

January 5th, 2014
Second Sunday after Christmas



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO
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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 5, 2014

Holy Communion

INTRODUCTION

Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: "O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL"

#283 ELW

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the Maker of heaven and earth, the Word made flesh, the Lord and giver of life. **Amen.**

Let us come into the light of Christ, confessing our need for God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of peace,

we confess that we are not at peace—with others or with ourselves.

We bring to you all that tears us apart: discord in our families, violence in our world, our own conflicted hearts. In your mercy, mend us.

Reconnect us to one another and to you.

Let peace reign over all the earth, through the Prince of peace, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

In the Word who has come to dwell with us,

God has given us grace upon grace: forgiveness that is stronger than our sins, love that can heal every broken heart.

Hear this word of God's pardon and peace: in the name of + Jesus our Savior, you are free from all your sins.

Rise, shine, for your light has come.

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.

Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all that we do; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING:

Ephesians 1:3-14

In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made know as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Psalm 147

Refrain: Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion. (Ps. 147:12)

Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion,
who has strengthened the bars of your gates and has blessed your children within you.

God has established peace on your borders and satisfies you with the finest wheat.

God sends out a command to the earth, a word that runs very swiftly.

God gives snow like wool, scattering frost like ashes.

God scatters hail like bread crumbs. Who can stand against God's cold?

The LORD sends forth the word and melts them; the wind blows, and the waters flow.

God declares the word to Jacob, statutes and judgments to Israel.

The LORD has not done so to any other nation; they do not know God's judgments.

Hallelujah! **R**

GOSPEL:

John 1: (1-9) 10-18

John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

HYMN: "In the Bleak Midwinter" #294 ELW

SERMON: "A New Name for a New Year"

HYMN: "Your Little Ones Dear Lord" #286 ELW

OFFERING & OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

A brief silence.

Dwell among your people, and fill the church with your wisdom. Guide us in ways of righteousness, that we may show others the witness of your goodness. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

May every season work for your good purpose. Send sun and rain, warmth and chill, in due measure to draw forth your bounty from the earth. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

Journey with all refugees and displaced peoples. Lead them in safety to a place where they will find security that they rejoice in the care you have provided them. Hear us, O God
Your mercy is great.

Be a sure defense to all whose lives are threatened by pain, personal crisis, or persistent fear (*especially*). Give them shelter from hardship and rest when they are weary. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

Shine your light through this faith community into the wider community. Make us a beacon for all who hunger and thirst for righteousness and who are in need of mercy. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Giving thanks that the saints now dwell with you in the fullness of your kingdom, we

ask you to keep us faithful to your truth revealed in Christ until you 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.

APOSTLE'S 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

LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN: "Good Christian Friends Rejoice"

288 ELW

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK OF JANUARY 5TH, 2013

Organist: Marlys Beavers
Greeters: Ron & Jan Aho
Ushers: Dick & Sandy Pullen
Lector: Lynn Hansen
Communion Servers: Pat & Jerry Becker, Ruth Hamman
Coffee Servers: Janice & Wayne Olson/ Mary Kramer & Steve Long

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD LAST WEEK

Response to God's Word Last Week (12/29/2013)

Attendance: 9:00 am - 64

| | Month of December | Monthly amount needed |
|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| General Offering: | \$16,651 | \$15,340 |
| Building Fund: | \$ 1,952 | \$2,500 |

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA JANUARY 5TH THRU JANUARY 11TH, 2014

Sun Jan 5th 10:00 a.m. Church Council
Mon Jan 6th 7:00 p.m. AA & Alanon

Wed Jan 8th 8:30 a.m. Bible Study
9:30 a.m. Hardanger
9:30 a.m. Stewardship
9:30 a.m. Quilters
11:00 a.m. Bible Study
1:00 p.m. Homemakers Club
7:00 p.m. Praise Team
7:00 p.m. Confirmation

Thurs Jan 9th 8:00 a.m. R.O.M.E.O.S.
9:00 a.m. Take down Christmas decorations
12:30 p.m. Funtimers

Fri Jan 10th 10:00 a.m. Bone Builders

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN ATTENDING a fun day at THE OLD LOG THEATER on February 10TH? The play is called “Almost Maine”, it is a British comedy. Contact John Hudson, Aitkin Community Education at 218-927-7130. Also inform him that you would like the bus to pick you up at Bethesda. To register, find a slip on the bulletin board on the left when entering the fellowship hall, decide on your lunch choice, write a check and mail to the address on the form.

USHERS: For the months of January & February ushers for the 8:30 a.m. service will usher at the 9:00 a.m. service. NO ushers needed at 10:00 a.m. until March.

COFFEE SERVERS NEEDED. Signup sheets are to the left of the serving window of the kitchen. Please check it out and take your turn.

It's Time to TAKE DOWN OUR CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS Thursday, January 10th at 10:00 a.m. Everyone is welcomed and many hands make light work!

TODAY IS THE FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH. It is TIME FOR THE **BLESSING BOX** to be passed after the regular offering. As God has blessed you let us be a blessing to others. The monies received are used for Bethesda's Wish List. In the past we've bought a water softener and water heater, repaired & insulated front doors and paid for emergency furnace repairs. On our current Wish List are: working microphones, video cameras for the Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall, door mats, new insulation and repairs to the front door that gets frozen, and additional cabinets for classrooms.

Pick up your 2014 OFFERING ENVELOPES! Please!

POINSETTIAS in the fellowship hall are in need of a home so if you would like to take one home with you after service today please help yourself.

QUILTERS will meet on Tuesday, January 8th at 9:30 a.m.

Oops! Last week I mistakenly requested someone to help with finding greeters. Sorry. We are looking for a wonderful volunteer to coordinate people to read the lessons for the second service and not greeters. We already have a great person who came forward to do this job-Lynn Meidlinger. Coordinating lectors starts in February. Mary Kramer

If your Newsline didn't make it to your home this week feel free to take one on the table in the Narthex. Take an extra one and share with a neighbor or friend.

CHRISTMAS BIBLE QUIZ

1. What baby was born to a relative of Mary's, about six months before the birth of Jesus?
2. Which two of the four Gospels make no mention of the birth of Christ?
3. When the wise men arrived in the Holy Land, where did they go first?
4. Herod sent the wise men in search of the Baby. He told them to let him know where to find Him, so he could worship Him too (Matt. 2:8). But what was his real reason for wanting to know where Jesus was?
5. Where did Joseph take Mary and the Baby to protect them from Herod's murderous intentions?
6. According to the Bible, how many wise men were there?
7. As well as being a gift from the wise men, at what other time was "myrrh" associated with Christ?
8. Where was Joseph from?
9. How many angels spoke to the shepherds?
10. Where did the wise men find Jesus?
11. Who saw the star?
12. Name 6 names for Jesus.