

Sunday, December 1, 2019

First Sunday of Advent



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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Pastor James Muske

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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.

Hearing Assistance is available during the service.

Please notify usher if you would like assistance

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Promise of the Messiah

INTRODUCTION

Jesus' disciples are undergoing a very intense apprenticeship with Jesus, and it is about to get far more intense as he begins his journey to Jerusalem. Before embarking on this journey south, Jesus pauses to check in with his disciples near the northern city of Caesarea Philippi.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: **“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”** **#257 ELW**
(Please Stand on the Last Verse)

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the parent who rouses us from slumber, the shepherd who gathers us on the holy mountain, the deliverer who sets us free.

Amen.

Let us come before the living God in confession.

Silence is kept for reflection.

As we wait and watch for the promised day of salvation,

we open our hearts to you, O God. Search us and know us. Reveal all that we keep inside. To you, O God, we confess our sins, known and unknown. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us in your ways of justice and peace. Make us reflections of the radiant love of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Beloved children of the Most High, you are gathered before the righteous judge who has mercy on all. Splash exuberantly in the waters of baptism, where sin is washed away in the river of life. Dwell peacefully in the loving arms of the one who nurtures all creation. Go forth boldly in the assurance that your sins are forgiven in the name of the one who is coming and is already here, † Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of the promised Messiah,

as we wait for the fulfillment of your promise, we watch, we listen, and we open our hearts for your Word. Show us signs of your presence: a light in the darkness, a voice in the silence, and a stirring deep within us. Amen.

Please be seated

CHOIR ANTHEM: "Just One Star"

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 33:14-18

¹⁴ The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness." ¹⁷ For thus says the Lord: David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel, ¹⁸ and the levitical priests shall never lack a man in my presence to offer burnt offerings, to make grain offerings, and to make sacrifices for all time.

Please Stand for the Gospel

GOSPEL Mark 8:27-29

Glory to you, O Lord

²⁷ Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" ²⁸ And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." ²⁹ He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah."

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, O Christ

Please be seated

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: "If You But Trust in God to Guide You" #769 ELW

Please stand if able

APOSTLE'S 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

Keeping awake as we watch for Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Not knowing the day or hour of your coming, O Lord, the church cries to you. Strengthen the church in the land of Jesus' birth. Wherever Christians gather, empower them to proclaim love and defy the powers of sin and evil. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Not knowing the day or hour of your coming, O Lord, your creation cries to you. Sustain the balance of all living things. Protect the earth from drought, bitter cold, eroding coastlines, and fires and floods, that the earth may flourish. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Not knowing the day or hour of your coming, O Lord, the nations cry to you. Bring justice to the marginalized, courage to peacemakers, wisdom to leaders, and hope to generations who have only known conflict, oppression, or poverty. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Not knowing the day or hour of your coming, O Lord, your people cry to you. Comfort those separated from loved ones by distance, estrangement, or loss. Help us as we care for others and rely on others' care. (*We pray especially for . . .*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Not knowing the day or hour of your coming, O Lord, this congregation (*or place of ministry*) cries to you. Guide our worship, service, and outreach, that our hearts and hands may be opened in generosity toward others. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Not knowing the day or hour of your coming, O Lord, we remember those whose days on earth have ended, who live now in your eternal love (*especially*). Remind us of their faithful witness, that their example might inspire our daily living. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You hear the cries of our hearts, O Lord. Fill us with hopeful expectation, that in each day and hour we may love and serve our neighbors, in Jesus' name.

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 and Blessing Box.*

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

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Giver of every good thing,

we set before you the gifts that you have already given to sustain our lives and to share with others. Help us to be good stewards of the earth and all that is in it, and let our lives be a testimony to the abundant feast you prepare for all who hunger.

Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Invitation to Communion

Come now with joy to Emmanuel's table. Feast at the banquet of hope and love.
(Communion by intinction – red wine; white apple juice; gluten free available)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of abundance, we give you thanks that in this holy meal you have invited us to feast with you and one another. May the taste of your love remain with us, and may our words and our work in your name invite others into your bountiful grace. Send us from your table to proclaim your presence, even as we await the glorious coming of Christ our Savior.

BLESSING

May God, who gathers us in love, lead you in pathways of righteousness and justice. May God, who knows us more deeply than we know ourselves, lead you in pathways of forgiveness and freedom. May God, who fills us with good things, lead you in pathways of equity and abundance. The blessing of the holy Trinity, † one God, be upon you and remain with you forever.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN:

“People, Look East”

#248 ELW

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

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

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Music: Choir & Digital Hymnal

Greeters: Bev Wedig

Ushers: 8:30am: George & Kathy Larson

10:00am: Darrell Kelly, Dick Stebbins

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, November 24, 2019: 8:30 am 66 10:00 am 28

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda

Dec. 2, 2019 – Dec. 8, 2019

Monday	12/2	11:00 am	Judy Wozney Funeral(visitation 1 hr. prior)
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	12/3	12-2:00 pm	Pastor Text Study
Wednesday	12/4	9:00 am	Bible Study
		10:00 am	Stitchers
		10:30 am	Spread Your Wings meeting
		5:30 pm	Cantata Practice
		7:00 pm	Praise Team
Thursday	12/5	8:00 am	ROMEOS
		10:00 am	Decorate the Christmas Tree
		11:30 pm	Funtimers: Card Players
Friday	12/6	10:00 am	Bones
Saturday	12/7	12:00 noon	WELCA Christmas Luncheon
Sunday	12/8	8:30 am	Worship
		10:00 am	Worship
		10:15 am	Sunday School

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER & CARE LIST: Judy Wozney's family and Kevin Skow whose mother passed away this past week.

