

**Sunday, September 9th, 2012
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Worship Music led by Praise Team**



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

21590 State Highway 47, Isle, MN 56342

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Church Web Site: blcmalmo.org

Pastor: Rev. James Raisanen

Church Secretary: Evelyn Richter

Parish Nurses: Darlene Christensen, RN, C 320-684-2846

Patti Honnold, RN CNP 320-676-8421

Kathy Berland RN ANP 320-495-3988

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

MISSION STATEMENT

We will grow spiritually and in numbers as we serve Christ. We will reach out and address the hurts and hopes in our community. We will maintain a church home that is reverently joyous and extend a welcome to all who seek to join us in our mission.

Hearing Assistance is available during the service.

Please notify usher if you would like assistance

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INTRODUCTION

James tells us to stop showing favoritism in the assembly, treating the rich visitor with more honor than the poor one. Jesus himself seems to show partiality in his first response to the Syrophoenician woman in today's gospel. Was he testing her faith in saying Gentiles don't deserve the goods meant for God's children? Or was he speaking out of his human worldview, but transcended those limits when she took him by surprise with her reply? Either way, the story tells us that God shows no partiality. Everyone who brings her or his need to Jesus is received with equal honor as a child and heir.

CALL TO WORSHIP:

"Sanctuary"



CCLI # 24140

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONG:

"All of My Life"

CCLI # 2329853

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Pastor: Let us be honest with ourselves, our God, and with each other and confess our sins in order that we might receive the forgiveness of God and experience the joy of the community of Christ.

All: God, we sin by what we think, what we say and what we do. We continue to pull away from you even though you love us with an everlasting love. Today in worship, we recognize our failures and our weaknesses. We confess our sins, as brothers and sisters in Christ, who need your power and forgiveness.

Pastor: In the name of Jesus, the Christ, I speak his word to you: *"I belong to you as you belong to me. I am one through your life. I forgive your wrongs and with that forgiveness give you power to change your condition as you live lives which are pleasing in my sight."*

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord. Amen.

ANTHEM: "Go Light Your World"

CCLI # 1829337

FIRST READING: James 2:1-5

Faithful Christians do not show partiality to the rich and powerful of the world, especially at the expense of the poor and weak. Likewise, faith does not pay mere lip-service to God's will. Instead, a living Christian faith expresses itself in acts of compassion and mercy for those in need.

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him?

PSALM: Psalm 146

Refrain: I will praise the LORD as long as I live. (Ps. 146:2)

Hallelujah!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

I will praise the LORD as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

Put not your trust in rulers,

in mortals in whom there is no help.

When they breathe their last, they return to earth,

and in that day their thoughts perish. R

Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,

whose hope is in the LORD their God;

who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;

who keeps promises forever;

who gives justice to those who are oppressed,

and food to those who hunger.

The LORD sets the captive free.

The LORD opens the eyes of the blind;

the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;

the LORD loves the righteous. R

The LORD cares for the stranger;

the LORD sustains the orphan and widow,

but frustrates the way of the wicked.

The LORD shall reign forever,

your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah! R

GOSPEL: Mark 7:24–37

In Mark's gospel, encounters with women usually signify turning points in Jesus' ministry. Here, a conversation with a Syrophenician woman marks the beginning of his mission to the Gentiles.

From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre.

He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately

heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go — the demon has left your daughter." So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

SERMON

OFFERTORY SONG: "Beautiful News" CCLI # 4836007
Sung by Jim Christensen, Joan Niskanen and Sheila Penoyer

OFFERING & OFFERTORY PRAYER

God, giver of every good and perfect gift, we thank you for the daily blessings of life. For food and family, for friends and neighbors, for the gift of life itself we give you thanks. Bless these offerings of our treasure that they may be used wisely in your service. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As disciples of Christ Jesus called to love and serve all people, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A time for silent prayer.

Holy Spirit, you gather your church into an ever-widening community of faith. Release our tongues to proclaim your saving deeds to the world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of the universe, you made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them. We pray for the well-being of springs and deserts, forests and mountains, creatures and plants. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

O God, you give food to those who hunger and justice to those who are oppressed. Bless the rulers and rich of every nation who do not rob the poor, but generously share their bread. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of mercy and healing, you open the eyes of the blind and lift up the lowly. Sustain all who are sick, grieving, or in any need (*especially*), for you are their help and strength. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus Christ, you command us to love our neighbors as ourselves. Open our hearts to care for the stranger and welcome everyone into your assembly with honor and dignity. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be made.

We praise you, O Lord, for the witness of those who have gone before us. May we too be inheritors of the kingdom that you have promised to those who love you. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Hear our prayers, faithful God, and renew us by your Spirit, that we may joyfully love and serve you and one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER led by Praise Team

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CLOSING SONG: "When the Roll is Called Up Yonder" CCLI # 1791551

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 9TH, 2012

Music: Praise Team
Greeters: Dick Noterman & Carol Bakken
Ushers: 8:30 Jan Phillipp & Carol Bipes, 10:00 Dennis & Audrey Bistodeau
Lectors: 8:30 Myra Honl, 10:00, 10:00 Joan Niskanen
Coffee Servers: Jim & Donna Metteer, Jack & Paul Spetz

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD LAST WEEK (9/1 & 9/2/2012)

Attendance: Sat. 5:30 – 24 Sun. 8:30 – 105 10:00 – 44

Offering: \$ 4,026.70 Building Fund: \$ 765.00 Blessing Box \$ 247.13

\$ 3,846.00 – Weekly amount needed for operating expenses.

