

**Sunday, December 24, 2017**

Fourth Sunday of Advent



**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](mailto:blcmalmo@frontiernet.net)

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

**Pastor James Muske**

320-583-5796

Parish Nurses: Darlene Christensen, RN 320-839-8193

Kathy Berland RN ANP 218-838-6181

Prayer Chain Contacts: Char Berg 320-684-2102 or Darlene Christensen 320-839-8193

Church Secretary: Mary Braun & Jenny Schuett

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, December 24, 2017

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**GATHERING SONG:** "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers" # 244 ELW  
(Verses 1, 2, & 4)  
(Please stand on the last verse)

### DIALOGUE

Hear, O heavens, and listen, O earth.

**Let the earth hear, and all that fills it.**

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,

**the desert shall rejoice and blossom.**

They shall see the glory of the Lord,

**the majesty of our God.**

Nations shall come to your light,

**and kings to the brightness of your dawn.**

This is the Lord for whom we wait;

**let us be glad and rejoice in the salvation of God.**

### OPENING PRAYER:

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

**O Lord our God, you break into our world with messages of comfort, peace, and joy. Renew our strength as we wait for your coming. Shine your light for those who live in darkness. Establish your peace throughout the earth. Prepare our hearts for the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, the Savior of us all.**

**Amen.**

(Please be seated)

**Lesson:** Isaiah 60:1-3, 19-20

*Following a brief silence for prayer and meditation:*

I will wait for the Lord,

**and I will hope in God who saves us.**

**Carol:** Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

ELW 242

**Carol:** O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (verses 1, 2, 3 & 8)

ELW 257

**Lesson:** Isaiah 11:1-9

*Following a brief silence for prayer and meditation:*

I will wait for the Lord,

**and I will hope in God who saves us.**

**Carol:** What Child Is This

ELW 296

**Carol:** Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

ELW 270

**Psalm:** Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

*Following a brief silence for prayer and meditation:*

I will wait for the Lord,

**and I will hope in God who saves us.**

**Carol:** I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve

ELW 271

**Carol:** Love Has Come

ELW 292

**Lesson:** Titus 3:4-7

*Following a brief silence for prayer and meditation:*

I will wait for the Lord,

**and I will hope in God who saves us.**

**Carol:** Angels, from the Realms of Glory (verses 1, 2, & 4)

ELW 275

**Carol:** Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

ELW 276

**Sung Lesson:** Luke 1:26-38, 46-55

**Carol:** The Annunciation

*solo Pastor James*

**The Magnificat** (*all sing - see insert*)

Holden Evening Prayer

*Following a brief silence for prayer and meditation:*

I will wait for the Lord,

**and I will hope in God who saves us.**

**Carol:** The First Noel (verses 1, 2, & 5)

ELW 300

**Responsive Prayer**

O Lord our God, be gracious to us;

**we wait for you.**

Dispel the darkness,

**that all nations may come to your light.**

Establish your peace on the earth;

**join our voices to sing your praise.**  
Comfort the sick and weary;  
**renew their strength and power.**  
O Lord our God, come to us,  
**that the earth may behold your glory.**  
**Amen.**

## **OFFERING**

*Ushers will begin passing the offering plate.*

*Please Stand*

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

### **BLESSING**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!  
**Praise God, all creatures here below!**  
You are Mary singing songs of joy.  
**We sing of God's mercy and goodness.**  
You are the shepherds telling the story.  
**We tell it in the streets and across the land.**  
You are the wise ones worshiping with thanksgiving.  
**We worship with gifts of song and service, talents and treasures.**  
You are the angels announcing peace.  
**We live with joy and go now in peace.**  
Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

### **Sending Song**

Joy to the World

ELW 267

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

### **THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK**

Music: Digital Hymnal

Greeters: Chuck & Elsa Carlson

Ushers: Skip & Lynn Hansen

Hospitality Hosts:

*Thank you for your service!*

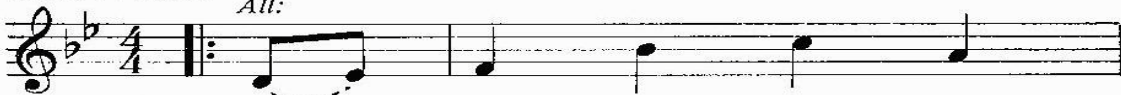
Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, December 17, 2017: 9:00am 135

The Magnificat

Luke 1: 46-55

*All:*



1.3. My soul pro - claims your  
2. You have cast the might - y



great-ness, O God, and my spir - it re-joic - es in  
down from their thrones, and up lift - ed the hum - ble of



you, You have looked with love on your  
heart, You have filled the hun - gry with



ser - vant here, and blessed me all my life through.  
won-drous things, and left the wealth - y no part.



