

Sunday, May 21, 2017
Sixth Sunday of Easter



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

Jesus does not leave his followers orphaned. Through the Holy Spirit Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord's table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This morning we welcome Gary from the Gideon Organization in our area. The Gideon's have been placing Bibles in hotels, and business' around the world. A free will offering will be taken this morning for the Gideons as you leave worship.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN:

“Alleluia Sing to Jesus”

#392 ELW

(Please rise for the singing of the last verse)

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, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

Amen.

Let us come into the light, the revealing and healing light of God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of grace and glory,

you have brought us through the night of sin into the light of Jesus' resurrection. Yet our lives are still shadowed by sin. Make us alive in Christ, O God. Make us new as you make all things new. Rescue us from evil and the gloom of sin, renew us in grace, and restore us to living in your holiness, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

Rejoice with all creation around God's throne! The light of the risen Christ puts to flight all evil deeds, washes away sin, restores innocence to the fallen, casts out hate, brings peace, and humbles earthly pride. Jesus Christ loves you and ✚ frees you from your sins by his blood. To him be glory and dominion forever and ever!

Amen.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ...

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated

CHOIR ANTHEM: “Jesus Messiah”

First Reading: Acts 17:22-31

In Athens, Paul faces the challenge of proclaiming the gospel to Greeks who know nothing of either Jewish or Christian tradition. He proclaims that the “unknown god” whom they worship is the true Lord of heaven and earth who will judge the world with justice through Jesus, whom God has raised from the dead.

²²Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,

‘For we too are his offspring.’

²⁹Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks Be to God

Psalm: Psalm 66:8-20

⁸Bless our God, you peoples; let the sound of praise be heard.

⁹**Our God has kept us among the living and has not allowed our feet to slip.**

¹⁰For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us just as silver is tried.

¹¹**You brought us into the net; you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.**

¹²You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water, but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

¹³**I will enter your house with burnt offerings and will pay you my vows—**

¹⁴those that I promised with my lips and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

¹⁵**I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the smoke of rams; I will give you oxen and goats.**

¹⁶Come and listen, all you who believe, and I will tell you what God has done for me.

¹⁷**I called out to God with my mouth, and praised the Lord with my tongue.**

¹⁸If I had cherished evil in my heart, the Lord would not have heard me;

¹⁹**but in truth God has heard me and has attended to the sound of my prayer.**

²⁰Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, nor withheld unfailing love from me.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:13-22

Christians have a zeal for doing what is right in God's eyes no matter what the circumstances because in baptism we are saved and made alive. Thus our Christian beliefs and behavior are to be a matter of public record just as our baptism is.

¹³Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame.

¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks Be to God

Please rise for the Reading of the Gospel

Gospel: John 14:15-21

Glory to you, O Lord

In final words to his disciples on the night of his arrest, Jesus encourages obedience to his commandments and speaks of the Spirit, who will be with them forever.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

¹⁸“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ

Please be Seated

SERMON

Why Are You So Hopeful!

Please Stand for the Hymn of the Day

HYMN OF THE DAY:

“Come Thou Almighty King”

#408 ELW

APOSTLE’S CREED (8:30)

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.

Prayers of Intercession

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

Rejoicing in the risen life of Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church. Draw your whole church together as one. Bring an end to division. Send your Spirit into your people and rouse us to greater love and mission.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For the earth. For scientists, photographers, and explorers. For scholars, poets, musicians, artists, and all who lead us to greater knowledge and appreciation of beauty. For lakes and rivers, watersheds and wetlands, ponds and oceans. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For the nations. Give wisdom to those who govern. Strengthen all who work for peace. Protect those who have been displaced or have left their homes in search of safety and freedom. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For those in need. For those who suffer abuse or neglect. For those who suffer post-traumatic stress. For those who struggle with addiction. For those who grieve and all who are ill (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For this assembly. Bless those preparing for baptism and affirmation of baptism. Strengthen our ministries of evangelism, outreach, and pastoral care. Deepen our faith and knowledge of you. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

With thanksgiving, we remember those who have died (*especially Helena, the mother of Constantine*). Inspire us by their witness to your love. Bring us into your eternal presence to live with you forever. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Joining our voices with your faithful ones in every time and place, we offer our prayers in the name of the Risen One, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please be seated

