

Sunday, January 21, 2018

Third Sunday after Epiphany



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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Pastor James Muske

320-583-5796

Bethesda welcomes

Pastor Amy Odgren

Assistant to the Bishop

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

Stories of the call to discipleship continue as the Time after Epiphany plays out the implications of our baptismal calling to show Christ to the world. Jesus begins proclaiming the good news and calling people to repentance right after John the Baptist is arrested for preaching in a similar way. Knowing that John was later executed, we see at the very outset the cost of discipleship. Still, the two sets of fisherman brothers leave everything they have known and worked for all their lives to follow Jesus and fish for people.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN:

“In Christ Called to Baptized”

#575 ELW

Please Stand on the Last Verse

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

In the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

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:

Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

Please be seated

First Reading: Jonah 3:1-5, 10

The book of Jonah is a comedy starring a reluctant prophet who is given a one-sentence message: Nineveh will be destroyed in forty days. Much to Jonah's dismay, the people of Nineveh repent. The point of the story is to get the reader to wrestle with the question "On whom should God have mercy?"

¹The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, ²"Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." ³So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 62:5-12

God alone is my rock and my salvation. (Ps. 62:6)

⁵For God alone I wait in silence; truly, my hope is in God.

⁶God alone is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold, so that I shall never be shaken.

⁷In God is my deliverance and my honor; God is my strong rock and my refuge.

⁸Put your trust in God always, O people, pour out your hearts before the one who is our refuge.

⁹Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath; those of low estate cannot be trusted. Placed on the scales together they weigh even less than a breath.

¹⁰Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no empty pride; though wealth increase, set not your heart upon it.

¹¹God has spoken once, twice have I heard it, that power belongs to God.

¹²Steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord, for you repay all according to their deeds.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Paul does not disapprove of marriage or other human social institutions. He does, however, want Christians to live in the present in fervent anticipation of God's future, which even now has dawned through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

²⁹Brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, ³⁰and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, ³¹and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Please Stand for the Reading of the Gospel

Gospel: Mark 1:14-20

Glory to you, O Lord

Before Jesus calls his first disciples, he proclaims a message that becomes known as “the gospel” or good news from God. God is ready to rule our lives. Those who realize this will respond with repentance and faith.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

¹⁶As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, O Christ

Please be seated

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY:

“We All Are One in Mission”

#576 ELW

Please stand if able

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 to the dead. 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.

INSTALLATION (see insert)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

Confident that God our light and our salvation hears us when we pray, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

A brief silence.

For the church in all its forms, for unity in Christ, and for those who proclaim the good news in word and deed, that all trust that the kingdom of God has come near, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For clean water and air, for fertile lands, so that all creatures and people have enough food, nourishing drink, and breathable air, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For public defenders and district attorneys, for the armed forces and international peace organizations, and for all public leaders, that those in authority work for the well-being of all people (*especially*), let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For the poor and oppressed, for the sick and bereaved, for those living with HIV and AIDS, and for all people in need (*especially*), that your power and compassion will be visible to those who need care and those who provide care, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For this congregation and its ministries, for visitors in our midst, and for students returning to school, that your Holy Spirit will guide us in all our endeavors, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

In thanksgiving for those who have died (*including Agnes, whom the church commemorates today*), that their lives of faithful service point us to the steadfast love of Christ, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Merciful God, you hear our prayers even before we speak them. Receive them for the sake of the one through whom you have revealed your goodness, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **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 stand as the ushers bring the offering to the altar.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Merciful God,

Receive the gifts we bring, ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Through this meal unite us as your body, shining with the light of your justice and mercy; for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMNS	“I Love to Tell the Story”	#661 ELW
	“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”	#674 ELW

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O Morning Star, fair and bright, you have refreshed us again with heavenly food. You are our dearest treasure. Go with us now—today, tomorrow, every day—that we tell the story of your never-ending love and sing your praise both now and forever. Amen

BLESSING

The God of glory dwell in you richly, name you beloved, and shine brightly on your path; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the ✙ Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen

CLOSING HYMN:	“Listen, God is Calling”	#513 ELW
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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

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

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Music: Digital Hymnal

Ushers: Nancy Hansen, Diane Sandberg

Hospitality Hosts: WELCA

Greeters: Kathy & Maynard Berland

Lector: Winnie Zahradka

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, January 14, 2018: 9:00 am 75

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda

January 22, - January 28, 2018

Monday	1/22	Mon-Wed	Men's Group Fishing Trip to Lake of the Woods
		1:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	1/23	9:00 am	Quilters
Wednesday	1/24	8:00 am	Women's Bible Study
		9:30 am	Stitchers
		6:00 pm	Confirmation
		6:00 pm	Praise Team
Thursday	1/25	8:00 am	ROMEOS
		1:00 pm	Funtimers
Friday	1/26	10:00 am	Bone Builders
Sunday	1/28	9:00 pm	Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ATTENDANCE REGISTRY Please sign and pass the attendance registry which you will find in the pew. This information is gathered for annual reports to the Synod.

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.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY The women's Wednesday morning (8am) bible study group just started a new series and so if you have ever been curious, now is a good time to stop by! We will listen to a series of lectures from the popular "Genesis to Revelations" course at Luther Seminary. Working its way through the whole Bible, this series offers a great overview on all the individual books themselves and the connected themes found throughout the Bible. If you happen to miss a week, no worries, you can listen to the audio online!

ANNOUNCEMENTS (continued)

DVD LENDING LIBRARY There is a collection of DVD available to borrow and view at home at your pleasure. Check the bookshelf next to the janitor closet in the Fellowship Hall. Might be a good way to “hunker down” this winter. Thank you, George & Patti Smith.

DRIVERS NEEDED We have a parishioner that needs rides into Aitkin, about once a week starting in February, for doctor appointments. All appointments are on a Thursday at either 10:45am or 11:45am. If you can help, the signup sheet is in the office on the secretary’s desk. Thank you!

WELCA & MALMO AREA LIONS would like to invite you to a “Sweet Heart Dinner” on Saturday, Feb. 10. Doors open at 4:30pm with dinner served at 5:30pm (we are bringing back the Dinner that the Church Youth use to do). Cost: \$15. Reservations can be called into the Church Office M-F 11:00-3:00 (320 684-2123) or place your name on the signup sheet in the office. Last day of reservations will be Feb. 4th.

PIANIST/ORGANIST WANTED The Worship & Music Committee would like to identify a skilled pianist/organist that could play for special worship services like Easter & Christmas. If you are interested, or you know someone, please contact any of the members of the committee or Pastor James and they will follow up.

YEAR END STATEMENTS are available for pickup in the fellowship hall next to the 2018 giving envelopes. Pick up both today!

CHURCH RECYCLING PROGRAM There are signs near all trash cans regarding what is garbage and what needs to go into the recycling containers. Aluminum cans that are recycled will be taken care of by the Veggie Stand volunteers. We have members of a recycling group from Bethesda that will take the recycled materials to Westerlund’s Citgo twice a month for disposal. Containers from Aitkin County will be there twice a month. Look for the schedule posted in the kitchen for your home recycling. Community members are encouraged to support the Aitkin County drop-off program so that it will continue here in our area. If you are interested in helping with this project, contact Dianne Jones.

TIME & TALENT SMALL GROUP MEETINGS Today’s meeting during fellowship is Veggie Stand. If you signed up for this category, or are interested in finding out more about this service opportunity, you are encouraged to attend the small group discussion today and be part of the planning.

FUTURE TIME & TALENT MEETING SCHEDULE: Sunday, January 28 – Coffee Fellowship.