

Sunday December 29, 2024

First Sunday of Christmas-Hymn Sing



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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Guest Leader:

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

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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:

TREE TAKE DOWN We will be taking down Christmas decorations on January 9, 2025, at 10am. Help is needed.

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

OFFERING ENVELOPES for 2025 are here! Please pick up your envelopes in the Fellowship Hall.

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

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda December 30, 2024 thru January 5, 2025

Monday	12/30	11:30 am	Cards
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	12/31	No Chair Yoga	
Wednesday	1/1	9:00 am	Women's Bible Study
Thursday	1/2	8:00 am	ROMEOS
		9:15 am	Chair Yoga
Sunday	1/5	9:00am	Worship in Person or Live Stream (no communion)

GATHERING SONG: **"The First Noel"** **ELW 300**

GREETING

L: Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.

C: By day and night he shines for all to see.

L: Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty

C: that the world may see the justice and richness of God.

L: God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,

C: so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.

L: Jesus is the light of the world.

C: Jesus is the light of our lives.

L: Sing to God a new song!

C: A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God,
you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all we do; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING: Genesis 1:1-5, 14-18

*Creation of light and
darkness, sun, moon, and stars*

^{1:1} In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

^{1:2} Now the earth was without shape and empty, and darkness was over the surface of the watery deep, but the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the water. ^{1:3} God said, "Let there be light." And there was light!

^{1:4} God saw that the light was good, so God separated the light from the darkness. ^{1:5} God called the light "day" and the darkness "night." There was evening, and there was morning, marking the first day.

^{1:14} God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them be signs to indicate seasons and days and years, ^{1:15} and let them serve as lights in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth." It was so.

^{1:16} God made two great lights—the greater light to rule over the day and the lesser light to rule over the night. He made the stars also. ^{1:17} God placed the lights in the expanse of the sky to shine on the earth, ^{1:18} to preside over the day and the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. God saw that it was good.

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

HYMN: "Hymn Request" ELW _____

SECOND READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

God promises a King

² The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

On those living in a pitch-dark land, light has dawned.

³ You have made the nation great; you have increased its joy.

They rejoiced before you as with joy at the harvest,
as those who divide plunder rejoice.

⁴ As on the day of Midian, you've shattered the yoke

that burdened them, the staff on their shoulders,
and the rod of their oppressor.

⁵ Because every boot of the thundering warriors,
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned, fuel for the fire.

⁶ A child is born to us, a son is given to us,
and authority will be on his shoulders.
He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ There will be vast authority and endless peace
for David's throne and for his kingdom,
establishing and sustaining it with justice and righteousness
now and forever. The zeal of the LORD of heavenly forces will do this.

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

HYMN: **“Hymn Request”** **ELW_____**

THIRD READING: Luke 1:5-25 *An angel visits Elizabeth and Zechariah*

⁵⁻⁷ During the rule of Herod, King of Judea, there was a priest assigned
service in the regiment of Abijah. His name was Zachariah. His wife was
descended from the daughters of Aaron. Her name was Elizabeth.
Together they lived honorably before God, careful in keeping to the ways
of the commandments and enjoying a clear conscience before God. But
they were childless because Elizabeth could never conceive, and now they
were quite old.

⁸⁻¹² It so happened that as Zachariah was carrying out his priestly duties
before God, working the shift assigned to his regiment, it came his one
turn in life to enter the sanctuary of God and burn incense. The
congregation was gathered and praying outside the Temple at the hour of
the incense offering. Unannounced, an angel of God appeared just to the
right of the altar of incense. Zachariah was paralyzed in fear.

¹³⁻¹⁵ But the angel reassured him, “Don't fear, Zachariah. Your prayer has
been heard. Elizabeth, your wife, will bear a son by you. You are to name
him John. You're going to leap like a gazelle for joy, and not only you—
many will delight in his birth. He'll achieve great stature with God.

15–17 “He’ll drink neither wine nor beer. He’ll be filled with the Holy Spirit from the moment he leaves his mother’s womb. He will turn many sons and daughters of Israel back to their God. He will herald God’s arrival in the style and strength of Elijah, soften the hearts of parents to children, and kindle devout understanding among hardened skeptics—he’ll get the people ready for God.”

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

HYMN: “Hymn Request” **ELW**_____

FOURTH READING: Luke 1:26-35, 38

Annunciation to Mary

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth,

²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin’s name was Mary.

²⁸ And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!”

²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² He 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 father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

³⁵ And the angel answered 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 called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶ And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren.

³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God.”

³⁸ And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

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

HYMN: “Hymn Request” **ELW**_____

FIFTH READING: Luke 1:46-56

The Magnificat

⁴⁶Then Mary said, “My soul praises the greatness of the Lord!

⁴⁷My spirit exults in God, my Savior,

⁴⁸for he has looked favorably on his humble servant. From now on, all generations will call me blessed,

⁴⁹because the Almighty has done great things for me. His name is holy.

⁵⁰His mercy lasts from generation to generation for those who fear him.

⁵¹He displayed his mighty power with his arm. He scattered people who were proud in mind and heart.

⁵²He pulled powerful rulers from their thrones and lifted up humble people.

⁵³He filled hungry people with good things and sent rich people away with nothing.

⁵⁴He helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful,

⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors—to Abraham and his descendants forever.”

⁵⁶Now Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then went back home.

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

HYMN: “Hymn Request”

ELW_____

SIXTH READING: Luke 2:22-40

The Prophecies of Simeon & Anna

²² When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”), ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.”

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout.

He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷ Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts.

When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

²⁹ “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace.

³⁰ For my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.”

³³ The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him.

³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, ³⁵ so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying.

³⁸ Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹ When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

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

HYMN: "Hymn Request" ELW_____

BISHOP'S CHRISTMAS GREETING

Responsive Prayer

L: Glory to God in the highest,

C: and peace to God's people on earth.

L: Blessed are you, Wonderful Counselor, for your presence with us.

C: Lead us with your wisdom as we live faithfully in this world.

L: Blessed are you, Mighty God, for the creation you have made.

C: Connect us to all you have made as caretakers of your glory.

L: Blessed are you, Prince of Peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.

C: Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.

L: Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.

C: Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.

L: Blessed are you, Everlasting Father, for your never-failing embrace.

C: Help us look to our future with hope in your eternal promises, and the feast that has no end.

L: Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.

C: Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bear your light to all the world.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING - *Please be seated as the Ushers pass the offering plate.
Please stand as the ushers bring the offering to the altar.*

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Good and loving God,

we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN: "Hymn Request" ELW_____

BLESSING

L: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

L: May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: “Hymn Request” ELW_____

DISMISSAL

Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

Thanks be to God!

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Music: John Koziol

Greeters: Carolyn Morris & Sherry Whipple

Ushers: Mark & Mary Vukelich

Hospitality: Brenda & Gary Sjerven

Thank you for your service!

Response to God’s Word Last Week

Attendance: Sun, December 22nd: 9:00 am 52 Online: 16

Tuesday, December 24th : 3:00 am 82 Online: 30

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda December 30 thru January 5, 2025

Monday	12/30	11:30 pm	Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	12/31	No Chair Yoga	
		HAPPY NEW YEAR’s EVE	
Wednesday	1/1	HAPPY NEW YEAR!	
		No Women’s Bible Study	
Thursday	1/2	8:00 am	ROMEOs
		9:15 am	Chair Yoga
Sunday	1/5	9:00 am	Worship in Person & Live Stream (no communion)