

# Sunday January 12, 2025

## Baptism of Our Lord



**BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO**

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## Pastor Dan Holm

Hermantown, MN

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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:** Ron & Jan Aho, Noah Elias

**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 Narthex and include the weekly readings.

**OFFERING ENVELOPES** for 2025 are here! Please pick up your envelopes from the table in the Fellowship Hall. There are also “Direct Deposit” forms available on the table also.

**YEAR END TAX GIVING STATEMENTS** are available in the Narthex on the table heading into the Fellowship Hall.

**THIS WEEK AT Bethesda**                      **January 13, 2025 – January 18, 2025**

Monday	1/13	9:00 am	Women’s Devotion
		10:00 am	Property Meeting
		11:00 am	Council Meeting
		11:30 am	Cards
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	1/14	9:00 am	Chair Yoga
Wednesday	1/15	9-Noon	WIC
		9:00 am	Women’s Bible Study
Thursday	1/16	8:00 am	ROMEOS
		9:15 am	Chair Yoga
Sunday	12/19	9:00 am	Worship in Person & live stream (no communion)

**OPENING HYMN: “Shall We Gather at the River”**                      **#423 ELW**  
*(Please Stand on the last Verse)*



1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,  
2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,  
3 Ere we reach the shin - ing riv - er, lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down;  
4 Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will cease;



with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing by the throne of God?  
we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day.  
grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro - vide a robe and crown.  
soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.



Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er;



gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.

**Amen.**

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection*

Merciful God,

**you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways.**

**Amen.**

God proclaims these words of assurance: “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine.” In † Christ, you are forgiven.

In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God.

**Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*Almighty God.*

**you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**ANTHEM: “Christmas Hallelujah”**

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## **SCRIPTURE**

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### **FIRST READING: Isaiah 43:1-7**

<sup>1</sup> But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.

<sup>2</sup> When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

<sup>3</sup> For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

<sup>4</sup> Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life.

<sup>5</sup> Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; <sup>6</sup> I will say to the north, “Give them up,” and to the south, “Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters

from the end of the earth—<sup>7</sup> everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.”

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

**Psalm: 29**

<sup>1</sup> Ascribe to the Lord, you gods, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

<sup>2</sup> **Ascribe to the Lord the glory due God’s name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.**

<sup>3</sup> The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

<sup>4</sup> **The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice; the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.**

<sup>5</sup> The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

<sup>6</sup> **the Lord makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

<sup>7</sup> The voice of the Lord bursts forth in lightning flashes.

<sup>8</sup> **The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

<sup>9</sup> The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare. And in the temple of the Lord all are crying, “Glory!”

<sup>10</sup> **The Lord sits enthroned above the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

<sup>11</sup> O Lord, give strength to your people; give them, O Lord, the blessings of peace.

**SECOND READING: Acts 8:14-17**

<sup>14</sup> Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. <sup>15</sup> The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit <sup>16</sup> (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). <sup>17</sup> Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

**GOSPEL: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22**

**Glory to you, O Lord**

<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>21</sup> Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, <sup>22</sup> and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

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

**MUSIC: On The Wings of a Dove**

On the wings of a snow white dove, He sends his pure sweet love  
A sign from above, On the wings of a dove.

When troubles surround us, when evils come  
The body grows weak, the spirit grows numb  
When these things beset us God doesn't forget us  
He sends down His love on the wings of a dove.

On the wings of a snow white dove, He sends His pure sweet love  
A sign from above, On the wings of a dove.

When Noah has drifted on the flood many days  
The searchers for land in various ways  
Troubles he had some but wasn't forgotten  
He sent him his love on the wings of a dove.

On the wings of a snow white dove, He sends His pure sweet love  
A sign from above, On the wings of a dove.



With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

You call us by name and form us. We give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Nurture the baptized and equip people sent to proclaim the good news, especially Young Adults in Global Mission and international congregations.

God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Your voice sounds over the waters. Speak words of healing over the rivers and lakes, seas and oceans (*local bodies of water may be named*). Heeding your voice, lead us to care for water, and the land and creatures it nourishes. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

You give strength to your people. Uphold all who serve the common good.

Guide federal and state legislators, city and county officials, judges and juries.

Strengthen our resolve to serve all in need. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

You are with us in challenging times. Draw near to all who are ill, undergoing treatment, or recovering from surgery (*especially*). Accompany individuals and families affected by addiction or mental health challenges. Uphold each person as your beloved. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

You draw us into community. Embolden ministries of racial reconciliation, nurture work on behalf of immigrants and refugees, and equip each to use their gifts for the sake of neighbors near and far. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

You grant us peace. Comfort all who grieve. Dwell with us in this life and, at the last, join us with the saints whom you have created, formed, and named. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your



promise is revealed among the people.

**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**

God of grace,

**your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always.**

**Amen.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Nourishing God,

**at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink.**

**Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray, Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

The Spirit of the triune God ✠ bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.

**Amen.**

# CLOSING HYMN: "Go My Children, With My Blessing"

#543 ELW



1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.  
2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.  
3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.  
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.  
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.  
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.  
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."  
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."  
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live in hope.

Thanks be to God.

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

## THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Lector: LuAnn Gordon

Ushers: Dennis Hennessy & Julie Swaggert

Greeters: Larry & Carol Pantsari

Hospitality: Don & Donna Myhre, Larry & Carol Pantsari

*Thank you for your service!*

Response to God's Word Last Week

Sunday, January 5, 2025: In Person: 9:00am 52 Online: 14