

Sunday, September 3, 2017

Thirteenth 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

Preaching Today: **Valerie Benton**

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

Sunday, September 3, 2017

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

INTRODUCTION

The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering, yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

CALL TO WORSHIP: "Rock-A-My Soul"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: "Joshua Fought the Battle of Jericho"

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, the one who fashions us, the one who heals us, the one who reforms us again and again.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Source of all life,

we confess that we have not allowed your grace to set us free. We fear that we are not good enough. We hear your word of love freely given to us, yet we expect others to earn it. We turn the church inward, rather than moving it outward. Forgive us. Stir us. Reform us to be a church powered by love, willing to speak for what is right, act for what is just, and seek the healing of your whole creation.

Amen.

God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us and to empower our lives in the world. Our sins are forgiven, ✠ God's love is unconditional, and we are raised up as God's people who will always be made new, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

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, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

PRAISE TEAM ANTHEM: “Ezekiel Saw the Wheel”

SCRIPTURE ACCLAMATION: “Thy Word”

First Reading: Jeremiah 15:15-21

Jeremiah’s delight in the word of the Lord is contradicted by the heaviness of God’s hand upon him and God’s seeming unfaithfulness. God’s tough love to Jeremiah says that if he repents, he will be allowed to continue in his strenuous ministry. Jeremiah is strengthened by the simple words: “I am with you.”

¹⁵O LORD, you know; remember me and visit me, and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult. ¹⁶Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart; for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts. ¹⁷I did not sit in the company of merrymakers, nor did I rejoice; under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation. ¹⁸Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail.

¹⁹Therefore thus says the LORD: If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth. It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them.

²⁰And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the LORD. ²¹I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 26:1-8

Your love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you. (Ps. 26:3)

¹Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived with integrity; I have trusted in the LORD and have not faltered.

²**Test me, O LORD, and try me; examine my heart and my mind.**

³For your steadfast love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you.

⁴**I have not sat with the worthless, nor do I consort with the deceitful.**

⁵I have hated the company of evildoers; I will not sit down with the wicked.

⁶**I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD, that I may go in procession round your altar,**

⁷singing aloud a song of thanksgiving and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

⁸**LORD, I love the house in which you dwell and the place where your glory abides.**

Second Reading: Romans 12:9-21

Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.

⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.

¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” ²⁰No, “if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.” ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

GOSPEL: Matthew 16:21-28

Glory to you, O Lord

After Peter confesses that Jesus is “the Messiah, the Son of the living God” (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a “rock.”

²¹From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.

²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This

must never happen to you.”²³ But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷“For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, O Christ

SERMON:

“A Stranger in Paradise”

HYMN OF THE DAY:

“Swing Low Sweet Chariot”

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.

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all of God’s creation.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church and its mission. Make your church ready to lose its life for your sake. Unite it in service, sustain it in suffering, and let its love for others be genuine.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for the earth and its well-being. Make us mindful of the gifts you have labored to give us, and inspire us to commit ourselves to their care. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for the nations and their leaders. Overcome evil with good. Show us how to live peaceably with all. Teach us how to love our enemies. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for those in any need. Provide for the hungry. Rescue the persecuted. Bless those who advocate for fair and safe working conditions and for just and livable wages.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for this community and its ministry. Move us to persevere in prayer, to extend hospitality to strangers, to rejoice with those who rejoice, and to weep with those who weep (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Alpha and Omega, we give thanks for all the saints who now rest from their labors (*especially*). Keep us in union with them until we are joined around your throne. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting the power of Christ and the gifts of the Spirit.

Amen.

Please be seated

OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of life, you give us these gifts of the earth, these resources of our life and our labor. Take them, offered in great thanksgiving, and use them to set a table that will heal the whole creation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Light.

Amen.

THE LORD’S PRAYER – LED BY THE PRAISE TEAM

BLESSING

God, creator of all things, speaking reformation into being; Jesus Christ, savior of the world, raising the dead; Holy Spirit, living voice, calling and enlightening the church: Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: “Days of Elijah”

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Sound 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: The Praise Team

Greeters: George & Kathy Larson

Ushers: 8:30 – Ron & Joni Mehlhop

10:00 – Darrell Kelly

Lector: 8:30 – Lynn Hansen

10:00 – Kathy Carlson

Hospitality Hosts: Ron & Joni Mehlhop, Rich & Marge Nelson

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, August 27, 2017: 8:30am 82 10:00am 29

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda

Sept 4 through Sept 10, 2017

Monday	9/4	Labor Day	
		1:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	9/5	9:00 am	Crafters
Wednesday	9/6	8:30 am	Women's Bible Study
		9:30 am	Stitchers
		5:30 pm	Choir Practice
		7:00 pm	Praise Team
Thursday	9/7	8:00 am	ROMEOS
		10:30 am	Worship & Music Meeting
		12:30 pm	Fun Timers
		6:00 pm	Bell Choir Practice
Friday	9/8	10:00 am	Bone Builders
Saturday	9/9	1:00-4:00	Foot Clinic
Sunday	9/10	8:30 am	Worship-Communion
		10:00 am	Worship-Communion

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ATTENDANCE REGISTRY Please sign and pass the attendance registry which you will find in the pew. Information will be gathered for Evangelism.

BLESSING BOX Today the Blessing Box will be passed during the offering. The gifts you give will be used for Local Benevolence.

COFFEE SERVERS NEEDED Signup sheets are to the left of the serving window by the kitchen. Please check it out and take your turn. There will always be someone to help you with making coffee and running the dishwasher.

NOTE TO VISITORS: Today is Praise Team Sunday! One Sunday a month we enjoy the musical gifts of our Praise Team. Thank you Praise Team Members: Jim Christensen, Director, Darlene Christensen, Sheila Penoyer, Sharon Whipple, Val Benton and George Smith.

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

LECTORS – Thank you for your weekly gift of sharing God’s word with the congregation. If anyone is interested in joining the team of lectors, please contact Paula Spetz (218 678-2138) or Carol Bakken (218-678-3563)

SEPTEMBER COMMUNION 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 September 10 & September 24.

SAVE THE DATE – The men’s fishing trip is scheduled for January 22-24. This is a different week than usual, so make sure you mark your calendars. If you have any questions please contact Wally Swenson 218-678-2508 or Ron Mehlhop 507-276-0798. There is room for 26 men.

DATE CHANGE – Bethesda Women of the ELC has a change of meeting time this month. It will be Thursday, Sept 21st at 9:30am. Please make a note of that change.

GOD’S WORK – OUR HANDS is on Sunday, Sept. 10. If you’re available please join our group as we pick up the Carlsona – Reddy Creek beach again this year. Meet at the beach parking lot at 11:00am today.

WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY will be starting a new book, “Reclaiming the “C” Word: Daring to be Church Again”, the middle of September on Wednesdays at 8:30am. All are welcome.

COUNCIL MEMBERS WANTED Please consider serving on your church council for the upcoming fiscal year. We will need 4 new council members beginning in Oct and we'd ask you to consider this opportunity. Please contact any of the current council members with questions, or to let them know of your interest to serve. ***A life of significance is about serving those who need your gifts, your leadership, and your purpose.***