

Sunday September 17, 2023

Sixteenth 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

Guest Preacher: Rev. Terry Frovik

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: Carol Bakken, Linda Southworth.

LOAVES & FISHES We will be participating in “Loaves and Fishes” again on Monday, Sept. 18th at First Lutheran in Aitkin. We are in charge of desserts. **We will be bagging them after worship services today.** Thank you all for baking and participating in this community service.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP There will be a Grief Support Group starting on Tuesday, October 10th, 2023, at 4:00pm and runs approximately 1-1/2 hours. The sessions will run every Tuesday for 13 weeks. Anyone interested can simply show up. You are not required to attend all sessions but are urged to. Free will donation accepted but not required. Pre-registration is encouraged, but not required. There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

LECTORS NEEDED we are looking for volunteers to read aloud the scriptures on Sunday morning. Signup sheet in the Narthex which includes the weekly readings or contact Mary Braun if you can help.

SUNDAY HOSPITALITY if you can't sign up to serve (*and servers are needed!*), please bring treats for the freezer so others can serve.

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH MEATBALL SUPPER Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2023, from 5-7 pm, Milaca, MN 56353. See the poster on the bulletin board in the Narthex for more information.

SPIRITUAL RESILIENCE LADIES RETREAT Sat., Sept. 30th 9AM. Grace Lutheran Log Church, 48115 Lake Ave. McGregor, MN. A day filled with songs, friendship, nourishment, and faith building. A USAF retired Major General will be speaking. Please call 218-426-3343 if you plan on attending. **ALL ARE WELCOME!**

CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S CLUB Thursday, September 21st, 12:30pm at Wahkon Inn. Lunch, Speaker, and Music. \$13. Call Lois Johnson for reservations: 320 684-2000. For more information, see the bulletin board in Narthex.

HEARTLAND WOMEN'S FALL GATHERING Saturday, October 7, 2023, Trinity Lutheran Church, Milaca, MN. See poster on bulletin board in the Narthex for more information.

WORKING TOGETHER: An Auction to End Hunger. Support the NEMN Synod in their efforts to alleviate hunger and win a beautiful quilt or handmade item in the process! Quilts and Marketplace items are available in an on-line auction at <https://NEMNquilts23.givesmart.com> or a link from the synod webpage (NEMNSynod.org). Questions: Call or text Amy Loken at 218-391-4260 or Bob Murray at 218-244-5074. For more information, see Poster in Fellowship Hall on the WELCA bulletin board.

FLU SHOT CLINIC coming to Bethesda! Put on by Aitkin County Health & Human Services, on Tuesday, October 10th from 1:00-3:45pm. More information to follow.

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda September 18, 2023 – September 24, 2023

Monday	9/18	11:30 am	Card Players
		1:30-5:00 pm	Loaves & Fishes
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	9/19	9:00 am	Chair Yoga
		4:00 pm	Bell Practice
		5:30 am	Choir Practice
Wednesday	9/20	9:00 am	Women’s Bible Study
		9:00-Noon	WIC
Thursday	9/21	8:00 am	ROMEOS
		9:15 am	Chair Yoga
		12:30 pm	Christian Women’s Club
Sunday	9/24	9:00 am	Worship in Person & Live Stream

OPENING HYMN “Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven” #864 ELW
(Please Stand on the last Verse)



- 1 Praise, my soul, the God of heav - en; joy - ful - ly your trib-ute bring.
- 2 God be praised for grace and fa - vor to our fore-bears in dis-tress.
- 3 Frail as sum-mer’s flow’r we flour - ish, blows the wind and it is gone;
- 4 An - gels sing in ad - o - ra - tion, in God’s pres-ence, face to face.



Ran-somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en, ev - er - more God's prais-es sing.
God be praised, the same for - ev - er, slow to chide and swift to bless.
but, as mor - tals rise and per - ish, God en - dures un - chang - ing on.
Sun and moon and all cre - a - tion, all who dwell in time and space.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Prais - es ev - er - last - ing ring!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious is God's faith - ful - ness!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the great E - ter - nal One!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God, the one who forms us, ✠ Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

Amen.

Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Steadfast and faithful God,

you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

Beloved in Christ,

God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In ✠ Christ, you are

already and always forgiven.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God,

merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM: “Be Still”

SCRIPTURE

FIRST READING Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph’s brothers said, “What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?” ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, “Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷‘Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.’ Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father.” Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, “We are here as your slaves.” ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.” In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

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

PSALM: Psalm 103:1-13

¹ Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God’s holy name.

² **Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all God’s benefits—**

³ who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases;

⁴ **who redeems your life from the grave and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**

⁵ who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

⁶ **O LORD, you provide vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.**

⁷ You made known your ways to Moses and your works to the children of Israel.

⁸ **LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;**

⁹ you will not always accuse us, nor will you keep your anger forever.

¹⁰ **You have not dealt with us according to our sins, nor repaid us according to our iniquities.**

¹¹ For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

¹² **As far as the east is from the west, so far have you removed our transgressions from us.**

¹³ As a father has compassion for his children, so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.

SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so

that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

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

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

Glory to you, O Lord

²¹Peter came and said to [Jesus], “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt.

³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

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

SERMON - “The Main Thing”

HYMN OF THE DAY: “Before the Waters Nourished the Earth” #1049 ACS



1 Be - fore the wa - ters nour - ished earth or night im -
2 This Love re - mained as time re - vealed the loss of
3 De - spair, so deep it bears no name, or sor - rows
4 The Love that called cre - a - tion good all good - ness



ag - ined morn - ing, a Love con - ceived the
E - den's glo - ry and, griev - ing, holds in
par - a - lyz - ing can - not re - voke Love's
still is bring - ing. This Love turns death a -



u - ni - verse and rev - eled in its form - ing.
mem - o - ry each trag - ic hu - man sto - ry.
faith - ful claim to dwell with - in our dy - ing.
gain to life and si - lence in - to sing - ing.

APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS of INTERCESSION

Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church. Bless the missions and ministries of diverse congregations, that they uplift the good news of salvation in ways that can be understood. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We pray for creation. Send rain to lands experiencing drought and healing to rivers clogged with pollution. Enrich the soil for trees and plants. Protect the crops needed to feed those who hunger. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We pray for all who govern. Encourage those in positions of power to lead with empathy, practice forgiveness, and care for those who struggle. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We pray for our neighbors who face illness of any kind. For those strained financially; for all living with chronic pain, mental illness, the disease of addiction, or otherwise afraid or in harm's way. Protect all who cry out for mercy (*especially*). Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We pray for this congregation. Open our hearts to practice intentional invitation. Help us to forgive each other, practice patience, and choose welcome over judgment. Move us to care for those in our community seeking refuge and safety. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for the saints who died in faith. Show us how to live faithfully, creatively, and lovingly in your church and world (*like Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen, whom we commemorate today*). Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

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 power, God of plenty,
all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION to COMMUNION

Jesus invites you to this table.
Come, eat and live.

Prayer after Communion

Blessed be your name, O God,
for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

BLESSING

The God of glory, ✝ Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.
Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: "Mighty to Save" On Screen

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. God is at work in you.
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

Greeters: Patti Smith

Ushers: Barry & Donna Ansell Lector: Jeanne Bruesewitz
Hospitality: Mary Braun, Patti Smith and
the Birthday Girls: Merrily Jones & Julie Swaggert

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week

Sunday, September 10, 2023: In Person: 9:00am 52 Online: 8