

December 1st, 2013



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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

Pastor: Rev. James Raisanen

Church Secretary: Secretary Mary Kramer

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 01, 2013**  
**First Sunday of Advent**

**INTRODUCTION**

*The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OPENING HYMN:**

**“Morning Has Broken”**

**#556 ELW**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
our life, our mercy, our might.

**Amen.**

As we await the day of the Lord, let us confess our sin.

*Silence for a time of quiet reflection*

Great and Holy One,  
**in this time of waning daylight,**  
**we confess the shadows of sin in our lives.**  
**We build ourselves up at the expense of others.**  
**We rely on our own efforts to make our lives secure.**  
**Yet you, O Lord, are the potter, and we are the clay.**  
**Come to restore us in your image,**  
**remake us into your people,**  
**and rebuild what sin has broken,**  
**that we and the whole creation may rejoice. Amen.**

Fear not, people of God:  
the Almighty has done great things for us.  
God casts away our sin from us

and makes of us a new creation.

In + Jesus Christ, God comes to set you free.

Take heart in the tender compassion of our God.

**Amen.**

## **GREETING**

From the one who is and who was and who is to come, and from Jesus Christ, the first fruits of the resurrection grace and peace be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

**CHOIR ANTHEM**            **”Rejoice, the Lord Is King”**

## **FIRST READING**

**Romans 13:11-14**

*Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ's coming in the future.*

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

*Refrain: I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD."*

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD."

**Now our feet are standing**

**within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

Jerusalem is built as a city

that is at unity with itself;

**to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD,**

**the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD. Refrain**

For there are the thrones of judgment,

the thrones of the house of David.

**Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:**

**"May they prosper who love you.**

Peace be within your walls

and quietness within your towers.

**For the sake of my kindred and companions,**

**I pray for your prosperity.**

Because of the house of the LORD our God,

I will seek to do you good." *Refrain*

## GOSPEL:

**Mathew 24:36-44**

*Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, unexpected event that will bring salvation or judgment upon people caught up in the usual affairs of daily life. He urges people to be alert and expectant.*

But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

**HYMN:**

**“Prepare the Royal Highway”**

**#264 ELW**

**SERMON:**

**“Wake Up!”**

**OFFERING & OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**Prayers of Intercession**

In hope and anticipation, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

*A brief silence.*

Gather all people into your house, O Lord, and open our eyes to your presence among us. Send us as witnesses, that others may see and be drawn to you. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Unite our voices to the great song of praise sung by mountains and rivers, fields and trees. Join our voices with theirs in announcing your promised coming throughout all creation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Transform our tools of war and destruction into instruments for cultivation and growth. Plant peace in places of conflict. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Be attentive to all who wait expectantly for your mercy in times of crisis, illness, fear, and grief (*especially*). Answer them when they cry out to you. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Heal all who live with HIV/AIDS. Reveal your creative power through those who seek a cure, and give us compassion to bear our neighbors' burdens. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You have clothed the saints in the light of Christ. Teach us to live in his ways until the great day when he comes to make all things new. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Almighty God, we entrust to you all for whom we pray, confident that you fulfill your promises through Christ our Savior and Lord

**Amen.**

## **THE 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 into hell. 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**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**Come to the table where Christ comes to make a home in you.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

### **Prayer after Communion**

**God of wonder,**

**we give thanks that you have fed us once again  
with this foretaste of the feast to come.**

**Strengthen us through this gift  
to serve our neighbor with joy,  
that all may come to see your glory  
reflected in the lives of your people;  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

**The God of hope,  
through Christ our peace,  
in the power of the Holy Spirit,  
+ bless you now and forever.  
Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN: "This Little Light of Mine"**

**#677 ELW**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PLEASE COME** & help decorate the church for Christmas,  
Thursday, December 5, 2013 at 10:00 am. Everyone is welcomed!

**BETHESDA SERVE!**-love like Jesus. If you want to help local people at Christmas time check out the annual Bethesda Santa Christmas Outreach program. Do you know a neighbor or church member who is going through a tough time? Please leave their name and address in the wooden "Santa Box" in the entry or make a donation to this program, just mark your envelope. Look at the "tents" on our tables at coffee time for more ideas.

**CHURCH CHRISTMAS PARTY-at the Pine Inn** December 2 at 5:30 pm with Dinner 6:30 pm. The cost is \$14.00 per person. Reservations are made. Call the Pine Inn if you are still interested in attending and then pay Jan Phillip.

**WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON** offered by WELCA Saturday, December 7 in our fellowship hall at 11:30 am. Kathy Hughes from the Tuscany Room will be serving. You can still sign up. The signup sheet will be in the fellowship hall. Cost is \$10.00.

**POINTESETTIA SIGN UP-** add your name to the signup sheet in the fellowship hall.

**AITKIN COUNTY OPERATION CHRISTMAS**-the Christmas tree in the entry is to get your attention for donations to the local Aitkin County Operation Christmas program. New hats, mittens, socks, toys, etc. are so appreciated. Bonnie Mickelson is the coordinator. Everything from Bethesda will be taken after church, Sunday December 15, 2013 and delivered to the Aitkin Moose Lodge. Our donated gifts will be added to the community wide campaign and offered to qualifying families on December 18, 2013. Thank you again for your donations.

**JANITOR POSITON**-Bethesda is accepting applications for a part time janitor position for our church. Day time hours are required. Applicants with janitor or housekeeping experience are encouraged to apply. Contact Judy Wozney, Bethesda Personnel Committee (320) 684-2050.

**BABY QUILT AND JELLY SALE**-next Sunday December 8<sup>th</sup> between services.

**LAUNDRY MISSING**-Thank you to all who took dish cloths and dish towels home to wash. We just need you to remember to return them to the kitchen at Bethesda!

**MISSING BOOKS**-this past summer 3 Nicholas Sparks books were left in a paper bag on a pew in the fellowship hall. If you're done reading, please return to Cheri Johnson.

## THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK OF DECEMBER 1 – DECEMBER 7, 2013

Organist: Marlys Beavers

Ushers: 8:30 Skip & Lynn Hansen 10:00 Darrell Kelly

Lector: 8:30 Val Benton 10:00 Mary Kramer

Communion Assistants: Laurina & Randy Tofteland, Jeaninne Bruesewitz

Coffee Servers: Lynne & Dennis Meidlinger and Tom & Judy Forester

Greeters: Jerry & Pat Becker

*Thank you for your service!*

Response to God's Word Last Week (11/24/2013)

Attendance: 8:30 - 89 10:00 - 37

	Month of November	Monthly amount needed
General Offering:	\$11,059	<b>\$15,340</b>
Building Fund:	\$ 1,635	<b>\$2,500</b>

### THIS WEEK AT Bethesda December 2 thru December 7, 2013

Monday	12/02	5:30 pm	Church Christmas Party at Pine Inn
		7:00 pm	AA & Alanon
Wednesday	12/04	8:30 am	Bible Study
		9:30 am	Hardanger
		11:00 am	Bible Study
		6:00 pm	Choir
		7:00 pm	Praise Team
		7:00 pm	Confirmation
Thursday	12/05	8:00 am	R.O.M.E.O.S
		10:00 am	Decorate the Church for Christmas
		1:00 pm	Fun Timers
		5:30 pm	Bells
Friday	12/06	10:00 am	Bone Builders
Saturday	12/07	11:30 am	Women's Luncheon at Church