

Sunday December 8, 2024

Second 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

Rev. Paul Hanson

Monds View, 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.*

CALL TO WORSHIP: Mary, Did You Know?

Mary, did you know that your baby boy would one day walk on water?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy would save our sons and daughters?
Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new;
This Child that you've delivered will soon deliver you?

Mary, did you know that your baby boy will give sight to a blind man?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy will calm a storm with His hand?
Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod?
When you've kissed your little baby then you've kissed the face of God?
Mary, did you know?

The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live again,
The lame will leap, the dumb will speak the praises of the Lamb!
Mary, did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation?

Mary, did you know that your baby boy will one day rule the nations?
Did you know that your baby boy was Heaven's perfect Lamb?
This sleeping Child you're holding is the Great "I AM"?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER & CARE LIST: Ron & Jan Aho

COFFEE SERVERS NEEDED Please sign up so we may continue to enjoy coffee & fellowship after service. The sign-up 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. 15th. All quilts are priced to sell.

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

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 on line 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.

CORRECTION to Annual meeting information about the Annual Synod meeting. The In-person Synod Assembly will be May 3-4, 2025, at Breezy Point near Brainerd.

DECEMBER RAFFLE Decorate for the Holidays! Two winners this month! \$1.00/ticket. The drawing will be held on December 22nd. Baskets are in the Fellowship Hall. Proceeds will go towards the General Fund.

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda December 9, 2024 – December 15, 2024

Monday	12/9	9:00 am	Women's Devotion
		10:00 am	Property Meeting
		11:30 am	Cards
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	12/10	9:00 am	Chair Yoga
		5:30 pm	Cantata Practice
		6:30 pm	Praise Team Practice
Wednesday	12/11	9:00 am	Women's Bible Study
Thursday	12/12	8:00 am	ROMEOS
		9:15 am	Chair Yoga
Saturday	12/14	10:00 am	Cantata Dress Rehearsal
Sunday	12/15	9:00 am	Worship in Person & live stream Cantata (no communion)

OPENING HYMN: Oh, What a Glorious Night

The shepherds came to see the baby. Stood by his mother's side
Here laid the Savior Inside a manger
Oh what a glorious night ~ Oh what a glorious night

Chorus: I hear the angels singing halleluiah
Let the earth receive her king
I know that love has come, Sing it out
Jesus Christ is born ~ Jesus Christ is born

The shepherds wondered. They couldn't hide it.
Told everyone in sight. All were amazed when they heard how
God came down on this glorious night
God came down on this glorious night **Chorus**

Glorious – Glorious - What a Glorious night
Glorious – Glorious - What a Glorious night

All is calm now. All is quiet. A Star shining in the sky
Below in Bethlehem. The king is sleeping
Oh What a Glorious Night ~ Oh What a Glorious Night

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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son.

By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

PRAISE TEAM ANTHEM: “Christmas Day”

by Chris Tomlin

SCRIPTURE

FIRST READING: Malachi 3:1-4

¹See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

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

Psalm: Luke 1:68-79

⁶⁸ Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel, you have come to your people and set them free.

⁶⁹ You have raised up for us a mighty Savior, born of the house of your servant David.

⁷⁰ Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our enemies,
⁷¹ from the hands of all who hate us,

⁷² to show mercy to our forebears, and to remember your holy covenant.

⁷³ **This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:**

⁷⁴ to set us free from the hands of our enemies, free to worship you without fear,

⁷⁵ **holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.**

⁷⁶ And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,

⁷⁷ **to give God's people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.**

⁷⁸ In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

⁷⁹ **to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:3-11

³I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

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

GOSPEL: Luke 3:1-6

Glory to you, O Lord

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during

the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

⁵Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;

⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’ ”

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

SERMON

SERMON HYMN: Do You Hear What I Hear? (on screen)

Said the night wind to the little lamb, do you see what I see?
Way up in the sky, little lamb, do you see what I see?

Chorus: A star, a star, dancing in the night
With a tail as big as a kite
With a tail as big as a kite

Said the little lamb to the shepherd boy, do you hear what I hear?
Ringing through the sky, shepherd boy, do you hear what I hear?

Chorus: A song, a song, high above the trees
With a voice as big as the sea
With a voice as big as the sea

Said the shepherd boy to the mighty king, do you know what I know?
In your palace warm, mighty king, do you know what I know?

Chorus: A child, a child shivers in the cold
Let us bring Him silver and gold
Let us bring Him silver and gold

Said the king to the people ev'rywhere, listen to what I say
Pray for peace, people every-where, listen to what I say

Chorus: The Child, the Child, sleeping in the night
 He will bring us goodness and light
 He will bring us goodness and light

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.

Refining God, move through your church. Root out practices that harm your people, and kindle a fire for sharing the gospel among bishops, pastors, deacons, and all the baptized. Lord, in your mercy,

redceive our prayer.

Renewing God, transform your creation. Steer us from habits that harm what you have made, and guide us in practices that preserve and restore creatures and habitats. Lord, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

Ruling God, teach the nations your ways. Strengthen organizations and communities that broker peace and care for refugees, immigrants, and all caught in the center of conflict (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

Rescuing God, restore your people who are in any need. Heal all who are suffering (*especially*). Provide comfort and strength, and nurture sustained wholeness for the future. Lord, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

Reforming God, fill this congregation with your presence. Enrich our seasonal preparations, and bless the efforts by worship committees, music ensembles, staff, clergy, and lay leaders as they work in the weeks ahead. Lord, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Reassuring God, we remember those who have died and rest in you. Guide us in deep gratitude for their life, and allow us to learn from their faithful witness.

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

God feeds us with tender mercy.

Come to the table.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Generous God,

we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name. 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.

HYMN: "Because Of Bethlehem" by Matthew West (YouTube video)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lqkdgYFvtFQ>

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: Praise Team

Lector: Kat Carlson

Ushers: Barry & Donna Ansell

Greeters: Wally & Bev Swenson

Hospitality: Anne Hennessey & Darlene Ryan

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week

Sunday, December 1, 2024: In Person: 9:00am 67 Online: 14