

# Sunday, November 30, 2014

## First Sunday of Advent



### **BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO**

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

Pastor: Rev. James Raisanen

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

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Prayer Chain Contacts Char Berg 320-684-2102 or Judy Forester 218-678-2667

Church Secretary: Mary Kramer

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

### ***MISSION STATEMENT***

*We will LIVE and SERVE through FAITH*

*we will ACT with LOVE and KINDNESS*

*we will GIVE hope and SUPPORT to all.*

**Hearing Assistance is available during the service.**  
**Please notify usher if you would like assistance**

**Sunday, November 30, 2014**

**First Sunday in Advent**

**CALL TO WORSHIP:**                    **“Go Tell It on the Mountain”**                    **# 290**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**OPENING HYMN:**                    **“Angels From the Realms of Glory”**                    **# 275**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
the Sovereign over all the earth,  
the Wisdom from on high,  
our merciful Judge and Savior.  
**Amen.**

Let us boldly approach the throne of grace, trusting in God's mercy and love.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Generous and faithful God,  
**we confess to you all the ways, known and unknown,  
that we reject and undermine your steadfast love.  
Though you made us your people, we treat strangers with suspicion.  
Though you forgave our debts, we collect without mercy.  
Yet we are quick to pass judgment on others.  
Have mercy on us, O God, and remember your promise to us,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

The grass withers, the flower fades,  
but the word of our God will stand forever.  
Through the living Word, + Jesus Christ,  
God forgives your every debt, your every sin,  
and gives you a new heart and a new spirit.  
**Amen.**

**GREETING**

Sisters and brothers in Christ, beloved children of God:  
grace, mercy, and peace be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things to your beloved Son, whom you anointed priest forever and king of all creation: Grant that all the people of the earth, now divided by the power of sin, may be united under the glorious and gentle rule of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**NEW MEMBERS** – Today we will receive into our membership Mark and Mary Vukelich and their children Emilie and Will.

### FIRST READING:

**Isaiah 64:1-7**

*This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40-55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account — to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.*

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,  
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—

<sup>2</sup> as when fire kindles brushwood  
and the fire causes water to boil—

to make your name known to your adversaries,  
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

<sup>3</sup> When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,  
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

<sup>4</sup> From ages past no one has heard,  
no ear has perceived,  
no eye has seen any God besides you,  
who works for those who wait for him.

<sup>5</sup> You meet those who gladly do right,  
those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned;  
because you hid yourself we transgressed.

<sup>6</sup> We have all become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

We all fade like a leaf,  
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

<sup>7</sup> There is no one who calls on your name,  
or attempts to take hold of you;

for you have hidden your face from us,  
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

**PSALM**

**Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19**

*Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved (Ps. 80:7)*

<sup>1</sup>Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim

<sup>2</sup>**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,  
stir up your strength and come to help us**

<sup>3</sup>Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us,  
and we shall be saved.

<sup>4</sup>**O LORD God of hosts,  
how long will your anger fume when your people pray? R**

<sup>5</sup>You have fed them with the bread of tears;  
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

<sup>6</sup>**You have made us the derision of our neighbors,  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

<sup>7</sup>Restore us, O God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

<sup>17</sup>**Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,  
the one you have made so strong for yourself. R**

<sup>18</sup>And so will we will never turn away from you;  
give us life, that we may call upon your name.

<sup>17</sup>**Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. R**

**GOSPEL:**

**Mark 13:33-37**

*In today's reading, Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns to power and glory to end all suffering.*

Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake — for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or a dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

**SERMON:**

**“An Announcement About Our Future”**

## OFFERING & OFFERTORY SONG:

“Silent Night”

# 281

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen.

### THE PRAYERS OF INTERSESSION

Remembering the saints who have gone before us and giving thanks for God's blessings, we pray for the church, all in need, and God's good creation.