ATTENDANCE REGISTRY Please sign and pass the attendance registry which you will find in the pew. This information is gathered for annual reports to the Synod.

BLESSING BOX The first Sunday of every month we pass the "Blessing Box". If you feel blessed, please contribute to the Blessing Box today to help others. All donations will go to local area benevolences. Thank you! What a Blessing!

JOIN IN THE FUN! Support our fund-raising activities in 2019-2020. Our raffle item for December will be provided by ROMEOS. Purchase a \$1 raffle ticket to win. The winner will be drawn the last Sunday of the month during Fellowship hour between services.

MEN'S FISHING TRIP will be January 13-15th. Signup sheet are in the Narthex. Signup and deposit money is due by December 10th. See Skip for more info.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP meets Wednesday, Dec. 11th at 2pm. This group is for anyone who is a caregiver now or has been one in the past.

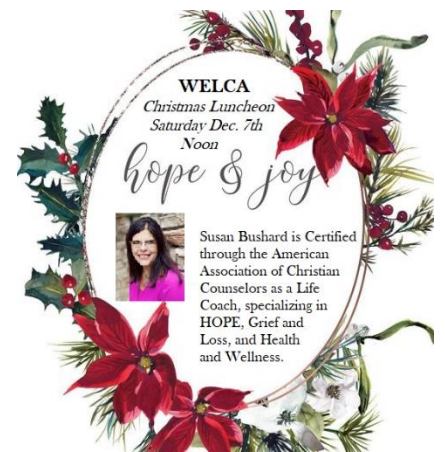
WELCA CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON Saturday, December 7th at noon. The speaker's topic will be "HOPE" and Christmas music will be provided for your entertainment. Look for signup sheet in the Fellowship Hall next week.

ANNUAL CANTATA December 15th, 9:00am. This will start our winter schedule of only one service at 9:00am until Easter.

USHERS NEEDED if you are interested in becoming an usher, please contact Skip or Lynn Hansen 320 684-2842 or hansenlynn@yahoo.com

DECORATE THE TREE We will be decorating the Christmas tree on Thursday, December 5th at 10:00 am. All are welcome to join in on the fun.

POINSETTIA SETUP Setup will be on Thursday, December 19th at 10:00am. Help decorate the church for the holiday season. Poinsettias will be for sale in the Fellowship hall starting today. They are \$16/plant. Purchase a poinsettia in memory of a loved one and help decorate the church for Christmas.



ANNOUNCEMENTS (continued)

HYMN FEST John Kozial, Jr. will be joining us on Sunday, December 29th to perform a "Hymn Sing" for our Sunday service at 9:00am. If you joined us last year, you won't want to miss it this year.

WOMEN'S DEVOTION on Monday, December 9th at 9:00am, at Pat Becker's home.

CHRISTMAS GIVING This year Bethesda will be donating children's sweatpants, sweatshirts, hats, mittens, scarves, etc. to the PAW pantry in Isle and the elementary schools in McGrath and McGregor. You can place these items on the Tree in the Narthex starting December 1st.

NEED A GIFT IDEA? Check out the display in the fellowship hall and consider ordering farm animals and other items from the ELCA or Heifer International Giving Programs to donate to those less fortunate than us.

CHRISTMAS CARING & SHARING Once again we are wondering if you know of a neighbor in need of a food / gas gift card this Christmas season. Our mission is supported by the veggie stand donations and individuals who designate their gifts to local needs. See the display in the Narthex.

CHRISTMAS GIVING - SECRET SANTA FOR BETHESDA'S

CHILDREN Looking for some Secret Santa's in our congregation to pick one of our Sunday school or confirmation children's names and purchase a gift of \$25.00. Each child has an envelope hanging on the "Christmas Giving" bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Gifts need to be wrapped and delivered to the church by Sunday, December 15th, 2019. The gifts will be opened during fellowship on the 15th of December after the Cantata.

SANTA LUCIA LENCHEON at Zion Lutheran Church in Milaca will be on Friday, December 13th from 11:00am-1:00pm. Traditional Swedish meal with music by Scandinavian Singers. See poster in Narthex for more information.

JUDY WOZNEY'S FUNERAL has been moved to Monday, December 2nd at 11:00am. Visitation one-hour prior.

