

**October 20th, 2013**  
**Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost**



**BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO**

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Church Web Site: [blcmalmo.org](http://blcmalmo.org)

Pastor: Rev. James Raisanen

Church Secretary: Acting Secretary Mary Kramer

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**

**Sunday, October 20, 2013**  
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**INTRODUCTION**

*Pray always. Do not lose heart. This is the encouragement of the Christ of the gospel today. Persistence in our every encounter with the divine will be blessed. Wrestle with the word. Remember your baptism again and again. Come regularly to Christ's table. Persistence in our every encounter with the divine will be blessed.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OPENING HYMN:**

**“Day by Day”**

**#790 ELW**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God: the only Sovereign, who dwells in light; Christ Jesus, who came to save sinners; the Holy Spirit, who lives within us.

**Amen.**

**LET US CONFESS OUR SIN IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD AND OF ONE ANOTHER.**

**God of overflowing grace, we come to you with repentant hearts.**

**Forgive us for shallow thankfulness. Forgive us for passing by the ones in need. Forgive us for setting our hopes on fleeting treasures. Forgive us our neglect and thoughtlessness. Bring us home from the wilderness of sin, and strengthen us to serve you in all that we do and say; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

There is joy in heaven over every sinner who repents. By the grace of God in + Christ Jesus, who gave himself up for us all, your sins are forgiven and you are made free. Rejoice with the angels and with one another! We are home in God's mercy, now and forever. **Amen.**

**GREETING**

Sisters and brothers in Christ, beloved children of God: grace, mercy, and peace be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**O Lord God, tireless guardian of your people,  
you are always ready to hear our cries.  
Teach us to rely day and night on your care.  
Inspire us to seek your enduring justice  
for all this suffering world,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## **CHOIR ANTHEM “Forever/A Mighty Fortress is our God”**

### **FIRST READING: 2 Timothy 3:14—4:5**

*Paul continues his instruction of Timothy, his younger colleague in ministry, by emphasizing the importance of faithful teaching despite opposition.*

### **Chapter 3**

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

### **Chapter 4**

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

## **Psalm 121**

**Refrain:** *My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth. (Ps. 121:2)*

I lift up my eyes to the hills from where is my help to come?

**My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.**

The LORD will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

**Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep; R**

The LORD watches over you; the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

**The sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.**

The LORD will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.

**The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in from this time forth for evermore. R**

## **GOSPEL:**

**Luke 18:1-8**

*Jesus tells a parable of a hateful judge who is worn down by a widow's pleas. Jesus is calling God's people to cry out for justice and deliverance. For if an unethical judge will ultimately grant the plea of a persistent widow, how much more will God respond to those who call.*

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my opponent.' For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.'" And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

## **HYMN:**

**"Let Us Break Bread Together"**

**#471 ELW**

## **SERMON**

## **OFFERING & OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the**

**earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen.**

### **THE PRAYERS OF INTERSESSION**

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

*A brief silence.*

God of all faithfulness, keep your people awake, always searching for situations and people that long for your mercy. Form us to be faithful in prayer and service. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

With your almighty power shape mountains, carve rivers and streams, and enrich fields to yield abundant harvests. Help us see your good works throughout creation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Be present in colleges, universities, trade schools, teaching hospitals, and seminaries. Fill institutions of higher learning with your wisdom and a thirst for knowledge. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Pour out your abundant grace on all who call upon your name (*especially*). Heal their sicknesses; comfort them in sorrow; support them in grief. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Mercifully engage those who wrestle with faith or belief in you, especially those who have been hurt by the church. Hold them fast, and draw them into your love. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Living God, remembering with gladness the saints who put their trust in you, we pray you increase our faith to live according to your ways for the sake of your people. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Into your hands, O Holy One, we entrust all for whom we pray, confident in your abundant and abiding mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

## **THE 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 into hell. 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.**

**THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION** - All are welcomed at the table of the LORD. Take hold of the life that really is life. Come; take your place at the table.

