

Sunday September 24, 2023

Seventeenth 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.

CALL TO WORSHIP “Come, Now Is the Time to Worship” CCLI#2430948

Chorus

Come, now is the time to worship.
Come, now is the time to give your heart.
Come, just as you are to worship.
Come, just as you are before your God, come.

One day every tongue will confess You are God.
One day every knee will bow.
Still the greatest treasure remains
For those who gladly choose You now. ***Chorus***

One day every tongue will confess You are God.
One day every knee will bow.
Still the greatest treasure remains
For those who gladly choose You now. ***Chorus***

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER & CARE LIST: Carol Bakken

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.

WELCA MEETING 10:00am on Wednesday, September 27th. All the women of the church are welcome to attend.

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.

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!

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.

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.

HIGHWAY CLEAN UP is scheduled for Tuesday, October 3rd, at 10:00am. If we don't get more than 4 people to help, we will cancel our "Adopt-a-Highway" project.

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). Website active from Oct. 10-14, 2023. 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.

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda **September 25, 2023 – October 1, 2023**

Monday	9/25	9:00 am	Crafters
		10:00 am	Council Meeting
		11:30 am	Card Players
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	9/26	9:00 am	Chair Yoga
		9:00 am	Quilters
		4:00 pm	Bell Practice
		5:30 am	Choir Practice
Wednesday	9/27	9:00 am	Women's Bible Study
		10:00 am	WELCA
		5-7:00 pm	Meatball Supper-Zion Lutheran, Milaca
Thursday	9/28	8:00 am	ROMEOS
		9:15 am	Chair Yoga
Saturday	9/30	9:00 am	Spiritual Resilience Ladies Retreat

OPENING HYMN “All of My Life”

CCLI# 2329853

My heart is hopin’ and my eyes are open.
There is a hunger inside of me.
I want to do right, walk in the holy light,
to live my days abundantly.

Chorus:

All of my life, I want to lose myself and be faithful.
All of my life, I want to live forgiven and be grateful,
All of my life.

Some say I’ve got to have all of the answers.
Some say I need all the money.
I hear the world is just mine for the taking,
Oh how I long to be released. **Chorus**

Help out my neighbor, welcome a stranger.
Offer my shirt to an enemy.
Dance in the moonlight, cry by the firlight,
To live my days abundantly. **Chorus**

Oh, God you know me, my every heartbeat is a word of grace from you
All of my life, I want to lose myself and be faithful.
All of my life, I want to live forgiven and be grateful,
All of my life, all of my life, all of my life.

(Please Stand on the last Verse)

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

Almighty and eternal God,
you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

PRAISE TEAM ANTHEM: “Everlasting God”

SCRIPTURE

FIRST READING Jonah 3:10--4:11

¹⁰When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

^{4:1}But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ²He prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and

ready to relent from punishing. ³And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” ⁴And the LORD said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” ⁵Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

⁹But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” ¹⁰Then the LORD said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?”

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

PSALM: Psalm 145:1-8

¹ I will exalt you, my God and king, and bless your name forever and ever.

² **Every day will I bless you and praise your name forever and ever.**

³ Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised! There is no end to your greatness.

⁴ **One generation shall praise your works to another and shall declare your power.**

⁵ I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty and all your marvelous works.

⁶ **They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts, and I will recount your greatness.**

⁷ They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

⁸The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:21-30

²¹For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

²⁷Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—³⁰since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

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

GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16

Glory to you, O Lord

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You

also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: “Your Love is Everlasting”

Since time be - gan, through cent - ur - ies God's
A moth - ers womb, a brand new life God's
Signs of hope, a voice of peace God's

love is ev - er - last - ing. To dis - tant un - known
love is ev - er - last - ing. An emp - ty tomb, the
love is ev - er - last - ing. The pro - phet's cry for

gal - ax - ies God's love is ev - er - last - ing.
ri - sen Christ God's love is ev - er - last - ing.
war to cease God's love is ev - er - last - ing. For the

Splen - dor springs forth 'cross the land God's
Weep - ing may last for the night God's
down and out and high and proud God's

love is ev - er - last - ing. A - bun - dance, shar - ing
 love is ev - er - last - ing. But joy breaks forth with
 love is ev - er - last - ing. Come all you peo - ple

hand in hand God's love is ev - er - last - ing. Your
 morn - ing light God's love is ev - er - last - ing.
 shout out loud God's love is ev - er - last - ing.

love (your love) is last - ing, your love is ev - er - last - ing. Your

love (your love) is last - ing, your love is ev - er - last - 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.

God who is gracious and merciful, teach your church to invite and welcome all. Lead us to be grateful for the blessing of community. Challenge your church to choose equity and compassion over judgment. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God who sends the wind and the sun, you know every worm and bush by name. Help us remember that even the humblest parts of creation are precious to you. Show us how best to care for the earth and its creatures. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God who is ready to relent from punishing, impart your compassionate wisdom to legislators, judges, members of the military, and law enforcement. Give them courage to serve their communities in times of uncertainty, stress, or exhaustion. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God who saves, direct your people who are tempted by evil ways. Protect your children from calamity and disaster. Strengthen all who are incarcerated. Encourage all who are in despair or pain of any kind (*especially*). Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God who is slow to anger, may we boast about the goodness of Jesus with the confidence of Paul in prison. Inspire us to find abundance in whatever vocation we are called to in the world and in service to our congregation. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God who abounds in steadfast love, we give thanks for the saints called to the kingdom of heaven (*especially*). United with them in spirit, hold us firm as we labor in this life and look to the life to come. 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 – Lead by the Praise Team

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: "All the People Said Amen" #CCLI 6518275

You are not alone if you are lonely.
When you're feeling frail, you're not the only
We are all the same in need of mercy
To be forgiven and be free
It's all you got to lean on
But thank God, it's all you need

Chorus: And all the people said Amen, Whoa, oh
And all the people said Amen
Give thanks to the Lord, for his love never ends
And all the people said Amen

If you're rich or poor well it don't matter
Weak or strong, we know love is what we're after
We're all broken but we're all in this together
God knows we stumble and fall
And he so loved the world he sent his son to save us all

Chorus

Blessed are the poor spirits who are torn apart
Blessed are the persecuted and the pure in heart
Blessed are the people lonely for another start
For this is a kingdom The kingdom of God

Chorus x 2

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: Praise Team

Greeters: Sue & Sam Samuelson

Ushers: Gary & Brenda Sjerven

Lector: Vicki Vossen

Hospitality: Sue & Dick Stebbins; Sylvia Tapelt

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week

Sunday, September 17, 2023: In Person: 9:00am 75 Online: 9