

Sunday July 23, 2023
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

21590 State Highway 47, Isle, MN 56342

Phone: 320-684-2123 (1-877-684-2123) Fax: 320-684-2836

E-mail address: blcmalmo@gmail.com

Church Web Site: blcmalmo.org

Pastor James Muske

320 583-5796

Parish Nurses: Darlene Christensen, RN 320-279-0097

Kathy Berland RN ANP 218-838-6181

Prayer Chain Contacts: Char Berg 320-684-2102 or

Darlene Christensen 320-279-0097

Church Secretary: Mary Braun

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER & CARE LIST:

LECTORS NEEDED we are looking for volunteers to read aloud the scriptures on Sunday morning. Sign up sheet in the Narthex or contact Mary Braun if you can help.

LAWNMOWING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED Please enjoy the outdoors and sign up to help mow the church lawn this summer. Sign-up sheets are in the Fellowship Hall.

VEGGIE STAND OPEN the Veggie Stand will be open on Saturday mornings to raise money for Local Benevolence. Contributions of baked good items are welcome for sale that day.

NEW ROOF Roof Repair starts on Monday, July 24, please do not park near the building, stay at least 50 feet away from the building starting on Monday. Repair should take 3 days.

THANK YOU from AITKIN COUNTY CARE I enjoyed your hospitality and generosity during my visit on July 2nd. Please know that anyone can always call on CARE when the need arises. ~ Lynne Jacobs

CHURCH BUILDING DVD former member Bob Krueger has sent us DVDs of the church building process from groundbreaking in 1995 at this current location and the 2006 addition of the Fellowship Hall, offices, and Sunday School rooms. If anyone is interested in viewing the DVDs check them out in the Secretary's office.

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda

July 24, 2023 – July 30, 2023

Monday	7/24	11:30 am	Card Players
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	7/25	9:00 am	Quilters
		9:00 am	Chair Yoga
		4:00 pm	Bell Practice
		5:30 am	Choir Practice
Wednesday	7/26	9:00 am	Women's Bible Study
Thursday	7/27	8:00 am	ROMEOS
		9:00 am	Chair Yoga
Saturday	7/29	8:00 am	Veggie Stand Fundraising
Sunday	7/30	9:00 am	Worship in Person & Live Stream

OPENING HYMN “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing” #807 ELW

(Please Stand on the last Verse)



1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be;



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan-d'ring heart to thee.



While the hope of end-less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,
Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan-d'ring from the fold of God;
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.



teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good-ness prove.
he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre-cious blood.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who greets us in this and every season,
whose word never fails, whose promise is sure.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.

Merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned. We have hurt our community. We have squandered your blessings. We have hoarded your bounty. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Righteous God,
we confess that we have sinned. We have failed to be honest. We have lacked the courage to speak. We have spoken falsely. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Claim the gift of God's mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of **✝** Jesus Christ.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Faithful God, most merciful judge,
you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated

CHOIR ANTHEM: "Be Thou My Vision"

SCRIPTURE

FIRST READING: Isaiah 44:6-8

⁶Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god.

⁷Who is like me? Let them proclaim it, let them declare and set it forth before me. Who has announced from of old the things to come? Let them tell us what is yet to be.

⁸Do not fear, or be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? You are my witnesses! Is there any god besides me? There is no other rock; I know not one.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God**

PSALM: Psalm 86:11-17

¹¹ Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart to revere your name.

¹² **I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart, and glorify your name for evermore.**

¹³ For great is your love toward me; you have delivered me from the pit of death.

¹⁴ **The arrogant rise up against me, O God, and a band of violent people seeks my life; they have not set you before their eyes.**

¹⁵ But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.

¹⁶ **Turn to me and have mercy on me; give your strength to your servant, and save the child of your handmaid.**

¹⁷ Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame; because you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.

SECOND READING: Romans 8:12-25

¹² So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

¹⁸I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³and not only the

creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God**

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Glory to you, O Lord

²⁴[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field;²⁵but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ ²⁸He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ ²⁹But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’ ”

³⁶Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” ³⁷He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴²and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: "O God, Whose Word Well Planted" #975 ACS



1 O God, whose word well-plant - ed yields fruit a hun - dred - fold,
2 O God of seed and har - vest, of sun and soil and rain,
3 O God, your fi - nal har - vest of his - t'ry's an - cient field



we praise your grac - es grant - ed to those who sowed of old,
at - tend the word we sow, lest its plant - ing be in vain.
will test with truth the proud - est that hu - man work can yield.



who by their wit - ness scat - tered good seed up - on the soil
Send show - ers of your Spir - it, bright sun - shine of your grace,
Op - pres - sion's blight will van - ish, fair free - dom's fruits in - crease;



where oth - ers, reap - ing, gath - ered the har - vest of their toil.
that mul - ti - tudes who hear it your gos - pel may em - brace.
and love and joy will flour - ish to clothe the earth with peace.

APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS of INTERCESSION

Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

O God, you call your church to announce the gospel of reconciliation and truth both near and far. Guide your church as it seeks your wisdom and shares it, trusting your Spirit bearing witness among us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You brought forth all creation and called it good. Direct policymakers to protect lands and seas. Bring rain to sun-parched fields and protect areas impacted by natural disasters (especially). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You desire peace among nations and peoples. Guard our neighborhoods from hatred, watch over police officers and firefighters, and teach us to advocate for those who live in fear. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You are gracious and merciful, comforting those who suffer any affliction. Sustain your people living with HIV/ AIDS, provide shelter for all who are unhoused, and release any who are unjustly imprisoned. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You name each of us as your children. Guide our hospitality ministry to welcome all, our education ministry to equip us for faithful living, and our social ministry to enact the gospel in our community. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

You send faithful people to proclaim freedom from bondage and to renew your church. Encourage us by the witness of the faithful departed (including Birgitta of Sweden, whom the church commemorates today), so that we live into that same hope. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE *Please be seated for the passing of the offering plate.*

OFFERING - *Please stand as the ushers bring the offering to the altar.*

OFFERING PRAYER

God of field and forest, sea and sky,

you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION to COMMUNION

All people are called to Christ's table. Come, eat what is good.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We thank you, generous God,
for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed ✝ bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: "Seed of Life" Dakota Road



(Women) Dark - ness cov - ers and qui - et
(Men) Wa - ter flow - ing and roots
(All) Break - ing soil you push and
(Women) Ground of prom - ise to sky a -



hov - ers; we wait in won - der.
grow - ing you nour - ish us. Oh,
toil with strength un - known.
round us you beau - ti - fy. (Repeat Chorus three time)



Seed of Life a - rise a - new.



Seed of Life a - rise a - new.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the harvest.

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

Lector: LuAnn Gordon

Ushers: Lee & Barb Forrester

Greeters: Gary & Brenda Sjerven

Hospitality: Brenda & Gary Sjerven

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week

Sunday, July 16, 2023: In Person: 9:00am 51 Online: x