



*Bethlehem Lutheran Church—William Penn
Founded 1860—Lutheran Church Missouri Synod*

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

DECEMBER 17, 2023



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AV Tech

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Ushers

Tom Hayden
Ben Holtkamp
Craig Kankel
Caleb Kettler

Acolyte

Harlee Duckett

Greeter

Pauline Kettler



Divine Service: Setting Three with Communion

Order of Service: *Lutheran Service Book*, pp 184-202

Pre-Service Music

December Bible Verse

“For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Romans 8:38–39

Our Mission Statement

Representing God’s Love to our Congregation, Community, and the World!



In Light of 1 Cor. 11:23-26, Bethlehem Lutheran Church maintains the historical practice of “closed” communion in the belief that the Sacrament requires faith in Christ’s words that His body and blood are truly present. Furthermore, participation in the Sacrament is a sign of our unity in the faith with all those who join us at the altar. *For that reason, we ask that those visitors desiring to commune be members in good standing of a congregation of the LCMS and speak to the pastor or an elder before the beginning of the service.* Our denial of admission to those who are members of another confession is not a judgment upon their faith but a recognition that we hold to different confessions concerning God, salvation, and the Sacrament itself. Such individuals are invited to speak with the pastor following the service.

Ringing of the Church Bell

OPENING HYMN

When All the World Was Cursed

LSB 346



1 When all the world was cursed By Mo - ses’ con - dem - na - tion,
 2 Be - fore he yet was born, He leaped in joy - ful meet - ing,
 3 Be - hold the Lamb of God That bears the world’s trans - gres - sion,
 4 O grant, dear Lord of love, That we re - ceive, re - joic - ing,



Saint John the Bap - tist came With words of con - so - la - tion.
 Con - fess - ing Him as Lord Whose moth - er he was greet - ing.
 Whose sac - ri - fice re - moves The dev - il’s dread op - pres - sion.
 The word pro - claimed by John, Our true re - pen - tance voic - ing,



With true fore - run - ner’s zeal The great - er One he named,
 By Jor - dan’s roll - ing stream, A new E - li - jah bold,
 Be - hold the Lamb of God, Who takes a - way our sin,
 That glad - ly we may walk Up - on our Sav - ior’s way



And Him, as yet un - known, As Sav - ior he pro - claimed.
 He tes - ti - fied of Him Of whom the proph - ets told:
 Who for our peace and joy Will full a - tone - ment win.
 Un - til we live with Him In His e - ter - nal day.

- P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**
- P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**
- P** O almighty God, merciful Father,
C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**
- P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

SERVICE OF THE WORD

INTROIT

Psalm 85:8–9, 12–13; antiphon: v. 7

Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,
and grant us your salvation.

Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to folly.

Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,
that glory may dwell in our land.

Yes, the LORD will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.

Righteousness will go before him
and make his footsteps a way.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
 and to the Holy Spirit;
 as it was in the beginning,
 is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,
and grant us your salvation.

GLORIA PATRI

LSB 186

C Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;
 as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.



C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

P Let us pray.

C Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11

¹The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor;
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
³to grant to those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.
⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins;
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations. . . .
⁸For I the LORD love justice;
I hate robbery and wrong;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
⁹Their offspring shall be known among the nations,
and their descendants in the midst of the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge them,
that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed.
¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;
my soul shall exult in my God,
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;

he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to sprout up before all the nations.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

1 Thessalonians 5:16–24

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise prophecies, ²¹but test everything; hold fast what is good. ²²Abstain from every form of evil.

²³Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA

LSB 190



C Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:6–8, 19–28

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.



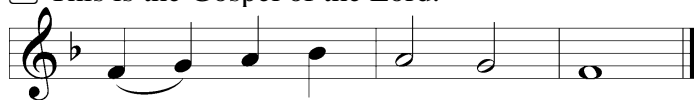
C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. . . .

¹⁹And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” ²¹And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” ²²So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” ²³He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.”

