

Sunday December 19, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Advent



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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Pastor James Muske

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Prayer Chain Contacts: Char Berg 320-684-2102 or

Darlene Christensen 320-279-0097

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

THE BIRTH OF JESUS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING the ADVENT WREATH:

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. In your Son, Emmanuel, you have shown us your light and saved us from the power of sin. Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath. Increase our longing for your presence, that at the celebration of your Son's birth his Spirit might dwell anew in our midst, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.

Amen

He Came Down

- 1 He came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
hallelujah forevermore.
2. ... light
3. ... peace
4. ... joy

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.

With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

OPENING: Come and Worship - The First Noel

GREETING

CHOIR: "Gather at the Manger - O Come All Ye Faithful"

READING: Luke 1:26-35&38

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne

of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

CHILD READING:

Long ago, in a small town called Nazareth, there lived a girl named Mary. At that time, many men had forgotten about God. He decided to send a little child to live and grow up among the people. This little child would teach them about God. God knew that Mary loved Him, so he chose her to be the mother of His child. He sent an angel called Gabriel to tell Mary about the Baby. Mary was alone in her house when she saw the angel standing beside her. She was afraid and hid her eyes. The angel looked kindly at Mary and said, "Do not be afraid, Mary. God has sent me to tell you good news. Soon you will have a baby. It will be a boy and His name will be Jesus. He will be a holy child, for He will be the Son of God."

CONGREGATION HYMN: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" #257 ELW



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

READING: Matthew 1:18-25

⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

CHILD READING:

In the same town, a carpenter called Joseph lived. He wanted to take care of Mary and the Baby because he loved her. Joseph took Mary to be his wife.

CONGREGATION HYMN: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" #279 ELW



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

READING: Luke 2:1-7

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.

CHILD READING:

The King of the land wanted all the people to be counted, so Mary and Joseph had to go back to the place where they were born. It was a long way to go, so they had a little donkey for Mary to ride while Joseph walked by her side. At last, they came to an inn. They were very tired and needed a rest. Joseph knocked at the door. The door opened and the inn keeper said, "What do you want?" "Have you a bed for the night please?" asked Joseph. "My wife is very tired for we have come a long way." "I am very sorry", said the Inn keeper, shaking his head. "There is no room for you here. If you would like to stay in the stable with the animals, you are welcome to rest there. It is warm and dry." "Thank you," said Joseph. "That will do very well." They followed the innkeeper to the stable, and there in the night, the Baby Jesus was born. There was nothing for the Baby to wear. Mary wrapped Him in strips of cloth. There was nowhere for the Baby to sleep. Joseph made him a little bed in the place where food for the cows and donkeys was kept. It was called a manger. He put warm, dry straw in it and Mary laid the Baby there to sleep.

CONGREGATION HYMN: "What Child is This" #296 ELW



- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?
- 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
- 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?
Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir-gin sings her lul-la-by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar-y!
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar-y!
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar-y!

READING: Luke 2:8-20

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." ¹³And 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." ¹⁶So 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.

CHILD READING:

Outside, the night was dark and cold. In the fields close to the town, some shepherds were looking after their sheep. They sat close to the fire, warming their hands and talking to each other. Suddenly, a great light shone in the sky and an angel stood in front of them. They were all afraid, but the angel said, "Do not be afraid, for I have come to tell you good news. Tonight, the Lord Jesus has been

born. Go to Him. Follow the bright star in the sky and it will lead you to the stable where He lies.” Then the sky was filled with angels who sang, “Glory to God in Heaven, Peace on Earth and Joy to all men.” At once the shepherds set off, following a bright star in the sky which led them to the place where Jesus lay. With them they took their sheep in case a wolf should attack them. The shepherds knocked at the stable door and Joseph let them in. They knelt down beside the baby because they knew He was very special. Mary did not know why anyone should come to see her baby, but she said nothing. Then the shepherds left the stable and went into the town to let everyone know about Jesus.

CHOIR SONG: “Run Shepherds, Run”

READING: Matthew 2:1-12

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

CONGREGATION HYMN: “We Three Kings of Orient Are” #646 WOV
(Verses 1,2,4,5)



1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing
 2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and



gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,
 bring to crown him a - gain; king for - ev - er,
 owns a de - i - ty nigh; prayer and prais - ing,
 life of gath - er - ing gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing,
 God and Sac - ri - fice; heav'n sings al - le -



moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.
 glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.
 bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
 lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.



Refrain
 Oh, star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright;



west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

CHILD READING:

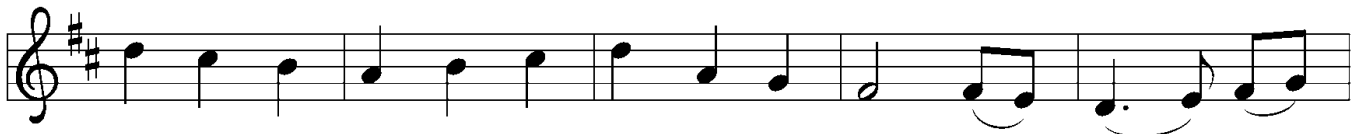
Three wisemen from the East had been keeping watch on the stars in the sky. They knew that a great King was to be born. They were waiting for a sign to show where to find him. At last, a bright star showed them the way. They rode across many lands following the star. They thought they would find him in a palace, but the star led them to a poor stable. They left their camels outside and going in, found Jesus lying in a manger. At once they knew that he was the one they had been seeking. Each wise man had brought a present for Jesus which was laid down beside Him. When they had gone, Mary thought again for a long time. Why had the shepherds

and the wise men come so far to see her baby? Then she picked up Jesus and held Him close to her, thinking about what the Angel had said.

