

Sunday, December 16, 2018

Third Sunday of Advent



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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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

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Fear Not! A Service for Advent

The angels who appeared to Zechariah, Mary, and Joseph all proclaimed “Fear not!” in response to the human emotions displayed before them. God’s word also breaks into the fears of our world with the promise of Christ. Surely God is our salvation; we will trust, and will not be afraid.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN:

“People, Look East”

#248 ELW

(Vs. 1, 3 & 4)

Please Stand on the Last Verse

DIALOGUE

Surely God is my salvation;

I will trust, and will not be afraid,

for the Lord God is my strength, and my might;

and has become my salvation.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,

and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him;

his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

OPENING PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you

Let us pray.

God of our salvation, **you speak through angels and prophets, telling us:**

“Be strong, do not fear! For I will come and save you.” Open our eyes

and unstop our ears, that we may sing for joy at the coming of your Son,

our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen

Please be seated

Fear not, Zechariah, priest and righteous one

Reading: Luke 1:5-25

Following a brief silence for prayer and meditation:

Thus says the Lord: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.
You have called us by name; we are yours.

HYMN: **“Blessed be the God of Israel”** #250 ELW

Fear not, Mary, favored one of God

Reading: Luke 1:26-38

Following a brief silence for prayer and meditation:

Thus says the Lord: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.
You have called us by name; we are yours.

HYMN: **“My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness”** #251 ELW

Fear not, Joseph, son of David

Reading: Matthew 1:18-25

Following a brief silence for prayer and meditation:

Thus says the Lord: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.
You have called us by name; we are yours.

HYMN: **“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”** (v1-2) #272 ELW

Fear not, chosen people of God

Reading: Isaiah 43:1-7, 15-21

Following a brief silence for prayer and meditation:

Thus says the Lord: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.
You have called us by name; we are yours.

HYMN: **“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”** (v3-4) #272 ELW

REFLECTION

HYMN OF THE DAY: **“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”** #254 ELW

Please stand if able

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God of Zechariah, you break into our fearful world with news of joy and gladness. Give light to all who sit in darkness, and guide our feet into the way of peace.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

God of Mary, you know the fears of your people. Lift up the lowly, especially those who are sick, those who mourn, those who are hungry, and all in need of your care.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

God of Joseph, your message calls us to let go of our fears and place our trust in you. Sustain us in your hope as we await our Savior's birth.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

God of all creation, you name us as your precious and chosen people and redeem us through Christ. Take hold of our hearts and shine your love through our lives.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

Here other prayers may be offered.

In thanksgiving for preachers and teachers who have guided us on the way. Bring us with them to rejoice eternally in you.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

Confident that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we bring to you these prayers and those unspoken, in the name of Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

Please be seated

OFFERING

Ushers will begin passing the offering plate.

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

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Teach us to boldly pray in the words our Savior gave us:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Invitation to Communion

God fills the hungry with good things. Taste and see that the Lord is good. All are welcome! (Communion by intinction - red wine; white apple juice)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy One,

we give you thanks that in this bread and cup we have feasted again on your endless love. Let that love overflow more and more in our lives,

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BETHESDA QUILTERS need donations of clean used mattress pads and blankets to make Lutheran World Relief quilts. Please leave in the Fellowship Hall by the Quilter's Door. Many Thanks.

WELCA No WELCA meeting this month.

CHRISTMAS OUTREACH PROGRAMS **1.** Purchase gifts from ELCA's Giving Program or from Heifer International. It is an opportunity to honor a loved one by purchasing livestock needed in poor countries. The information will be available in the fellowship hall during the holiday season. **AND 2.** We need names of local families that could use food or gas gift cards during the holiday season. The suggestion box will be in the Narthex. Please complete the suggestion form if you know someone who could use help this Holiday Season. Names will be taken until December 19th, 2018.

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE First Lutheran Church in Aitkin will be having a Blue Christmas Service on Thursday, December 20, 2018 at 11:00am. See posting in Narthex for more information.

RIDE TO ST. CLOUD Judy Wuorio needs a ride to St. Cloud on Friday, December 28th for an eye doctor appointment. If anyone is available, please contact Judy.

NEWSLETTER CALENDAR UPDATE Greeters for Christmas Day will be George & Kathy Larson

CENTENNIAL ACTIVITIES in 2019 Each month you have the opportunity to win a fabulous prize by purchasing a \$1 chance, while also decorating the fellowship hall. All funds raised will be used for our Centennial Celebration on August 11, 2019. Watch the bulletin and Newsletter for more details. If you are a snow bird, mail your money or prepay to participate for each month you are gone. You don't want to miss out on the fun and prizes!

RMD Donate your annual RMD to charity and avoid the taxes. If you donate your RMD to a "qualified charitable distributions" (QCDs) it will not be added to your taxable income for the year. They must go directly to a charity designated as qualified by the IRS. Making a QCD as opposed to a normal charitable gift has two main advantages. First, a QCD counts toward satisfying the individual's required minimum distribution for that year. Second, the distribution is excluded from the taxpayer's income. Bethesda Lutheran Church is a QCD because it is a 501(c)(3) organization.