

**December 30th, 2012**  
**First Sunday of Christmas**



**BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO**

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Church Web Site: [blcmalmo.org](http://blcmalmo.org)

Pastor: Rev. James Raisanen

Church Secretary: Evelyn Richter

Parish Nurses: Darlene Christensen, RN, C 320-684-2846

Patti Honnold, RN CNP 320-676-8421

Kathy Berland RN ANP 320-495-3988

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

**MISSION STATEMENT**

**We will grow spiritually and in numbers as we serve Christ. We will reach out and address the hurts and hopes in our community. We will maintain a church home that is reverently joyous and extend a welcome to all who seek to join us in our mission.**

**Hearing Assistance is available during the service.**

**Please notify usher if you would like assistance**

# Sunday, December 30, 2012/First Sunday of Christmas

## INTRODUCTION

*On the first Sunday of Christmas we find the boy Samuel and the boy Jesus, both in the temple, both growing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and humankind. We too have returned to the house of God "to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God," who has gifted us with a savior. As the festival continues, "let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts." It is Christmas, still.*

## PRELUDE

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN:            **"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"**            # 275 ELW

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

*Let us confess our need for the Christ of Bethlehem:* **We have sinned by what we have said, thought, and done. We would rather satisfy our own desires than help someone less fortunate. We find giving and serving very difficult, yet buying and spending come so easily. We have become spectators of life rather than participants. We would rather avoid the pain that comes with real relationships. Forgive our sin, God, and renew within us the true joy of living an abundant life.**

*Hear the Good News of the Christ of Bethlehem:* **This is the good news of Christmas—the Messiah has come! God entered human history in the person of Jesus who suffered and died for us and for our sin. We, by our very nature, are people in need of a Savior. The Savior is Jesus and our sin is forgiven. All creation shouts for joy at the good news that Jesus is come and we are forgiven. Praise God.**

**Amen.**

## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

**Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## FIRST READING: Colossians 3:12–17

*Just as newly baptized Christians in the early church were clothed with white robes upon arising from the baptismal waters, so all who have received God's gift of life in Jesus Christ are covered with the character of Christ.*

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

## PSALM: Psalm 148

Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise God in the heights.

**Praise the LORD, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

Praise the LORD, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.

**Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.**

Let them praise the name of the LORD, who commanded, and they were created,  
who made them stand fast forever and ever,  
giving them a law that shall not pass away.

***Refrain: The splendor of the LORD is over earth and heaven.***

Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;  
fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will;  
mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;  
wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;  
sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;  
young men and maidens, old and young together.

***Refrain: The splendor of the LORD is over earth and heaven.***

Let them praise the name of the LORD, whose name only is exalted,  
whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

**The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. Hallelujah!**

***Refrain: The splendor of the LORD is over earth and heaven.***

## **GOSPEL: Luke 2:41–52**

*Jesus grew up in a family that went to the Passover festival each year. It was in this environment of faithful adherence to the law that Jesus grew into spiritual maturity and an understanding of his identity and mission.*

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

**And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.**



*Here other intercessions may be made.*

With grief and thanksgiving, we remember our departed loved ones who now praise you with all the angels. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

O God, who shines light into darkness, receive these prayers and the prayers of our hearts through the power of the Spirit, in Jesus' name.

**Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

## **BLESSING**

The LORD bless you and keep you.

The LORD make his face shine upon you, and be gracious unto you.

The LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and grant you peace.

**Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

**CLOSING HYMN:**

**“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”**

**# 288 ELW**

## THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK OF DECEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup>, 2012

Organist: Marlys Beavers  
Greeters: Pat & Jerry Becker  
Ushers: Skip & Lynn Hansen  
Lector: Wally Swensen  
Coffee Servers: Church Council, Jan Phillipp & Shirley Moe

## RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD LAST WEEK (12/23/12)

Attendance: Sun. 12/23 @ 10:00 – 132  
Mon. 12/24 @ 3:20 – 117 & @ 5:00 – 80 (Christmas Eve)  
Tues. 12/25 @ 10:00 – 38 (Christmas Day)

Offering: \$ 2,195.00                      Building Fund: \$ 1,235.00

**\$ 3,077.00 – Weekly amount needed for operating expenses.**

**\$ 580.00 – Weekly amount (building fund) needed for mortgage payment.**

## **THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA DEC. 30<sup>TH</sup>, 2012 THRU JAN. 5<sup>TH</sup>, 2013**

Mon., 12/31	7 p.m.	AA & Alanon
Tues., 1/1/13	NEW YEAR'S DAY HOLIDAY	
Wed., 1/2	8:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	9:30 a.m.	Hardanger
	11:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	6:00 p.m.	Praise Team
Thurs., 1/3	8:00 a.m.	R.O.M.E.O.S.
	10:30 a.m.	Worship & Music
	1:00 p.m.	Funtimers

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**NOTICE TO USHERS:** For the months of January & February – Ushers for the 8:30 a.m. service will usher for the 9:00 a.m. No ushers needed at 10:00 a.m. until March.

**BIBLE STUDIES** for Wednesday & Thursday will resume this week.

**COFFEE SERVERS NEEDED** for January 20<sup>th</sup> & February 3<sup>rd</sup>. See signup sheet next to the kitchen serving window.

**2013 OFFERING ENVELOPES** are ready & available in the Fellowship Hall. Please pick yours up.

**GREETERS FOR 2013** have been assigned as follows for January & February:

Jan. 6 <sup>th</sup>	Bob & Kathy Carlson
Jan. 13 <sup>th</sup>	Wally & Bev Swensen
Jan. 20 <sup>th</sup>	Dennis & Audrey Bistodeau
Jan. 27 <sup>th</sup>	Jim & Donna Metteer
Feb. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Del & Dianne Jones
Feb. 10 <sup>th</sup>	Marlys LeClair & Audrey Kullberg
Feb. 17 <sup>th</sup>	Carol Bakken & Irene Long
Feb. 24 <sup>th</sup>	Neil & Myrna Honl

**WE NEED A NEW COORDINATOR FOR GREETERS FOR 2013** as our previous coordinator has moved from the area. If you are willing to take over this position, please contact Evie Richter, Church Secretary.