

**August 31st, 2014  
Twelfth 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**

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

**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**



## **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**

**O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

**NEW MEMBER INSTALLATION: Richard and Margaret Holmberg**

## **FIRST READING:**

**Romans 12:9-21**

*Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflinching standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.*

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

## **Psalm 26:1-8**

*Refrain: Your love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you. (Ps. 26:3)*

Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived with integrity;

I have trusted in the LORD and have not faltered.

**Test me, O LORD, and try me; examine my heart and my mind.**

For your steadfast love is before my eyes;

I have walked faithfully with you.

**I have not sat with the worthless,  
nor do I consort with the deceitful. R**

I have hated the company of evildoers;

I will not sit down with the wicked.

**I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD,  
that I may go in procession round your altar,**

singing aloud a song of thanksgiving

and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

**LORD, I love the house in which you dwell  
and the place where your glory abides. R**

## **GOSPEL:**

## **MATTHEW 16:21-28**

*After Peter confesses that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a "rock."*

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?"

For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

**HYMN:** "Borning Cry" #731 ELW

**SERMON:**

**OFFERTORY HYMN:** "Blessing, Honor and Glory" #854 ELW

### **OFFERING & OFFERTORY PRAYER**

God of mercy and grace,

**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.**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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.*

O Lord, you know and see all that your baptized accomplish across the church universal. Prove us and try us; test our hearts and minds as we walk in faithfulness with you. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

As the summer breezes wane, and forests and foliage begin their colorful journey into fall, make us ever mindful of these earthly blessings and renew our zeal to care for your creation. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Teach us to live peaceably with all nations, our enemies, and those who seek to do us harm. Bring light into the dark corners of the world and give courage to organizations that seek to overcome evil with good. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

When our pain is unceasing, give us patience in suffering. When our wounds refuse to be healed, remember us with your mercy. When hope seems lost, remind us that you are with us always. (*Especially we remember. . .*) Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

As we rally our congregation's time, talents, and resources, remove the stumbling blocks that hinder our desire to put you first. Give us the courage to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow you. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We remember with gratitude those who have recently died (*especially*). Through the lives of your saints, show us how to hold fast to what is good. 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.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

## **BLESSING**

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

**Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **CLOSING HYMN:**

**“Earth and all Stars”**

**#731 ELW**

## THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK OF August 31-September 6, 2014

**Organist:** Marlys Beavers

**Greeters:** Gerald and Carolyn Morris

**Ushers:** 8:30 am Nancy Hansen and Shirley Moe  
10:00 am Marilyn Andrews

**Lectors:** 8:30 am Dawn Kellen 10:00 am Marylyn Hass

**Coffee Servers:** Paula and Jack Spetz

## RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD LAST WEEK

Response to God's Word Last Week

(08/23/2014) Attendance: 5:00 pm - 19

(08/24/2014) Attendance: 8:30 am - 83 and 10:00 am - 30

## THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA Sept 01 – Sept 7 , 2014

**Mon Sept 01 7:00 p.m. AA & Alanon**

**Tues Sept 02 8:00-10:30 Pastor's Text Study**  
9:00 a.m. Crafters

**Wed Sept 03 8:30 a.m. Bible Study**  
9:30 a.m. Hardanger  
11:00 a.m. Bible Study  
6:00 p.m. Choir  
7:00 p.m. Praise Choir

**Thurs Sept 04 8:00 a.m. R.O.M.E.O.S.**  
10:30 a.m. Worship and Music  
12:30 p.m. Funtimers  
6:00 p.m. Bell Practice

**Fri Sept 05 10:00 a.m. Bone Builders**

**Sun July 06 8:30 a.m. Worship Service with Communion**  
10:00 a.m. Worship Service with Communion

**Thank you!** We thank Marilyn Samuelson for selecting the music and playing the piano for the Saturday night services. We thank Margaret Holmberg for her solo on Saturday!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Welcome to Richard and Margaret Holmberg. We are so happy you have joined!**

**Time and Talents:** If you have not already done so, please complete your “Spiritual Gifts to Share” forms and place in basket in the Narthex. Thank you.

**Old Fashioned Chicken Dinner** at Light of the Cross church, 27170 Monroe Street, Garrison. Saturday, September 6, 2014 from 4:00 – 6:00 pm. Oven fried chicken, real mashed potatoes, homemade gravy, old favorite cole slaw, corn, home canned pickles. Bread & Butter, Homemade Pie. Adults \$8.00 5-12 years \$4.00 with 4 and under FREE.

**Knowledge Bites** Retirement-Rust or Renewal. Presenter: Mike Koechler, Dir. RSVP At Light of the Cross church. Tuesday, September 9, 2014 at 2:00 pm. FREE. Treats and beverages provided.

**Living Proof Live Simulcast** Experience Beth Moore’s Dynamic Event. FREE. Opstead Baptist Church. Saturday September 13, 2014 at 8:15- 3:30pm. To reserve your seat contact Jen Homan 763-442-6060.

**Jamboree** September 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm. “Movie Themes” All are welcome.

**Grief Support Group** 6 week series Fall 2014. Meet September 18 and 25 and October 2, 9,16,23 4:30-6 pm. The group meets THURSDAY’S at Riverwood Health Care Center, 200 Bunker Hill Drive, Aitkin, Support Services Wing Conference Room E. Contact Val Thompson 218-927-5524 Riverwood Healthcare Center Social Worker.

**Meatball Supper** Silent Auction, Bake Sale, and Drawings Wednesday, September 24, 2014 5:00 – 8:00 pm by Zion Lutheran Men and Women ELCA Zion Lutheran Church, 245 Central Avenue South, Milaca, MN Menu: meatballs, mashed potatoes & gravy, garden vegetables, scalloped corn, coleslaw, bread & butter, homemade pie and beverages. Adults \$9.00 kids (under 10) \$4.00.

**Annual Meeting** September 28, 2014. This meets right after our 9:00 am Worship Service. Come and learn about this year’s activities and finances at Bethesda. It is time to volunteer to be part of the church council, be a delegate or find nominations for others to serve. We have a presentation from the Strategic Planning committee. It is important that you come and participate.