\$ 580.00 – Weekly amount (building fund) needed for mortgage payment.

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA SEPTEMBER 9TH THRU SEPTEMBER 15TH, 2012

Mon., Sept. 10 th	9:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	Women's Devotions at Pat Becker's AA & Alanon
Tues., Sept. 11 th	9:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	Quilters Bells
Wed., Sept. 12 th	8:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 5:30 p.m.	Bible Study Hardanger Bible Study Jamboree Practice
Thurs., Sept. 13 th	8:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m.	R.O.M.E.O.S. Funtimers
Fri., Sept. 14 th	7:00 p.m.	Jamboree
Sat., Sept. 15 th	7:00 p.m.	Jamboree

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JAMBOREE—The Bethesda Jamboree is set for September 14th & 15th at 7 p.m. Invite your friends and neighbors and come enjoy an evening of great music and fun!!

CONFIRMATION classes begin Wednesday, September 19th at 7:00 p.m.

There will be a **FLU CLINIC** held at Bethesda on Tuesday, October 16th from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

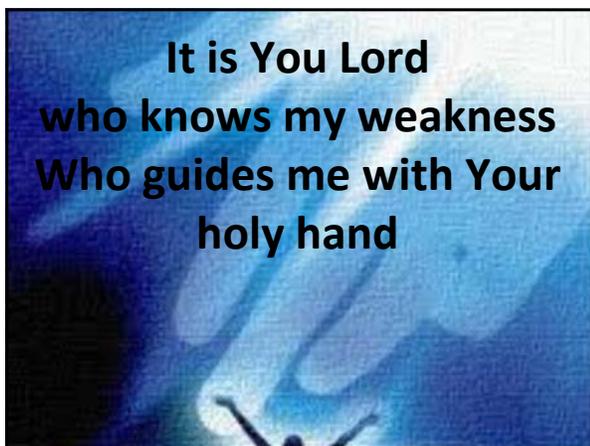
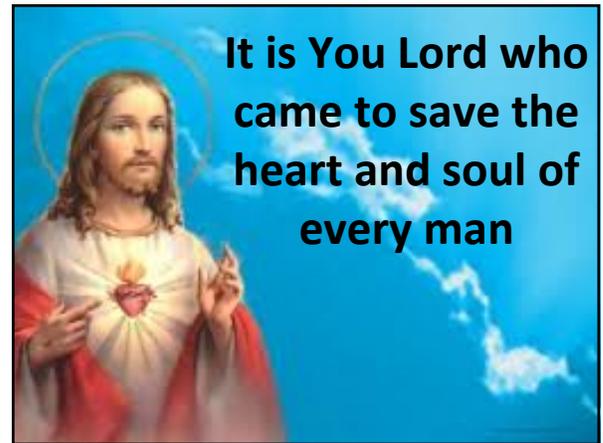
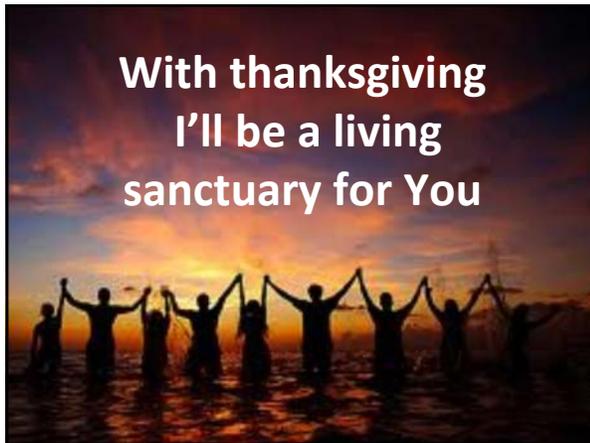
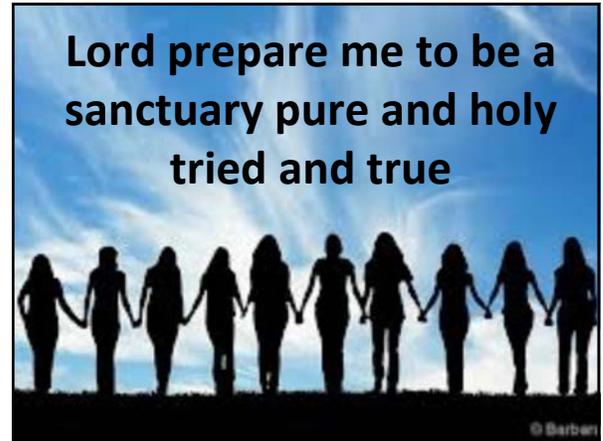
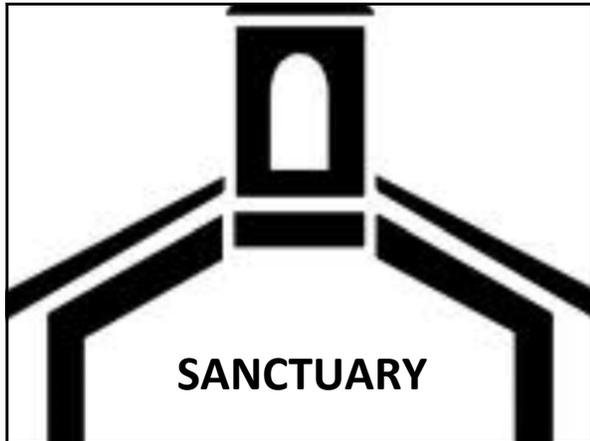
BETHESDA'S ANNUAL BAZAAR will be held on Saturday, October 27th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Check out the crafts, the cookie walk, baked goods, lunch, lefse, etc. Come join us and have a great day!

