

Sunday, September 10, 2017

Fourteenth 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

Pastor Nathan Lundgren

(Pulpit Supply)

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

Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: **“For the Beauty of the Earth”** **#879 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, 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 Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM: “Jesus, Name Above All Names”

First Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-11

God appointed Ezekiel as a sentinel for the house of Israel. Ezekiel must faithfully convey God’s warnings to the people. Remarkably, God—who is about to attack Jerusalem—gives a warning with the hope that repentance will make the attack unnecessary.

⁷So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand.

⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?”

¹¹Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 119:33-40

I desire the path of your commandments. (Ps. 119:35)

³³Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes, and I shall keep it to the end.

³⁴**Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching; I shall keep it with all my heart.**

³⁵Lead me in the path of your commandments, for that is my desire.

³⁶**Incline my heart to your decrees and not to unjust gain.**

³⁷Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood; give me life in your way.

³⁸**Fulfill your promise to your servant, which is for those who fear you.**

³⁹Turn away the reproach that I dread, because your judgments are good.

⁴⁰**Behold, I long for your commandments; by your righteousness enliven me.**

Second Reading: Romans 13:8-14

The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law. Clothes make the person as we “put on the Lord Jesus Christ” and live today in light of the future God has in store for us.

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:15-20

Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals—and the church as a whole—should show wrongdoers their need for repentance.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, O Christ

SERMON:

“A Christian’s Wardrobe”

HYMN OF THE DAY:

“Lift High the Cross”

#660 ELW

(verses 1, 2, 4)

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 universal. Reconcile our differences. Forgive our divisions. Unite us at your table. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For your creation. Increase our stewardship of all that you have given to us. Let the earth flourish for those who come after us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For peace in the world. End conflicts among nations (*especially*). Help leaders and citizens truly to listen to one another and to act for the good of all. Teach us by your example. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For all those in need. Bind up our hurts. Heal divisions in our families, friendships, and neighborhoods. Comfort those who need your special care (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For this congregation. Make us signs of your love and forgiveness in this community and in the world. Help us to grow in our love for one another. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

In thanksgiving for all the faithful witnesses who put on the Lord Jesus Christ (*especially*). Keep us faithful until the day we rejoice in your majesty with them. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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

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.

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy and compassionate God, in bread and wine you give us gifts that form us to be humble and courageous. May your words come to life in our serving and in our witness, that we might speak a living voice of healing and justice to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our rock and our redeemer.

Amen.

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:

“Earth and All Stars!”

#731 ELW

(verses 1, 2, 5)

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: Adult Choir & Digital Hymnal

Ushers: 8:30 – Ron & Joni Mehlhop

Lector: 8:30 - Pat Becker

Greeters: Wally & Bev Swenson

10:00 – Darrell Kelly

10:00 - Sheila Penoyer

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, September 3, 2017: 8:30am 76 10:00am 47

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda

Sept. 11 through Sept. 17, 2017

Monday	9/11	9:00am	Women's Devotion @ Pat Becker's
		1:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	9/12	9:00 am	Quilters
Wednesday	9/13	8:30 am	Bible Study
		9:30 am	Stitchers
		5:30 pm	Choir Practice
		7:00 pm	Praise Team
Thursday	9/14	8:00 am	ROMEOS
		12:30 pm	Fun Timers
		6:00 pm	Bell Choir Practice
Friday	9/15	10:00 am	Bone Builders
Sunday	9/17	8:30 am	Worship
		10:00 am	Worship

HURRICAN HARVEY RELIEF can be donated through thru the ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response. All gifts designated for "Hurricane Response – United States" will be used entirely (100 percent) for this disaster until the response is complete.

Go to: <https://community.elca.org/ushurricanerelief>

Other Ways to Give:

By Mail: Make checks payable to
Hurricane Response - United States
and send to:

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
P.O. Box 1809
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

By Phone: Call **800-638-3522** to make a donation with a credit card. Operators are ready to assist you Mon thru Fri, 8:00am-5:00pm Central Time

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

PRAYER & CARE Carol Hass & Ron Hass – both in Onamia Nursing Home – visitors welcomed.

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.

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.

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

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 today & September 24.

BETHESDA WOMAN OF THE ELC 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.

ANNUAL REPORT Copies of the 2016-2017 Annual Report are available in the Fellowship Hall. Annual Meeting is on Sunday, September 24th following the one 9:00am service that Sunday.

CRAFTERS will meet Tuesday, Sept. 26th, not Tuesday, Sept. 19th at 9:00 am.

FAMILY PATHWAYS is looking for volunteers to help adults age well at home. Whether you have a few hours a month or couple hours a week, it doesn't take much to brighten the life of an older adult in our community. To volunteer in this area call: 877-321-7100 or email volunteer@familypathways.org or visit the website: familypathways.org.

DIGITAL HYMNAL SURVEY – you can pick up a copy from the table in the Narthex.

<p><u>COUNCIL MEMBERS WANTED</u> 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. God has not called us to see through each other, but to see each other through.</p>
