

**Sunday, August 30, 2015**  
**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

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Prayer Chain Contacts Char Berg 320-684-2102 or Judy Forester 218-678-2667

Church Secretary: Mary Braun & Mary Kramer-Long

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

***MISSION STATEMENT***

*We will LIVE and SERVE through FAITH*

*we will ACT with LOVE and KINDNESS*

*we will GIVE hope and SUPPORT to all.*

**Hearing Assistance is available during the service.**

**Please notify usher if you would like assistance**

# Sunday, August 30, 2015

## Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

### INTRODUCTION

*Jesus protests against human customs being given the weight of divine law, while the essence of God's law is ignored. True uncleanness comes not from external things, but from the intentions of the human heart. Last week Jesus told us "the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life." Now James says God has given us birth by the word of truth. We, having been washed in the word when we were born in the font, return to it every Sunday to ask God to create in us clean hearts.*

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**OPENING HYMN "Precious Lord Take My Hand"**

**#773 ELW**

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the creator of wind and rain, field and ocean, the bread of life coming down from above, the power at work within us and this world.

**Amen.**

Before God and in the company of our sisters and brothers, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God and Father of all,  
**we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. We have thought better of ourselves than others. We have told lies, said hurtful things, acted in ways we wish we could take back, and looked the other way when action was needed. In your mercy, O God, forgive us, cleanse us, and heal us, for the sake of Jesus, our Savior.**

**Amen.**

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; everything has become new! In Christ, † you are a new creation: your sins are taken away and you are made new. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

**Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**O God our strength,**

**without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**      **“This Is My Father’s Wolrd”**      **Margaret Holmberg**

## **FIRST READING: James 1:17–27**

*The letter of James was intended to provide first-century Christians with instruction in godly behavior. Here, Christians are encouraged to listen carefully and to act on what they hear, especially by caring for those least able to care for themselves.*

<sup>17</sup> Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

<sup>18</sup> In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

<sup>19</sup> You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; <sup>20</sup> for your anger does not produce God’s righteousness.

<sup>21</sup> Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

<sup>22</sup> But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves.

<sup>23</sup> For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at

themselves in a mirror; <sup>24</sup> for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. <sup>25</sup> But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

<sup>26</sup> If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. <sup>27</sup> Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

### **PSALM (ELW): Psalm 15**

*LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? (Ps. 15:1)*

<sup>1</sup> LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? Who may abide upon your holy hill?

<sup>2</sup> **Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right, who speak the truth from their heart;**

<sup>3</sup> they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends; they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

<sup>4</sup> **In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the LORD. They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.**

<sup>5</sup> They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be overthrown. **R**

### **GOSPEL: MARK 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23**

*Mark's gospel depicts Jesus as challenging traditional ways in which religious people determine what is pure or impure. For Jesus, the observance of religious practices cannot become a substitute for godly words or deeds that spring from a faithful heart.*

<sup>56</sup> Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. <sup>57</sup> Just as <sup>1</sup> Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus], <sup>2</sup> they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled

hands, that is, without washing them. <sup>3</sup> (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; <sup>4</sup> and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) <sup>5</sup> So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” <sup>6</sup> He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

‘This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; <sup>7</sup> in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.’ <sup>8</sup> You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.” <sup>14</sup> Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: <sup>15</sup> there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.”

<sup>21</sup> For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, <sup>22</sup> adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. <sup>23</sup> All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

**SERMON HYMN      “Faith of Our Fathers”      #812 ELW**

**SERMON (Sunday)      “She Looked Great, But...”**

**OFFERTORY SONG      “Crown Him with Many Crowns”      #855 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.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.*

With confidence in God's compassion and generosity, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

*A brief silence.*

O God, we pray for the church throughout the world. Give its members the inspiration to be doers of the word. Proclaim your grace to their children and their children's children. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

As the harvest comes to its peak, remind us that we live in a bountiful universe and inspire us to work for continued nourishment for Earth and all its creatures. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for the nations of the world (*especially*). Give them the courage to seek peace with justice and to set free every person who is oppressed. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for those waiting for their freedom. Break the chains that bind our human hearts. Console those constrained by any sort of oppression, grief, loneliness, or illness (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for all congregations. Inspire and strengthen them to live by your commandments and to be your hands in the community. Make them shining lights to the world. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

### BLESSING

Almighty and merciful God, Father, ✙ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you this day and forevermore.

