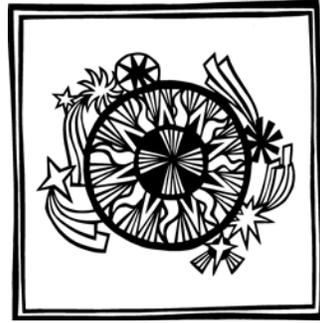


Sunday, January 4, 2015
Second Sunday of Christmas



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

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

Patti Honnold, RN CNP 320-676-8421

Kathy Berland RN ANP 320-495-3988

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

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 God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

FIRST READING:

Ephesians 1:3-6

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

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

PSALM

Psalm 147:12-20

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

¹²Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem;
praise your God, O Zion,

¹³**who has strengthened the bars of your gates
and has blessed your children within you.**

¹⁴God has established peace on your borders
and satisfies you with the finest wheat. **R**

¹⁵**God sends out a command to the earth,
a word that runs very swiftly.**

¹⁶God gives snow like wool,
scattering frost like ashes.

¹⁷**God scatters hail like bread crumbs.
Who can stand against God's cold?**

¹⁸The LORD sends forth the word and melts them;
the wind blows, and the waters flow.

¹⁹**God declares the word to Jacob,
statutes and judgments to Israel.**

²⁰The LORD has not done so to any other nation;
they do not know God's judgments. **Hallelujah! R**

GOSPEL:

John 1:[1-9] 1-0-18

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. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And 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. ¹⁵(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.'") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

SERMON HYMN:

“Amazing Grace”

#779 ELW

SERMON:

“Chosen For Greatness”

OFFERTORY SONG:

“Give Me Jesus”

#770ELW

OFFERTORY PRAYER

**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.

THE PRAYERS OF INTERSESSION

Rejoicing in the light of Christ that shines upon us, we pray for the church, the world, and all according to their needs.

A brief silence.

O God, your light shines in the face of our brother, Jesus. Enliven the church's testimony about the grace and truth made known in his life, death, and resurrection. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

O God, you speak in the immensity of space and the tiny detail of every grain of sand. We praise you for the creative joy evident in the wonder of life all around us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

O God, with holy delight you led your chosen people out of slavery into freedom. Bring freedom and peace to exiles, refugees, and those oppressed by harsh governments. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

O God, you stretch out your merciful hand to heal the sick and shield those who are troubled. Touch all who are burdened by want, loneliness, or illness. Bring to them and to their caregivers healing and hope (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

O God, you are the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. Fill us with joyful hope in this new year, and guide us to have courage amid all the changes and chances of life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

O God, you are the hope of the saints, the light that filled their hearts, the love that never failed them. Comfort those who mourn (*especially*), and in your time bring us to our eternal home. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Hear the hopes and prayers of our hearts, O God, and magnify our joy at the birth of your Light among us, Jesus Christ our Savior.

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

**We give you thanks, O God,
that in this bread and cup of Christ's very life,
you give us food for our journey.
As you led the magi by a star,
as you brought the holy family home again,
guide us on the way unfolding before us.
Wherever we go, may our lives proclaim
good news of great joy in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

BLESSING

May the Word that Mary brought to birth
carry you into new and abundant life.

Amen.

May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms
enfold you with love and strength.

Amen.

May the Word that angels proclaimed in song
bring harmony to our world.

Amen.

And the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God!

CLOSING HYMN: “I’m So Glad Jesus Lifted Me” #860 ELW

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

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Music: Marlys Beaver
Greeters: Dick & Sue Stebbins
Ushers: 9:00 am — Skip and Lynn Hansen
Lector: 9:00 am — Lynn Hansen
Hospitality Hosts: Wally & Bev Swenson, Dennis & Lynne Meidlinger

Thank you for your service!

Response to God’s Word Last Week/Month

Attendance: Christmas Eve: 3:30 pm – 94, 5:00 pm – 87
 Christmas Day: 72 Sunday, December 28, 2014: 98

December Operating: **\$18,084.10**
Building Fund for December: **\$960.00**

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda January 4 through January 11, 2015

Monday	1/05	9:00 am	Personnel Committee Meeting
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	1/06	8:00 am	Pastor's Text Study, Onamia
		1:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle
Wednesday	1/07	8:30 am	Bible Study
		9:30 am	Stewardship Meeting
		9:30 am	Mission & Evangelism Meeting
		9:30 am	Hardanger
		11:00 am	Bible Study
Thursday	01/08	8:00 am	ROMEOS
		10:00 am	Take down Christmas Decorations – Altar Care
		12:30 pm	Fun Timers
Friday	01/09	10:00 am	Bone Builders
Sunday	01/11	9:00 am	Worship with Communion

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Message to Women of Bethesda Lutheran Did you know that all women of the church are members of Women of the ELCA (WELCA)? We welcome you to attend the WELCA meeting on Wednesday, January 21 at 9:30 AM. Our focus will be to distribute the funds raised at the fall bazaar. Each year suggestions are presented as to the organizations and agencies that we wish to support. We encourage all women of our church to be part of this sharing experience.

Vacation Bible School Reserve the week of June 15-19, 2015 for our annual VBS.

Sunday Services Note that all Sunday Services will be held at 9:00 am during the months of January, February and March.

2015 Northeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly Quilt Auction is May 1-2 at Breezy Point Resort. The Synod quilt auction team has decided to expand the usual offering of beautiful quilts to 'quilts and all things quilted!' Create a quilt or quilt item for the auction or plan to take a spring road trip with friends and attend. Money raised goes to the ministry of the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. Contact Amy Loken at 218-525-3933, Ruth Mills at 320-679-3462 or Mary Jo Mettler at 320-279-2010.