

**Sunday, September 14, 2014**  
**Fourteenth Sunday 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

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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**

**Sunday, September 14, 2014**  
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**Praise Team**

**INTRODUCTION**

*In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world*

**CALL TO WORSHIP:       “Rock My Soul in the Bosom of Abraham”**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**OPENING HYMN:       “Joshua Fought the Battle of Jericho” CCLI# 3482524**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the Sovereign over all the earth, the Wisdom from on high, our merciful Judge and Savior.

**Amen.**

Let us boldly approach the throne of grace, trusting in God's mercy and love.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Generous and faithful God,  
**we confess to you all the ways, known and unknown, that we reject and undermine your steadfast love. Though you made us your people, we treat strangers with suspicion. Though you forgave our debts, we collect without mercy.**

**Yet we are quick to pass judgment on others.**

**Have mercy on us, O God,  
and remember your promise to us, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

**Amen.**

The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.  
Through the living Word, + Jesus Christ, God forgives your every debt, your every sin,  
and gives you a new heart and a new spirit.

**Amen.**



*Refrain: Lord you are full of compassion and mercy. (Ps 103:8)*

Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

**Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and forget not all God's benefits—**

who forgives all your sins  
and heals all your diseases;

**who redeems your life from the grave  
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy; R**

who satisfies your desires with good things  
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

**O LORD, you provide vindication  
and justice for all who are oppressed.**

You made known your ways to Moses  
and your works to the children of Israel.

**LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love; R**

you will not always accuse us,  
nor will you keep your anger forever.

**You have not dealt with us according to our sins,  
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.**

For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

**As far as the east is from the west,  
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.**

As a father has compassion for his children,  
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD. R

**GOSPEL:**

**Matthew 18:21-35**

*When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.*

Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

**SERMON:**

**“How to Forgive”**

**OFFERING & OFFERTORY SONG: “Swing Low, Sweet Chariot” CCLI #2375412**

**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**

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.*

Speak kindly to your whole church, O God. Give us tongues that speak words of welcome and acceptance. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Shower us with your gifts, O God. Give us hands that share the wealth of your creation and that tend to its keeping. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Silence our quarreling, O God. Hold us accountable to one another as brothers and sisters and make us eager to reconcile and quick to forgive. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Satisfy us with good things, O God. Give healing to those who suffer in mind, body, and soul, give respite to those who care for them, and hope for all those who worry (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Make your ways known to us, O God. Hold us upright as we work for justice in our neighborhoods, communities, our nation, and the world. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

You, O God, are the Lord of the dead and the living. Hold us, together with all the saints, in your redeeming and steadfast love today and all days. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Trusting in your mercy and goodness, we bring before you these prayers and whatever else you see that we need, in the name of the one who sets us free, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

### **BLESSING**

The blessing of almighty God, the Father of glory, + Jesus Christ our peace, and the Spirit of truth, be upon you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is your light.

**Thanks be to God!**

**CLOSING HYMN:**

**“Days of Elijah”**

**CCLI #1537904**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Mark Your Calendars, Save the Dates!** The **Malmo Jamboree** is here **Friday September 19<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.** Tickets are \$5.00 and children are Free. All are welcomed. Bring your friends, invite the neighbors!

**Grief Support Group** 6 week series Fall 2014. Meets September 18 and 25 and October 2, 9, 16, and 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.

**Fish Fry** Malmo Free Church will be having a Fish fry on September 21<sup>st</sup> 4:00 pm to 6:30 pm. This is a fund raiser for young families going on a mission trip. The dinner is a free will offering. There will be a concert following the dinner at 7:00 pm.

**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.

**Country Music & Gospel Music Concert** Faith Lutheran Church in Isle, Saturday, September 27, 2014 7:00 pm. Tickets \$8.00. See Poster in fellowship hall for details.

**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.

**It's a Matter of Balance:** Managing Concerns about Falling is conducted in 8 two-hour sessions and uses group discussion, problem-solving strategies, videos and gentle physical exercise. Classes begin at Bethesda October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014 9:30 am to 11:30 am. Call 218-927-1383 or toll free 1-877-810-7776 for more information.

**Holiday Bazaar is Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014 9:00 am to 2 pm. Save the Date!!!**

**The Choir Needs You!** Check it out on Wednesday night 6:00 -7:00 pm. Soon practice will begin for the Christmas Cantata.

## THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Sunday Music: Praise Team

Greeters: Judy Seifert and Dianne Sandberg

Ushers: 8:30 am Cheri & Bill Johnson  
10:00 am Dick & Sue Stebbins

Lector: 8:30 am Val Benton

Coffee Servers: Dianne & Del Jones and Carolyn & Jerry Morris

*Thank you for your service!*

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup> 8:30 am – 95, 10:00 am - 33

### THIS WEEK AT Bethesda September 15 thru September 20, 2014

Monday	09/15	7:00 pm AA & Alanon
Tuesday	09/16	8:00 am Pastor's Text Study, Onamia 9:00 am Crafter's 5:30 pm Church Council
Wednesday	09/17	8:00 am - Noon WIC 8:30 am Bible Study 9:30 am Hardanger 9:30 am NO WELCA this month 11:00 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Praise Team
Thursday	09/18	8:00 pm R.O.M.E.O.S 12:30 pm Fun Timers 6:00 pm Bell Choir Practice
Friday	09/19	10:00 am Bone Builders 7:00 pm <b>Jamboree</b>
Saturday	09/20	7:00 pm <b>Jamboree- Newsline Articles Due!</b>