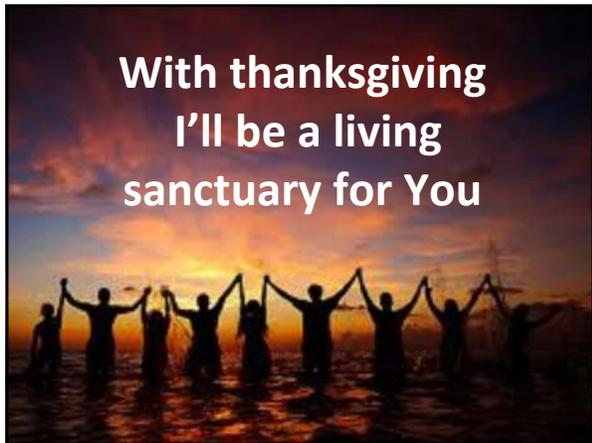
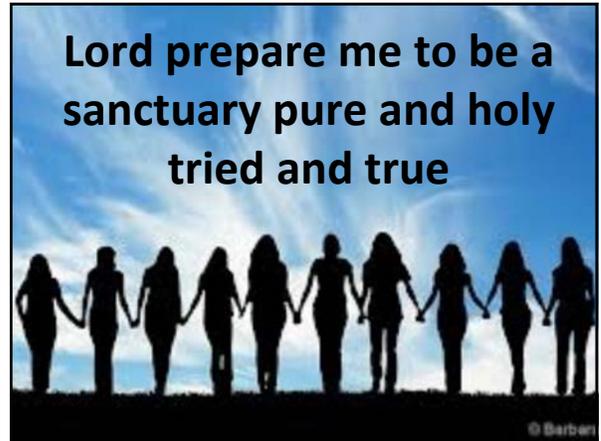
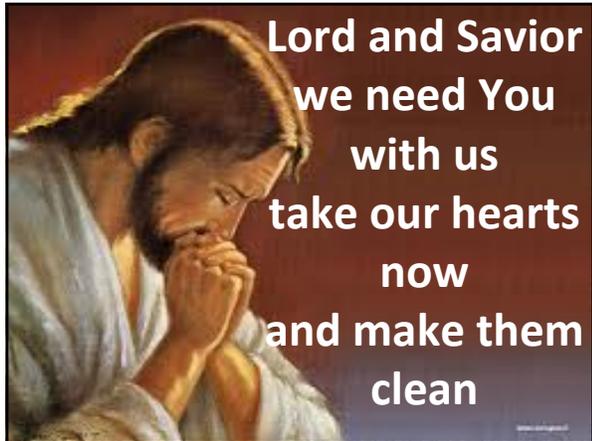
CHECK THE COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Meatball Supper Wednesday, September 26th at Zion Lutheran Church in Milaca.

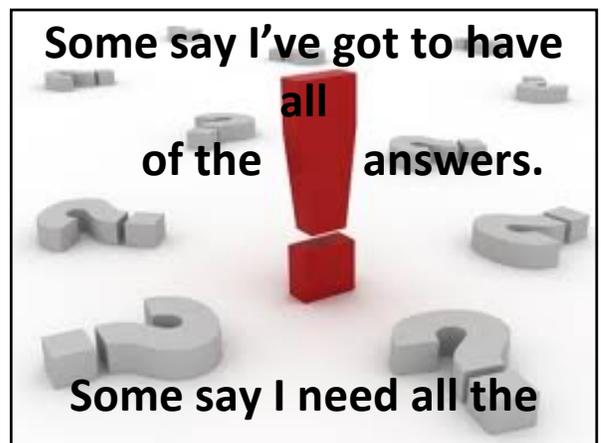
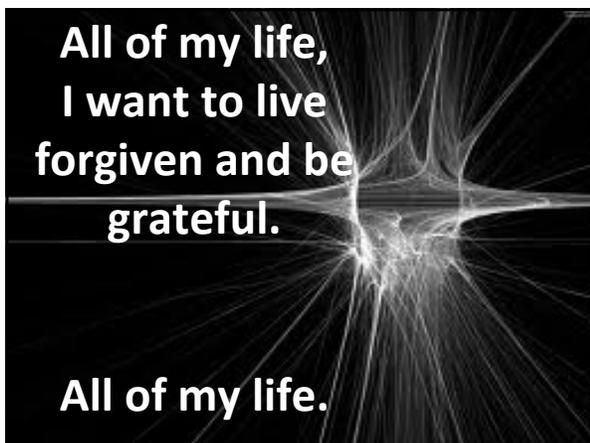
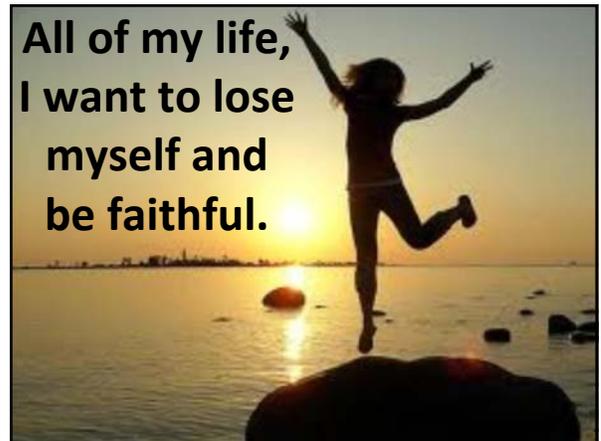
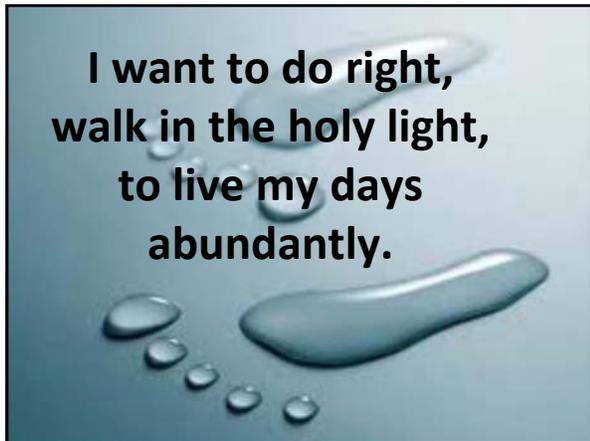
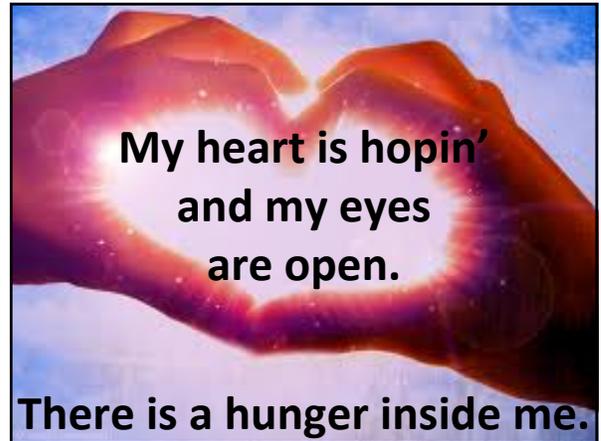
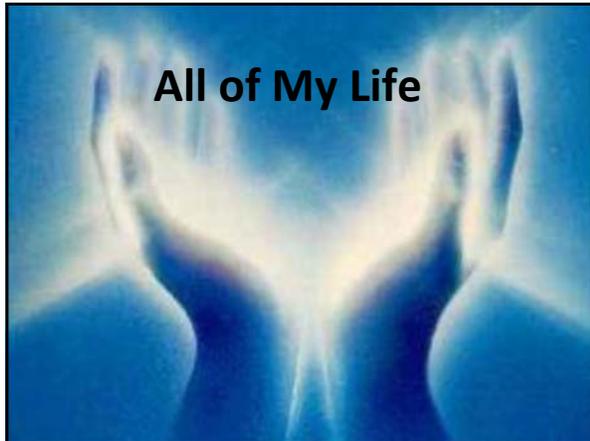
Variety Show, October 6th at Light of the Cross Church in Garrison

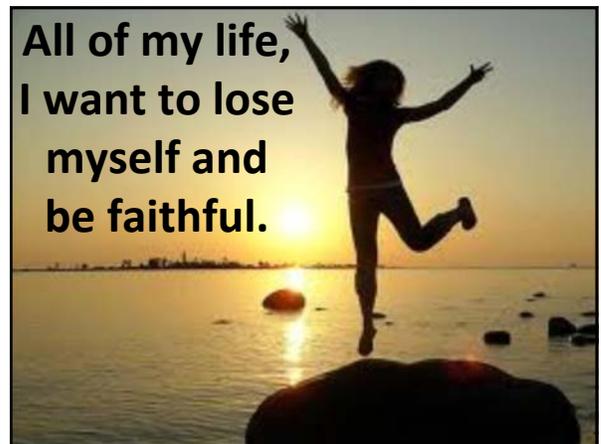
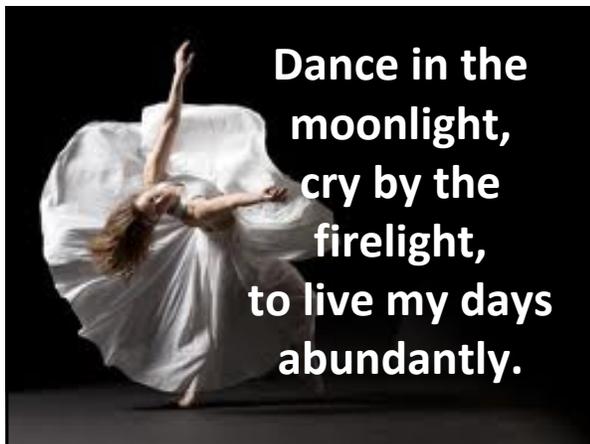
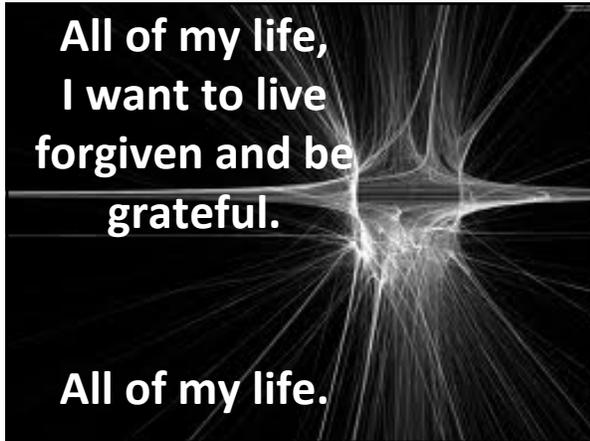
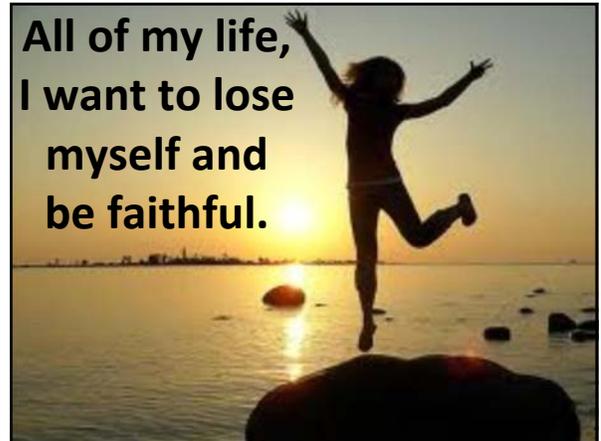
Quilt Auction and Fall Family Fest at Camp Onamia on Saturday, September 22nd.

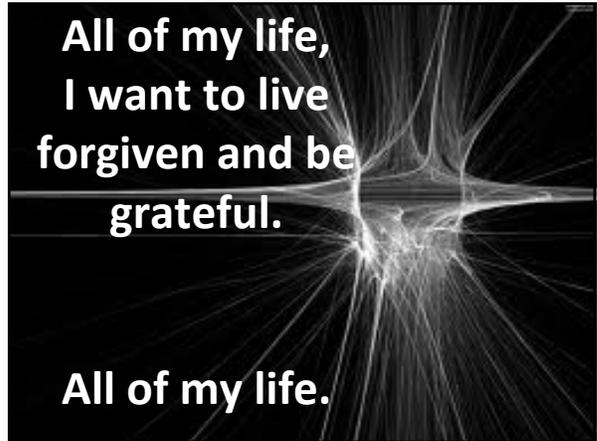
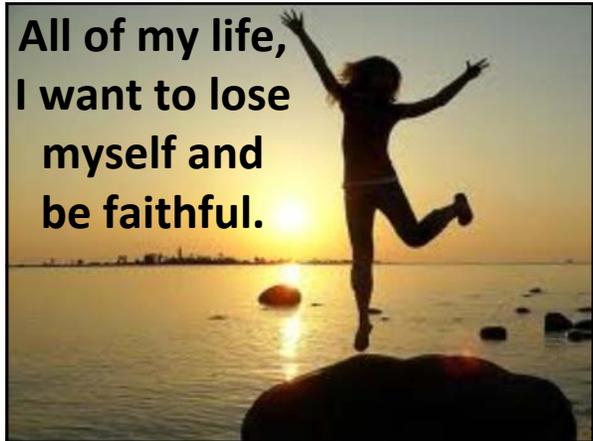
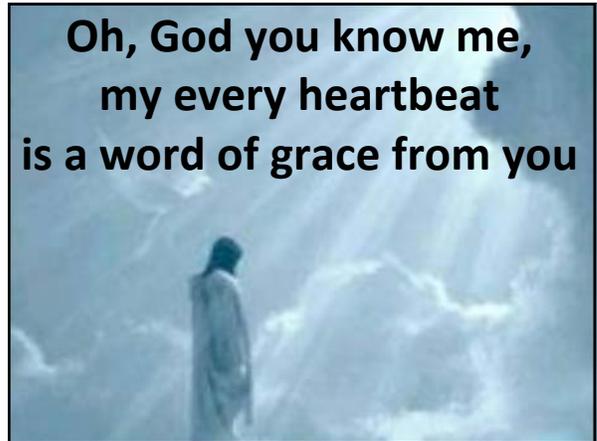
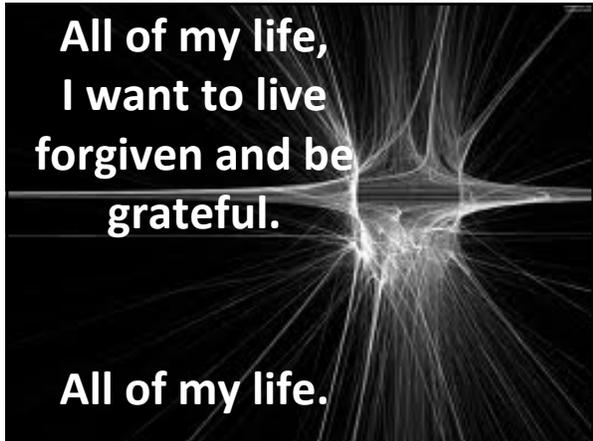




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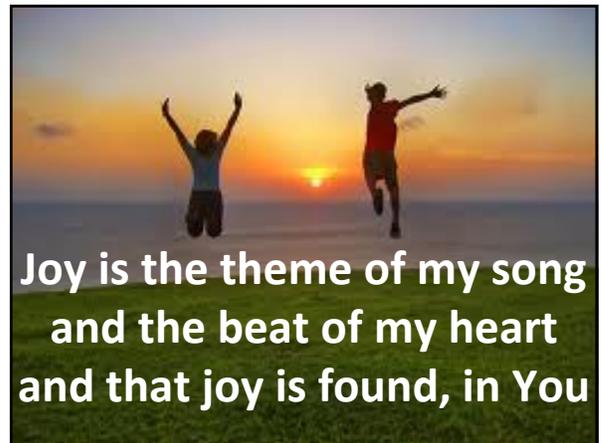




