

Sunday, August 27, 2017
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

21590 State Highway 47, Isle, MN 56342

Phone: 320-684-2123 (1-877-684-2123) Fax: 320-684-2836

E-mail address: blcmalmo@frontiernet.net NEW Church Web Site: blcmalmo.org

Randy Tofteland

Parish Nurses: Darlene Christensen, RN 320-839-8193

Kathy Berland RN ANP 218-838-6181

Prayer Chain Contacts Char Berg 320-684-2102 or Darlene Christensen 320-839-8193

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

In Isaiah the people are bid to look to their spiritual ancestors as the rock from which they were hewn. Jesus declares that the church will be built on the rock of Peter's bold confession of faith. God's word of reconciliation and mercy are keys to the church's mission. Paul urges us to not be conformed to this world, but to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, using our individual gifts to build up the body of Christ. From the table we go forth to offer our spiritual worship through word and deed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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, full of compassion and mercy, abounding in steadfast love.

Amen.

Trusting God's promise of forgiveness, let us confess our sin against God and one another.

Silence is kept for reflection

Eternal God our creator,

in you we live and move and have our being. Look upon us, your children, the work of your hands. Forgive us all our offenses, and cleanse us from proud thoughts and empty desires. By your grace draw us near to you, our refuge and our strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us. In the mercy of almighty God, Christ died for us while we still were sinners; and for his sake, God ✚ forgives you all your sins.

Amen.

OPENING HYMN: "The Church's One Foundation"

#654 ELW

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Bell Anthem: “Sweet Hour of Prayer”

FIRST READING: Isaiah 51:1-6

Just as God had called Abraham and Sarah and given them many descendants, so now God offers comfort to Zion. God’s deliverance will come soon and will never end.

¹Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness, you that seek the LORD. Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. ²Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many. ³For the LORD will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places, and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song.

⁴Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation; for a teaching will go out from me, and my justice for a light to the peoples. ⁵I will bring near my deliverance swiftly, my salvation has gone out and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope. ⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats; but my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

PSALM: Psalm 138

¹I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods I will sing your praise.

²**I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your steadfast love and faithfulness; for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.**

³When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me.

⁴**All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O LORD, when they have heard the words of your mouth.**

⁵They will sing of the ways of the LORD, that great is the glory of the LORD.

⁶**The LORD is high, yet cares for the lowly, perceiving the haughty from afar.**

⁷Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me.

⁸**You will make good your purpose for me; O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands.**

Second Reading: Romans 12:1-8

In response to God's merciful activity, we are to worship by living holistic, God-pleasing lives. Our values and viewpoints are not molded by this age, but are transformed by the Spirit's renewing work. God's grace empowers different forms of service among Christians, but all forms of ministry function to build up the body of Christ.

¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

GOSPEL: Matthew 16:13-20

Glory to you, O Lord

At a climactic point in Jesus' ministry, God reveals to Peter that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," and Jesus responds with the promise of a church that will overcome the very gates of Hades.

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ

SERMON: “HOW WILL WE BUILD BETHESDA?”

HYMN OF THE DAY: “My Hope is Built on Nothing Less” #597 ELW

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.

Prayers of Intercession

Generous, compassionate God, we gather before you to pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

God our rock, provide a strong foundation for your church on earth. Unite it in joyful praise, service, and mission. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You make deserts into gardens and the wilderness into Eden. Restore the clean and pleasant beauty of your creation. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You shine the light of justice on the nations. Deliver us quickly from evil, protect the defenseless, and bring peace to warring lands (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You renew our minds and transform our bodies. Wait with all who seek a cure or long for relief from chronic pain. Bring comfort and healing to all who suffer illness in spirit, mind, or body (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You give gifts to all. Build up this assembly. Increase our generosity, compassion, and cheerfulness. Lift up from among us prophets, ministers, teachers, and diligent leaders. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Your salvation lasts forever. Console us here on earth until we join all who praise you without end. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Into your hands we place all our prayers, spoken and unspoken, trusting in the mercy of Christ Jesus.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please be seated

OFFERING

Ushers will begin passing the offering plate.

Please rise as the ushers bring the offering to the altar.

Offering Prayer

Merciful God, you open wide your hand and satisfy the need of every living thing. You have set this feast before us. Open our hands to receive it. Open our hearts to embrace it. Open our lives to live it. We pray this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

PRAYER & CARE: Larry Dux, son-in-law of Lois Johnson, quadruple bypass, Tuesday, August 22nd; Carol Hass, Knee surgery, Friday, August 25th

SAVE THE DATE: The Jamboree this year will be one performance only, Friday, September 22, 2017 at 7:00pm

VEGGIE STAND is open every Saturday morning at 7:30am. Drop off your donations that morning or leave at the church on Friday. All proceeds go to the Benevolence fund. Any questions please contact Elsa Carlson: home 218-678-3408 cell 218-251-4551

CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING will be held on Sunday, Sept. 24th at 10:00am after the one service at 9:00am that day.

SEPTEMBER COMMUNION will be distributed on the 2nd and 4th Sundays in September. Lay people will be preaching the 1st and 3rd Sundays and Pastor Nathan Lundgren, from Pulpit Supply, will be serving on Sept. 10 & Sept. 24.

POTLUCK & PRESENTATION Sunday, Sept. 10th at 11:30am, at First Lutheran Church in Brainerd, there will be a discussion on the impact and response to “Sexual Exploitation & Sex-Trafficking in Minnesota”. For more information, see the handout in the Narthex.

COMMITTEE AND ANNUAL REPORTS All committee and event annual reports need to be in to Judie Birk by August 30th in preparation for the congregational Annual Report which will be distributed mid-September. You can email your reports to: jimjudiebirk@gmail.com

WELCA SAVE THE DATE Thursday, October 12, 2017, Heartland Conference Fall Gathering, Crosslake Lutheran Church, Crosslake. “DON'T WORRY BE HAPPY” What God has to say about what creates true happiness and freedom from worry. Presenter: Gail Smith, RN BSN CCRN, Parish nurse, Nurse Clinician for Minneapolis Heart Institute. Coffee and treats at 8:30 a.m. Worship/Communion at 9 a.m. Brunch will be served. Please bring silent auction items.

BLESSING BOX On the first Sunday of each month the Blessing Box is passed. The September 3 offering will be used for Local Benevolence.

Dear Members of Bethesda – “Bless the Lord, O my soul, And all that is within me, bless His holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, And forget none of His benefits!” Psalm 103:1-2

This year has been a blessing! I thank you sincerely for the kindness you have shown to me and Pauline. Last Sunday’s surprise farewell and congregational gift was way more than this fleeting pastor deserves – maybe Pauline – but not me! President Randy – Thank you for your kind words and excellent leadership this year! Bethesda is in our prayers for a great new beginning – We pray your new pastor will be just what you need and more than you ever expected!

Pr. Terry & Pauline

P.S. The donut was awesome! I shared the cake with our Tuesday Text Study Pastors at First Lutheran, Brainerd. Thank You!