

# Sunday December 15, 2024

## Third Sunday of Advent



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

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## **Guest Leader: Darlene Christensen**

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.*

**COME & WORSHIP *with* The First Noel**  
**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRAYER & CARE LIST:** Ron & Jan Aho

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

**BETHESDA QUILTERS** will be displaying and selling their quilts today, 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

**CHRISTMAS GIVING 2024** Part of our local benevolence money goes to giving families in our area food gift cards to help with holiday expenses. There is a suggestion box in the entry way to fill out for someone in the area who could use a gift card (Gift cards come from either Teals or Paulbecks). Give us their name and address by December 17<sup>th</sup> so cards can be mailed to them before Christmas.

**ELCA CHRISTMAS GIVING** is also available. There is a display in the fellowship hall, or you can go online at <https://goodgifts.elca.org/>. This is an opportunity to give food support to needy countries by purchasing an animal in the name of someone on your Christmas list.

**CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP** 3:00pm Worship. No worship on Christmas Day.

**CHRISTIAN LADIES AROUND THE LAKE** Thursday, Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>, 12:30pm at Tulibee Tavern, lunch and entertainment: \$15.75. Call Lois for reservations 320 674-0136 and see the poster on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

**HYMN REQUESTS** On Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup> we will have a "Hymn Sing" service featuring John Koziol. There is a basket in the Narthex where you can request your favorite Holiday Hymns you want to sing for that Sunday. We will also need additional Lectors that Sunday as there are 6 readings. Readings are available in the Narthex also.

**THIS WEEK AT Bethesda** **December 15, 2024 – December 22, 2024**

Monday      12/16                      9-noon      WIC

		11:30 am	Pinochle
		1:00 pm	Council Meeting
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	12/17	9:00 am	Chair Yoga
Wednesday	12/18	9:00 am	Women's Bible Study
Thursday	12/19	8:00 am	ROMEOS
		9:15 am	Chair Yoga
		12:30 pm	Christian Ladies at Tulibee Tavern
Sunday	12/22	9:00 am	Worship in Person & Live Streaming
Tuesday	12/24	3:00 pm	Christmas Eve Worship

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## ADVENT PRAYER

Praise to you, O God, who holds our joy and sorrow.

You bring water to parched ground and life out of death.

Bless us as this light grows, and send sorrow and sighing to flee away.

Give us strength and patience, trusting that you are true to your promises.

Transform the lives of all who suffer with your wonders near at hand.

**Amen.**

## OPENING HYMN      “O Come, O Come, Emanuel”      #257 ELW

Verses 1,5,6,7 *(Please Stand on the last Verse)*

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
 Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
 un - til the Son of God ap - pear. *Refrain* Re-joice! Re-joice!  
 Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

- 5 O come, O Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heav'nly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery. *Refrain*
- 6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;  
O Sun of justice, now draw near.  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*
- 7 O come, O King of nations, come,  
O Cornerstone that binds in one:  
refresh the hearts that long for you;  
restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*

## 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 the wills of your faithful people, Lord God,*

**and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

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## **SCRIPTURE**

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### **FIRST READING: Zephaniah 3:14-20**

<sup>14</sup>Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!

<sup>15</sup>The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more.

<sup>16</sup>On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak.

<sup>17</sup>The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing <sup>18</sup>as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it.

<sup>19</sup>I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.

<sup>20</sup>At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

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

### **Psalm: Isaiah 12:2-6**

<sup>2</sup> Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the Lord God is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation.

<sup>3</sup> **With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.**

<sup>4</sup> And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the Lord, call on God's name; make known the deeds of the Lord among the nations; proclaim that this name is exalted.

<sup>5</sup> **Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.**

<sup>6</sup> Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

### **SECOND READING: Philippians 4:4-7**

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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

### **GOSPEL: Luke 3:7-18**

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

<sup>7</sup> John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?" <sup>8</sup> Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup> Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

<sup>10</sup> And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" <sup>11</sup> In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." <sup>12</sup> Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" <sup>13</sup> He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." <sup>14</sup> Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

<sup>15</sup> As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup> John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is

coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

<sup>18</sup>So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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

**CANTATA**

**“Gather at the Manger”**

**Gather at the Manager *with* O Come, All Ye Faithful**

**Born This Night *with* Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

**Fairest Lord Jesus**

**I Want to See You**

**Gather at the Manger *with* Angels We Have Heard on High**

**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 who reforms, fill your church with courage to do your will. Empower your people in taking risks that bear fruit. Raise up leaders who will proclaim the good news. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

God who creates, you hold in balance diverse ecosystems. Encourage efforts to protect wild lands from devastation. Care for animals and people in the path of destructive fires, storms, and other disasters (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

God who leads, this world cries out for true justice. Guide legislatures, judges, and lawyers in actions steeped in love and restoration. Increase the desire to advocate for all who are confronted with discrimination and oppression based on race, gender, sexuality, class, or age. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

God who embraces, help us notice the places where your people are hurting or sick. (*We pray especially for . . .*) Show your compassion and remember your people in love. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

God who abides, you dwell among the people of this congregation. Deepen our relationships with one another, and make us aware of the diverse talents and gifts present here (*specific ministries may be named*). Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God who consoles, we thank you for the time we have had with loved ones who have died. Comfort us with the promise of everlasting life in you. 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** *Please be seated for the passing of the offering plate.*

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

## **OFFERING 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.**

### **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:**

### **“Soon, and Very Soon”**

**#439 ELW**



1 Soon and ver - y soon  
2 No more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King.  
3 No more dy - in' there,  
4 Soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon  
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,  
no more dy - in' there,  
soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon  
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King.  
no more dy - in' there,  
soon and ver - y soon

Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!

*Coda after stanza 4*

Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

**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

Greeters: Del & Dianne Jones

Ushers: Barry & Donna Ansell

Lector: LuAnn Gordon

Hospitality: Adult Choir

*Thank you for your service!*

Response to God's Word Last Week

Sunday, December 8, 2024: In Person: 9:00am 62 Online: 18