Ushers will begin passing the offering plate. Please rise as the ushers bring the offering to the altar.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Be known to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, as you were made known to the disciples. Receive these gifts, and the offering of our lives, that we may be your risen body in the world. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION - *Distribution by intinction.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Life-giving God,

in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of heaven to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to Jesus' resurrection that we may show your glory to all the world; through the same Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

May God who has brought us from death to life fill you with great joy. Almighty God, Father, ✙ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

RECESSIONAL HYMN: "O Living Bread from Heaven" #542 ELW

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

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

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Music: Choir & Digital Organ

Greeters: Bruce Gingerich & Carol Schlottman

Ushers 8:30am: Judy Wozney, Lynne Meidlinger

Lectors: 8:30am: Char Berg

10:00am: Ron & JoAnn Haglund

10:00: JoAnn Haglund

Hospitality Hosts:

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week: Sunday, May 14th: 8:30am: 73 10:00pm 48

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA

May 22 - May 28

Monday	5/22	1:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA (continued)**May 22 - May 28**

Tuesday	5/23	10-noon	Pastor Text Study
		9:00 am	Quilters
		3:30 pm	Adult Bible Study
Wednesday	5/24	8:30 am	Bible Study
		9:30 am	Stitchers
		10:00am	Church Clean Up
		6:00 pm	Catechism
		6:00 pm	Choir Practice
		7:00 pm	Praise Team practice
Thursday	5/25	8:00 am	Romeos
		12:30 pm	Funtimers
Friday	5/26	10:00 am	Bones
Saturday	5/27	7:30 am	Veggie Stand Opens
Sunday	5/28	8:30 am	Worship
		10:00 am	Worship
		2:00 pm	Memorial Service Malmo Cemetery
		3:00 pm	Memorial Service Lakeside Cemetery

ANNOUNCEMENTS**PRAYER AND CARE CONCERNS** Dale Siems

ISLE & MALMO LIONS presents “Return of the Snow Birds Dinner & Dance” Wednesday, May 31st 6pm-10pm at Appledoorn’s Sunset Bay Resort. \$20 per person.

LAWN MOWING the list is in the Narthex – Please pick a week to mow. Thank you.

SPRING CLEANING Please join the Property Committee for a church cleaning session on Wednesday, May 24th, starting at 10:00 a.m. We will be cleaning the garage, washing windows, and light yard work. If you can help, please sign up in the Narthex.

VEGGIE STAND OPENS Don’t forget the Veggie Stand opens Saturday, May 27th. Then we open again on July 1st and every Saturday until Labor Day. Since it’s too early for veggies we are counting on you for donations of baked goods; pies, cookies, bars, breads, etc. We could also use some perennials if you are thinning out or dividing some of your own. Please attach a label to the perennials. The stand opens at 7:30 AM. Hope to see you there bright and early. All proceeds go to the Benevolence fund. Let’s make this a wonderful year. Any questions please contact Elsa Carlson: home phone: 218-678-3408 cell: 218-251-4551

NEEDS A RIDE Lynn Hass was wondering if anyone is available to pick her up for Sunday services. She resides at Lakesong assisted living in Onamia. Call the church office if you can help out.

CONGRATULATIONS to our two graduation seniors, Zach Simonson & Tom Petersen. Aitkin Graduation is June 2, 2017.

MISSING SPOONS Does anyone know what happened to the box of soup spoons missing from the kitchen pantry?

CALL COMMITTEE met this week for the first time and is focused on their work ahead. Please include them in your prayers as they work towards our goal of a new Pastor.

