

Sunday, December 7, 2014
Second Sunday of Advent



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son.
By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and
the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

FIRST READING:

Isaiah 40:1-11

In grand, flowing, poetic lines, the prophet announces that the exile of God's people in Babylon is over. The Lord will deliver Israel and will care for her as a shepherd cares for his sheep. This word can be trusted, because the only enduring reality in life is the word of the Lord.

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. ³A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.

⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass.

⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"

¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

PSALM

Psalm 85:1-2,8-13

Righteousness shall prepare a pathway for God. (Ps. 85:13)

¹You have been gracious to your land, O LORD;
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

²**You have forgiven the iniquity of your people
and blotted out all their sins.**

⁸I will listen to what the LORD God is saying;
for you speak peace to your faithful people
and to those who turn their¹ hearts to you.

⁹Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell in our land. R

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

¹¹Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

¹²The LORD will indeed grant prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.

¹³Righteousness shall go before the LORD
and shall prepare for God a pathway. R

GOSPEL:

Mark 1:1-8

The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a story of Jesus' birth but with the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord.

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; ³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight,'" ⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

SERMON HYMN: "O' Come, O' Come, Emmanuel"

#257 ELW

SERMON: "An Announcement From the Wilderness"

OFFERTORY SONG: "Prepare the Royal Highway"

#264 ELW

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.**

THE PRAYERS OF INTERSESSION

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

With longing and hopeful expectation, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

For the church, that it be a herald of glad tidings, announcing the good news that you are drawing near. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For all who strive for peace and an end to conflict and warfare, that righteousness find a home in their midst. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For wilderness and desert terrains, for mountains and plains, for fields fallow in winter, and for fruitful vegetation during these summer days in the Southern Hemisphere. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For all who are weighed down with economic instability, sorrow, anxiety, or sickness (*especially*), that you speak tenderly to them and comfort them in your compassionate embrace. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For this community of faith, that in our busy and fast-paced lives you will grant us the gift of patience and trust in your steadfast love. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for (*Ambrose and*) all your holy ones who faithfully prepared the way of the Lord. Open our eyes to the new heavens and new earth made known in your advent among us. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Receive our prayers, faithful God, as we watch and wait for your coming among us in Jesus Christ our 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

**Lord God, we give you thanks
that you have fed us even now
with the banquet that is yet to come.
Keep us alert for signs of your presence
in the world around us.
Send us as healing oil and sheltering comfort
to those in need,
and make us bold in testifying to the light
of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

BLESSING

**The blessing of almighty God, the Father of glory, + Jesus Christ our peace,
and the Spirit of truth, be upon you and remain with you always.
Amen.**

DISMISSAL

**Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God!**

CLOSING HYMN: “From Heaven Above” #268 ELW

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

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Music: Marlys Beaver
Greeters: Grace and John Iverson
Ushers: 8:30 am — Wayne and Janice Olson
10:00 am — Darrell Kelly
Lector: 8:30 am — Lynn Hansen
Hospitality Hosts: Bruce Gingerich, Carol Schlottman, Donna & Jim Meter

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week/Month

Attendance: Sunday, November 23: 8:30 am – 87, 10:00 am – 33
November Operating: **\$14,858.75**
Building Fund for November: **\$915.00**

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda December 7 through December 14, 2014

Monday	12/08	6:00 pm	Church Christmas Party at Pine Inn
		7:00 pm	AA & Alanon
Tuesday	12/09	8:00 am	Pastor's Text Study, Onamia
		1:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle
Wednesday	12/10	8:30 am	Bible Study
		9:30 am	Hardanger
		11:00 am	Bible Study
		6:00 pm	Choir
		7:00 pm	Praise Choir
Thursday	12/11	8:00 am	ROMEOS
		10:00 am	Christmas Decorating – Alter Care
		12:30 pm	Fun Timers
Friday	12/12	9:00 am	Stewardship
		10:00 am	Bone Builders
Sunday	12/14	9 am	Worship & Cantata

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.

Church Christmas Dinner is tomorrow night at the Pine Inn.

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

Bethesda Life-Line Newsletter The December newsletter has been delayed, but it is coming! You can go to Bethesda's web site to view now at **blcmalmo.org**

Salvation Army Bell Ringers needed Volunteers need at Shopko and Paulbeck's County Market in Aitkin. Dates are Nov. 24-Dec. 24. Money collected helps families and elderly in need in Aitkin County. Call the CARE office at 218-927-1383 to schedule a time.