

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Sunday, December 24, 2017

3:30pm & 5:00pm



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Please stand if able

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

HYMN #283 *"Oh, Come All Ye Faithful" (Vs. 1,2)*

1. Oh, come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant!
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, Born the king of angels:

Refrain:

Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

2. The highest, most holy, Light of light eternal
Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father Now in flesh appearing! (Refrain)

CHRISTMAS DIALOG (P=Pastor, C=Congregation)

P In the name of the Father, and of the †Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

P The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory.

C Oh, come, let us worship him.

P The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

C The light shines in the darkness, -- and the darkness did not overcome it.

P Those who lived in a land of deep darkness--on them light has shined.

C We have seen Christ's glory, the glory as of a father's only son, Full of grace and truth.

P For a child has been born for us, a son given to us.

C What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

P Christ is born; salvation has appeared.

C Glory to God in the highest! Alleluia!

HYMN #283 **“Oh, Come All Ye Faithful” (Vs. 3,4)**

3. Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God In the highest:

Refrain:

Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him
Christ the Lord!

4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing: Refrain

PRAYER (Congregation will join in)

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. AMEN.

Please be seated

CHOIR ANTHEM **“Waiting”**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful

Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14

The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity. Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior's final appearance.

¹¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel: Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

Glory to you, O Lord

God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and

lying in a manger.”¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

[¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.”¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.]

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, O Christ

HYMN #279 **“O Little Town of Bethlehem”** **(Vs. 1, 2, & 4)**

SERMON

THE OFFERING

HYMN #282 **“It Came upon the Midnight Clear”** **(Vs. 1, 2, & 4)**

Please Stand

PRAYERS

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

(A brief silence)

P For the increase of peace among the nations, let us pray to the Lord.

C Christ the Lord, bring peace on earth.

P For the spread of the joyful news that the Savior has come, let us pray to the Lord.

C Christ the Lord, bring joy to the world.

P For the poor and those who find no room, let us pray to the Lord.

C Christ the Lord, bring help to the poor.

P For the renewal of the whole church in unity, let us pray to the Lord.

C Christ the Lord, bring renewal to the church.

P For the light of Christmas to shine on us all, let us pray to the Lord.

C Christ the Lord, bring us the light of your truth.

(Here other intercessions may be offered)

P Rejoicing in your birth and trusting in your mercy, O Christ, Light of the World, we commend all for whom we pray.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Pastor: "Arise, shine; for your Light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you...and nations shall come to your Light. Jesus said, 'I am the Light of the World; he who follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the Light of Life.' "You are the light of the world...let your Light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

(Pastor then gives light to the ushers; they in turn give light to the first worshipper in each pew, who passes it on. The lighted candle is never tilted but is always held upright when giving light to another. Please extinguish your candle when you see the Pastor extinguish his.)

HYMN #281

"Silent Night"

(Vs. 1, 2, 3)

BLESSING

P The Word has become flesh and dwelt among us. Let Christ's light shine in the darkest corner of your life. Let Christ's love shine in the darkest corners of our world. God is with us. Alleluia.

C Amen.

HYMN #289

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

(Vs. 1 & 3)

CHURCH BELL

POSTLUDE

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

SERVING THIS NIGHT

Lector: 3:30 pm - Lynn Hansen 5:00pm - Joan Petersen
Greeter:
Ushers: 3:30pm – Skip & Lynn Hansen 5:00pm – Lee & Barb Forrester
Music: Digital Hymnal

POINSETTIA Donations

<u>Name</u>	<u>In Memory/Honor of</u>
Marilyn Andrews	Family
Carol Bakken	Maynard
Roy & Char Berg	Our Parents
Marvin & Theresa Berry	Rose Scott
Judie Birk	Family
Jeannine Bruesewitz	Darwin Bruesewitz
Chuck & Elsa Carlson	Parents
Lee & Barb Forrester	Parents
Ron & Artie Heins	Loved Ones
Merrily Jones	John Jones
Darrell Kelly	Family & Friends
Mike & Barbara Macioch	Family
Keith & Dorothy Munding	Loved Ones
Pastor James Muske	Parents
Rich & Marge Nelson	Loved Ones
Jenny Schuett	Dennis & Loved Ones
George & Patti Smith	Fathers
Dick & Sue Stebbins	Loved Ones
Sylvia Tapelt	Parents
Randy & Laurina Tofteland	Our Family
Bev Wedig	Al & Jen

**Thank you to those who have made donations for the beautiful
flowers to decorate our sanctuary!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Monday, December 25 – Christmas Day Service at 10:00am. All are welcome to enjoy a Christmas meal together immediately following Sunday's worship.

Only One Worship Service on Sundays in January, February & March, 2018.

VBS - When you see your families this Holiday Season please remind them that Vacation Bible School June 18-22, 2018. Sixth graders and older are welcome as student leaders.

A BIG Thank You to all who donated to Operation Christmas. The gifts were beautiful. In 2016 179 families and 546 children in Aitkin County benefited from the volunteer committees and businesses, service clubs and churches to make this such a success. Well done, Bethesda Lutheran!

**BLESSINGS TO EVERYONE ON THIS
WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS EVE.
GO PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS —
CHRIST THE SAVIOR IS BORN!!**

BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

21590 State Highway 47, Isle, MN 56342

Phone: 320-684-2123 (1-877-684-2123)

Fax: 320-684-2836

E-mail address: blcmalmo@frontiernet.net

Church Web Site: blcmalmo.org

Pastor: Rev. James Muske