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**We come again to you, O God, giving you thanks that in this feast of mercy you have embraced us and healed us, making us one in the body of Christ. Go with us on our way. Equip us for every good work, that we may continue to give you thanks by embracing others with mercy and healing; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN:                    "We are Marching in the Light"                    #866 ELW**

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### **Experiential Idea**

Persistence in prayer is not only a matter of wrestling with God or struggling with issues. Persistence in prayers of *thanksgiving* should be part of spiritual formation for children and grandchildren guided by parents, grandparents and congregations. Invite the children to name some of the things for which they would give thanks to God in prayer. Tell them how these things can be added to their prayers of thanksgiving before eating lunch, snacks, fast food in the car, and at other times. Be reminded today that you were given the bread of life and cup of salvation at the table of the Lord. Offer a prayer of thanks.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CHURCH COUNCIL** meets today at 11:00 am.

**LEFSE MAKING** starts Monday morning October 21 8:30 am – 12:30 pm and Tuesday morning October 22 from 8:30 – 12:30 pm. Everyone welcome!

**SET UP TABLES and move chairs** for the bazaar on Thursday October 24 at 4:00 pm. (Men and women are needed.)

**CHECK SIGN UP SHEETS** in fellowship hall to volunteer for the Holiday Bazaar.

**Sam Rotman Christian Concert Pianist** Thursday October 24 at 7:00 pm at Opstead Baptist Church. Mr. Rothman received his Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from Julliard School in N. Y. C. Among his many awards is the prestigious Laureate Winner in the 4<sup>th</sup> International Beethoven Competition in Vienna, Austria. He has given over 2500 performances in 58 countries and preformed in a special Beethoven concert on PBS. In addition to his concert he will be sharing his Christian testimony. Free Will Offering.

**BRING SIX (6) DOZEN COOKIES** for the Holiday Bazaar cookie walk to church before 4:00 pm on Friday October 25<sup>th</sup>.

**BETHESDA HOLIDAY BAZAAR October 26<sup>th</sup> Saturday 9:00 am – 2:00 pm.** Workers at the bazaar are asked to wear dark pants or skirts and white shirts/tops. Vests with Christmas designs or colors look great as well.

**REMEMBER** to turn in your raffle tickets with money to Jan Phillip!

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD** – We are collecting school supplies, t-shirts, hats, personal hygiene items, small stuffed animals, dolls and toys and as well as donations for postage for the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox project. This is sponsored by Samaritan's Purse and it provides a shoebox full of gifts to needy children around the world. We will be packing the shoeboxes on Sunday, November 10th after the second service and anyone is invited to help with this. We also need shoeboxes (preferably wrapped ones). Any items can be brought to the church and placed in the large shoebox in the narthex. For more information see the flyers in the church narthex or contact Darlene Christensen.

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**THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK OF OCTOBER 20<sup>TH</sup> - OCTOBER 26<sup>TH</sup>, 2013**

Organist: Marlys Beavers

Greeters: Jerry & Carolyn Morris

Ushers: 8:30 Chuck & Elsa Carlson      10:00 Ron & Joann Haglund

Lector: 8:30 Jeanine Bruesewitz      10:00 Randy Tofteland

Coffee Servers: Mike & Barb Machioch / Lee & Barb Forrester

*Thank you for your service!*

Response to God's Word Last Week (10/13/2013)

Attendance:      8:30 - 99      10:00 - 33

**THIS WEEK AT Bethesda October 20 thru October 26, 2013**

Sunday      10/20      11:00 am Church Council

Monday      10/21      8:30 am – 12:30 pm Lefse making  
7:00 pm AA & Alanon

Tuesday      10/22      8:30 am – 12:30 pm Lefse making

Wednesday 10/23      8:30 am Bible Study      6:00 pm Choir  
9:30 am Hardanger      7:00 pm Praise Team  
11:00 am Bible Study      7:00 pm Confirmation

Thursday 10/24      8:00 pm R.O.M.E.O.S  
1:00 pm Fun Timers

Friday      10/25      10:00 pm Bone Builders

Saturday      10/26      9:00 - 2:00 pm Bethesda Holiday Bazaar