

Sunday, October 8, 2017
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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NEW Church Web Site: blcmalmo.org

Pastor Jeff Macejkovic

(Pulpit Supply)

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

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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 today's gospel reading, Jesus tells a parable of the vineyard, an image of Israel, the prophets' mission, and Christ's death. For Christians, the vineyard also speaks of God's love poured out in the blood of Christ, given to us for the forgiveness of sin. Grafted onto Christ the vine at baptism, we are nourished with wine and bread, that we may share Christ's sufferings and know the power of his resurrection.

CALL TO WORSHIP

“We Welcome You”

CCLI#295357

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to Pastor James Muske who is joining us for worship today as our Candidate of Choice for pastor.

10:00AM SERVICE

Presentation of Youth Study Bibles to Emilie Vukelich and Elle Johnson

OPENING HYMN:

“All of My Life”

CCLI#2329853

(Please stand)

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:

Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

BELL ANTHEM: “His Eye is on the Sparrow”

First Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7

The prophet sings a sad, parable-like love song about the relationship between God and Israel. In this song Israel is compared to a promising vineyard. Despite God’s loving care, the vineyard that is Israel has brought forth “wild grapes” of injustice and distress, when fine grapes of justice and righteousness were expected.

¹Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. ²He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes.

³And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. ⁴What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes?

⁵And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down.

⁶I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.

⁷For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting; he expected justice, but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry!

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 80:7-15

Look down from heaven, O God; behold and tend this vine. (Ps. 80:14, 15)

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

⁸**You have brought a vine out of Egypt; you cast out the nations and planted it.**

⁹You cleared the ground for it; it took root and filled the land.

¹⁰**The mountains were covered by its shadow and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.**

¹¹You stretched out its tendrils to the sea and its branches to the river.

¹²**Why have you broken down its wall, so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?**

¹³The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it, and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.

¹⁴**Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven;**

¹⁵behold and tend this vine; preserve what your right hand has planted.

Second Reading: Philippians 3:4b-14

Paul reviews some of his supposed credentials, which no longer have any bearing in comparison to the right relationship he has been given through the death of Christ. The power of Christ's resurrection motivates him to press on toward the ultimate goal, eternal life with Christ.

[Paul writes:] ^{4b}If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more:

⁵circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ.

⁸More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹²Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:33-46

Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus tells a parable to the religious leaders who are plotting his death, revealing that their plans will, ironically, bring about the fulfillment of scripture.

[Jesus said to the people:] ³³“Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. ³⁴When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ³⁸But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ ³⁹So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” ⁴¹They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

⁴²Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures: ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is amazing in our eyes’?”

⁴³Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. ⁴⁴The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

⁴⁵When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, O Christ

SERMOM: “How Would You Describe Absolute, Passionate, Unswerving Love?”

HYMN OF THE DAY:

“God is Here”
(vs. 1, 2 & 4)

#526 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.

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.

Restore what is broken in your church, loving God. Heal divisions among Christian communities, give courage to leaders facing hardship, and open our ears to the prophets' cries among us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Restore what is broken in creation, gracious God. Revive farmlands and vineyards, protect waters needed by all living things, and move us to care for this earthly home. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Restore what is broken in our world, mighty God. Quell the rush to violence between peoples and nations. Break down dividing walls and promote growth for the sake of the common good. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Restore our broken bodies, O God. We pray for those suffering any loss: the grieving, those who have lost homes or property, the imprisoned, those neglected or abandoned, and the sick (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Restore our faith in you, saving God. We pray for Bible study and small group leaders, Sunday school teachers, musicians, devotion writers, and for all whose work nurtures our faith. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We remember the saints whose devotion proclaimed your saving help. In company with them, root us firmly in your everlasting love. 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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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:

“Lift Every Voice”
(vs. 1 & 3)

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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: Praise Team, Bell Choir & Digital Hymnal

Greeters: Barry & Donna Ansell

Ushers: 8:30 – George & Kathy Larson 10:00 – Darrell Kelly

Lector: 8:30 - Jeannine Bruesewitz 10:00 - JoAnn Haglund

Hospitality Hosts: Rich & Karen Carron; Penny Sjoquist

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, October 1, 2017: 8:30am 90 10:00am 32

