

**Sunday, October 5, 2014**  
**Seventeenth 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, 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**

**Sunday, October 5, 2014**  
**Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**INTRODUCTION**

*In today's gospel reading, Jesus tells a parable of the vineyard, an image of Israel, the prophets' mission, and Christ's death. For Christians, the vineyard also speaks of God's love poured out in the blood of Christ, given to us for the forgiveness of sin. Grafted onto Christ the vine at baptism, we are nourished with wine and bread, that we may share Christ's sufferings and know the power of his resurrection.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OPENING HYMN: "Crown Him With Many Crowns" #855 vs. 1, 2, & 5 ELW**

**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.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O Lord God,

**Beloved God, from you come all things that are good.**

**Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

**CHOIR ANTHEM: “Lord of Mercy, God of Grace”**

**FIRST READING:**

**Philippians 3:4b-14**

*Paul reviews some of his supposed credentials, which no longer have any bearing in comparison to the right relationship he has been given through the death of Christ. The power of Christ's resurrection motivates him to press on toward the ultimate goal, eternal life with Christ.*

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ.

More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.

For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law,

but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal;

but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.

Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own

but this one thing I do:

forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead,

I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

*Refrain: Look down from heaven, O God; behold and tend this vine. (Ps. 80:14, 15)*

Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

**You have brought a vine out of Egypt; you cast out the nations and planted it.**

You cleared the ground for it; it took root and filled the land.

**The mountains were covered by its shadow and the towering cedar trees<sup>l</sup> by its boughs. R**

You stretched out its tendrils to the sea and its branches to the river.

**Why have you broken down its wall, so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?**

The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it, and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.

**Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven;**

behold and tend this vine; preserve what your right hand has planted. R

### **GOSPEL:**

**Matthew 21:33-46**

*Jesus tells a parable to the religious leaders who are plotting his death, revealing that their plans will, ironically, bring about the fulfillment of scripture.*

Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time." Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures:

'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;

this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'?

Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls." When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

**SERMON HYMN:**

**“Faith of Our Father’s”**

**#812 ELW**

**SERMON:**

**“We Are the Tenants”**

**OFFERTORY HYM**

**“Day by Day”**

**#790 ELW**

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever. 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.*

Sing a love song to us, O God, with verses that rouse us to be the church in a world where faith is met with cynicism. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Sing a love song to us, O God, with verses that motivate us to rebuild where storms have torn down, droughts have sucked dry, and waters have flooded. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Sing a love song to us, O God, with verses that provoke us to create change where there is injustice, freedom where there is captivity, and harmony where there is violence. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Sing a love song to us, O God, with verses that compel us to provide relief to those who suffer, comfort to those who mourn, protection to those who are vulnerable, and compassion to those who are scorned. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Sing a love song to us, O God, with verses that lift us out of complacency and into our communities to share the priceless gift of knowing Christ Jesus as Lord. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Sing a love song to us, O God, with verses that assure us of eternal life, where, together with all your saints, we will join you in a song that has no end. 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.**

## **APOSTLE'S CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

## **COMMUNION**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**God of mercy, we give you thanks for seating us at your table and serving us with the food of eternal life. We who once were dead are now living members of your Son, awakened by the breathing of your Spirit. Send us out to awaken others to the mystery of your love, which is revealed to all the world in the one who came to give himself away, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

## **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 with you.

**Thanks be to God!**

**CLOSING HYMN:**                      “Lead On, Oh King Eternal”                      #805 ELW

## **THOSE SERVING TODAY**

Worship Leader: Randy Tofteland

Music: Marlys Beaver

Ushers: 8:30 Lee & Barb Forrester                      10:00 Ron & Joanne Haglund

Lector: Laurina Tofteland

Greeters: Dennis & Audrey Bistodeau

*Thank you for volunteering! A special THANK YOU to Randy for leading our services.*

## **Response to God’s Word Last Week/Month**

Attendance:

(09/28/2014) 9:00 am – 83 One Service

	Month of September	Monthly amount needed
General Offering:	<b>\$11,918</b>	<b>\$15,340</b>
Facility Fund:	<b>\$ 1,190</b>	

## **THIS WEEK AT Bethesda October 5 thru October 12, 2014**

### **PASTOR ON VACATION October 5 to October 11, 2014**

Sunday	10/05	8:30 am	Worship/Communion
		10:00 am	Worship /Communion
Monday	10/06	7:00 pm	AA & Alanon
Tuesday	10/07	9:00 am	Crafter’s
		7:00 pm	Faith, Health and Wellness
Wednesday	10/08	9:30 am	Hardanger
		9:30 am to 11:30 am	Matter of Balance
		6:00 pm	Choir
		7:00 pm	Praise

Thursday	10/09	1:00 pm	Fun Timers
Friday	10/10	10:00 am	Bone Builders
Sunday	10/12	8:30 am	Worship
		10:00 am	Worship

**ANNOUNCEMENTS-For Details Check the Board in the Fellowship Hall**

**COMMUNION SUNDAY** Please fill in the green communion card found in the pew in front of you. Visitors and Members are all encouraged to fill it out and place in the offering plate. Thank you.

**FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH. THE BLESSING BOX** is to be passed after the regular offering. God has blessed us to be a blessing to others. On our current Wish List is: working microphones, video cameras for the Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall, new insulation and additional storage cabinets for the classrooms.

**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 and to register. If you are a single person at home alone-this class is for you! Get Smarter!

**Knowledge Bites** Belly Fat, Hormonal Balance and Calorie Expenditure. Presenter is Dan Schletty-Health & Wellness Coach Riverwood Healthcare Center. Light of the Cross Lutheran Church, Garrison. Tuesday, October 14, 2014 at 2 PM. Free.

**Grief Support Group** 6 week series Fall 2014. 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.

**Social Media, Today's Wittenberg Door?** October 7, 2014 10 am – 3 pm First Lutheran Church, Hinkley. Presenter Christine Halvorson. For more info & to register online:[www.nemnsynod.org/events](http://www.nemnsynod.org/events) Cost of \$20/per person includes lunch.

**Camp Onomia Work Days** Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup> 1 pm – 4 pm, November 1<sup>st</sup> 9 am- 4 pm.

**Women's Refresh Retreat** at Camp Onomia. Our theme is "Breathe". Friday Nov 14 at 6 pm to Saturday November 15 until 4:00 pm. \$56.00 per person. Call (320) 532-3767.