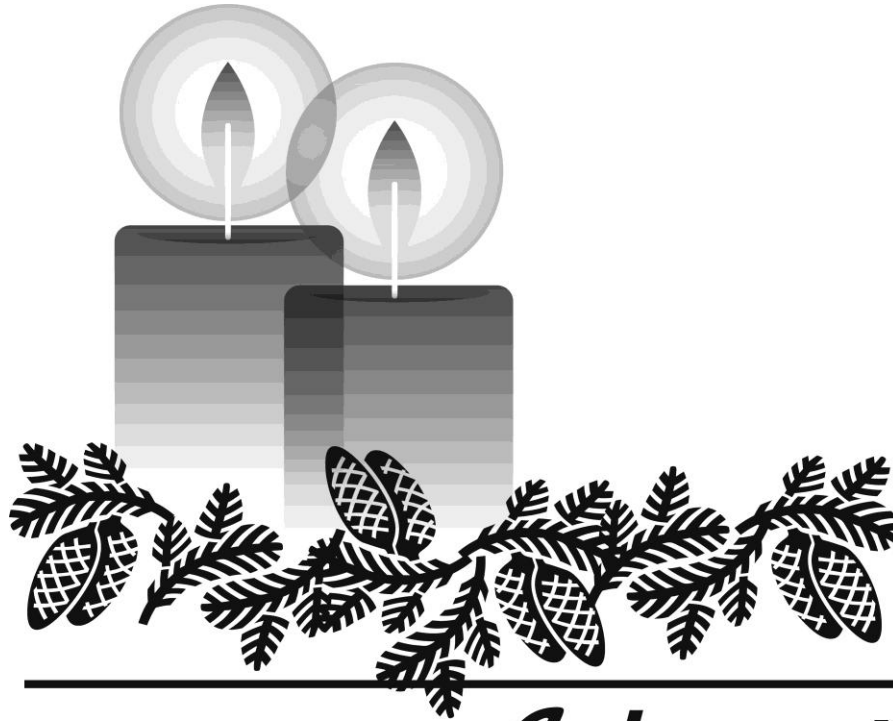


December 8th, 2013



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@frontiernet.net

Church Web Site: blcmalmo.org

Pastor: Rev. James Raisanen

Church 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 08, 2013
Second Sunday of Advent-Service Led by Praise Team

INTRODUCTION

At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the light of Christ's coming. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: “Little Drummer Boy”

1. Come, they told me, pa rum pa pum pum
A newborn king to see, pa rum pa pum pum
Our finest gifts we bring, pa rum pa pum pum
To lay before the king, pa rum pa pum pum,
rum pa pum pum, rum pa pum pum
So to honor Him, pa rum pa pum pum, when we come.

2. Baby Jesu, pa rum pa pum pum
I am a poor boy too, pa rum pa pum pum
I have no gift to bring, pa rum pa pum pum
Not fit to give our King, pa rum pa pum um
Rum pa pum pum, rum pa pum pum, on my drum

3. Mary nodded, pa rum pa pum pum
The ox and lamb kept time, pa rum pa pum pum
I played my drum for Him, pa rum pa pum pum
I played my best for Him, pa rum pa pum pum
rum pa pum pum, rum pa pum pum,
Then He smiled at me, pa rum pa pum pum, me and my drum!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

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 our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son.
By his coming give us strength in our conflicts
and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world;
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen**

PRAISE TEAM ANTHEM:

”O Come O Come”

In today's reading the prophet describes the ideal ruler who will come in the future as a green shoot springing from a dead stump (David's royal line) of Jesse (David's father). Gifted by the Spirit, this messiah will seek justice for the poor, and the reign of this monarch will be experienced as paradise regained.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

PSALM Psalm 72: 1-7, 18-19

Refrain: May the righteous flourish; let there be an abundance of peace. (Ps. 72:7)

Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son;
that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;
 that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the hills, in righteousness.
Let him defend the needy among the people, rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor. R

May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.
**Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,
 like showers that water the earth.**

In his time may the righteous flourish;

and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

Blessed are you, LORD God, the God of Israel; you alone do wondrous deeds!

And blessed be your glorious name forever,

and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen. Amen. **R**

Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'"

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

HYMN:	“Go Tell it on the Mountain”	#290 ELW
SERMON:	“Hope from a Stump”	
OFFERING HYMN:	“Silent Night, Holy Night”	#281ELW

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.

Renew us in the covenant of your Son, O Holy One, and revive us by the outpouring of your Spirit, who leads us to wisdom, understanding, and faithfulness in you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Establish harmony in all creation that all living things may work according to your loving and generous purpose. Fill the earth with your goodness and glory. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Send your Spirit to those who hold power and authority among the nations. Lead them to tend to those who are poor and meek with your righteousness and justice. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

By your word and your people encourage and give heart to those who have lost hope in the face of depression, disease, and death (*especially*). Give them faith in your promises. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Shape this faith community into a place of welcome and support for all people. Feed and strengthen us by your gifts of grace, that we may share them with others. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You have gathered the saints into your holy and eternal presence. Make us steadfast in the faith until we are all made one in your new creation. 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 LORD'S PRAYER

BLESSING

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

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN:

“Joy to the World”

#677 ELW

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BABY QUILT AND JELLY SALE-today Sunday December 8th between services.

PLEASE PICK UP YOUR 2014 OFFERING ENVELOPES-they are located on a table in the fellowship hall. Help distribute them to one another.

GLORY WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON-December 11th at 12:30. "A Royal Birth" is the theme. Dodie Davis, a professional Christian story teller, is the speaker.

BETHESDA SERVE!-love like Jesus. If you want to help local children 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 put their name and contact information 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. They're really there this time!

AITKIN COUNTY OPERATION CHRISTMAS-the Christmas tree in the entry is 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 from 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.

OPEN HOUSE-Ingrid and Doug Trandahl invite you all to an Open House at East Terrace Cooperative where they make their home. It is today December 8, 2013 from 1:00-4:00 pm. The address is: 2155 6th Lane SE, Cambridge, MN 55008. (The tall building behind Wal-mart & Menard's.) Trandahl's # (763) 689-3565 Unit 210.

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.

SIGN UP FOR POINSETTIAS-find Elsa Carlson in the fellowship hall, sign up & pay for a plant for Christmas and help make the church beautiful for this season.

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.

THANK YOU! To Lynne Meidlinger. She volunteered to coordinate our greeters!

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

Praise Team: Jim Christensen, Val Benton, Sheila Penoyer

Ushers: 8:30 Wayne & Janice Olson 10:00 Darrell Kelly

Lector: 8:30 Kathy Berland 10:00 Joan Petersen

Coffee Servers: Audrey & Dennis Bistodeau and Gail & Warren Rolick

Greeters: Wally & Bev Swenson

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week (12/01/2013)

Attendance: 8:30 - 84 10:00 – 38

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

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda December 8 thru December 14, 2013

Sunday 12/08 11:00 pm Council

Monday 12/09 9:00 am Women's Devotions at Jan Phillipp
7:00 pm AA & Alanon

Wednesday 12/11 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 12/12 8:00 am R.O.M.E.O.S
1:00 pm Fun Timers

Friday 12/13 10:00 am Bone Builders