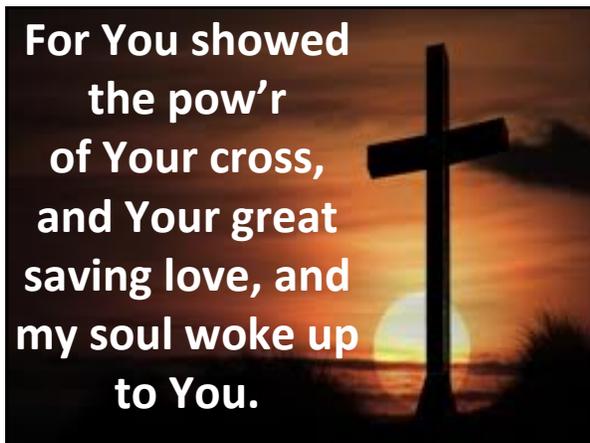
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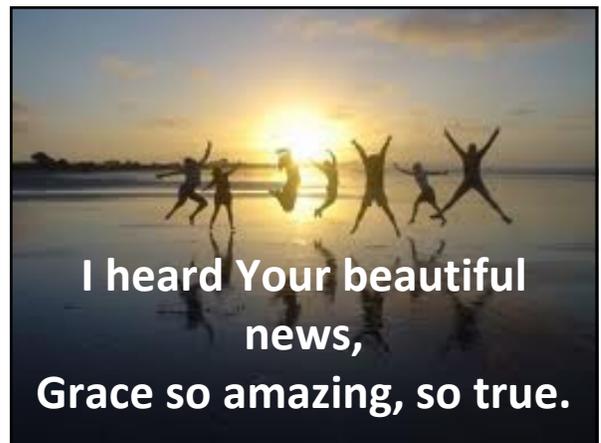
Beautiful
News



Joy is the theme of my song
and the beat of my heart
and that joy is found, in You



For You showed
the pow'r
of Your cross,
and Your great
saving love, and
my soul woke up
to You.



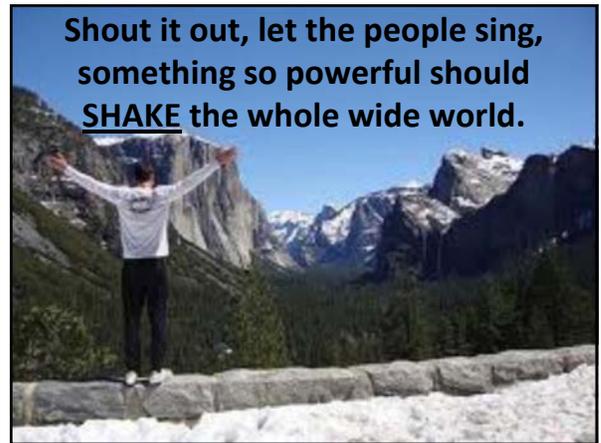
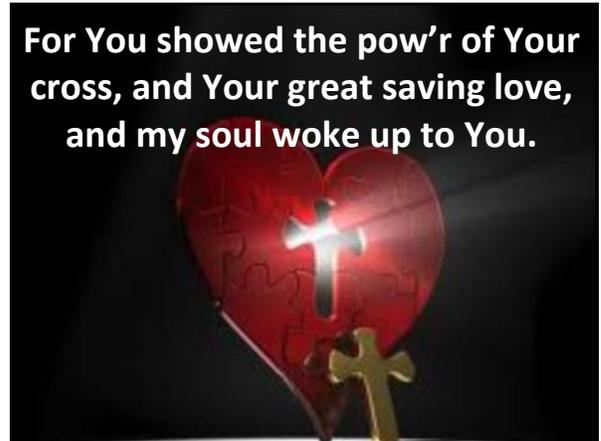
I heard Your beautiful
news,
Grace so amazing, so true.

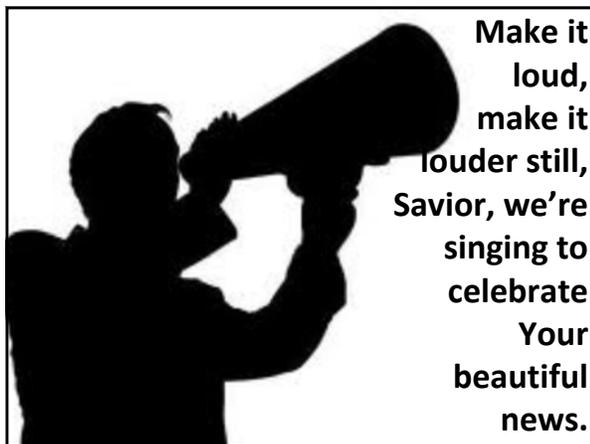
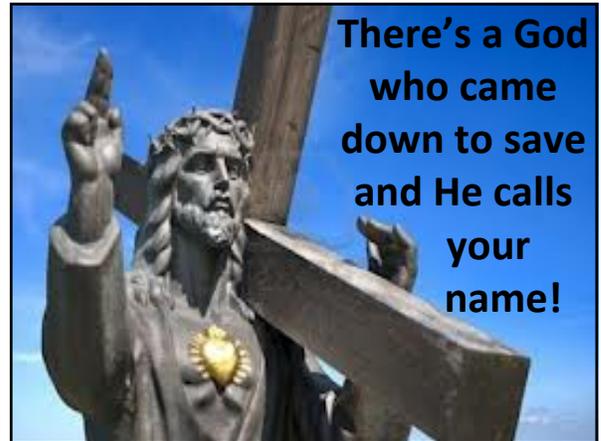


Shout it out, let the people sing,
something so powerful should
SHAKE the whole wide world.



