

Sunday February 16, 2025

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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Pastor Suzy VanNorman

Duluth, MN

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

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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.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER & CARE LIST: Ron & Jan Aho, Noah Elias.

COFFEE SERVERS NEEDED Please sign up so we may continue to enjoy coffee & fellowship after service. The signup sheet is on the bulletin board mounted in the Fellowship Hall next to the serving window.

LECTORS NEEDED we are looking for volunteers to read aloud the scriptures on Sunday mornings. Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex and include the weekly readings.

OFFERING ENVELOPES for 2025 are here! Please pick up your envelopes from the table in the Narthex heading into the Fellowship Hall. There are also “Direct Deposit” forms available on the table also.

YEAR END TAX GIVING STATEMENTS are available in the Narthex on the table heading into the Fellowship Hall.

JUNK BINGO – Today! From 2-4 pm. Free will donation for Bingo Cards. Bring an appetizer to share. If you have some junk (treasures) to donate, keep Junk Bingo in mind. Drop off items at the table near the piano in the Fellowship Hall.

WINTER CRAFT SESSIONS Join Our Crafting Community! We’ve will be having another Winter Green Craft Session that is open to the public and you can bring your projects home if you wish. These will be on Monday mornings from 9-11 am on February 24th, and March 24th. A \$5 fee will cover necessary supplies. We can then share ideas for future sessions...there are many on Pinterest. So join us, along with your friends, for a morning of crafting and inspiration!

SOUPER BOWL We brought in \$240 last Sunday for our local food shelves. Thank you, how blessed we are!

ECOFAITH SUMMIT 2025 will be held on April 5, 2025 – 8:30am-5:00pm In person at First Lutheran, Duluth & livestream. See poster on the bulletin board in the Narthex for more information.

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda **February 17, 2025 – February 23, 2025**

Monday	2/17	10:00 am	Council Meeting
		11:30 am	Cards
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon

Tuesday	2/18	9:00 am	Chair Yoga
Wednesday	2/19	9am-4pm	WIC
		9:00 am	Women's Bible Study
Thursday	2/20	8:00 am	ROMEOS
		9:15 am	Chair Yoga
Sunday	2/23	9:00 am	Worship in Person & live stream (no communion)
Monday	2/24	9-11 am	Crafting

OPENING HYMN: "Let Justice Flow Like Streams" #717 ELW
(Please Stand on the last Verse)



1 Let jus - tice flow like streams of spar - kling wa - ter, pure,
 2 Let righ - teous - ness roll on as oth - ers' cares we heed,
 3 So may God's plumb line, straight, de - fine our mea - sure true,



en - a - bling growth, re - fresh - ing life, a - bun - dant, cleans - ing, sure.
 an ev - er - flow - ing stream of faith trans - lat - ed in - to deed.
 and jus - tice, right, and peace per - vade this world our whole life through.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.

Amen.

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection

Merciful God,

you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and

fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.

God proclaims these words of assurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine." In † Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Living God,

in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 17:5-10

⁵ Thus says the Lord: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the Lord.

⁶ They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.

⁷ Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord.

⁸ They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.

⁹ The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse — who can understand it?

¹⁰ I the Lord test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

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

PSALM: Psalm 1

¹ Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered

in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

² Their delight is in the law of the Lord, and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.

³ They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.

⁴ It is not so with the wicked; they are like chaff which the wind blows away.

⁵ Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

⁶ For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

¹² Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; ¹⁴ and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. ¹⁵ We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. ¹⁷ If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

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

GOSPEL: Luke 6:17-26

Glory to you, O Lord

¹⁷ [Jesus] came down with [the twelve] and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. ¹⁸ They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹ And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out

from him and healed all of them.

²⁰ Then he looked up at his disciples and said: “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹ “Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. “Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

²² “Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³ Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

²⁴ “But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

²⁵ “Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. “Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶ “Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.”

The gospel of the Lord ~ Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON

SERMON HYMN:

“Blessed Assurance”

#638 ELW



1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.
an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.
watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

Refrain



This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long:



this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

APOSTLES' 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

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Blessed is your church transformed by your Spirit. Give us courage to proclaim to all people the promises made true in the death and resurrection of Christ. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Blessed is creation. As earth experiences destruction from harmful practices and climate change, give us courage to help bring about its restoration. Encourage those who work in forestry to be a voice for the hidden places of creation and provide skills for its conservation. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Blessed are the nations. We pray for presidents, prime ministers, and leaders of nations. Grant that their courage will not run dry in the face of challenge, but that they will delight in the fountain of your righteousness. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Blessed are those in need. Give to all facing illness wise and caring doctors, nurses, and therapists. Draw close to those who feel far from you or who are suffering in any way (*especially*). Provide an extra measure of your grace and love. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Blessed is this congregation. Like a tree planted by streams of water, we are nourished by faith in you. Provide courage in times that feel dry, trusting that

you sustain us in many ways. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Blessed are those saints who now rest in your peace. Through lives of both sorrow and joy, challenge and triumph, they provide witness of faith in all times. May their lives be a witness to the living. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please be seated for the passing of the offering plate.

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

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of grace,

your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always.

Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourishing God,

at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink.

Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray, Amen.

BLESSING

The Spirit of the triune God ✠ bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: “Holy, Holy, Holy” #413 ELW



1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God Al - might - y!
2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore thee,
3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though the dark - ness hide thee,
4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!
cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,
on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!



God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
which wert and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
per - fect in pow'r, in love and pu - ri - ty.
God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live in hope.

Thanks be to God.

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

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Ushers: Gary & Brenda Sjerven

Greeters: Carolyn Morris

Lector: Darlene Christensen

Hospitality: Sue & Dick Stebbins, Sylvia Tapelt

*Thank you for
your service!*

Response to God's Word Last Week

Sunday, February 9, 2025: In Person: 9:00am 50 Online: 15