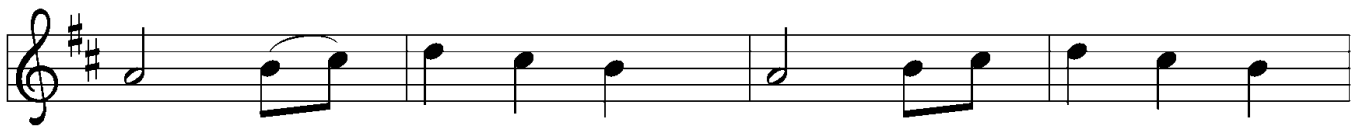
CONGREGATION HYMN: "The First Noel" (vs 1,2,4,5) #300 ELW



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . . a star shin - ing
 3 And by the light of that . . . same star three . .
 4 This star drew near to the . . . north - west, o'er . .
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . . men three, full . .



cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
 in . . . the east . . . be - yond . . . them far; and to the
 wise . . . men came . . . from coun - try far; to seek for a
 Beth - le - hem . . . it took . . . its rest; and there it
 rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . . so it con -
 king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . . o - ver the
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . . gold, and

Refrain



night that was so deep.
 tin-ued both day and night.
 star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
 place where Je - sus lay.
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

A brief silence.

Holy God, renew your church and raise up leaders who announce your good news. Grant peace to congregations and seminarians in the midst of transition. Guide the work of candidacy and call committees. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creating God, your Spirit brought forth the earth and all that is in it. Breathe life into us, that we are inspired to live in harmony with one another and the planet. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Shepherding God, you lead your people in paths of righteousness. Raise up prophets in our own day who warn against captivity to greed and point us to the freedom found in generosity. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Nurturing God, you come near in times of worry and need. Cradle us in your arms, that we trust you and are not afraid. Attend to any who are hungry, imprisoned, or ill this day (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Rejoicing God, you exult over us in singing. Enliven the song of this assembly and bless the ministry of church musicians (*especially*). With instruments and dance, join our voices to the song of all creation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give you thanks for your servants who showed us your goodness and grace (*especially*). By the power of your Spirit, keep us steadfast in faith until we make our home with you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

BLESSING

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.

Amen.

CONGREGATION HYMN: "Joy to the World"

#267 ELW



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.

Thanks be to God.

Visitors! It has been great having you join us for worship!

Please come again.

SERVING THIS WEEK

Music: Bethesda Adult Choir

Choir Director: Sheila Penoyer

Lecturers: Ellie Mitchell & Susan Samuelson

Greeters: Don & Donna

MyhreUshers: Chuck & Elsa Carlson

Hospitality: Cantata Choir

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, December 12, 2021: In Person: 9:00 am 78

Online: 16

Cantata Participants

Sopranos

Mary Braun
Jeannine Bruesewitz
Karen Ellis
Carolyn Morris
Sherry Whipple

Altos

Pat Becker
Darlene Christensen
Julie Swaggert

Tenors

Kathy Berland
Lee Forrester
Denny Meidlinger
James Muske

Basses

Jim Christensen
Steve Lackner
Wally Swenson

Rehearsal Pianist: Jeannine Bruesewitz! Thank you!

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda

Dec. 20, 2021 – Dec. 26, 2021

Monday	12/20	11:30 am	Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	12/21	4:00 pm	Blue Christmas Worship Service
Wednesday	12/22	9:00 am	Women's Bible Study
Thursday	12/23	8:00 am	ROMEOs
Friday	12/24	3:30 pm	Candlelight Worship Service
		5:00 pm	Candlelight Worship Service
Saturday	12/25	CHRISTMAS DAY – watch service online: https://www.youtube.com/c/bethesdalutheranchurchmalmomn	
Sunday	12/26	9:00 am	Hymn Sing Worship Service (with John Kozial)

PRAYER & CARE LIST: Jan & Ron Aho

NEED A GIFT IDEA? Check out the display in the fellowship hall and consider ordering farm animals and other items from the ELCA or sponsor a child thru Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry.

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.

GIVING ENVELOPES please pick up your 2022 Giving Envelopes in the Fellowship Hall

HYMN FEST John Kozial, Jr. will be joining us on Sunday, December 26th to perform a “Hymn Sing” for our Sunday service at 9:00am. Please joined us!

NEED MORE GIFT IDEA? Check out the shelf display in the Narthex with Bazaar items for sale. Worship and gift shop at the same time!

CHRISTMAS GIVING This year Bethesda will be donating children's hats, mittens, scarves, etc. to local children in need. You can place these items in the box on the table on the way into the Fellowship Hall.



POINSETTIA Donations



Name

Pat Becker
Maynard & Kathy Berland
Judie Birk
Jeannine Bruesewitz
Chuck & Elsa Carlson
Richard & Karen Carron
Lee & Barb Forrester
Marge Garbo
Ron & JoAnn Haglund
Skip Hansen
Del & Dianne Jones
Darrell Kelly
Sherri Lofgren
Keith & Dorothy Mundinger
Darlene Ryan
Sam & Sue Samuelson
Jenny Schuett
Patti Smith
Patti Smith
Jack & Paula Spetz
Dick & Sue Stebbins
Dave & Joanne Stueven
Julie Swaggert & Dennis Hennessy
Sylvia Tapelt
Bev Wedig

In Memory/Honor of

Loved Ones
Family
Family
Darwin
Family
Family Past & Present
Family
Ken Skogquist
Grandson Jared Haglund
Lynn
Family
Brother, Uncle, Friends
Dad
Loved Ones
Ryan (Joe)
Family
Dennis, Dave, Parents
George Smith
Elma Lepe & Jo Kay Lepe
Jennifer Spetz Eckers
Loved Ones
Family
Family
Dieter Treske
Al, Jen & Travis

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