Make it
loud,
make it
louder still,
Savior, we're
singing to
celebrate
Your
beautiful
news.





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Lord's Prayer

Dr. Ashraf Fekry



Our
Father



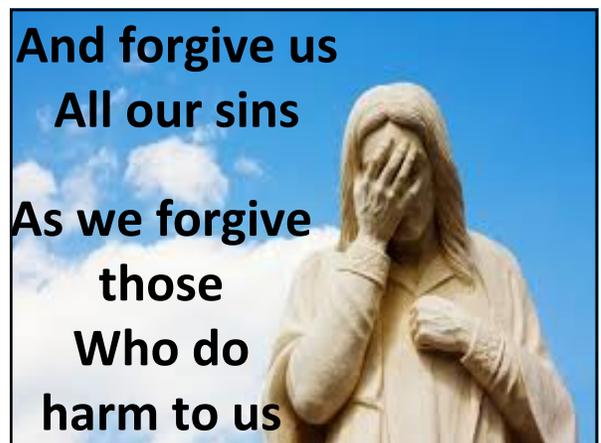
Who art in heaven
Hallowed
Be thy name
Thy kingdom come
Thy will be done
On the earth
As in heaven



Please
give to
us



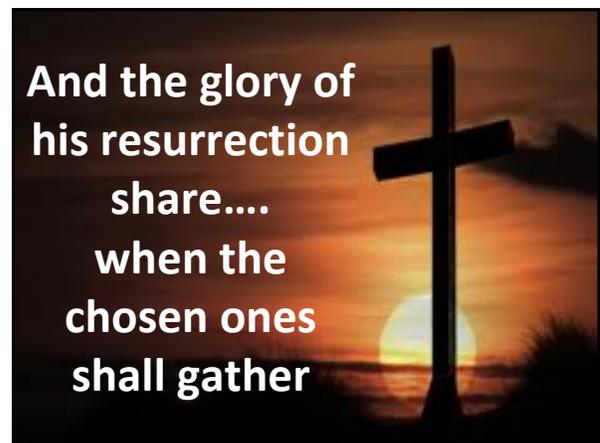
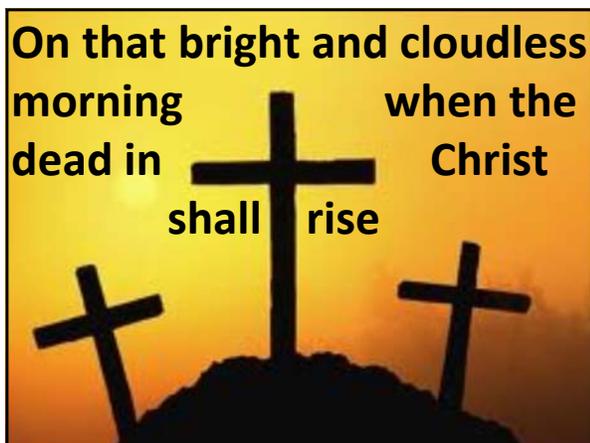
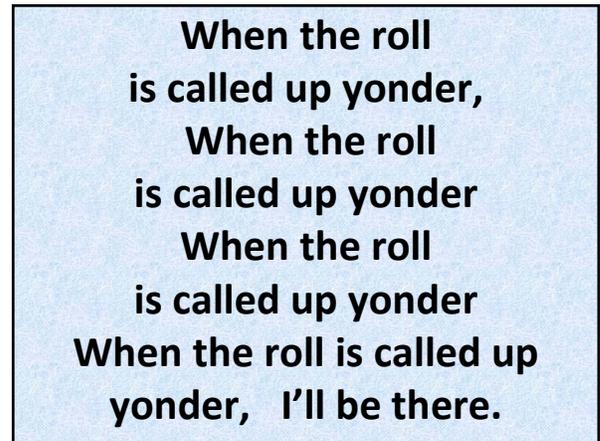
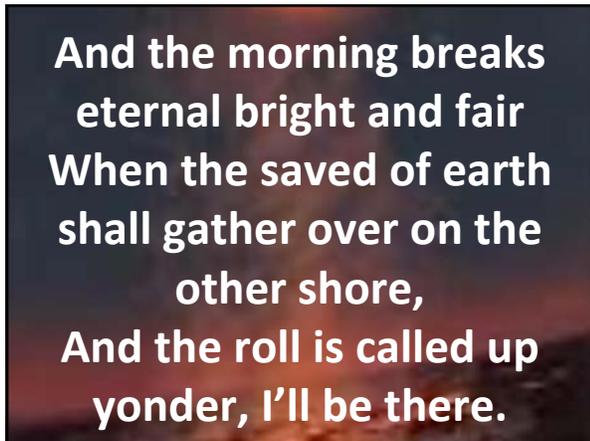
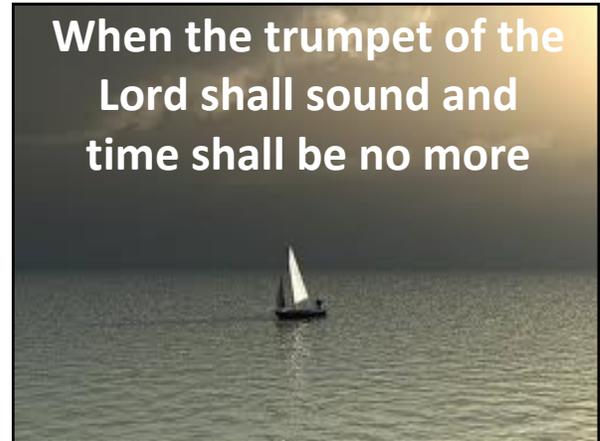
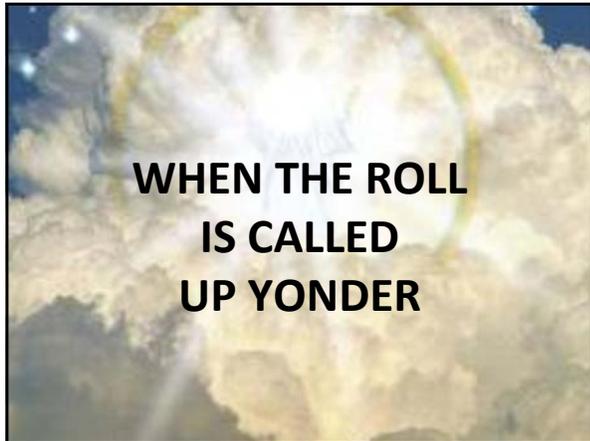
Our daily bread

