

Sunday January 1, 2023

First Sunday of Christmas



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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Pastor James Muske

320-583-5796

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

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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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER & CARE LIST: Russ Johnson (father of Jeff Johnson) passed away on December 25, 2022.

2023 YEAR OF SERVICE AT BETHESDA Our January 2023 Service Project is helping with the Free Community Meal at First Lutheran in Aitkin on Monday, January 9, 2023. The organization “Loaves and Fishes” supports these free meals and we have volunteered to provide volunteers to hand out the meals and we need to provide approximately 200 wrapped cookies/bars and 6 Volunteers (to be at First Lutheran between 1-5pm). If you are interested in helping contact Julie Swaggert for more information.
Phone: 763-229-9121 or Email: jswaggert@gmail.com

MONTHLY TITHING For your convenience we have direct deposit forms in the Narthex. You can sign up indefinitely or sign up for a few months if you’re going south for the winter.

JANUARY BLESSING BOX will be passed next Sunday, January 8th. We are collecting donations and money for **HOPE** center in Aitkin. There is a collection box in the Fellowship Hall with a wish list of items, and all donations made to the Blessing Box this month will go to them.

TREE TAKE DOWN We will be taking down the Christmas tree on Thursday, Jan. 5th at 9:00am. If you can help us that day, it will be appreciated.

OFFERING ENVELOPES for 2023 are here! Please pick up your envelopes in the Fellowship Hall.

POINSETTIAS Please take your poinsettia home after service today if you ordered one.

MOVIE DAY is scheduled for Sunday, Jan. 15 at 2:00pm. The movie will be of interest to adults with kids' movies available. Some treats like popcorn and or pizza will be available. Freewill donation.

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda

January 1, 2023 – January 8, 2023

Monday	1/2	11:30 am	Cards
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Wednesday	1/4	9:00 am	Women’s Bible Study
Thursday	1/5	8:00 am	ROMEOS
		9:00 am	Tree Take Down
Sunday	1/8	9:00 am	Worship Service <i>in person & live stream</i>

HYMN REQUEST: *(Please Stand on the last Verse)*

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation.

Amen.

Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of life,
you promise good news of great joy for all people, and call us to be messengers of your peace. We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security. We nurture conflict and build barriers. We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation. Have mercy on us. Where we are self-centered, open our hearts. Where we are reluctant, give us courage. Where we are cynical, restore our trust. Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life in you. Amen.

Hear the good news:

We are children of God and heirs of God's promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In ✚ Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God,

you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated

SCRIPTURE

FIRST READING: Isaiah 63:7-9

⁷ I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD, the praiseworthy acts of the LORD, because of all that the LORD has done for us, and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

⁸ For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely"; and he became their savior ⁹ in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God**

HYMN REQUEST

PSALM: Psalm 148 *(Read Responsively)*

¹ Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

² **Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!**

³ Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

⁴ **Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!**

⁵ Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created.

⁶ **He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.**

⁷ Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,

⁸ **fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!**

⁹ Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

¹⁰ **Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!**

¹¹ Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

¹² **Young men and women alike, old and young together!**

¹³ Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.

¹⁴ **He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the LORD!**

HYMN REQUEST

SECOND READING: Hebrews 2:10-18

¹⁰ It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹ For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹² saying, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you."

¹³ And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again, "Here am I and the children whom God has given me."

¹⁴ Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶ For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God**

HYMN REQUEST

Please stand for the gospel

GOSPEL: Matthew 2:13-23

Glory to you, O Lord

¹³Now after [the wise men] had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” ¹⁴Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

¹⁶When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸“A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

¹⁹When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰“Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” ²¹Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazorean.”

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

SERMON

HYMN REQUEST:

PRAYERS of INTERCESSION

With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ’s coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family.

A brief silence.

Merciful God, broaden the church's hospitality and welcome. Open our hearts to any in need of refuge and help, especially those who are persecuted. Prosper the work of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Life-giving God, restore the health of the soil, the seas, and the air. Increase the joy and praise of all living things. In the coming year strengthen local, national, and international efforts to prevent further harm to the environment. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Liberating God, deliver your people from cruel oppression. Increase justice in every nation and keep the dream of freedom alive. In this new year bring the blessing of peace and put an end to violent conflict throughout the world (regions in turmoil and conflict may be named). God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Uplifting God, raise all who are bowed down by trouble and need, especially individuals and families living in poverty (and those we name now). Protect and nurture all children. Sustain those who parent, teach, and care for the young. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Abiding God, accompany this community in the coming year. Increase our love for one another and the neighbors we serve. Enrich our worship and deepen our faith. Sustain our pastor/s (name/s) and all who minister in your name. (Specific ministries or individuals may be named.) God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Loving God, the holy innocents who perish in every generation are safe in your keeping. We give you thanks and praise for the all the faithful who have gone before us into everlasting life with you. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please be seated for the passing of the offering plate

HYMN REQUEST

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

OFFERING PRAYER

God of abundance,

receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.

Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION to COMMUNION

Glory to God in the highest!

Come to the table of peace.

HYMN REQUEST

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God our redeemer,

you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

God bless you and keep you, ✝ Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever.

Amen.

HYMN REQUEST:

DISMISSAL

Christ the Savior is born!

Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

Thanks be to God.

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

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Music: Digital Hymnal

Ushers: Mark & Mary Vukelich & family

Greeters: Sherry Whipple

Hospitality:

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: Saturday, Dec. 24, 2022: 3:30pm - In Person: 40

5:00pm - In Person: 20

Online: 18

Sunday, December 25, 2022: - In Person: 9:00am: 30 Online: 8