

Sunday December 18, 2022

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@gmail.com

Church Web Site: blcmalmo.org

Pastor James Muske

320-583-5796

Parish Nurses: Darlene Christensen, RN 320-279-0097

Kathy Berland RN ANP 218-838-6181

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

BELL ANTHEM: “O Come, Little Children”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER & CARE LIST:

JOIN US for a Potluck Meal after the Christmas Day worship service on Sunday, Dec. 25th. Signup sheet in the Narthex. Worship is at 9:00am.

ELCA GOOD GIFTS FOR CHRISTMAS The ELCA Good Gifts provides more than 50 different gift giving ideas that grow the church, fight hunger, and transform lives. The web site is: <https://goodgifts.elca.org/> or you can pick up information in the fellowship hall. This is a great way to Christmas Shop for that special person who would be honored to support the ELCA Gift Giving . Thank You, Mission and Evangelism Committee

BLUE CHRISTMAS All are invited to attend a special, community-wide Blue Christmas service this year at Holden Lutheran Church on Thursday, December 22 at 7 p.m., in grateful collaboration with other area churches.

BETHESDA QUILTERS: Today you will notice quilts draped over the back of the pews. These are for last-minute gift purchases, and they are offering a 10 percent discount.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS SURVEY Don't forget to turn in your surveys. There's a basket on the secretary's desk for them.

THANK YOU - As I sit here at Bethany, I am the office staff, and record keeper. It just reminds me of how much the people of a congregation are truly the church. I can only add my thanks to all who made me feel welcome at Bethesda. May you all enjoy the holidays and may the Spirit of God keep you and your family blessed and safe for the Christmas-time as it is the reason for the season. God Bless, Rick Gabriel

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda **December 19, 2022 – December 25, 2022**

Monday	12/19	11:30 am	Cards
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Wednesday	12/21	9:00 am	Women's Bible Study
Thursday	12/22	8:00 am	ROMEOS
		7:00 pm	Blue Christmas–Holden Lutheran Church
Saturday	12/24	3:30 pm	Christmas Eve Worship
		5:00 pm	Christmas Eve Worship
Sunday	12/25	9:00 am	Christmas Day Worship
			Potluck following Worship

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Praise to you, O God, who lives with us, sharing our flesh and bones.

As Mary waited and Joseph dreamed, so we wait and dream for you.

Bless us and let your face shine upon us, more radiant than these candles, and more dear than all else we seek.

Restore us when we fail to refuse the evil and choose the good, and banish all our fears.

We pray in the name of Emmanuel, your promised child and our Savior.

Amen.

CANDLE LIGHTING MUSIC: “Filled with Hope and Gratitude”

OPENING HYMN: “Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn” #242 ELW

(Please Stand on the last Verse)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.

With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated

PSALM: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 *(Read Responsively)*

¹*Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth*

²**before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us!**

³*Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.*

⁴**O Lord GOD of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?**

⁵*You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure.*

⁶**You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves.**

⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

¹⁷ **But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself.**

¹⁸ *Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name.*

¹⁹ **Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

Please stand for the gospel

GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18-25

Glory to you, O Lord

¹⁸ Now 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. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰ But 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. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All 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.” ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CANTATA: CHRIST HAS COME

PRAYERS of INTERCESSION

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ’s presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

A brief silence.

God our shepherd, let your Spirit move with power throughout the church. Give discernment and wisdom to our bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay leaders. Take away our fear, so that we serve and love, confident that you are guiding us. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God our source, awaken us to the beauty of the earth and the marvelous variety of life. Unite humankind in repairing and caring for your creation. Protect creatures and habitats in peril due to rising seas and warming temperatures. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God our vision, raise up leaders in every nation who dream of freedom and justice for all people. We pray for the work of international organizations that promote peace and human rights, especially Amnesty International (*others may be named*). God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God our helper, come to the aid of all who cry out to you. Shelter migrants, refugees, and those fleeing war and famine. Bring relief to individuals and families experiencing hunger, homelessness, or impoverishment. Comfort any who are isolated or lonely. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God our Emmanuel, you are with us in our life together. We give you thanks for gathering us in worship and fellowship, and we remember those who cannot be present. Watch over those who travel. Heal the sick and speed their recovery (*especially*). God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God our hope, you bring life out of death, and you promise to be our God forever. Shine upon the faithful who now rest in the fulfillment of your promise and bring us also into your blessed reign of peace. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please be seated for the passing of the offering plate

OFFERING - *Please stand as the ushers bring the offering to the altar.*

OFFERING PRAYER

Eternal God,

you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground.

Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior. Amen.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

we give you thanks and praise.

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

we give you thanks and praise.

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

we give you thanks and praise.

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

Amen.

BLESSING

God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, † bless you now and forever.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: “Love Has Come” #292 ELW

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.*

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Music: Adult Choir & Bell Choir

Ushers: Mark & Mary Vukelich & family

Greeters: Dennis Hennessy

Hospitality: Adult Choir

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, December 11, 2022: In Person: 9:00am: 55 Online: 15