

**JANUARY 13TH, 2013
BAPTISM OF OUR LORD**



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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Church Web Site: blcmalmo.org

Pastor: Rev. James Raisanen

Church Secretary: Evelyn Richter

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

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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, January 13, 2013/Baptism of Our Lord

INTRODUCTION

The Baptism of Our Lord cannot help but recall our own and all baptismal blessings. We recall and celebrate our adoption as daughters and sons, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the promised company of almighty God when we "pass through the waters . . . the rivers . . . fire." On this day the heavens open again, for this assembly, and we receive the gift of the beloved Son of God in bread and wine.

CALL TO WORSHIP: "Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God" # 782 WOV

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: "For the Beauty of the Earth" # 879 ELW

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Amen.

Leader: Let us be honest with ourselves, our God, and with each other and confess our sins in order that we might receive the forgiveness of God and experience the joy of the community of Christ.

All: **God, we sin by what we think, what we say and what we do. We continue to pull away from you even though you love us with an everlasting love. Today in worship, we recognize our failures and our weaknesses. We confess our sins of omission and commission. We confess we do not love our neighbors as ourselves. We come to you now, as brothers and sisters in Christ, who need your power and forgiveness.**

Leader: In the name of Jesus, the Christ, I speak his word to you: *"I belong to you as you belong to me. I am one of you, I know you. I died and rose for you so your sin might be forgiven. I feel what you feel and I live through your life. I forgive your wrongs and with that forgiveness give you power to change you condition as you live lives which are pleasing in my sight."*

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.

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.

PRAISE TEAM ANTHEM:

"Let There Be Peace on Earth"

FIRST READING: Isaiah 43:1-7

Near the end of Israel's exile in Babylon, God promises to bring them home. They need no longer be afraid, because the one who formed, created, and called them by name now redeems them from all their enemies. God declares them precious and honored, and God loves them.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Do not fear, for I am with you;

I will bring your offspring from the east,

and from the west I will gather you;

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 —

everyone who is called by my name,

whom I created for my glory,

whom I formed and made."

PSALM: Psalm 29

Refrain: The voice of the LORD is upon the waters. (Ps. 29:3)

Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,

ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;

worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;

the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;

the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor. R

The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;

the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,

and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.

The voice of the LORD

bursts forth in lightning flashes.

The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;

the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. R

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!"

The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;

the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.

O LORD, give strength to your people;

give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace. R

GOSPEL: Luke 3:15–17, 21–22

The reading opens with questions about the identity of the Messiah. John the Baptist insists that he is not the Messiah; instead he points ahead to one who is coming. And whether the voice of God was heard by all or only by Jesus, God settles the matter: Jesus is God's beloved Son.

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, 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. 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."

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, 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."

SERMON: The Baptism of Jesus

OFFERING HYMN

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY PRAYER

Creator of all that is and all that will be, we offer the gifts of our labors in daring response to your blessings. We are yours, and all we have belongs to you. Use these offerings in ministry and mission in your world. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Called by the Holy Spirit into relationship with a loving God, we pray for the church, all in need, and the whole creation.

A time for silent prayer.

God of life, call your church on earth to bring the good news of redemption to all your beloved children throughout a hurting and broken world. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Call us to restore rivers and seas, ponds and creeks to the beauty and clarity you gave them. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Bless your people with peace by raising up leaders to serve with mercy and justice. Let the world praise your glory and strength by putting down weapons of war. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Comfort all your cherished sons and daughters, and call us to aid those who suffer (*especially*). Bring to your table all who hunger and thirst for you. Help us to share our bread with a hungry world. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Strengthen this community of faith. Plant and make grow in it the desire to share the gospel in word and action. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be made,

Sustain us in the gift of baptism until we gather around your throne with all your saints from every time and place. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Into your loving hands, gracious God, we place ourselves and all our prayers, spoken and unspoken, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER led by Praise Team

BLESSING

The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The God of all grace + bless you now and forever.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN:

“Jesus Loves Me”

595 ELW

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK OF JANUARY 13TH, 2013

Music: Praise Team
Greeters: Wally & Bev Swensen
Ushers: Dick & Sandy Pullen
Lector: Lynn Hansen
Coffee Servers: Shirley & Lloyd Lilienthal, Marlys LeClaire,
Judy Wozney & Diane Sandberg

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD LAST WEEK

Attendance: 9:00 a.m. – 109

Offering: \$ 3,457.00 Building Fund: \$ 1,490.00 Blessing Box: \$ 339.46

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

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

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA JANUARY 13TH THRU JANUARY 19TH, 2013

Mon., Jan. 14 th	9:00 a.m.	Women's Devotions at Pat Becker's
	7:00 p.m.	AA & Alanon
Tues., Jan. 15 th	9:30 a.m.	Bells
Wed., Jan. 16 th	8:30 a.m.	NO BIBLE STUDY
	9:00 a.m.	WIC
	9:30 a.m.	WELCA
	11:00 a.m.	NO BIBLE STUDY
Thurs., Jan. 17 th	8:00 a.m.	R.O.M.E.O.S.
	10:00 a.m.	Stewardship Committee
	1:00 p.m.	Funtimers

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2013 are available on the table by the Fellowship Hall door so if you haven't yet picked yours up, please do so.

Next Sunday, January 20th we will be honoring **REGINA JOHNSON** on the occasion of her 96th birthday so please come join us during the coffee hour following the service. There will be cake, coffee and a basket for birthday cards.

NO WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDIES this week.

WELCA meets this Wednesday. We need your input/ideas as to where to spend the proceeds made from the bazaar so come join us.