

# Sunday September 1, 2024

## Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost



### **BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO**

21590 State Highway 47, Isle, MN 56342

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Church Web Site: [blcmalmo.org](http://blcmalmo.org)

## **Rev. John Ansell**

(Salem Lutheran Church in Hermantown, MN)

Parish Nurses: Darlene Christensen, RN 320-279-0097

Kathy Berland RN ANP 218-838-6181

Prayer Chain Contacts: Char Berg 320-684-2102 or

Darlene Christensen 320-279-0097

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.

**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.

**COVERED CONTAINERS** are needed to store everything in the crafters/ quilters closet. If you have any covered containers (any size, and covered boxes are ok) please consider donating them to the church.

**LET'S GO FISHING!** Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo is offering a Nature Tour with Master Naturalist. Sept 4<sup>th</sup>, 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.

**AUTUMN EQUINOX** Celebrate with a Taste of Fall – Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, 4-6 pm at Bethesda. Join us as we welcome the enchanting season of fall by celebrating the Autumn Equinox. We gather the bounties of the fall harvest with wines paired by wine pairing expert, Shari Blubard. This event begins with a welcoming wine and appetizers at our beautiful Memory Garden area at Bethesda and then continues to the gardens by the church for dinner (or indoors if too windy or cold). Invite your friends to show the beauty of our church. Tickets are \$35 and are limited to 40 people. For tickets visit our website:

<http://blcmalmo.org>

**CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S CLUB** meeting Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>, 12:30pm at Tullibee Tavern in Walkon. Lunch and a speaker, \$15.75, more info on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Call Lois Johnson for a reservation, 320 674-0136.

**SURVEY DISCUSSION NEXT SUNDAY** As part of the call process church members will be asked to complete 2 surveys at a coffee table discussion after church next Sunday. One of the surveys was included in the newsletter, and both are included in this week's bulletin. We are collecting information the Call Committee needs to complete the application for a new Pastor.

**THIS WEEK AT Bethesda** **September 2, 2024 – September 8, 2024**

Monday	9/2	LABOR DAY	
		11:30 am	Cards
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon

Tuesday	9/3	9:00 am	Chair Yoga
		4:00 pm	Bell Practice
		5:30 pm	Choir Practice
		6:30 pm	Praise Team Practice
Wednesday	9/4	9:00 am	Women's Bible Study
		4:00 pm	Let's Go Fishing Mississippi trip
Thursday	9/5	8:00 am	Romeos
		9:15 am	Chair Yoga
Sunday	9/8	9:00 am	Worship in Person & Live Stream
		10:00 am	Survey Discussion & Congregational Meeting

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**OPENING HYMN:**                      **“Morning Has Broken”**                      **#556 ELW**  
*(Please rise on the last verse)*



1 Morn - ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing;  
 2 Sweet the rain's new fall, sun - lit from heav - en,  
 3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing,



black-bird has spo - ken like the first bird.  
 like the first dew - fall on the first grass.  
 born of the one light E - den saw play!



Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the morn - ing!  
 Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet gar - den,  
 Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - 'ry morn - ing,



Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!  
 sprung in com - plete - ness where God's feet pass.  
 God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

## **CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us. We confess that we have honored you with our lips, but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues. The cravings at war within us cause conflicts and disputes. In our desire to be first we make distinctions among ourselves. We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last. In your great mercy, forgive us our sins. Draw near to us with grace in time of need, and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

God promises to forgive our iniquity and to remember our sin no more. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, the source of eternal healing, your sins are forgiven.

**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.**

## **FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9**

<sup>1</sup>So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. <sup>2</sup>You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you.

<sup>6</sup>You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, “Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!” <sup>7</sup>For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? <sup>8</sup>And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

<sup>9</sup>But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children’s children.

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

### **PSALM: Psalm 15**

<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.

### **SECOND READING: James 1:17-27**

<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.

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

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

#### **Glory to you, O Lord**

<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.”

