

Sunday, December 30, 2018

First Sunday of Christmas



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 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 30, 2018

First Sunday of Christmas

INTRODUCTION

On the first Sunday of Christmas we have returned to the house of God “to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God,” who has gifted us with a savior. As the festival continues, “let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.” It is Christmas, still.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: **“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”,** **ELW 270**
 Please Stand on the Last Verse

Dialogue

Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.

By day and night he shines for all to see.

Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty

that the world may see the justice and richness of God.

God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,

so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.

Jesus is the light of the world.

Jesus is the light of our lives.

Sing to God a new song!

A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.

OPENING PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Gracious God of heaven and earth, you have thrown a lifeline to us in our darkness—a beam of light that shines through Jesus. Though born in a manger, he is the firstborn of all creation. Though crucified on a cross, he is the Lord of life. Fill us with the wonder and joy of his presence in the world and in our hearts.

Amen.

Please be seated

LESSONS and CAROLS

** Hymn Request*

First Reading: Genesis 1:1-5, 14-18

** Hymn Request*

Second Reading: *Christmas Poem* by Mary Oliver

** Hymn Request*

Third Reading: Luke 1:39-56

** Hymn Request*

Fourth Reading: “*The Christmas Season: Stars to Steer By*” by Joan Chittister

** Hymn Request*

Fifth Reading: Matthew 2:1-11

** Hymn Request*

Sixth Reading: John 1:1-14

** Hymn Request*

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

It is you, loving God, who lights our path with truth.

Your Word, Jesus, is truth.

In his light, draw all to the manger

to gather in wonder with the shepherds.

In his light, draw all to the manger

to kneel in reverence with the wise ones.

In his light, draw all to the manger

to sing for joy with the angels.

In the brightness of his life

cast away the darkness of injustice, poverty, and hunger in the world.

It is you, loving God, who meets us on our way.

In the light of Jesus, show the world the way of life.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please be seated

OFFERING

Ushers will begin passing the offering plate.

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

Thanksgiving for the Word

Let us pray.

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; 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

BLESSING

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!

Praise God, all creatures here below!

You are the shepherds telling the story.

We tell it in the streets and across the land.

You are the wise ones worshipping 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.

CLOSING HYMN

** Hymn Request*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the joy 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: John Kozial

Greeters: Dennis & Lynne Meidlinger

Ushers: George & Patti Smith

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: Sun, December 23rd: 9:00 am 122

Mon, December 24th: 3:30 pm 68 5:00 pm 53

Tuesday, December 25th: 10:00 am 35

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda

December 31 thru January 6, 2019

Monday	12/31	1:00 pm	Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	1/1		HAPPY NEW YEAR
Wednesday	1/2	9:00 am	Bible Study
		10:00 am	Stitchers
		6:00 pm	Praise Team
Thursday	1/3	8:00 am	ROMEOS
		10:30 am	Worship & Music Meeting
		12:30 pm	Funtimers-Card Players
Friday	1/4	10:00 am	Bone builders
Sunday	1/6	9:00 am	Worship

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.

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!

FIND OUT WHAT'S HAPPENING at Bethesda - like us on Facebook and visit us on line at: www.blcmalmo.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS (continued)

TREE TAKE DOWN will be Thursday, Jan. 3rd at 10:00 am. People need to take their poinsettias home on Sunday. Thanks, Elsa

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.

2019 BETHESDA CENTENNIAL FUNDRAISER CALENDARS are here! These will make great last minute Christmas gifts! Only \$10 and available in the Fellowship Hall after service today and for weeks to come.

SNOW DAY! A winter fun day to begin our 100th Year Celebration! Sunday, January 20, 2019 from 2pm-5pm. Fun Indoor & Outdoor activities include Snow Shoeing, Bonfire, Exploring the Nature Trail, Making a Luminary, Games, Chili & fixings, Hot Chocolate. **FREE!** Fun for all ages.

JOIN IN THE FUN! Support our Centennial activities in 2019. For the month of January you have the opportunity to win a fabulous prize by purchasing a "Snowflake" for a \$1.00 that we will use to decorate the fellowship hall. The winner will be drawn the last Sunday of the month after first service. The prize for January is donated by our quilters.

PICTURE DIRECTORIES are here! If you had your picture taken please pick up your complementary directory in the Fellowship Hall. If you didn't have your picture taken, updated smaller directories are available in the Fellowship Hall. If you would like a picture directory, but didn't have your picture taken, you can purchase a copy for \$10. See the secretaries in the office.