²⁴(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) ²⁵They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” ²⁶John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” ²⁸These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

C I believe in one God,
 the Father Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth
 and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
 the only-begotten Son of God,
 begotten of His Father before all worlds,
 God of God, Light of Light,
 very God of very God,
 begotten, not made,
 being of one substance with the Father,
 by whom all things were made;
 who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
 and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
 and was made man;
 and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
 He suffered and was buried.
 And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
 and ascended into heaven
 and sits at the right hand of the Father.
 And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the
 dead,
 whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the Lord and giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
 who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
 glorified,
 who spoke by the prophets.
 And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
 I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
 and I look for the resurrection of the dead
 and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

LSB 345



1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is
 2 Star - tled at the sol - emn warn - ing, Let the
 3 See, the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, Comes with
 4 So, when next He comes in glo - ry And the
 Δ 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion To the



near," we hear it say. "Cast a - way the
 earth - bound soul a - rise; Christ, its sun, all
 par - don down from heav'n. Let us haste, with
 world is wrapped in fear, He will shield us
 Fa - ther and the Son With the ev - er -



works of dark - ness, All you chil - dren of the day!"
 sloth dis - pel - ling, Shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
 tears of sor - row, One and all, to be for - giv'n;
 with His mer - cy And with words of love draw near.
 liv - ing Spir - it While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

Text and tune: Public domai

SERMON

Anxious – 1 Thessalonians 5:16–24

OFFERTORY

LSB 192



C Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -



new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -



way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it



from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -



tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

OFFERING PRAYER

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

LSB 194

P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.



C It is meet and right so to do.

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

LSB 195



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,



bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

C Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses

as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

LSB 197

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI

LSB 197

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.



C A - - - men.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the
 world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that
 tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.
 O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the
 world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence And with fear and
 2 King of kings yet born of Mar - y, As of old on
 3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en Spreads its van - guard
 4 At His feet the six - winged ser - aph, Cher - u - bim with
 trem - bling stand; Pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed,
 earth He stood, Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture,
 on the way As the Light of Light, de - scend - ing
 sleep - less eye, Veil their fac - es to the pres - ence
 For with bless - ing in His hand Christ our God to earth de -
 In the bod - y and the blood, He will give to all the
 From the realms of end - less day, Comes the pow'rs of hell to
 As with cease - less voice they cry: "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 scend - ing Comes our hom - age to de - mand.
 faith - ful His own self for heav'n - ly food.
 van - quish As the dark - ness clears a - way.
 lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

Text: Liturgy of St. James, 5th cent.; tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1829-85, alt.. Tune: French, 17th cent.. Text and tune: Public domain



1 Je - sus, Thy blood and righ - teous - ness My beau - ty
 2 Bold shall I stand in that great day, Cleansed and re -
 3 Lord, I be - lieve Thy pre - cious blood, Which at the
 4 Lord, I be - lieve, were sin - ners more Than sands up -



are, my glo - rious dress; Midst flam - ing worlds, in
 deemed, no debt to pay; Ful - ly ab - solved through
 mer - cy seat of God Pleads for the cap - tives,
 on the o - cean shore, Thou hast for all a



these ar - rayed, With joy shall I lift up my head.
 these I am From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.
 lib - er - ty, Was al - so shed in love for me.
 ran - som paid, For all a full a - tone - ment made.

5 When from the dust of death I rise
 To claim my mansion in the skies,
 This then shall be my only plea:
 Jesus hath lived and died for me.

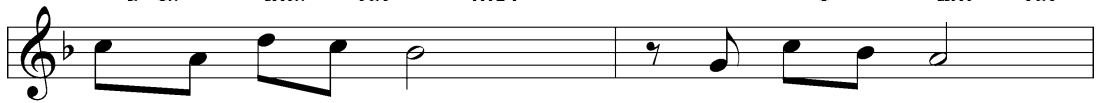
6 Jesus, be endless praise to Thee,
 Whose boundless mercy hath for me,
 For me, and all Thy hands have made,
 An everlasting ransom paid.

Text: Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, 1700–60;
 tr. John B. Wesley, 1703–91, alt.
 Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816–93
 Text and tune: Public domain

What Is This Bread



1 What is this bread? Christ's bod - y
 2 What is this wine? The blood of
 3 So who am I, That I should
 4 Yet is God here? Oh, yes! By
 5 Is this for me? I am for -



ris - en from the dead: This bread we break,
 Je - sus shed for mine; The cup of grace
 live and He should die Un - der the rod?
 Word and prom - ise clear, In mouth and soul
 giv - en and set free! I do be - lieve



This life we take, Was crushed to pay for our re -
 Brings His em - brace Of life and love un - til I
 My God, my God, Why have You not for - sak - en
 He makes us whole— Christ, tru - ly pres - ent in this
 That I re - ceive His ver - y bod - y and His



lease.	O taste and see—	the Lord is peace.
sing!	O taste and see—	the Lord is King.
me?	O taste and see—	the Lord is free.
meal.	O taste and see—	the Lord is real.
blood.	O taste and see—	the Lord is good.