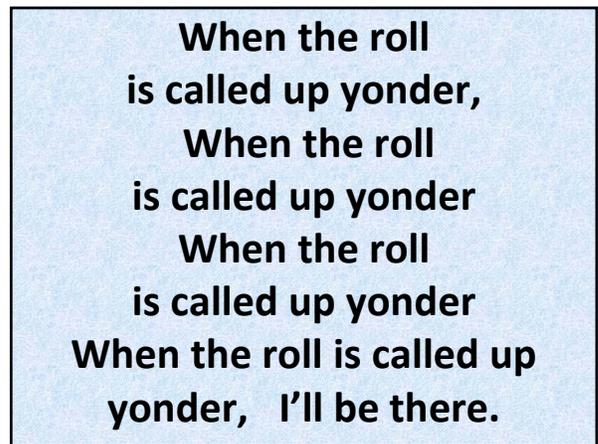
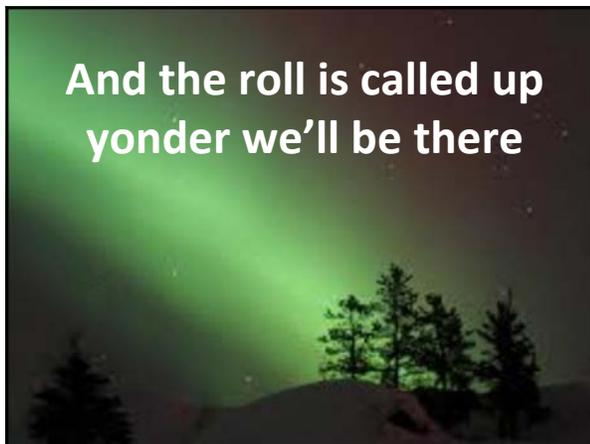
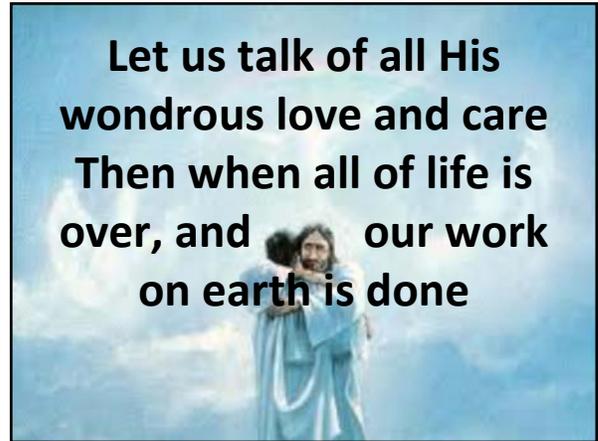
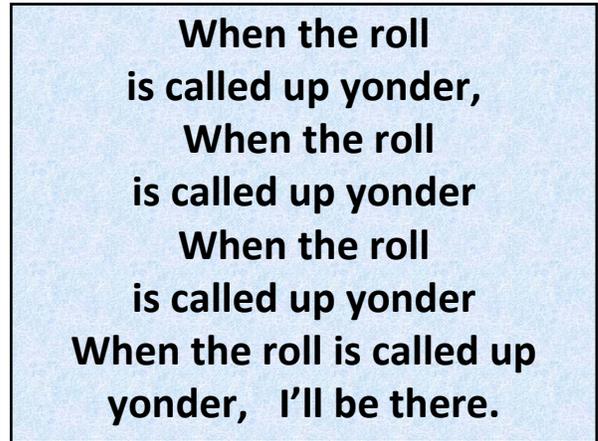
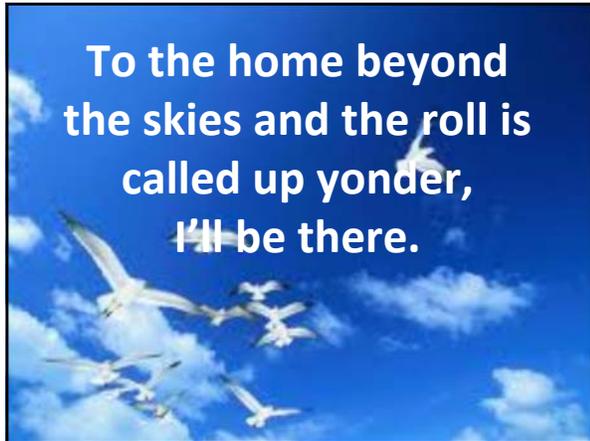


And forgive us
All our sins
As we forgive
those
Who do
harm to us



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