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

### **SERMON**

## HYMN: "Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways"

#772 ELW



1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his stat - utes still!  
2 Or - der my foot-steps by your word and make my heart sin - cere;  
3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, a strict - er watch to keep;  
4 Make me to walk in your com-mands, 'tis a de- light - ful road;



Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!  
let sin have no do - min-ion, Lord, but keep my con-science clear.  
and should I e'er for - get your way, re - store your wan-d'ring sheep.  
nor let my head or heart or hands of - fend a - gainst my God.

## 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

Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

God of every generation, give the church a sense of purpose and belonging.

Sustain and build up leaders and lay people as we accompany one another in our life with Christ. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

God of creation, you named humans as co-creators with you. Where the earth cries out in pain, bring wholeness. Guide governments and industry, that

environmental laws and practices seek to heal and not harm. Bring relief and justice to people and places suffering from climate catastrophe (*especially*).

Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Sovereign God, we pray for local communities of every kind: rural and urban; established and new. Lead those in authority to seek the good of all through their words and actions and to mentor others in honest and generous ways. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Healing God, you draw near to all who are hurting. Be with all who desire relief from chronic and acute illness, cancer, and post-traumatic stress disorder.

Strengthen health care workers, therapists, and caregivers. Tend to those who are close to our hearts (*especially*). Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

On this Labor Day weekend we remember and give thanks for all who have fought for workers' rights around the world. Continue to improve working conditions and establish fair wages so that all people may thrive. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Comforting God, console us as we mourn our departed (*especially*). We hold fast to the promise that death has been defeated by our Savior Jesus Christ. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**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

Blessed are you, O God,  
source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us  
to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and  
Lord. Amen.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus welcomes you to this table.  
Come, here is your God

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy God,  
you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table.  
Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## BLESSING

God all mighty, God most merciful ✠ bless you, keep you, and give you peace.  
Amen.

## CLOSING HYMN:

## “Go To The World”

#991 ACS



1 Go to the world! Go in - to all the earth.  
2 Go to the world! Go in - to ev - 'ry place.  
3 Go to the world! Go strug - gle, bless, and pray;  
4 “Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,



Go preach the cross where Christ re - news life's worth,  
Go live the word of God's re - deem - ing grace.  
the nights of tears give way to joy - ous day.  
for I am with you till the age shall end,



bap - tiz - ing as the sign of our re - birth.  
 Go seek God's pres - ence in each time and space.  
 As ser - vant church, you fol - low Christ's own way.  
 when all the hosts of glo - ry cry, A - men!"



Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Visitors! It has been great having you join us for worship!**

**Please come again.**

**THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK**

Greeters: Gary & Brenda Sjerven

Ushers: Janice Olson & Sherry Whipple

Lector: Jeannine Bruesewitz

Hospitality: Jeannine Bruesewitz

**Thank you for your service!**

Response to God's Word Last Week:

Sunday, August 25, 2024: In Person: 9:00am  57  Online:  15

# Ministry Task **SERVEY**

The Call Committee will be asked to select 5 tasks that the congregation considers important in searching for a new minister.

Please circle 5 that you consider important.

- Small Group Ministry
- Conflict Management
- Teaching (instruction that helps grow faith)
- Build a sense of community.
- Communication/ Media/ Technology
- Mission and Evangelism (reaching out to unchurched people in community)
- Administration (leadership in church management)
- Pastoral care and Visitations/ Senior Ministry
- Music/ Worship/ Arts (support music or art programs)
- Preaching / Worship services
- Strategic Mission Planning (help develop a long-term plan)

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Prioritize Church Functions **S E R V E Y**

What is God calling us to do or be in our next chapter of ministry??  
(please circle the 5 that are the most important to you)

- Stewardship Education
- Updated Technology
- Mutual ministry (a committee that meets with Minister regularly)
- Service and Mission opportunities
- Local and Global Benevolence
- Facilities (keeping up building and grounds)
- Vacation Bible School
- Sunday School/confirmation (as needed)
- Music: bells, choir, praise team
- Home visits
- Bible Studies
- Outreach Events (making ourselves visible)  
Includes: Corn feed, bazaar, bingo, yoga, movies, parade, music events
- Fellowship, coffee, movies, potluck, book club
- Worship, communion, church services

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_