

Sunday, September 23, 2018

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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Pastor James Muske

320-583-5796

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

We are not to do things to offend others; to treat them harshly or unkindly, and to court revilings. We are not to say or do things, though they may be on the subject of religion, designed to disgust or offend. But if, in the faithful endeavor to be Christians, we are reviled, as our Master was, then we are to take it with patience, and to remember that thousands before us have been treated in like manner. When thus reviled or persecuted, we are to be meek, patient, humble; not angry; not reviling again; but endeavoring to do good to our persecutors and slanderers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: “Children of the Heavenly Father” ELW #781
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, 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 for reflection and self-examination.

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of presence, you remained fully with Joseph when he sat long years in a prison for a crime he did not commit. Help us to see that you are always with us, so that we might live faithfully in your world. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

Please be seated

BELL ANTHEM: “Make A Joyful Noise”

FIRST READING Genesis 39:1-23

¹Now Joseph was taken down to Egypt, and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had brought him down there. ²The LORD was with Joseph, and he became a successful man; he was in the house of his Egyptian master. ³His master saw that the LORD was with him, and that the LORD caused all that he did to prosper in his hands. ⁴So Joseph found favor in his sight and attended him; he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had. ⁵From the time that he made him overseer in his house and over all that he had, the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; the blessing of the LORD was on all that he had, in house and field. ⁶So he left all that he had in Joseph's charge; and, with him there, he had no concern for anything but the food that he ate.

Now Joseph was handsome and good-looking. ⁷And after a time his master's wife cast her eyes on Joseph and said, "Lie with me." ⁸But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Look, with me here, my master has no concern about anything in the house, and he has put everything that he has in my hand. ⁹He is not greater in this house than I am, nor has he kept back anything from me except yourself, because you are his wife. How then could I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" ¹⁰And although she spoke to Joseph day after day, he would not consent to lie beside her or to be with her. ¹¹One day, however, when he went into the house to do his work, and while no one else was in the house, ¹²she caught hold of his garment, saying, "Lie with me!" But he left his garment in her hand, and fled and ran outside. ¹³When she saw that he had left his garment in her hand and had fled outside, ¹⁴she called out to the members of her household and said to them, "See, my husband has brought among us a Hebrew to insult us! He came in to me to lie with me, and I cried out with a loud voice; ¹⁵and when he heard me raise my voice and cry out, he left his garment beside me, and fled outside." ¹⁶Then she kept his garment by her until his master came home, ¹⁷and she told him the same story, saying, "The Hebrew servant, whom you have brought among us, came in to me to insult me; ¹⁸but as soon as I raised my voice and cried out, he left his garment

beside me, and fled outside."

¹⁹When his master heard the words that his wife spoke to him, saying, "This is the way your servant treated me," he became enraged. ²⁰And Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined; he remained there in prison. ²¹But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love; he gave him favor in the sight of the chief jailer. ²²The chief jailer committed to Joseph's care all the prisoners who were in the prison, and whatever was done there, he was the one who did it. ²³The chief jailer paid no heed to anything that was in Joseph's care, because the LORD was with him; and whatever he did, the LORD made it prosper.

Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Please stand for the Gospel

GOSPEL Matthew 5:11-12

Glory to you, O Lord

¹¹"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, O Christ

Please be seated

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Arise, Your Life Has Come"

ELW #314

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

Freed by God in Christ to live and love and serve, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's beloved creation.

A brief silence.

Gracious God, you gather congregations together by the power of your word. Bless leaders with the gifts of wisdom and discernment as they seek to make your church the community for which you long. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Creative God, blue whales and honeybees sing the goodness of the earth. Glaciers and deserts declare your greatness. Make us good stewards of our home for the generations to come. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Sovereign God, you raise up governments to protect the widow and orphan. Bless citizens with wisdom and discernment as they choose leaders. Inspire leaders to always seek the common good. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Loving God, you desire health and wholeness. Reconcile the conflicts and disputes among us. Teach us to heal the trauma of racism and poverty. Break our hearts open to all those who suffer and mourn (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Welcoming God, you place children among us. Teach us to honor the children in our midst and to pay attention to what they can teach us about who you are. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

You surround us with a cloud of witnesses who announce the good news of abundant life to a sad and needy world. Make us a pilgrim people, always telling the story of your loving kindness. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Into your wide embrace, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your boundless mercy through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.

