

**May 25, 2014**  
**Sixth Sunday of Easter**



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO  
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Church Web Site: [blcmalmo.org](http://blcmalmo.org)

Pastor: Rev. James Raisanen  
Church Secretary: Mary Kramer  
Parish Nurses: Darlene Christensen, RN, C 320-684-2846  
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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, May 25, 2014**  
**Sixth Sunday of Easter**  
**Memorial Weekend**

**INTRODUCTION**

*Jesus does not leave his followers orphaned. Through the Holy Spirit Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord's table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**OPENING HYMN:**            **“My Faith Looks Up To Thee”**

**#759 ELW**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the life beyond all death, the joy beyond all sorrow, our everlasting home.

**Amen.**

Rejoicing in Christ's victory over sin and death,  
let us come before God who calls us to repentance.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of life,  
**by the resurrection of your Son you make everything new.**  
**Newness scares us,**  
**and we confess to shutting our doors in fear.**  
**We have not listened to voices that challenge us.**  
**We have resisted the Holy Spirit moving us in new directions.**  
**Our hearts are slow to believe your promises.**  
**Forgive us, O God, and renew us to embrace without fear**  
**the new life you have given us in Jesus Christ.**

**Amen.**

People of God:

Christ is alive, and death has lost its power.

Through the waters of baptism you have been born anew by the living word of God.  
Know that your sins are forgiven in + Jesus' name and that the Spirit of the risen Christ is alive in you both now and forever.

**Amen.**

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**

**O God, from whom all good things come: Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to think those things which are right, and by your goodness help us to do them; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

### **FIRST READING:**

**Acts 17:22-31**

*In Athens, Paul faces the challenge of proclaiming the gospel to Greeks who know nothing of either Jewish or Christian tradition. He proclaims that the "unknown god" whom they worship is the true Lord of heaven and earth who will judge the world with justice through Jesus, whom God has raised from the dead.*

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him — though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said,

'For we too are his offspring.'

Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

**Psalm 66:8-20**

*Refrain: Bless our God, you peoples; let the sound of praise be heard. (Psalm 66:8)*

Bless our God, you peoples; let the sound of praise be heard.

**Our God has kept us among the living and has not allowed our feet to slip. R**

For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us just as silver is tried.

**You brought us into the net; you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.**

You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water,  
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

**I will enter your house with burnt offerings and will pay you my vows?**

those that I promised with my lips and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

**I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the smoke of rams;**

**I will give you oxen and goats. R**

Come and listen, all you who believe, and I will tell you what God has done for me.

**I called out to God with my mouth, and praised the Lord with my tongue.**

If I had cherished evil in my heart, the Lord would not have heard me;

**but in truth God has heard me and has attended to the sound of my prayer.**

Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, nor withheld unfailing  
love from me. R

**GOSPEL:**

**John 14:15-21**

*In final words to his disciples on the night of his arrest, Jesus encourages obedience to his commandments and speaks of the Spirit, who will be with them forever.*

If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

**SERMON HYMN:**

**"Spirit of Gentleness"**

**#396 ELW**

**SERMON:**

**"You Have a Friend"**

**OFFERTORY HYMN: “Come, Thou Almighty King”**

**#408 ELW**

**OFFERING & OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth.**

**Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Made alive in Christ and filled with his Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

*A brief silence.*

You abide with your church, O God. Empower us with your Spirit, so that your people speak and live the love revealed in Jesus. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You abide with your creation, O God. Breathe on fields and forests, lakes and oceans, and all living things so that they thrive as you intend. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You abide with the nations, O God. Reveal your truth, so that nations and peoples govern in peace and advocate for justice. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You abide with the needy, O God. Cheer the sorrowful, protect the orphan, support the grieving, and heal the sick (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You abide with the fearful, O God. Transform fear into freedom for the life Christ has promised. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We remember, O God, those who have died in the faith. Assure us of your life-giving Spirit until that day when we will abide with you forever. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers, merciful God, and dwell in us richly, through Jesus Christ, our life and our redeemer.

**Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

### **BLESSING**

God the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth and forevermore.

**Amen.**

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

**CLOSING HYMN:            “On Our Way Rejoicing”**

**#537 ELW**

## THOSE SERVING THIS SUNDAY MAY 25th

Organist: Marlys Beaver

Greeters: Sam & Susan Samuelson

Ushers: 8:30 am Les Bolke & Nancy Hansen 10:00 am Darrell Kelly

Lector: 8:30 am Pat Becker 10:00 am Carolyn Morris

Coffee Servers: Laurina & Randy Tofteland, Grace & John Iverson,  
and Keith & Dorothy Munding

## RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD LAST WEEK

Attendance: (05-18-14)

8:30 a.m. - 104

10:00 a.m. - 40

## THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA MAY 25 - MAY 31, 2014

Sun	May 25	2:00 p.m.	Memorial Service Malmo Cemetery
		3:00 p.m.	Lakeside Cemetery
Mon	May 26	7:00 p.m.	AA & Alanon
Tues	May 27	8:30 a.m.	Pastor's Text Study
Wed	May 28	8:30 a.m.	Bible Study
		9:30 a.m.	Hardanger
		11:00 a.m.	Bible Study
		6:00 p.m.	Choir Practice
		7:00 p.m.	Praise Practice
Thurs	May 29	8:00 a.m.	R.O.M.E.O.S.
		12:30 p.m.	Fun Timers
		6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir Practice
		12:30 p.m.	Fun timers
Fri	May 30	10:00 a.m.	Bone Builders
Sun	Jun 01	9:00 a.m.	Worship Service, Communion, Baptism Kevin Schulz

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES-Sunday May 25<sup>th</sup>** -The Malmo Cemetery Memorial Services will be at 2:00 pm. Services at Lakeside will be at 3:00 pm. Malmo Evangelical Free Church will be conducting the services this year with the local VFW. All are welcome.

**BELL CHOIR PRACTICE MEETS THIS THURSDAY 5/29/14 at 6:00 PM.**

**PERSONAL CARE KITS, PILLOW CASE DRESSES AND PRAYER SQUARES-**

Thank you all for your good work for the Lutheran World Relief campaign. Take time to look at the clothes and the prayer squares in the fellowship hall that have been made. Thank you to all who knitted the cross pattern on the Prayer Squares to be offered to the homeless. All of the “dark” new towels that wrap the care kits are wonderful. If you are still interested in contributing, patterns and pillow cases are there for you to take and make more. Information on the Care Kits is found in the box with the sample towel kit.

**June 8<sup>th</sup>** is the deadline for you to turn in the pillow case dresses, personal care kits and the knitted crosses. Cheri Johnson and Marilyn Andrews will bring all your donations to the NE MN Synod Women of ELCA summer convention in Duluth June 13 & 14, 2014.

**BAPTISM FOR LITTLE KEVIN THOMAS SCHULZ-** Sunday June 1, 2014

10:00 a.m. service. Parents are Ryan and Kayla Schulz. Grandparents are Mary Kramer and Steve Long. Great Grandma is Irene Long. Keep the family in your prayers.

**NEW MEMBERS** will be received on June 22, 2014. If you know of anyone who is interested in joining our fellowship, please contact the pastor.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS JUNE 22, 2014 for THE MORTGAGE BURNING CEREMONY AT BETHESDA AT 9:00 AM.** We will celebrate with one service in the Fellowship Hall. Bishop Aitken will preach and the Worship & Music Committee is planning a wonderful celebration with special music. Come to worship, to celebrate and praise the Lord for all our blessings.

