

Sunday August 25, 2024
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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Rick Martins

(Mora, MN)

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Church Secretary: Mary Braun

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER & CARE LIST: Ron Aho, Cheryl Malotky, Roy Berg

LECTORS NEEDED We need lectors for weekly Sunday readings. Sign-up sheets are on the table in the Narthex heading into the Fellowship Hall and include the weekly readings.

COFFEE SERVERS NEEDED Please sign up so we may continue to enjoy coffee & fellowship after service. The signup sheet is on the bulletin board mounted in the Fellowship Hall next to the serving window.

BAKED GOODS FOR VEGGIE STAND are gladly accepted for Saturday mornings. Last one of the year.

QUILTERS are in need of clean used mattress pads to use for batting in their quilts. You can drop them off by the closet door in the Fellowship Hall.

CRAFTING FUN! Join us to work on crafts for our Holiday Bazaar on Mondays August 26th from 9-11 am. The bazaar is on Oct. 26.

PARSONAGE CLEAN UP DAY Volunteers are invited to join the property committee for a cleaning day at the Parsonage. Tuesday, August 27th at 10:00am. Please bring a bucket, rags and a broom. There will also be the opportunity to paint the brown shed at church at the time that the parsonage cleaning is happening.

HEALTHY HABITS MEETING On Tuesday, August 27th, 2024, at 12 noon, please join us as we get together to share ideas around Food, Fitness, Friends, and Faith. Lunch is provided, please register at the church office by the Thursday before so adequate food can be prepared.

LET'S GO FISHING! Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo is offering a Nature Tour with Master Naturalist. Sept 4th, departure at 4 PM. Meet at Lum Park dock on Rice Lake. 2 hour Pontoon Ride down Mississippi, arrive 20 minutes prior to departure time. Sign up sheet in Narthex or see David Brown for additional details.

WELCA is the women's ministry organization of the ELCA. If you are a woman sitting in the pew at Bethesda Lutheran, you are already a part of WELCA. You are a woman of the ELCA. You are welcome to everything that is happening in our activities, projects and meetings. Come join us. There is room at the table for you.

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda **August 26, 2024 – September 1, 2024**

Monday 8/26 9:00 am Crafters

		11:30 am	Cards
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	8/27	9:00 am	Quilters
		9:00 am	Chair Yoga
		10:00 am	Parsonage Cleanup
		12:00 noon	Healthy Habits Meeting
		4:00 pm	Bell Practice
		5:30 pm	Choir Practice
		6:30 pm	Praise Team Practice
Wednesday	8/28	9:00 am	Women's Bible Study
		10:00 am	WELCA Meeting
Thursday	8/29	8:00 am	Romeos
		9:15 am	Chair Yoga
Saturday	8/31	7:30 am	Veggie Stand – Last one of the year
Sunday	9/1	9:00 am	Worship in Person & Live Stream

OPENING HYMN: **“Lead On, O King Eternal”** **#805 ELW**
(Please rise on the last verse)



1 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal! The day of march has come;
 2 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, till sin's fierce war shall cease,
 3 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal: we fol - low, not with fears,



hence-forth in fields of con - quest your tents will be our home.
 and ho - li - ness shall whis - per the sweet a - men of peace;
 for glad-ness breaks like morn - ing wher - e'er your face ap - pears.



Through days of prep - a - ra - tion your grace has made us strong;
 for not with swords loud clash - ing, nor roll of stir - ring drums,
 Your cross is lift - ed o'er us; we jour - ney in its light;



and now, O King e - ter - nal, we lift our bat - tle song.
 but deeds of love and mer - cy the heav'n - ly king - dom comes.
 the crown a - waits the con - quest; lead on, O God of might!

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

Amen.

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our provider,

help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world.

Amen.

Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, ✠ the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God,

your word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth, that, renouncing what is false and evil, we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

BELL ANTHEM: "It Is Well With My Soul"

FIRST READING: Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

¹ Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. ^{2a} And Joshua said to all the people, ¹⁴ "Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD.