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda

October 9 thru October 14, 2017

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|-----------|-------|------------------------------------|---|
| Monday | 10/9 | 11:00 am | Funeral for Leroy Bondeson |
| | | 7:00 pm | AA/Alanon |
| Tuesday | 10/10 | Quilters <u>not</u> meeting | |
| Wednesday | 10/11 | 8:00 am | Women's Bible Study* |
| | | 9:30 am | Stitchers |
| | | 6:00 pm | Choir Practice |
| | | 7:00 pm | Praise Team |
| Thursday | 10/12 | 8:00 am | ROMEOS |
| | | 8:30 am | Women of ELC Fall Gathering-Cross Lake |
| | | 12:30 pm | Fun Timers |
| | | 6:00 pm | Bell Choir Practice |
| Friday | 10/13 | 10:00 am | Bone Builders |
| Saturday | 10/14 | 2:00pm | Reformation Service-First Lutheran Aitkin |
| Sunday | 10/15 | 8:30 am | Worship |
| | | 10:00 am | Worship |

***WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY** will be starting a new book this week. The book is: "Reclaiming the "C" Word: Daring to be Church Again". They meet Wednesday mornings at 8:00am. All are welcome.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

CONFIRMATION: Today at the 10:00 am service Bethesda will be presenting Emilie Vukelich and Elle Johnson Youth Study Bibles as they start their second year of confirmation studies. Lay volunteers will meet with them until our new pastor can begin their instruction.

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.

FUNERAL for Leroy Bondeson will be Monday, Oct 9th at 11:00am with visitation one hour prior to the service.

HOLIDAY BAZAAR Saturday, October 28th Doors open at 9:00am. Work signup sheets in the Fellowship Hall.

HOLDEN LUTHERAN ANNUAL LUTEFISK DINNER Saturday, Oct. 14th, 1:00-5:00pm. Lutefisk, Meatballs, Swedish Sausage, Lefse, Scandinavian Cookies, Craft & Bake Sale. See Poster on bulletin board for more info.

CORRECTION TO UPCOMING EVENTS: Dec. 2nd is the Bethesda Women of the ELCA Christmas party; not the church Christmas dinner.

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING We will be holding a Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, Oct. 22nd at 9:00am to vote to elect our Candidate of Choice as pastor. This will be a paper ballot vote with two items to vote on:

1. To extend the call to the pastor.
2. To accept the compensation package.

There is only one service that Sunday at 10:00am. It is our annual Polka Service. Be sure to attend both the meeting and service.

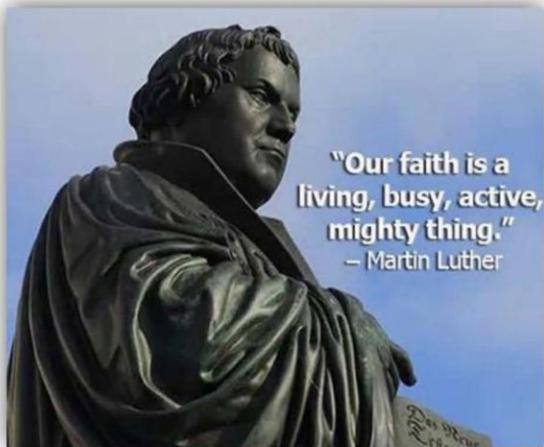
WOMEN'S DEVOTIONS - MONDAY, OCTOBER 16th Please consider joining us as we begin a new Bible study using the ELCA Gathering magazine for women of the Lutheran church. We meet once a month at 9:00 in the morning at the home of Pat Becker. It is a time for sharing, for prayer and for studying God's word.

BLESSING BOX – Last week's contributions to the Blessing Box was \$137.20. This money will be used for Local Benevolence.

NEED VOLUNTEER to assume the job duties of the ditch clean up that is done twice a year. Please speak with Jerry Morris if interested.

The Power of the Word. The Holy Spirit Moving Through Us

Reformation Celebration!



Local Evangelical Lutheran Church in America congregations invite you to celebrate with us!

2017 is the **500th anniversary** of the year Martin Luther posted challenges that sparked conversation, scared the powerful, encouraged the weak, and triggered unimagined change. Join us for worship and conversation!

Rev. Dr. Rolf Jacobson,
Old Testament Professor at Luther Seminary, St. Paul

Location:

First Lutheran Church
107 Second Street SE
Aitkin, Minnesota 56431
Office - 218-927-2028

Saturday

October 14, 2017

1:30 PM Meet and Greet/ Doors Open

2:00 PM Worship Service in the Sanctuary

3:30 PM Reception in the Fellowship Hall

4:00 PM Workshop by Dr. Jacobson

at First Lutheran Church in Aitkin, MN

Hosted by:

First Lutheran, Aitkin
St. John's Lutheran, Cedarbrook
Bethesda Lutheran, Rossburg
Bethlehem Lutheran, Aitkin
Salem Lutheran, Deerwood
Bethesda Lutheran, Malmo
Grace Lutheran, McGregor
Bethel Lutheran, Palisade



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God's work. Our hands.