

Sunday, July 15, 2018

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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Pastor James Muske

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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

This section of 1 John is one of the Bible's great "love" chapters. At its core is that "God is love" (4:8, 16). God is the subject and love is the descriptor. God is a living being, whose identity is defined by love. We might want to reverse the sequence and say that "Love is God," but that would mean elevating love -- as a principle -- to divine status. But here love characterizes God, whose expressions of love create relationships between himself and others.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: **"Jesus Loves Me"** **#595 ELW**
 Please Stand on the Last Verse

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 for reflection and self-examination.

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, from you come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated

CHOIR ANTHEM: “”

READING: 1 John 4:7-21

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Please stand for the Gospel

GOSPEL John 15:9-11

Glory to you, O Lord

⁹ As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, O Christ

Please be seated

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" #631ELW
(Verses 1, 2 & 4)

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Growing in faith and discipleship, we give thanks for God's merciful compassion as we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

God of truth, put your word of justice on our lips. Bless your church in the task of holy resistance. Make us a living and persistent sign of your righteousness and your loving kindness. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of heaven and earth, pour your healing power upon our fragile earth for us and for all who will inherit it. Inspire the work of engineers and environmentalists who seek sustainable sources of energy, food, and clean water. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of justice, hold your plumb line to the nations. Speak convicting words of holy judgment to those in positions of authority. Redeem all harms caused by corruption and the hunger for power. Restore peace to our world (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of salvation, bring wholeness to all your beloved children. Anoint the hands of all caregivers, nurses, doctors, therapists, hospice workers, and chaplains. Bring abundance of life to all who long for healing (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of tenderness, you adopt us as your own. Help us to provide nourishing care for all children in our midst. Inspire us with their creativity and energy. Heal and protect children who are victims of abuse, neglect, or scorn. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of the saints, you have claimed the faithful departed as your own and given them an inheritance in glory. Sustain us in faith until the fullness of time, when you gather up all things in heaven and on earth. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Gracious God, we lift to you these prayers and the prayers of our hearts, trusting in your everlasting love and mercy, through Jesus Christ our 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, 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Invitation to Communion

Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread. All are welcome.
(Communion by intinction - red wine; white apple juice)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Jesus Christ, host of this meal, you have given us not only this bread and cup, but your very self, that we may feast on your great love. Filled again by these signs of your grace, may we hunger for your reign of justice, may we thirst for your way of peace, for you are Lord forevermore.

Amen.

BLESSING

May God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine, grant you the gifts of faith and hope. Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: "Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love" #708 ELW

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve.

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

Greeters: Barry & Donna Ansell

Ushers: 8:30am Chuck & Elsa Carlson 10:00am Carolyn Morris

Hospitality Hosts: Ron & Jan Aho, Ron & Joni Mehlhop, Judy Wuorio

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, July 8th: 8:30 am 79 10:00 am 30

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda

July 16 – July 22, 2018

Monday	7/16	1:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	7/17	9:00am	Crafters
		12:00-2:00	Pastor Text Study
Wednesday	7/18	9:00 am	Bible Study
		10:00 am	Stitchers
		10:00 am	Bethesda Centennial Planning Mtg
		1:00 pm	Stewardship
		6:00 pm	Choir
		7:00 pm	Praise Team
Thursday	7/19	8:00 am	R.O.M.E.O.'s
		12:00 pm	Funtimers-Pot Luck (Noon) & Cards (12:30pm)
		6:00 pm	Bell Choir Practice
Friday	7/20	9:00 am	Council Meeting
		10:00 am	Bone Builders
Saturday	7/21	7:30 am	Veggie Stand
Sunday	7/22	8:30 am	Worship
		10:00 am	Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYS AND CARE CONCERNS:

LAWN MOWERS NEEDED: If you enjoy the outdoors, we have an opportunity for you. Please sign up to help mow the church lawn. A sign-up sheet is located in the Narthex. Training on use of mowers is available if needed. Contact Lee Forrester.

LIFETOUCH PHOTOGRAPHY will be here August 15-18 to take pictures for our new church directory. Scheduled appointments are available. Go to our web site to schedule your appointment time or call one of the secretaries during normal working hours (M-F 11:00am - 3:00pm). Your single photo and 1 directory per family are free. There are special discount coupons available in the Narthex that you can use if you purchase additional photos.

VEGGIE STAND is now open every Saturday from 7:30-11:00am. Donations from your garden or kitchen will be welcomed. Deliver to the church by 3 pm Friday, or bring to the stand on Saturday morning.

HOSPICE KITS The women of Bethesda will be assembling Hospice Kits at their August meeting for Global Health Ministries because there is a great need for the kits. Please see the Women of the ELCA bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall for items that are needed for the kits. All are welcome to join us to assemble these kits.

BEEF & CORN FEED Our annual corn feed is set for Saturday, July 28th; 4:30-7:00pm. Not Friday, July 28th as printed in the Newsletter.

BETHESDA OUTREACH PROGRAM The Faith, Health and Wellness Committee is looking for individuals to be part of an outreach team that will call and visit members who are homebound, in a nursing home or those with a chronic illness. This would be done either as an individual or as part of a team. A home communion program is also being started. An orientation/training meeting will be scheduled for interested individuals. Contact Pastor or one of the Parish Nurses if you would like to be part of either of these programs to help our homebound members stay connected with Bethesda.

BETHESDA CENTENNIAL — Thank you Centennial volunteers. A brainstorming meeting is planned for Wednesday, July 18th, 10 am in the Fellowship Hall. An email invite has been sent to those volunteers with email addresses and I have tried calling others without email. If you haven't yet signed up, please join us. Please bring your Centennial celebration ideas to the meeting. Thank you, Judie Birk

ALL ARE INVITED Pastor Sandy Berg Holte is retiring. Her last Sunday is July 22nd with a joint service at St. John's of Cedarbrook at 10:30 am with a potluck to follow. You are invited to share in her closing worship service.