

**Sunday, January 8, 2017**

Baptism of our Lord



**BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO**

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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**

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## Baptism of our Lord

### INTRODUCTION

*In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son of God. Through this great epiphany, Jesus fulfills all righteousness and becomes the servant of God who will bring forth justice and be a light to the nations. In the waters of baptism we too are washed by the Word, anointed by the Spirit, and named God's beloved children. Our baptismal mission is to proclaim good news to all who are oppressed or in need of God's healing.*

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**OPENING HYMN:**                      **“In the Morning When I Rise”**                      **#777 WOV**

### 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, who stretches out the heavens, who sends light to the nations, who gives breath to us all.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Loving God,

**we confess that we have turned from your way to follow our own ways.**

**Forgive us for the times we have spoken or acted too quickly; we have not spoken or acted at all; we have hurt those closest to us; we have hurt those we have yet to know; we have thought more about ourselves than others; we have thought less of ourselves than we ought. Turn us around, and give us a fresh start, so that we can live again as your children.**

**Amen.**

Even when we have done wrong, God makes us right. Even when we have messed up, God puts us together. God's love never runs out. God never tires of calling us beloved children. Hear God say to you now: Your sins are forgiven, for the sake of ☐ Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

### APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ...

**And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

*Please be seated*

### **First Reading: Isaiah 42:1-9**

*God's servant Israel is endowed with the Spirit in order to bring justice to the nations. The servant will not exercise authority boisterously or with violence, nor will weariness ever keep it from fulfilling its task. God's old promises have been fulfilled; the new assignment of the servant is to bring light to the nations.*

<sup>1</sup>Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. <sup>2</sup>He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; <sup>3</sup>a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. <sup>4</sup>He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

<sup>5</sup>Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: <sup>6</sup>I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. <sup>8</sup>I am the LORD, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. <sup>9</sup>See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks Be to God**

### **Psalm: Psalm 29**

*The voice of the LORD is upon the waters. (Ps. 29:3)*

<sup>1</sup>Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

**<sup>2</sup>Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**

<sup>3</sup>The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

**<sup>4</sup>The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice; the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**

<sup>5</sup>The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

**<sup>6</sup>the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

<sup>7</sup>The voice of the LORD bursts forth in lightning flashes.

**<sup>8</sup>The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

<sup>9</sup>The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare. And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, “Glory!”

**<sup>10</sup>The LORD sits enthroned above the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

<sup>11</sup>O LORD, give strength to your people; give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

### **Second Reading: Acts 10:34-43**

*Peter crosses the sharp religious boundary separating Jews from Gentiles and proclaims the good news of God’s inclusive forgiveness in Jesus’ name to Cornelius, a Roman centurion. As a result of Peter’s preaching, Cornelius and his family become the first Gentiles to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.*

<sup>34</sup>Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup>but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup>You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup>That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup>how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. <sup>39</sup>We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; <sup>40</sup>but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup>not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup>He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup>All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

**The Word of the Lord.**

**Thanks Be to God**

*Please rise for the reading of the Gospel*

## **Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17**

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

*Before Jesus begins his ministry, he is baptized by John, touched by the Spirit, and identified publicly as God's child.*

<sup>13</sup>Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup>John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" <sup>15</sup>But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. <sup>16</sup>And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. <sup>17</sup>And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

This is the Gospel of the Lord

### **Praise to You, O Christ**

*Please be Seated*

#### **SERMON**

"What's God Made of You?"

#### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

"Shine Jesus Shine"

#651 WOV

#### **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**

Called to be a light to the nations, let us pray for God's justice, peace, and healing.

*A brief silence.*

Pour out your Spirit of unity, triune God. Renew our lives in the promises of baptism. Hold us together in the oneness of the body of Christ. Empower us to be one as you are one. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Pour out your Spirit of life, eternal God. Move over polluted waters. Breathe on barren fields. Strengthen ancient cedars and oaks. Engage us in your care of sea, land, and sky. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Pour out your Spirit of wisdom, holy God. Guide politicians and military officials as they wrestle with complex situations. Grant them courage and compassion to work for peace in every nation (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Pour out your Spirit of justice, gracious God. Heal the pain of all who are victims of crime. Be present with all who are imprisoned. Reconcile broken relationships within communities. Comfort the sick and their caregivers (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Pour out your Spirit of love, glorious God. Sustain all who knit prayer shawls, sew quilts, and provide housing for our neighbors who are homeless. Surround those who seek warmth and shelter with grace-filled advocates. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Pour out your Spirit of peace, resurrecting God. Bring all who grieve into a community rooted in you. Uphold them with your grace and keep us all grounded in your promise of life eternal. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Receive these prayers in the name of Christ, the light of the world, who is one with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**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**

**Merciful God, receive the gifts we bring, our selves, our time, and our possessions. Through this meal unite us as your body, shining with the light of your justice and mercy; for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

# LORDS PRAYER

## BLESSING

The God of glory dwell in you richly, name you beloved, and shine brightly on your path; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the ☐ Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN:            “I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”                            #660 WOV**

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

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

## THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Guest Minister:        Randy Tofteland  
Music:                    Jim Christensen  
Greeters:                Lee & Barb Forrester  
Ushers:                  Skip & Lynn Hansen  
Lector:                   Winnie Zahradka  
Hospitality Hosts:     Tom & Judy Forester, Denny & Lynn Meidlinger

*Thank you for your service!*

Response to God’s Word Last Week

Attendance:        Sunday, January 1, 2017:        9:00am    73

## THIS WEEK AT Bethesda

January 9 thru January 15, 2017

Monday	1/9	9:00 am	Women’s Devotion at Pat Becker’s
		1:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	1/10	10:00-12:00	Pastor Text Study
		9:00 am	Quilters
Wednesday	1/11	8:30 am	Bible Study
		9:30 am	Stitchers
		9:30 am	WELCA
		6:00 pm	Catechism
		6:00 pm	Praise Team

**THIS WEEK AT Bethesda**                      **continued**                      **January 9 thru January 15, 2017**

Thursday	1/12	8:00am	ROMEOS
		12:30 pm	Stewardship Meeting
		12:30 pm	Fun Timers
Friday	1/13	10:00 am	Bone Builders
Sunday	1/15	9:00 am	Worship

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

**ROUNDTABLE MEETING** There will be a roundtable meeting today after worship to discuss the results of the Ministry Site Profile form you filled out on the “Top 5 Characteristics You Would Like to see in a Minister”.

**COFFEE SERVERS NEEDED** Signup sheets are to the left of the serving window by the kitchen. Please check it out and take your turn. There will always be someone to assist you with making the coffee and running the dishwasher.

**REFORMATION 500 KICKOFF CONFERENCE** Sunday, January 22, 2017 2:00-5:00pm at First Lutheran Church in Aitkin. There is no cost for this event, however, registration is required. See flyer in January’s Newsletter or post on the bulletin board in Narthex. There is a “Sign Up Sheet” on the table in the Narthex. If we have enough people signed up, we can car pool or arrange to charter a bus.

**PRAYER AND CARE CONCERNS**

- Family and friends of Fred Knudsen whose funeral was last Friday here at church.
- Wally Swenson
- The family of Loretta Blaha. Loretta passed away last week, December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016.
- Safe travel for all and protection from the cold.

**100<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY** Next Sunday we will celebrate Regina Johnson’s 100<sup>th</sup> birthday with cake during fellowship after worship.

**PASTOR TERRY** is worshipping at his home church this morning, Lutheran Church of the Cross, Nisswa, MN. He is Chair of their Global Mission Team celebrating Global Mission Sunday with Rev. Doug Cox, Exec. Director of Global Health Ministries, Fridley, MN, as guest preacher and forum leader.

**NOTE:** The confidential prayer requests from our Blue Christmas Worship have been honored in daily prayers. Thank you for sharing. Pastor Terry

**JANUARY WELCA MEETING** is Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am in Fellowship Hall.