

# Sunday, August 24, 2014

## Eleventh Day after Pentecost



### **BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO**

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

Pastor: Rev. James Raisanen

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

Patti Honnold, RN CNP 320-676-8421

Kathy Berland RN ANP 320-495-3988

Prayer Chain Contacts Char Berg 320-684-2102 or Judy Forester 218-676-2667

Church Secretary: Mary Kramer

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**

*In Isaiah the people are bid to look to their spiritual ancestors as the rock from which they were hewn. Jesus declares that the church will be built on the rock of Peter's bold confession of faith. God's word of reconciliation and mercy are keys to the church's mission. Paul urges us to not be conformed to this world, but to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, using our individual gifts to build up the body of Christ. From the table we go forth to offer our spiritual worship through word and deed.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**OPENING HYMN:**                    **“All Hail the Power of Jesus Name”**                    **#634 ELW**

**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

**God of all creation, you reach out to call people of all nations to your kingdom. As you gather disciples from near and far, count us also among those who boldly confess your Son Jesus Christ as Lord. Amen.**

**Bell Choir: “Siyahamba”-I’m Gonna Sing**

## FIRST READING:

**Romans 12:1-8**

*In response to God's merciful activity, we are to worship by living holistic, God-pleasing lives. Our values and viewpoints are not molded by this age, but are transformed by the Spirit's renewing work. God's grace empowers different forms of service among Christians, but all forms of ministry function to build up the body of Christ.*

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God — what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

## PSALM

**Psalms 138**

***Refrain: O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever. (Ps. 138:8)***

I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole heart;  
before the gods I will sing your praise.

**I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name,  
because of your steadfast love and faithfulness;**

**for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.**

When I called, you answered me; you increased my<sup>l</sup> strength within me.

**All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O LORD,**

**when they have heard the words of your mouth. R**

They will sing of the ways of the LORD that great is the glory of the LORD.  
**The LORD is high, yet cares for the lowly, perceiving the haughty from afar.**  
Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe;  
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;  
your right hand shall save me.  
**You will make good your purpose for me;**  
**O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever;**  
**do not abandon the works of your hands.**

**R: O Lord your steadfast love endures forever.**

**GOSPEL:**

**Matthew 16:13-20**

*At a climactic point in Jesus' ministry, God reveals to Peter that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," and Jesus responds with the promise of a church that will overcome the very gates of Hades.*

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

**SERMON HYMN: "Children of the Heavenly Father" # 781 ELW**

**SERMON: "The Question That Will Change Your Life"**

**OFFERING &  
OFFERTORY SONG: "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less" #801 ELW**

## **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**

Filled by the Spirit, let us join the whole people of God in Christ Jesus in praying for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

*A brief silence.*

Lord of the church, remind us that though we are many, we are one body in Christ. Teach us to use our grace-given gifts with generosity, compassion, and humility. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Your Spirit blows over all the wild places of this earth, reminding us who is in control. Preserve the wilderness areas and coastlands, and help us minimize our impact upon the land. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Transform all nations by renewing the minds of their people. Provide adequate educational facilities and well-trained teachers for students of every age so that they learn, grow, and fulfill your purpose for their lives. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Stretch out your hand to preserve us from trouble and deliver us from poverty. We pray for peace and reconciliation among all people. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Give a discerning spirit to our congregation as we prepare for outreach ministries, programming for families and youth, and meaningful worship. Assign each member a measure of faith to make your vision a reality. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We give you heartfelt thanks for the diligent leadership and faithful service of those who have died and now rest in you (*especially the apostle Bartholomew*). Continue to build your church upon that strong and enduring foundation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your loving hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abundant mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
**Amen.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

### **BLESSING**

May God the sower make you good and fertile soil.  
May Christ the seed bloom and grow in your words and actions.  
May the fruitful Spirit bring forth a bountiful yield in your lives.  
God the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit  
bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

### **DISMISSAL**

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

**CLOSING HYMN:**                    **“God Be With You Till We Meet Again”**       **#536 ELW**

### **THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK**

Saturday Pianist:       Marilyn Samuelson

Organist:       Marlys Beavers

Greeters:       Warren & Gail Rolek

Ushers:       8:30 am Nancy Hansen & Bev Ferdelman

10:00 am Dennis & Audrey Bistodeau

Lectors:       8:30 am Barb Bray

10:00 am Judy Seifert

Coffee Servers: Gail & Warren Rolek, Alene Lowe & Mark Korngable

*Thank you for your service!*

## **Response to God's Word Last Week**

Attendance: Saturday Eve – 23, Sunday August 17, 2014 8:30 am – 76, 10:00 am - 33

### **THIS WEEK AT Bethesda August 25 thru August 30, 2014**

Monday	08/25	9:00 am Golf 7:00 pm AA & Alanon
Tuesday	08/26	8:00 am Pastor's Text Study, Onamia 9:00 am Quilter's
Wednesday	08/27	8:30 am Bible Study 9:30 am Hardanger 9:30 am Stewardship Meeting 11:00 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Praise Team
Thursday	08/28	8:00 pm R.O.M.E.O.S 12:30 pm Fun Timers 6:00 pm Bell Choir Practice
Friday	08/29	10:00 am Bone Builders
Saturday	08/30	8:00 am Veggie Stand  5:00 pm Saturday Night Service

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**REMEMBER TO SUPPORT OUR VEGGIE STAND! THIS SATURDAY IS THE LAST DAY THE VEGGIE STAND WILL BE OPEN!**

**LIVING PROOF LIVE SIMULCAST. SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>**  
8:15 -3:30 OPSTEAD BAPTIST CHURCH - FREE. TO RESERVE SEATS OR IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS CONTACT JEN HOMAN 763-442-6060. LUNCH IS INCLUDED.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS, SAVE THE DATES!** The Malmo Jamboree is coming September 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. There is still time to join the cast. Talk with Val Benton (218) 879-9364.

**ANNOUNCEMENT-** OUR CONGREGATION HAS AN OPPORTUNITY TO PRE-BUY FUEL FOR THE LONG WINTERS AHEAD AT \$1.69 PER GALLON. IF YOU CAN HELP WITH THIS FUND PLEASE MAKE A CHECK TO THE CHURCH AND MARK IT "FUEL FUND". THANKS FOR YOUR HELP IN THESE MATTERS.

**OUR ANNUAL MEETING** WILL BE HELD SEPTEMBER 28<sup>TH</sup>. WE BEGIN WITH ONE SERVICE AT 9:00 am WITH THE ANNUAL MEETING STARTING AT 10:00 AM. There will be no coffee fellowship that day.

MY ERROR- **THE QUILTER'S SQUARE** SHOULD HAVE READ 4 ½ , 5 ½ , 6 ½ , ETC. – NOT THE ¼ . SORRY! AND THANKS AGAIN FOR HELPING. DOROTHY MUNDINGER