annual reports need to be in to Judie Birk by August 29th in preparation for the congregational Annual Report which will be distributed mid September. They can be emailed to me at jimjudiebirk@gmail.com or put in council secretary inbox in the church office. Thank you! Judie Birk

AITKIN COUNTY TRIAD FREE PROGRAMS and LUNCH Programs focus on helping seniors stay active, healthy and safe. The next program is on August 16, 2016 at 11:00am . “**ID Theft and Computer Hacking: Keeping your information safe**”. Fireside Restaurant, McGregor. Free lunch served by restaurant. Reservations for free lunch required: call Sandy Liepins at 218-768-3355 or email: liepins@frontiernet.net or call Ginny Eksrand 218-752-111 or email: ekstrand@frontier.com

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.

FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM We all need to feel needed and to have a chance to share our life time of wisdom. The Foster Grandparent Program is looking for caring, older adults, age 55+ to assist in the classroom, reinforce learning, helping with spelling and reading with students. Grandpas and Grandmas are needed. If you love children, you have what it takes to have a positive influence on the younger generation. In return for volunteering 15 or more hours per week Foster Grandparents receive a tax-free stipend of \$2.65 per hour and transportation reimbursement. For more information, please contact Pat Braun, Area Supervisor at 612-390-0617 or pbraun@ccstcloud.org

GARAGE & BAKE SALE The Malmo Area Lions will be having a Garage & Bake sale on Thursday & Friday, September 1st and 2nd. 8:00am to 4:00pm at the Lakeside Community Center. Donations of useable items (no electronics-i.e. computers, TV’s, large appliances,

etc.) may be made by calling: Sharon at 218-390-0526 or any Malmo Lions Member. We will accept donations until August 31, 2016. All money raised goes back to the community.