

Sunday, July 8, 2018
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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Pastor James Muske

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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

Within our relationship with God, a measure of reciprocity always exists, even though our part is but a tiny percentage of the overall amount. It must be this way because love cannot be one-sided, or the relationship will not exist for very long. This is a major reason why Jesus says in John 14:15, "If you love Me, keep My commandments." Obedience is the way we reciprocate His love toward us.

CALL TO WORSHIP:

“God Bless America”

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN:

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

#879 ELW

Verses 1,2,4,5 - Please rise 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 is kept for reflection.

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:

God of the covenant, in our baptism you call us to proclaim the coming of your kingdom. Give us the courage you gave the apostles, that we may faithfully witness to your love and peace in every circumstance of life, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

Please be seated

PRAISE TEAM ANTHEM: “Down by the Riverside”

FIRST READING: 1 John 4:1-6

¹Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God; for many false prophets have gone out into the world. ²By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. And this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming; and now it is already in the world. ⁴Little children, you are from God, and have conquered them; for the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. ⁵They are from the world; therefore what they say is from the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us, and whoever is not from God does not listen to us. From this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.
The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

GOSPEL John 14:15-17

Glory to you, O Lord

¹⁵If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, O Christ

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: “Let All Things Now Living” #881 ELW

Please Stand

THE PRAYERS OF INTERSESSION

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.

Lord God, equip all your faithful people for the work of mission. When we are empty-handed, give us partners in ministry. Help us to speak boldly of your promises without reservation or fear. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Lord God, you breathe life into the dust of the earth. Bless the land and all who work it. Bring relief to areas of drought and famine. Send healing rains and cooling breezes to places scorched by sun and heat. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Lord God, when the nations are rebellious, raise up prophets and leaders to proclaim your way of justice. Provide for the needs of refugees, immigrants, asylum seekers, and exiles. Protect all who live in areas of war and conflict. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Lord God, your grace is sufficient to bring wholeness to human weakness. Restore hope to those suffering hardships, persecutions, and calamities. Strengthen all who are fragile in body, mind, or spirit (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Lord God, renew our commitment to the work of hospitality. Help us to offer a caring welcome to visitors and to those returning to the church. Help us to be living examples of your grace and your generosity. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Lord God, you equip disciples throughout the ages to proclaim your kingdom. Lead us by faith until every weakness of this world has been made perfect in the power of your everlasting glory. 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.

Please be seated

Ushers will begin passing the offering plate.

Please rise as the ushers bring the offering to the altar.

OFFERTORY HYMN:

“This Land Is Your Land”

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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

COMMUNION HYMN: “Who Am I” Praise Team

THE LORD’S PRAYER – LED BY THE PRAISE TEAM

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.

DISMISSAL

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

Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN: “We Are Marching” #866 ELW

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

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Music: The Praise Team

Greeters: Bev & Wally Swenson

Ushers: 8:30 – Skip & Lynn Hanson 10:00 – Darrell Kelly

Hospitality Hosts: Chuck & Elsa Carlson, Lee & Barb Forrester

Thank you for your service!

Response to God’s Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, July 1, 2018: 8:30am 79 10:00am 24

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda**July 9 through July 15, 2018**

Monday	7/9	9:00 am	Women's Devotion <u>at the church</u>
		1:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle
		1:00 pm	Stewardship Meeting
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	7/10	9:00 am	Quilters
		12 – 2 pm	Pastor's Text Study
Wednesday	7/11	9:00 am	Bible Study
		10:00 am	Stitchers
		6:00 pm	Choir Practice
		7:00 pm	Praise Team
Thursday	7/12	8:00 am	ROMEOS
		12:00 pm	Funtimers-Pot Luck (Noon) & Cards(12:30pm)
		6:00 pm	Bell Choir Practice
Friday	7/13	10:00 am	Bone Builders
Saturday	7/14	7:30 am	Veggie Stand
Sunday	7/15	8:30 am	Worship
		10:00 am	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.

BLESSING BOX We received \$148.32 in the Blessing Box last Sunday. Donations will go to Local Benevolence, (not Feed My Starving Children as indicated in last week's bulletin). Thank you! What a Blessing!

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. Schedules will be available as we come near to those dates. More details coming next week.

ANNOUNCEMENTS continued

WOMEN'S DEVOTIONS will be on Monday, July 9th, 9:00-11:00 am. **This month we will be meeting at the church.** Our theme for the next two months is on prayer with the study coming from the ELCA Women's magazine, Gather. Please come join us as we look at such questions as: Do we actually encounter God in prayer? What is the purpose of prayer? Is the practice of prayer for the sake of the one praying or for the One to whom we pray? We are an informal group of women who seek to learn more about God and what He is saying to us through the study of His word. The study is facilitated by Pat Becker.

VEGGIE STAND will be opened on July 7th, then every Saturday until Labor Day. Donations from your garden or kitchen will be welcomed. Deliver to the church by 3 PM on 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.

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.

CENTENIAL CELEBRATION Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo will be celebrating 100 years of service in 2019. Included in this week's bulletin is a survey to find out what type of celebration you would like and looking for volunteers to plan and execute this wonderful event. Please fill out the survey (if you haven't done so already) and either place it in the offering plate or leave it in the in the basket on the secretary's desk in the office.

God Bless America

God bless America, land that I love
Stand beside her and guide her
Through the night with a light from above.

From the mountains, to the prairies
To the oceans white with foam.

God bless America, My home, sweet home
God bless America, My home, sweet home

This Land is Your Land

CHORUS:

This land is your land, this land is my land

From the California to the New York island

From the Redwood Forest, to the gulf stream waters

This land was made for you and me

As I went walking that ribbon of highway
I saw above me that endless skyway
I saw below me that golden valley
This land was made for you and me

I roamed and rambled and followed my footsteps
To the sparkling sands of her diamond deserts
And all around me, a voice was sounding
This land was made for you and me

When the sun comes shining, and I was strolling,
And the wheat-fields waving, and the dust clouds
Rolling, a voice was chanting and the fog was
Lifting, This land was made for you and me.

CHORUS: