

**Sunday, November 27, 2016**

**First Sunday of Advent**



**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](mailto:blcmalmo@frontiernet.net)

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

**Pastor: Rev. Terry Frovik**

(Cell) 507-213-9961

(Home) 218-963-6140

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 Braun & Mary Kramer-Long

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**



**the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
Amen.**

*Please be seated*

## **First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5**

*The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshiping community responds: “Let us walk in that light of that Lord now!”*

<sup>1</sup>The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup>In days to come the mountain of the LORD’s house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.

<sup>3</sup>Many peoples shall come and say, “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.” For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

<sup>4</sup>He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

<sup>5</sup>O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks Be to God**

## **Psalm: Psalm 122**

*I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the LORD.” (Ps. 122:1)*

<sup>1</sup>I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the LORD.”

<sup>2</sup>**Now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

<sup>3</sup>Jerusalem is built as a city that is at unity with itself;

<sup>4</sup>**to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD.**

<sup>5</sup>For there are the thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David.

<sup>6</sup>**Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: “May they prosper who love you.**

<sup>7</sup>Peace be within your walls and quietness within your towers.

<sup>8</sup>**For the sake of my kindred and companions, I pray for your prosperity.**

<sup>9</sup>Because of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek to do you good.”

## **Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14**

*Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ's coming in the future.*

<sup>11</sup>Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup>the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup>let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The Word of the Lord.

### **Thanks Be to God**

*Please rise for the Reading of the Gospel*

## **Gospel: Matthew 24:36-44**

### **Glory to you, O Lord**

*Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, unexpected event that will bring salvation or judgment upon people caught up in the usual affairs of daily life. He urges people to be alert and expectant.*

[Jesus said to the disciples,] <sup>36</sup>“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>37</sup>For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup>For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup>and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup>Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left.

<sup>41</sup>Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left.

<sup>42</sup>Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup>But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup>Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

The Gospel of the Lord

### **Praise to you, O Christ**

*Please be Seated*

**SERMON: “Advent Waiting: Be Like a Cat!”**

**HYMN OF THE DAY: “Away in the Manger”**

**#277 ELW**

**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.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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

As we anticipate the fullness of the presence of Christ, we join with the church throughout the world, praying for all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

For the church and its leaders, and for all who work for the unity of the gospel; that the compassion of Christ break down all divisions, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For the well-being of creation, for mountains and hills, lakes and rivers, snow and sunshine, plants and animals, and for all who care for the earth; that God raise up stewards to protect this good creation, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For peace among nations, for those who lead all levels of government, for judges and magistrates, and for those who speak for the voiceless; that all are treated with equity and fairness, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For those who are anxious and worried, for the sick and bereaved, for the homeless and imprisoned, for those in any need (*especially*); that the compassion shown by Christ be embodied in caregivers and advocates, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For those who gather for word and sacrament, for those who travel, and for our holiday preparations; that in all our activities we give thanks to the Lord, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

In thanksgiving for those who have died and are at rest; that their witness to the gospel serve as examples of living the life of faith, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, those spoken aloud and those known only to you, and grant us peace through Jesus Christ, our coming Savior.

**Amen.**

**PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Please be seated*

*Ushers will begin passing the offering plate. Please rise as the ushers bring the offering to the altar.*

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**Savior of the nations, come. Make your home here in us. Feed us with your love, that our faith shine ever new and our lives reveal your light.**

**Amen.**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**BLESSING**

May Christ, the Sun of righteousness, shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path. Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN:                    “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”                    #249 ELW**

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**It has been great having you join us for worship! Please come again.**

## **THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK**

Music: Digital Hymnal  
Greeters: Maynard & Kathy Berland  
Ushers: 8:30 am George & Kathy Larson      10:00 am Ron & JoAnn Haglund  
Lector: 8:30 am Laurina Tofteland  
Hospitality Hosts: Sylvia Tapelt, Barry, Donna & John Ansell

*Thank you for your service!*

Response to God's Word Last Week:

Sunday, November 20: 9:00am: 104

Wednesday, November 23: 6:30pm 24

## **THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA**

November 28 – December 4

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Monday	11/28	1:00 pm 7:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle AA/Alanon
Tuesday	11/29	10-noon	Pastor Text Study
Wednesday	11/30	8:30 am 9:30 am 5:30 pm 6:00 pm 6:00 pm 7:00pm	Bible Study Stitchers Choir Practice Cantata Practice Catechism Class (Confirmation) Praise Choir
Thursday	12/1	8:00am 10:00am 10:30am	Romeos Put up Christmas Tree Worship & Music Meeting
Friday	12/2	10:00 am	Bones
Saturday	12/3	1:00-4:00pm	Foot Clinic
Sunday	12/4	9:00 am 10:00am	Worship First Interim Conversation Meeting

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY** Tickets are for sale for the Christmas party which will be held at Flagship on Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup>. Tickets must be purchased before Nov. 28<sup>th</sup>. Cost is \$16.00 per person.

**WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON** is Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am. It is at church. Cost is \$10. Mark your calendar and watch for signup sheet.

**CHRISTMAS CANTATA** We have begun practicing for our annual Cantata on Wednesday nights at 6:00pm. All voices are welcome to join us! Just show up.

**UPCOMING EVENTS** Thursday, Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> – put up Christmas Trees & Thursday, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> – Poinsettia Tree. 10:00am both days.

**POINSETTIAS** Sign-up for Poinsettias plants in the Fellowship Hall. We will have the signup sheet there on Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>, Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. Please help beautify our church for Christmas. The plants are \$15.00 each. Buy one in memory/honor of a loved one.

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD** – The tree is up in the Narthex ready for donations for Aitkin County youths, ages 0-18 years. Help trim the tree with hats, mittens, scarves, or any other unwrapped gifts that are age appropriate. Dead line for donations is December 11<sup>th</sup>.

**CHECK THE SUPPORT TABLE** – The table in the Narthex has many useful and informational handouts and pamphlets. On your way out, check out the new pocket sized Lutheran Prayerbook. Take one home with you.

**INTERIM CONVERSATION MEETING** Please mark your calendar for the *First Interim Conversation Meeting* on Sunday, December 4, 2016. We will worship at 9:00am and gather in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00am. Please make every effort to participate in this conversation! We will be working together to discern the top priorities for Bethesda Lutheran Church.