¹⁵ Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or

the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

¹⁶ Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; ¹⁷ for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; ¹⁸ and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.”

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God**

PSALM: Psalm 34:15-22

¹⁵ The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and God’s ears are open to their cry.

¹⁶ **The face of the LORD is against those who do evil, to erase the remembrance of them from the earth.**

¹⁷ The righteous cry, and the LORD hears them and delivers them from all their troubles.

¹⁸ **The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves those whose spirits are crushed.**

¹⁹ Many are the troubles of the righteous, but the LORD delivers them from every one.

²⁰ **God will keep safe all their bones; not one of them shall be broken.**

²¹ Evil will bring death to the wicked and those who hate the righteous will be punished.

²² **O LORD, you redeem the life of your servants, and those who put their trust in you will not be punished.**

SECOND READING: Ephesians 6:10-20

¹⁰ Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

¹² For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the

whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. ¹⁵ As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸ Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. ¹⁹ Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God**

GOSPEL: John 6:56-69

Glory to you, O Lord

[Jesus said,] ⁵⁶ “Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷ Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸ This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” ⁵⁹ He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

⁶⁰ When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” ⁶¹ But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? ⁶² Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³ It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴ But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. ⁶⁵ And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.”

⁶⁶ Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. ⁶⁷ So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” ⁶⁸ Simon

Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹ We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

The gospel of the Lord ~ **Praise to you, O Christ**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: “Blessed Assurance”

#638 ELW



- 1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
- 2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
- 3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.
an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.
watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

Refrain



This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long:



this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

APOSTLES' 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 to the dead.* 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Calling on the spirit of Wisdom to guide our hearts and our minds, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Holy God, you have the words of eternal life. Lead the church to put its trust in Jesus, the living Word. Direct preachers, teachers, writers, and all the baptized in faithful speech and bold witness. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Creator God, we and all creation are sustained by your Word. We pray for all who remind us of our interconnectedness with all living things. Prosper the work of conservation organizations, ELCA advocacy, and local climate justice advocates. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of wisdom, as our nation navigates another election cycle, guide our leaders to act justly for the sake of the world. Bring about fruitful conversation among your people and bring about change where you see fit. Sustain all who serve on juries in their deliberations. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of restoration, bring healing and wholeness to all who cry to you. Where pain is sharp, bring a sense of comfort and relief. Where grief runs deep, bring your tender mercy. Care for those on our hearts (*especially*). Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of new life, protect students and teachers for a new school year. Bring an end to school shootings and cycles of violence. Move us to do all that is necessary to ensure a safe future for our children. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of every generation, we remember with thanksgiving all who have completed their baptismal journeys (*especially*). Strengthen us in our baptismal callings to serve you faithfully until our journey's end. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We lift up these prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them into your holy keeping.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING - *Please be seated as the Ushers pass the offering plate.*

Please stand as the ushers bring the offering to the altar.

OFFERING PRAYER

Jesus, Bread of life,

you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty.

Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. Amen.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

we give you thanks and praise.

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

we give you thanks and praise.

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

we give you thanks and praise.

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.
Amen.

BLESSING

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ☩ be upon you now and forever.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: "Guide Me Ever Great Redeemer" #618 ELW



1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain where the heal - ing
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me
wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me



with your pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,
safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es



feed me now and ev - er - more, feed me now and ev - er - more.
shield me with your might - y arm, shield me with your might - y arm.
I will raise for - ev - er - more, I will raise for - ev - er - more.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

**Visitors! It has been great having you join us for worship!
Please come again.**

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Music: Bell Choir

Greeters: Sherry Whipple & Winnie Zahradka

Ushers: Gary & Brenda Sjerven

Lector: LuAnn Gordon

Hospitality:

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week:

Sunday, August 18, 2024: In Person: 9:00am 68 Online: 16