**Amen.**

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live in love, as Christ loved us.

**Thanks be to God.**

**CLOSING HYMN: “This Little Light of Mine”**

**#677 ELW**

**Great to have you join us for worship! Please come again.**

**THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK**

Music: Saturday – Marilyn & Warren Samuelson  
Sunday – Marlys Beaver & Margaret Holmberg  
Greeters: Marilyn Andrews & Bev Wedig  
Ushers: 8:30am – Darlene Christensen, Judy Wozney  
10:00 am – Steve Long  
Lector: 8:30 am – Winnie Zahradka

Hospitality Hosts: Chuck & Elsa Carlson, Barb & Lee Forrester

***Thank you for your service!***

Response to God’s Word Last Week

Attendance: Sat. Aug. 22: 5:00pm 13 Sun. Aug. 23: 8:30am 90 10:00am 36

**THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA**

August 31 – Sept

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Monday	8/31	1:00 pm 7:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle AA/Alanon
Tuesday	9/1	8:00-10:00 am 9:00am	Pastor Text Study Crafters
Wednesday	9/2	8:30 am 9:30am 11:00 am 5:30 pm 7:00 pm	Bible Study Hardanger Bible Study Choir Practice Praise Team
Thursday	9/3	8:00am 10:30 am	Romeos Worship & Music Committee Mtg.

		12:30 pm	Fun Timers
		6:00 pm	Hand Bell Practice
Friday	9/4	10:00am	Bones
Saturday	9/5	1:00-4:00pm	Foot Care – Nurses Office
Sunday	9/6	8:30 am	Worship
		10:00 am	Worship

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**ATTENDANCE REGISTRY** Please sign and pass the new attendance registry folders which you will find in the pew. This is a new process we are trying. This will replace the green cards. Information will be gathered for Evangelism.

**Coffee Servers Needed** Signup sheets are to the left of the serving window by the kitchen. Please check it out and take your turn. We need volunteers for September and beyond.

**VEGGIE STAND** will be open one last time over Labor Day Weekend. Thanks for your support.

**BETHESDA LUTHERAN OF MALMO ANNUAL JAMBOREE** Save the dates to attend! September 11 & 12 at 7:00 PM at Bethesda. The theme this year is “WE ARE THE WORLD” Songs of Inspiration. If you are interested in participating contact Val Benton (218) 879-9364 or Sheila Penoyer (218)534-5337. Spots are filling up so hurry and contact them if you are interested.

**FOOT CARE** program will be on Saturday, September 5<sup>th</sup> in the Nurses Office, from 1:00pm-4:00pm. Please call Patti Honnold at 320-676-8421 for an appointment. The Foot Care program will be held the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday afternoon of each month.

**ANNUAL REPORTS** All annual reports are due TODAY! Please get them in so they can be assembled and distributed. Please send reports to Nancy Hansen at [nlhansen@scicable.com](mailto:nlhansen@scicable.com) or put in the “Council Secretary” box in the church office.

**ANNUAL MEETING** Our 2014-2015 Annual Meeting is set for Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00am. We will worship at 9:00am – one service that Sunday and then gather to pass a new budget, elect four council representatives, and two representatives to the NEMN Synod meeting at Breezy Point on April 30<sup>th</sup> – May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please put this congregational meeting on your schedules and join us as we move into the future serving our Lord.

**"GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS"** On Sunday, September 13 Churches are encouraged to consider taking on service projects in their communities. One suggestion is that our youth and some adults clean up litter at the Reddie Creek Beach on Highway 18. Another idea is that we could collect donations for the Second Harvest Food Shelf as they are in need of extra funds to give weekend backpacks with food to those students who do not get meals on weekends. Perhaps you have an idea of something you would like to do on your own at another time. We

ask for guidance from above as we decide how we can best serve doing God's Work. More information with a chance to sign up for actives will be available.

**FLU SHOTS** Jan West from Aitkin County Public Health will come with their mobile clinic on Wednesday, September 30<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am – 9:45am. Aitkin Public Health can bill insurance for your shot so be sure to bring your insurance card with you that day.

**KNOWLEDGE BITES** Fall Gardening presented by Shelly Boser, Manager, Landsburg Landscape Nursery. Light of the Cross Lutheran Church, Tuesday Sept. 8, 2015, 2:00pm. Open to the community, everyone is welcome, treats and beverages served