

# Sunday December 1, 2024

## First Sunday of Advent



### **BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO**

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## **Guest Leader: Rick Martens**

Mora, MN

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.*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRAYER & CARE LIST:** Ron & Jan Aho. . Kar. Karen Elias' grandson, Noah (18 months old) and his family. His parents Dan and Luisa Elias found out today that he has a brain tumor. He's was flown to a Boston Hospital for treatment.en Elias' grandson, Noah (18 months old) and his family. His parents Dan and Luisa Elias found out today that he has a brain tumor. He's was flown to a Boston Hospital for treatment.

**COFFEE SERVERS NEEDED** Please sign up so we may continue to enjoy coffee & fellowship after service. The signup sheet is on the bulletin board mounted in the Fellowship Hall next to the serving window.

**LECTORS NEEDED** we are looking for volunteers to read aloud the scriptures on Sunday mornings. Sign-up sheets are in the Fellowship Hall and include the weekly readings.

**BETHESDA QUILTERS** will be displaying and selling their quilts on Sunday, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>. All quilts are priced to sell.

**POINSETTIA SALES** Orders for poinsettias to be placed in the sanctuary's Christmas poinsettia tree will be taken; the cost is \$15. A member of Altar Care will be in the Fellowship Hall between church services to take orders

**BLESSING BOX** today's Blessing Box will go towards the cost of new furnaces.

**ANNUAL MEETING** is today following worship service. Annual reports and 2025 Budget reports are available in the Fellowship Hall on the table on the north wall.

**HELP DECORATE THE SANCTUARY** They will be setting up the Christmas Tree in the sanctuary on Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 10am. All are welcome to help.

## **GLORY BAPTIST CHURCH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS SALAD**

**LUNCHEON** Dec. 4, 2024, at 12:30pm. Call 218-927-3678 for reservations. Leave a message with name and number attending. This year's theme is "Gratitude". See the poster in the Narthex for more information.

**CHRISTMAS GIVING 2024** Part of our local benevolence money goes to giving families in our area food cards to help with holiday expenses. Early December there will be a name suggestion box in entry way. Please think about someone in the area (Petry's, Teals or Paulbecks) who could use a gift card.

Give us their name and address by December 18 so cards can be mailed to them before Christmas.

**ELCA GOOD GIFTS!!** The usual ELCA Christmas Giving is also available. There will be a catalog display in the fellowship hall or go online to ELCA. This is an opportunity to give food support to needy countries by purchasing an animal in the name of someone on your Christmas list.

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<b><u>THIS WEEK AT Bethesda</u></b>		<b><u>December 2, 2024 – December 8, 2024</u></b>	
Monday	12/2	11:30 am	Cards
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	12/3	9:00 am	Chair Yoga
		5:30 pm	Cantata Practice
		6:30 pm	Praise Team Practice
Wednesday	12/4	9:00 am	Women’s Bible Study
		12:30 pm	Glory Baptist Church Salad Luncheon
Thursday	12/5	8:00 am	ROMEOS
		9:15 am	Chair Yoga
		10:00 am	Decorate for Christmas
Sunday	12/8	9:00 am	Worship in Person & live stream

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**OPENING HYMN:**                      **“He Came Down”**                      **#253 ELW**  
*(Please Stand on the last Verse)*

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection*

God of mercy,

**we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.**

God of might,  
**we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors.  
We have trusted false promises.**

God in our midst,  
**we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy  
to birth in us.**

A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through ✝ Christ Jesus, whose day draws near.  
**Amen.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.*

**By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**CHOIR ANTHEM: “A Royal Nativity”**

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## **SCRIPTURE**

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### **FIRST READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16**

<sup>14</sup>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. <sup>15</sup>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. <sup>16</sup>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.”

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

## **PSALM: 25:1-10**

<sup>1</sup> To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

<sup>2</sup> **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

<sup>3</sup> Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

<sup>4</sup> **Show me your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths.**

<sup>5</sup> Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

<sup>6</sup> **Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.**

<sup>7</sup> Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

<sup>8</sup> **You are gracious and upright, O Lord; therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

<sup>9</sup> You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

<sup>10</sup> **All your paths, O Lord, are steadfast love and faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

## **SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13**

<sup>9</sup>How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? <sup>10</sup>Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

<sup>11</sup>Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup>And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. <sup>13</sup>And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

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

## **GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-36**

### **Glory to you, O Lord**

[Jesus said:] <sup>25</sup>“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup>People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup>Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup>Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

<sup>29</sup>Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup>as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>34</sup>“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup>like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup>Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

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

## **SERMON**

**SERMON HYMN: “Prepare the Royal Highway” #264 ELW**

## **APOSTLES’ 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**

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

*A brief silence.*

God of righteousness, your people live in hopeful expectation of your coming. Fill your church with renewed passion for our shared mission, and deepen our relationships with other Christians and other faith traditions in our local community and across the world. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

God of the cosmos, all creation shows that your presence is near. Help us sense your goodness and love in the sun and moon, in sprouting leaves and bare branches, in the roaring sea and quiet breeze. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

God of the nations, your reign extends over all principalities and powers. Give leaders and all in authority hearts for justice and peace. Encourage efforts to enact policies that benefit the common good. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

God of change, you accompany us through life's transitions. Be near to all who are changing jobs, moving, welcoming children, or facing the loss of loved ones. Sustain those who are ill or suffering (*especially*). In times of change, remind us of your steadfast love. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

God of community, your Spirit holds us together. Sustain our care for one another (*especially through [local ministries] supported by this congregation*). Inspire us to seek new ways to live together and to embrace the diversity of thought and identity in our communities. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God of memory, we give you thanks for faithful ones who have died (*especially*). Tend to our grief and sorrow with renewed trust in your promise of abundant and eternal life. Lord, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

**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.*

## **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Creator God,

**you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

### **BLESSING**

God of endings and beginnings,  
God in the darkness and the light,  
God, our hope for the journey,  
✠ bless and keep you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN: "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"**

**#631 ELW**

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

**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

Lector: Karen Elias

Ushers: Gary & Brenda Sjervin

Greeters: Winnie Zahradka

Hospitality: Kat & Bob Carlson, Linda Gommer

*Thank you for your service!*

Response to God's Word Last Week

Sunday, November 24, 2024: In Person: 9:00am 57 Online: 26