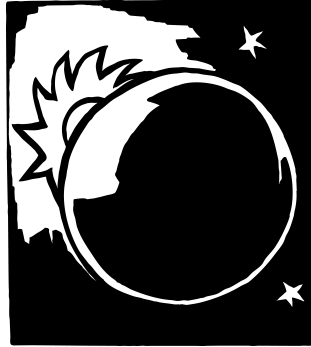


Sunday, January 3, 2016
Second Sunday of Christmas



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 & Mary Braun

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, January 3, 2016
Second Sunday of Christmas

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

OPENING HYMN: **“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”** **#288 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.

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. Amen.

FIRST READING:

Ephesians 1:3-14

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. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In 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, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In 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; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

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 1:11-13

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.

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.

SERMON HYMN: **“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”**

#272 ELW

SERMON: **“God’s Adopted Children”**

OFFERTORY SONG: **“The First Noel”**

#300ELW

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 with all the faithful, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Let us pray for the church throughout the world; for bishops, pastors, ministers of word and service, and all other leaders; for teachers and missionaries; for the newly baptized and those preparing for baptism. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For coastlands and mountains, rivers and deserts, prairies and valleys; for wilderness and cities, lakes and oceans; for farmlands and pastures, forests and rangelands; and for orchards, vineyards, and gardens. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For those who live in the north and the south, the east and the west; for all who work for peace; for those whose safety is threatened by warfare; and for immigrants and refugees. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For those who are hungry; for those who live with disabilities; for those who fear what the future holds for them; for those who grieve; and for all who are sick (*especially*).

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For this assembly; for council members and all other leaders; for those who help us learn from our past and plan for the future; and for all whose faithful stewardship sustains this congregation's ministry. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Here other intercessions may be offered. With thanksgiving, we remember all who have died (*especially*) and those who have pointed us toward the light of Christ and the truth of your love. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Pondering the mystery of your love, we offer our prayers in the name of Christ, the Word made flesh.

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: "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" #270 ELW

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

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Music: Marlys Beaver

Greeters: Dennis & Lynne Meidlinger

Ushers: 9:00 am — Skip and Lynn Hansen

Hospitality Hosts: Dianne & Del Jones, Bob Beaver's Birthday

Communion Servers: Char & Roy Berg, Nancy Hansen

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week/Month

Attendance: Christmas Eve: 3:30 pm – 124 5:00 pm – 65
Christmas Day: 45 Sunday, December 27: 82

DECEMBER 2015

General \$18,418.64
Building \$730.00

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda

January 4th - January 10th 2016

Monday	1/04	1:00 am 7:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle AA/Alanon
Tuesday	1/05	8:00 am	Pastor's Text Study
Wednesday	1/06	8:30 am 9:30 am 7:00 pm 7:00 pm	Bible Study Hardanger Praise Team Confirmation
Thursday	01/07	8:00 am 10:00 am 10:30 am 12:30 pm	ROMEOS Take down Christmas Decorations – Altar Care Worship & Music Meeting Fun Timers
Friday	01/08	9:00 am 10:00 am	Stewardship Meeting Bone Builders
Saturday	01/09	1:00-4:00pm	Foot Clinic
Sunday	01/10	9:00am	Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

CELBRATE Come help celebrate Bob Beaver's 90th Birthday today during coffee in the Fellowship hall. All are invited.

POINSETTIAS If you purchased a poinsettia, you may bring it home today.

TREE TAKE DOWN Is scheduled for Thursday, January 4th at 10:00am.

WINTER WORSHIP SCHEDULE Only One Worship Service on Sundays in January, February & March 2016 at 9:00am.

FOOT CLINIC our next Foot Care Clinic will be held on Saturday, January 9th, 2016. Call the church office to make an appointment: 320-684-2123 (M-F 11:00am – 3:00pm).

NEXT YEAR'S BAZAAR will feature a Christmas tree full of used tree ornaments. If you have any to donate, please drop them off in the Craft Room.

SEND A CARD OF ENCOURAGEMENT – Barb & Phil Bray's granddaughter-in-law, Natalie, has a critical medical situation and they are hoping to get a huge bunch of cards of hope, encouragement and long distance hugs to send to Natalie so that she will receive them before her surgery on Jan 27th at Mayo Clinic in Rochester. ***THIS WILL BE A SURPRISE FOR NATALIE...SO PLEASE NO COMMENTS ON FACEBOOK, EMAIL, ETC.*** Natalie doesn't need to know who you are...mentioning Barb and Phil's name would no doubt lessen her puzzlement! If you would be so kind to take a minute and send a card...I know she will be overwhelmingly surprised and touched.

Cards are to be sent before January 17th to:

Natalie Bray

c/o Jacqueline Bray

Virginia Theological Seminary

3737 Seminary Rd

Alexandria VA 22304