

**Sunday, July 13, 2014**  
**Fifth 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: 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**

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**Praise Team**

**INTRODUCTION**

*God's word is like the rain that waters the earth and brings forth vegetation. It is also like the sower who scatters seed indiscriminately. Our lives are like seeds sown in the earth. Even from what appears to be little, dormant, or dead, God promises a harvest. At the Lord's table we are fed with the bread of life, that we may bear fruit in the world.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP:**                    **“O Beautiful for Spacious Skies”**                    **#888 ELW**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**OPENING HYMN:**                        **“Trading My Sorrows”**                        **CCLI#2574653**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

**Amen.**

In the presence of God, who sees our hearts and our minds,  
let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God our strength,  
**we confess that we are captive to the power of sin that dwells within us.**  
**We put ourselves first and others last. What we think will make us happy**  
**leaves us longing for more. Even when we want to do what is good,**  
**we find ourselves doing the opposite. Rescue us from death's grip on our lives,**  
**and raise us up day by day, that we may be alive to God in Christ Jesus.**

**Amen.**

Sisters and brothers,  
all have fallen short of the glory of God; therefore we are justified by God's grace as a  
gift. Nothing can separate us from the love of God in + Christ Jesus,  
in whom we have forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation.

**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**

**Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**PRAISE TEAM ANTHEM:**

**“Breathe”**

**FIRST READING:**

**Romans 8:1-11**

*There is no condemnation for those who live in Christ. God sent Christ to accomplish what the law was unable to do: condemn sin and free us from its slavery. The Spirit now empowers proper actions and values in our lives and gives us the promise of resurrected life.*

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law — indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

*Refrain: Your paths overflow with plenty. (Ps. 65:11)*

You are to be praised, O God, in Zion; to you shall vows be fulfilled.

**To you, the one who answers prayer, to you all flesh shall come.**

Our sins are stronger than we are, but you blot out our transgressions.

**Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your courts to dwell there! They will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness of your temple. R**

Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of our salvation,

O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the oceans far away.

**You make firm the mountains by your power; you are girded about with might.**

You still the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, and the clamor of the peoples.

**Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your marvelous signs;**

**you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy. R**

You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous;

the river of God is full of water.

You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth.

**You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;**

**with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.**

You crown the year with your goodness, and your paths overflow with plenty.

**May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing,**

**and the hills be clothed with joy.**

May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak themselves with grain; let them shout for joy and sing. R

## GOSPEL:

**Mathew 13:1-9,18-23**

*In Matthew's gospel, both Jesus and his disciples "sow the seed" of God's word by proclaiming the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near." Now, in a memorable parable, Jesus explains why this good news produces different results in those who hear.*

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain,

some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!" Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

## **SERMON**

**OFFERING & OFFERTORY SONG: "Lord, Heal Thy World Today"**

### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord.**

**Amen.**

### **THE PRAYERS OF INTERSESSION**

Strengthened by the Spirit who gives us words to speak and hearts that care, let us bring our hopes and needs to God who listens.

*A brief silence.*

Merciful God, you give your word to guide, correct, teach, and inspire. Draw us into your story, and give us wisdom, understanding, and obedient hearts as we follow your Son Jesus. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

The amazing cycle of birth, growth, and death sustains your creation. Bring forth an abundant harvest, keep farmers safe, and teach us to cherish life in all its forms and stages. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

In places of war, bring peace, and in places of hatred, sow love. Help world leaders set aside their prejudices, put down their weapons, and work together for the good of all

people. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We live in a land of plenty, and still there are those without enough to eat. Give us generous hearts to those who are hungry. Bless the hands of those who work so that others might eat. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Raise up leaders for your church who will tend to your harvest. We lift up seminaries and church colleges, bishops and synod staffs, Lutheran World Relief and the Lutheran World Federation, as they live out their callings to serve. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Bless the memory of those who now worship at your eternal throne (*especially*) and bless those who worship in hopeful expectation of your eternal kingdom. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, God of mercy, confident that all things are in your hands. In Jesus' name we pray.  
**Amen.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

### **BLESSING**

The God of all grace,  
who has called you to eternal glory in Christ,  
restore, support, strengthen, and + bless you  
by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is your light.  
**Thanks be to God!**

**CLOSING HYMN:**

**“Swing Low Sweet Chariot”**

**CCLI# 21611918**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**LET US WELCOME** little Vada Marlie Sorby and keep her family in our prayers.

**COME CELEBRATE** Pat and Jerry Becker Sunday morning at coffee fellowship between services. They are commemorating 50 years of marriage. Congratulations!

**THANK YOU** to Sandy Pullen for leading services this morning while Pastor is on Bereavement Leave.

**CHURCH COUNCIL** meets this week Tuesday, July 15 10 at 5:30 pm.

**WELCA** invites **ALL** women to listen to, Inez Streasick, “a former migrant worker” speak on July 16, 9:30 am at church. You will learn much about the history of people who work in the fields to feed the nation and how God’s love supported her.

**We are in need of coffee servers** for July 27, 2014 and the entire month of August. If you can provide coffee and goodies any of those Sundays, please sign up on the board next to the kitchen serving window. People so enjoy the coffee fellowship. Won’t you please help support this activity?!

Please complete your **SPIRITUAL GIFTS I’D LIKE TO SHARE AT BETHESDA** survey. Return your completed form in the basket in the entry. We welcome all ideas and new ways to serve our Bethesda Community.

The **Beef and Corn Feed** will be July 26, 4:30- 6:30 pm. Check out the signup sheets in the entry. Many hands are needed and when all come; the work is light and fun! Bring your neighbors and friends and enjoy delicious food.

**NEWSLINE ARTICLES and ACTIVITY DATES ARE DUE JULY 20<sup>TH</sup>!**

**THE VEGGIE STAND** needs your baked goods, volunteer help, and come and shop on Saturday morning. All funds raised remain in the local community to support people who could benefit from emergency financial support and knowing there is a God that loves them and cares for them.

**Our Mower Schedule needs some volunteers. Would you help?**

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## THOSE SERVING THIS SUNDAY JULY 13 , 2014

Music: Praise Team

Greeters: John & Grace Iverson

Ushers: 8:30 am Roy & Char Berg 10:00 am Ron & Joann Haglund

Lector: 8:30 am Kathy Berland 10:00 am Laury Nyberg

Coffee Servers: Jerry & Pat Becker and Judy Seifert

*Thank you for your service!*

### Response to God's Word

Income total June 2014 General Fund- 18,933 Building Fund- 3,187

Attendance: Saturday July 5<sup>th</sup> 5:00 pm-118, Sunday July 6<sup>th</sup> 8:30 am - 39,10:00 am - 65

### THIS WEEK AT Bethesda July 13 thru July19, 2014

Monday	07/14	9:00 am Women's Devotions 9:00 am Golf 7:00 pm AA & Alanon
Tuesday	07/15	8:00 am Pastor's Text Study, Onamia 9:00 am Crafter's 5:30 pm Church Council
Wednesday	07/16	8:00-Noon WIC 8:30 am Bible Study 9:30 am Hardanger 11:00 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Praise Team
Thursday	07/17	8:00 pm R.O.M.E.O.S 12:30 pm Fun Timers
Friday	07/18	10:00 am Bone Builders
Saturday	07/19	5:00 pm Saturday Night Service Baptism of Samantha Rassier