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

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

Invitation to Communion

Speak to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, and make us one with you.
All are welcome. (Communion by intinction - red wine; white apple juice)

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: "Goodness is Stronger than Evil"

Goodness is stronger than evil,
Love is stronger than hate;
Light is stronger than darkness,
Life is stronger than death;

Victory is ours, Victory is ours
Through God who L-o-v-e-s us.

Victory is ours, Victory is ours
Through God who L-o-v-e-s us. (Repeat 3 Times)

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: Bell Choir & Digital Hymnal

Greeters: Dick & Sandy Pullen

Ushers: 9:00am Lee & Barb Forrester

Hospitality Hosts: Quilters

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: Sun, Sept. 16th: 8:30 am 82 10:00 am 16

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda

September 24 – September 30, 2018

Pastor James NE Synod Conference Sun. Sept 23 through Tues. Sept 25 (out of office)

Monday	9/24	1:00 pm	Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	9/25	9:00 am	Quilters
		12 – 2 pm	Pastor's Text Study
Wednesday	9/26	9:00 am	Bible Study
		10:00 am	Stitchers
		10:00 am	Mission & Evangelism Mtg
		6:00 pm	Choir Practice
		7:00 pm	Praise Team
Thursday	9/27	8:00 am	ROMEO's
		12:00 pm	Funtimers (12:00 Potluck, 12:30 cards)
		6:00 pm	Bell Choir Practice
Friday	9/28	10:00am	Bone builders
Sunday	9/30	8:30 am	Worship
		10:00 am	Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER AND CARE LIST Ron & Carol Hass, George Smith, Jerry Becker

EILEEN DICKINSON died peacefully at home surrounded by family on Thursday, September 20. Funeral will be held on Monday, September 24, 2018 at Grace Lutheran Church in Mora at 11:00am. Visitation 1 hour prior to service at the church and also Sunday night, September 23 from 3-6 at Akkerman-Ingebrand Funeral home in Mora, 825 South Union Street.

USHERS If anyone is interested in ushering, please contact Skip or Lynn.

BETHESDA OUTREACH PROGRAM If you know of someone who may be homebound, has medical issues or recently suffered a loss and would benefit from short or long term visits from someone on Bethesda's visitation team contact Pastor James, a parish nurse or the office.

PHOTOS FOR DIRECTORY If you were unable to get your picture taken from Lifetouch for the directory, contact Melody Lackner (218 232-7424 or mlackner912@gmail.com). For \$10 she will professional take your picture, give you an 8x10 color photo and submit your photo to the directory. Deadline for Melody to submit photos for the directory is September 30, 2018.

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE Please give to Lutheran Disaster Response today for the effects of Hurricane Florence. Checks or money orders can be sent to: Lutheran Disaster Response, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009. Write "Hurricane Response" on your check memo line. Give by phone at 800-638-3522 or online at <https://community.elca.org/hurricane-relief>

DEMENTIA FRIENDS WORKSHOP On Wednesday, October 17th at 1pm Terri Mathis from Aitkin County Care will present a face to face presentation about dementia. In this one hour informal session you will learn what dementia is and tips for communicating with people who have dementia. Dementia Friends Minnesota is a growing movement of people who are helping fellow community members living with dementia. Come to this free session to learn about dementia-you never know when you may need to help a family member or a friend. For further information contact Darlene Christensen or Carolyn Morris.

BENEVOLENCE SUGGESTIONS There is a basket in the Narthex for suggestions for additional Benevolence Recipients. If you know of a worthy local or global cause, let us know your suggestions.



MEN'S ANNUAL FISHING TRIP is scheduled for January 21st – 23rd, 2019. If interested contact Skip Hansen (218-839-2005) or Ron Mehlhop (507-276-0798) to make your reservations.