Great and might - y are you, O Ho - ly One,  
Great and might - y are you, O Faith - ful One,



strong is your kind - ness ev - er - more.  
strong is your jus - tice strong your love,



How you fa - vor the weak and low - ly one,  
As you prom - ised to Sar - ah and A - bra - ham,



hum - bling the proud of heart.  
kind - ness for - ev - er more

**THIS WEEK AT Bethesda****Dec. 25 through Dec. 31, 2017**

|           |       |                                      |                    |
|-----------|-------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Monday    | 12/25 | 10:00 am                             | Worship            |
|           |       | 11:00 am                             | Potluck Ham Dinner |
|           |       | 7:00 pm                              | AA/Alanon          |
| Tuesday   | 12/26 | No Quilters until after the New Year |                    |
| Wednesday | 12/27 | 8:00 am                              | Bible Study        |
|           |       | 9:30 am                              | Stitchers          |
|           |       | 6:00 pm                              | Praise Team        |
| Thursday  | 12/28 | 8:00 am                              | ROMEOS             |
|           |       | 12:30 pm                             | Fun Timers         |
| Friday    | 12/29 | 10:00 am                             | Bone Builders      |
| Sunday    | 12/31 | 9:00 am                              | Worship            |

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ATTENDANCE REGISTRY** Please sign and pass the attendance registry which you will find in the pew. Information will be gathered for Evangelism.

**NEW SMALL GROUP** is coming to Bethesda!! We will develop goals (you choose how many and what areas) around the following: \*Faith \*Food \*Fitness \*Focus \*Friends! It is designed around The Daniel Plan! There will be preparing and eating of food, good food, involved!! Anyone can participate! Young or old! Single or hitched! Near or far! Guy or gal! Look for more information in the next month or contact Mary at: mmvuke@yahoo.com; especially if you are a snowbird who might be interested in trying "remote attendance". Happy Holidays!

**SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS** during coffee hour in January. Topics include: January 7- Feed My Starving Children, January 14- Nursing Home Outreach, January 21- Veggie Stand, and January 28 - Sunday Coffee Servers. There will be a special table set aside for those who showed an interest for these specific topics on the Time & Talent sheets. Others are welcome to participate in the discussion and or find out more about these programs.

**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!

**CHRISTMAS TREE** take down will be on January 4th, Thursday at 10 AM.

## GOSPEL MESSAGE

December 24, 2017

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**Fastest. Pregnancy. Ever.**

Usually a human pregnancy lasts nine months—and it's a few days, not a few hours, between our gospels announcing Mary's pregnancy on the fourth Sunday of Advent and the birth of Jesus on Christmas Eve. But nothing will be impossible with the church calendar! Today, annunciation and delivery touch like folded segments of an accordion, or a wrinkle in time.

Once a child was reading a book about where babies come from. It explained that a human egg was smaller "than the dot at the end of this sentence." The child stopped reading, caught up in wonder, staring at the dot. How could something invisible be transformed into . . . me? You? Every one of us?

One thing we can say with confidence about each pregnancy, whether it originates the old-fashioned way, is helped along by modern science, or follows from a young woman's perplexing conversation with an angel: we don't know exactly when it starts. After a baby is born we can count backwards and make some guesses, but in the moment we cannot feel precisely when that new life blossoms.

In the darkness, where we can't perceive them, everyday miracles take shape. In Advent night as we long for peace on earth, and in our midwinters of the spirit when hope is far away, we are reminded that new life develops within us before we're consciously aware of it. Even now. Today. For nothing will be impossible with God.

Pondering, we move with Mary from "How can this be?" to "Let it be." Time wrinkles, a dot expands, and the Word becomes flesh to pitch a tent among us. For the power of the Most High, whisking away the offer of a cedar palace, loves to travel light and takes joy in surprising those who were said to be barren. The Spirit overshadows, and we ourselves become God's house, a moving tabernacle, a holy dwelling—dancing in darkness at the wonder of a child.



## **POINSETTIA Donations**

| <b><u>Name</u></b>        | <b><u>In Memory/Honor of</u></b> |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 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!**