CAPITAL FUNDS APPEAL

Parsonage Goal

\$200,000

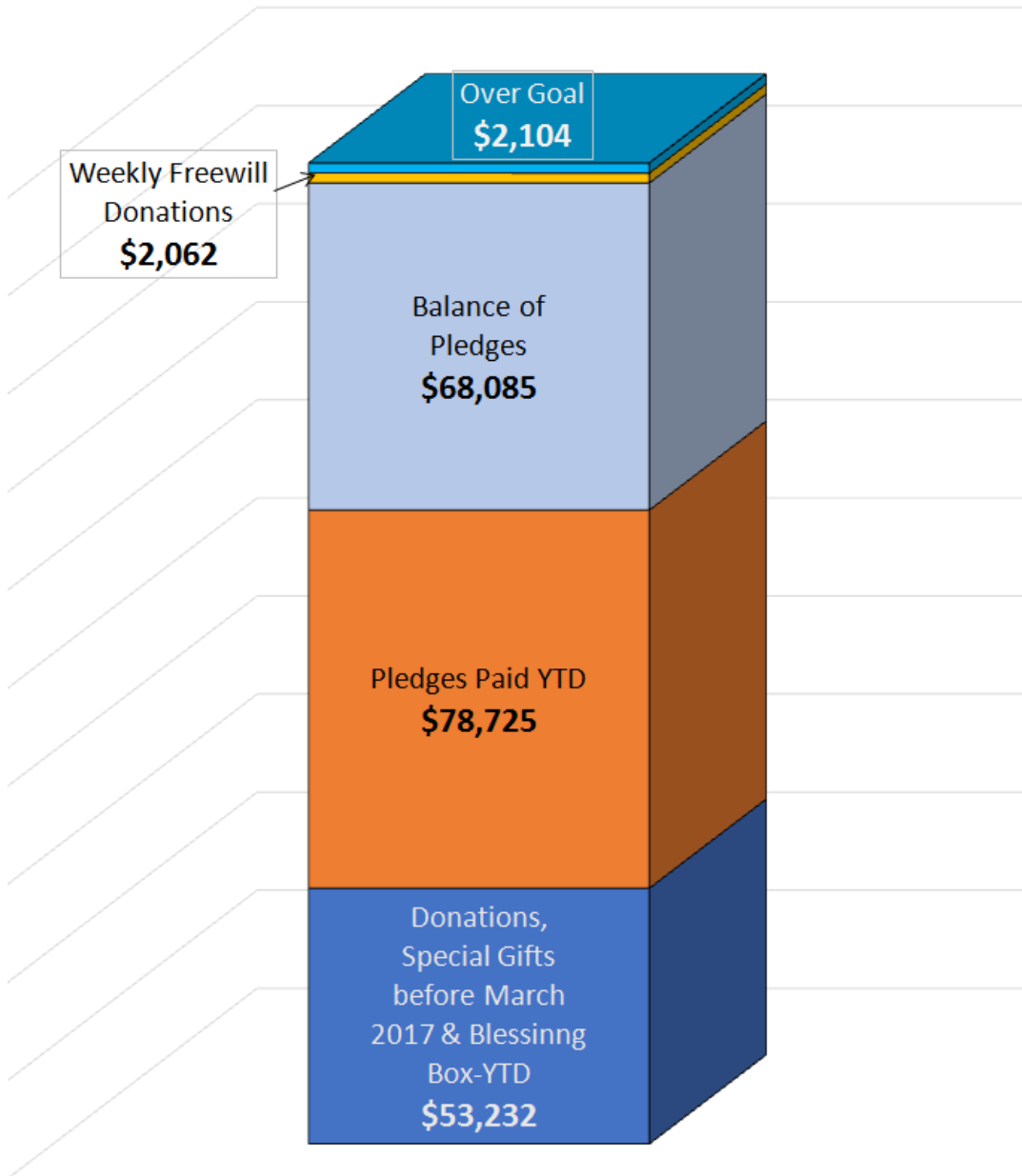
We have reached our goal of \$200,000 towards our new Parsonage.

Just about two-thirds of the money is currently in the bank, but we are still depending on your pledges over the next three years to fulfill our obligations for payment to the bank.

Any additional funds received towards the parsonage will be used for various projects such as landscaping, and furnishings.

A sincere "Thank You", to all of you who have made pledges or have contributed to this amazing project.

The Capital Appeal Fund Drive would not have come to fruition without the guidance of Val Benton. Thank you Val!



- Donations, Special Gifts before March 2017 & Blessing Box-YTD
- Pledges Paid YTD
- Balance of Pledges
- Weekly Freewill Donations
- Over Goal