*A brief silence.*

For your whole church, that it will continue to joyfully proclaim your love to the world, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For our care of creation, that we resist the temptations to use it wastefully and seek more opportunities for restoration and wise use, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For all nations of the world, that they will come to the knowledge that your peace brings plenty and your wisdom brings justice, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For our brothers and sisters in any need, that we tend to their wounds and hurts, bringing healing, hope, and comfort in your name (*especially*), let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For our congregation, that we do everything possible to bring joy and peace into our neighborhoods and communities, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

For the blessed gifts of saintly lives, that they inspire the witness of all believers who live in your promises, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

Receive our prayers and hopes, Good Shepherd, and bring us safely into all joy and peace, through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER —Led by Praise Choir**

*Our Father in Heaven*

*Holy be your name*

*Your kingdom come*

*Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven*

*Give us this day our daily bread*

*And forgive us the wrong we have done*

*As we forgive those who wrong us*

*And do not put us to the test*

*But deliver us from evil*

*For the kingdom, the power and the*

*Glory are yours now and forever and every. Amen*

**BENEDICTION**

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is your light.

**Thanks be to God!**

**CLOSING HYMN:**

**“Joy to the Lord”**

**# 267**

**Great to have you join us for worship! Please come again.**

## THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Music: Praise Choir  
Greeters: Wally & Bev Swenson  
Ushers: 8:30 am — Skip and Lynn Hansen  
10:00 am — Ron and JoAnn Haglund  
Lector: 8:30 am — Carolyn Morris  
Hospitality Hosts: Dennis and Lynne Meidlinger

*Thank you for your service!*

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, November 23: 8:30 am – 76, 10:00 am – 34

## THIS WEEK AT Bethesda November 30 through December 7, 2014

Monday	12/01	7:00 pm	AA & Alanon
Tuesday	12/02	8:00 am 1:00 pm	Pastor's Text Study, Onamia Double Deck Pinochle
Wednesday	12/03	8:30 am 9:30 am 11:00 am 6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Bible Study Hardanger Bible Study Choir Praise Choir
Thursday	12/04	8:00 am 12:30 pm 6:00 pm	ROMEOS Fun Timers Bell Ringers
Friday	12/05	10:00 am	Bone Builders
Saturday	12/06	11:00 am	WELCA Christmas Luncheon
Sunday	12/07	8:30 am 10:00 am	Early Service Second Service

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Poinsettia Plants** Sign-up between services to purchase plants – Cost is \$15

**Quilt Sale** Bethesda Quilters will have their December quilt sale on Sunday, Dec. 7 and Sunday, Dec. 14, between services.

**Christmas Day Potluck Dinner** If you find yourself alone this Christmas Day, plan to participate in a Potluck Dinner in the Fellowship Hall following the 10:00 a.m. Christmas Day Service. A sign-up sheet will be in the narthex with a suggested menu or feel free to bring your favorite dish to share. Ham will be provided

**Make the Holidays More Meaningful!** Give a life-changing gift to Heifer International in honor of a friend or loved one. It's a gift that brings promise to hungry families and the opportunity for a better life to the less fortunate. Giving a Heifer gift takes the stress out of shopping while putting the meaning back into giving. Check the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall or call 855.848-6437 or go to their web site: [www.heifer.org/catalog](http://www.heifer.org/catalog).

**Women's Christmas Luncheon** is Saturday December 6<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am. It is at church. Mark your calendar and watch for signup sheet.

**Church Christmas Dinner** Plan to gather for our Church Christmas Dinner. This is Monday, December 8, 2014 at 6:00 pm. It will be held at the Pine Inn. There will be a sign up sheet between service.

**Glory Women's Christmas Salad Luncheon** Wednesday, Dec. 3 at 12:30 pm, Glory Baptist Church. Make your reservation by calling 218-927-3678 by December 1.

**Starting with the Cantata** on December 14th, ALL SUNDAY SERVICES UNTIL APRIL 2015 WILL BE ONE SERVICE AT 9:00 a.m

**The Church Choir Needs You!** Check it out on Wednesday night 6:00 -7:00 pm. Practice has begun for the Christmas Cantata. Every voice contributes to our performance.

**Double Deck Pinochle** Join us on Tuesdays 1:00 pm at church. It is great fun! If you want to learn how to play, we'll be happy to teach you.