

Sunday, November 29, 2015

First Sunday of Advent



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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Church Secretary: Mary Braun & 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, August 30, 2015

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INTRODUCTION

Advent is about the “coming days.” God’s people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a “righteous Branch to spring up for David.” The Thessalonians awaited “the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints.” Our Lord’s contemporaries hoped for the time “to stand before the Son of Man.” With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of our Lord in word and supper.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN

“Joy to The World”

#267 ELW

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the Lord of Israel who comes to set us free, the mighty Savior who comes to show mercy, the Dawn from on high who guides us into peace.

Amen.

Let us come before God in confession.

Silence is kept for reflection.

To you, O God,
we lift up our souls. You know us through and through; we confess our sins to you. Remember not our sins; remember us with your steadfast love. Show us your ways; teach us your paths; and lead us in justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

Sisters and brothers, come with joy and draw water from the well of salvation. Remember the gift of baptism: your sin is washed away in the name of + Jesus; you belong to Christ; you are anointed to serve. Stand up and raise your heads! The reign of God is near.

Amen

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

NEW MEMBERS – Today we will receive into our membership Galen Nyberg

First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

In the Old Testament, “righteousness” often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today’s reading, Jerusalem’s future name—“The Lord is our righteousness”—proclaims that the Lord is even now working salvation for Israel.

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The LORD is our righteousness.”

Psalm: Psalm 25:1-10

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. (Ps. 25:1)

¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

²My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.

³Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who

are treacherous.

⁴Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths. R

⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁶Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting. R (*To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul*)

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

⁸You are gracious and upright, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners in your way.

⁹You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

¹⁰All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies. R (*To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul*)

GOSPEL: LUKE 21:25-36

God will fulfill God's purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption.

[Jesus said:] ²⁵“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves.

²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the

whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

SERMON HYMN **“I, The Lord of Sea and Sky”** **#574**
ELW

SERMON (Sunday) **“A Fig Tree Sprouts Leaves”**

OFFERTORY SONG **“Softly and Tenderly”** **#608**
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.

PRAYERS OF HEALING

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A part of our work as a congregation is to pray for the sick. Prayer for the sick is an important Christian discipline and a biblical injunction. We want it to be a part of our worship program.

A theology of wholeness and wellness, however also would include a work of thanksgiving and support for those who are healthy and are seeking to be good stewards of all God's blessings.

Leader: Teach us, O God, how to walk in paths of wholeness and hope.

Congregation: **Helps us to care for those among us who are sick, and to challenge those who are well to embrace the fullness and vigor of life that you bring.**

Leader: Let those who are lonely or sorrowing be comforted and called back into community.

Congregation: **Let those who are depressed or suffering from mental anguish be helped through compassionate care and support.**

Leader: Let those who are facing illness of body be encouraged and assisted as they seek to recover or be released from their pain.

Congregation: Let those who are healthy celebrate with joy.

Leader: Let those of us who are able honor your creation through thankful enjoyment of nutritious food, clear air and water and vigorous exercise.

Congregation: Let us rejoice in the splendid variety of your creation.

All: Help us to be a healthy and healing congregation, O God, a place where all are free to live fully in body, mind and spirit. This we pray in your precious name. Amen.

You are invited this morning to come forward to receive a blessing and the sign of the cross in oil on your hand to strengthen you in your faith walk. You can also light a candle as you say a prayer. If you have a special prayer request you can record it on paper and place it in the basket on the altar.

PRAYER FOR HEALING: Let us pray

Father, we thank you for your Blessing to us. May your strength and grace surround us. May Jesus Christ, your Son, share with us this courage and His forgiveness. May the Holy Spirit lead us to the way of right and goodness for all. May your Holy Angels hold us in their arms and guide us on our Journey here in this world and into the next. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen.

A TIME OF BLESSING, PRAYER AND LIGHTING OF CANDLES

LORD'S PRAYER

BLESSING

Almighty and merciful God, Father, ☐ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you this day and forevermore.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live in love, as Christ loved us.

Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN: "There is a Balm in Gilead"

#614

ELW

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

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Music

Marlys Beaver

Greeters: Jerry & Carolyn Morris
 Ushers: 8:30am – Judy Wozney & Winnie Zahradka
 10:00 am – Ron & Joanne Haglund
 Lector: 8:30 am – Steve Lackner

Hospitality Hosts:

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: November 22nd 8:30am 87 10:00am 63

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA

November

30-December 6

Monday	11/30	1:00 pm 7:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle AA/Alanon
Tuesday	12/1	9:30-11:00am 10:00 - Noon	Feed My Starving Children (in Coon Rapids) Pastor Text Study
Wednesday	12/2	8:30 am 9:30am 6:00 pm 6:15 pm 7:00 pm	Bible Study Hardanger Choir Practice Cantata Practice Praise Team
Thursday	12/3	8:00am 10:00 am 10:30 am 12:30 pm 5:30 pm	Romeos Tree Decorating Worship & Music Committee Mtg. Fun Timers Hand Bell Practice
Friday	12/4	10:00am	Bones
Saturday	12/5	11:00 am 1:00-4:00pm 3:00 pm	WELCA Christmas Luncheon Foot Care – Nurses Office Baptism (Joshua & Drake Thole)
Sunday	12/6	8:30 am 10:00 am	Worship Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ATTENDANCE REGISTRY Please sign and pass the new attendance registry folders which you will find in the pew.

WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON is Saturday December 5th at 11:00 am. It is at church. Mark your calendar and watch for signup sheet.

FOOT CLINIC Foot Care Clinic will be held this Saturday, December 5th. Call the church office to make an appointment: 320-684-2123 (M-F 11:00am – 3:00pm).

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD We at Bethesda will be participating in the collection scarves, socks, etc. Please place them on the tree in the narthex. The gifts will be distributed on December 14th.

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN Sign up to join us in packing food on Tuesday, December 1st from 9:30-11:00am in Coon Rapids. Signup sheet is in the Fellowship Hall. Please leave a phone number so we can arrange car pooling.

CHRISTMAS PARTY There is a signup sheet in the Fellowship Hall for the Annual Christmas Party. When: Monday, December 7th at 5:30pm. Location: MSA. Enjoy an evening of fellowship and a short program by Val. See signup sheet for more details.

WANTED for next year's bazaar – any deer antlers and grouse tails. Please call Char Berg at 320-684-2102.

DIRECTORY Please stop by the Fellowship Hall and pick up your new church directory. If information is incorrect, please write the changes on a piece of paper and put in the basket on the secretary's desk in the office. We will put any new updates in the monthly newsletter so you can correct your copies.

CHRISTMAS CARING & SHARING project will use part of our local benevolence dollars from the veggie stand and designated donations to give gas and food cards to needy families. If you know someone who needs help this Christmas please complete the forms and place in box in the entry by December 13.

POINSETTIAS Sign-up for Poinsettias plants in the Fellowship Hall. We will have the signup sheet there on Nov. 29th, Dec. 6 and 13th. Please help beautify our church for Christmas. The plants are \$15.00 each. Buy one in memory/honor of a loved one.

MISSION & EVANGELISM is EVERYONE'S JOB! You can help mission giving by taking an attractive calendar or planner and leaving a Cash Food Shelf Donation. AND/OR.....You can help spread the word and invite someone to join us here at Bethesda by taking another calendar with a list of Bethesda Services and events to a neighbor or friend. Calendars and Planners are available in Fellowship Hall or entry way. Thank you for your support.