Text: Frederic W. Baue, 1946. Tune: Jean Neuhauser Baue, 1951. Text and tune: © 1991 Fred and Jean Baue. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005013

The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

LSB 348



1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light tri - um-phant breaks,
 2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, To bear and fight and die,
 3 Oh, bright-er than the ris - ing morn When Christ, vic - to-rious, rose
 4 Oh, bright-er than that glo - rious morn Shall dawn up - on our race
 5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light and beau - ty brings.

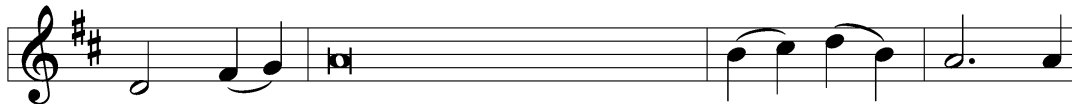


When beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills And life to joy a-wakes.
 But crowned with glo - ry like the sun That lights the morn-ing sky.
 And left the lone-some place of death De - spite the rage of foes.
 The day when Christ in splen-dor comes And we shall see His face.
 Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo-ple pray: Come quick-ly, King of kings!

Text and tune: Public domain

NUNC DIMITTIS

LSB 199



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-



cord-ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,



which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,



a light to light-en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy



peo-ple Is - ra-el. Glo - ry be to the Father and



to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,

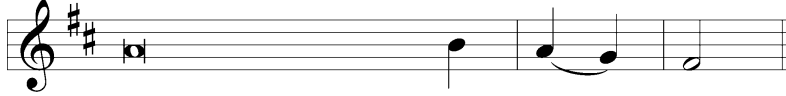


is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

THANKSGIVING

LSB 200

P O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,



C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

SALUTATION AND BENEDICAMUS

LSB 201

P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

P Bless we the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

LSB 202

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.



CLOSING HYMN

Hark the Glad Sound

LSB 349



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him
 soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His
 shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es



throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.
 burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.
 grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.
 ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

Tune: Public domain



POSTLUDE

Welcome to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, where we worship in the name of the crucified and risen Lamb of God, Jesus Christ our Lord. Blessings to you as you worship with us today.

ADVENT 3: OUR PEACE RESTS ON HIM ALONE

In Advent week 3, we finish the star with the two points at the bottom of the star. First, *Peace is with people when they follow your directions.* If everyone would only listen to us and do what we say, there would be peace.

We think of Jesus as the Messiah, the Prince of Peace. And yet, Jesus says in Matthew 10 that He has come to bring not peace but a sword to divide the world. What brings peace finally to the world? Jesus brings peace by stepping into the center of our troubled world, letting Himself be the focus of the world's anger.

Therefore, *Peace is finding our Purpose.* All this work to get ready for Christmas—why bother? What will bring us peace when so much is still undone? We find our peace rests not in our work but in following Him, the Prince of Peace. He filled the manger and the cross and there we find our peace.





Congregation: for our new church officers, that they would find joy and fulfillment in their tasks as they lead our congregation according to God's will; for Blake Powers, Edith Erwin, and Deloris Griffin; for our shut-in members: Renee Brinkmann, Mildred Holle, James Schoenemann, Floris Whittaker, Lathel Norris, and others who are unable to come to church

Community: for Brenham Pregnancy Center and those whose lives they touch; Faith Mission; families and individuals cared for by Child Protective Services

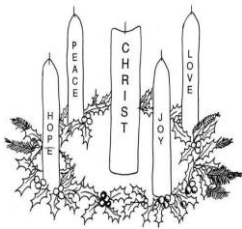
World: for peace in all parts of our world that are in conflict; for those who have been led astray into false belief; for those facing crisis pregnancies, that they would find the strength to choose life for their unborn child; for the leaders of the nations, that they would make godly decisions for their people and countries

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Week's Schedule

December 17 – December 24

Today:



Third Sunday in Advent

8:00 AM Christmas Eve Program Practice
9:00 AM Sunday School, Confirmation, & Adult Bible Class
10:15 AM Divine Worship: Setting III with Holy Communion
 Acolyte: Harlee Duckett
 Greeter: Pauline Kettler
 Ushers: Tom Hayden Ben Holtkamp
 Craig Kankel Caleb Kettler

Tuesday:

5:30 PM Final Christmas Eve Program Practice

Wednesday:



4:30 PM Confirmation Class
6:00 PM Wednesday Advent Meal
Our Peace Rests on Him Alone
7:00 PM Wednesday Advent Worship
 Acolyte: Connor Gresham
 Ushers: Clinton Kettler Henry Kettler
 Matt Kettler Michael Kettler

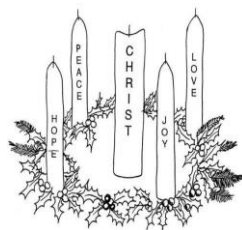
Thursday:

5-7:00 PM Open House at the Parsonage

Friday:

12:00 PM Youth Christmas Caroling

Next Sunday:



Fourth Sunday in Advent

9:00 AM Sunday School, Confirmation, & Adult Bible Class
10:15 AM Divine Worship: Setting I
 Acolyte: Taylor Nowicki
 Greeter: Theresa Kettler
 Ushers: Robert Kettler Caleb Klussmann
 Don Koester Valgene Kohring
6:30 PM Children's Christmas Eve Program

Serving in December: Elder – Charles Meyer / **Trustee** – Robert Kettler

If you have a question or thought concerning spiritual care or the church property, please contact the appropriate elder or trustee.



*The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God
in memory of Betty Boecker and Ed Hardin
by Fred Boecker and Julie Hardin.*



Attention:

This Advent season, **as we gather during the midweek to worship, we will also come together for a meal.**

Beginning at **6:00 pm** before midweek Advent services, a meal will be served. If you would like to help with the meal, please contact Pastor Krieg.

Christmas Open House at the Parsonage

THIS Thursday anytime **between 5-7 pm.** Pastor Krieg and Jennifer would like to invite you over for some festive Christmas cheer. Enjoy light snacks and drinks as we celebrate the holiday season together.



This Friday, the Youth League will meet at Mariachi's for a noon meal and then bring Christmas cheer to our special homebound members with caroling. All youth are encouraged to attend this very special event.

Please join us **next Monday, Christmas Day,**
at 9:00 am to celebrate the day of
Our Lord's birth in worship.



Stars of Joy

If you would like to be a part of this mission, please contact Lynn VanEman after church, or you can go by Brenham National Bank to pick up a star. The project is designed to provide Christmas gifts for children in foster care or children supervised by Child Protective Services. Let us share the JOY of our Lord's birth!



Silent Auction to Support Pastor May and his Work for Lutherans in Africa



The beautiful items Pastor May gave to the church are being auctioned off in a **silent auction from now until Christmas Eve**. All the items were handmade from mahogany and acacia wood in Kenya by a local artist. Any piece would make a great Christmas gift for you or a family member. The items will be on display in the parish hall until after the Christmas Eve children's program. Once the program is over, Pastor Krieg will announce the winners, and they can take their prizes. **All money raised through the silent auction will be given to Lutherans in Africa** to support their mission of training pastors in Africa. If you would like to participate in the silent auction, please see Amy in the office or Pastor Krieg so you can receive your auction number. Then, simply bid on the items you want by placing your auction number on the bid sheet alongside your bid.



Next year's offering envelopes are now available for pick up in the parish hall. If there needs to be any changes or if you did not get an envelope, please contact our Financial Secretary, Jackie Kankel.



Life Thoughts from Lutherans for Life

Those who believe cannot help but speak. God's love for every human life has filled our mouths with shouts of joy (Psalm 126:2). We have His permission to give voice to this Gospel in all circumstances and without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18). Our time has come to bear witness to the Light (John 1:6-7). Confess and do not deny (John 1:20) the sanctity of life! For more information, visit <https://lutheransforlife.org/>.

Sunday School Corner

Parents, next week in Sunday School, your kids will study the lesson "A Nativity Night – Jesus' Birth." Mary and Joseph travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem, where a simple stable serves as the birthplace for the promised Christ Child. Angelic hosts announce the birth of the Savior to ordinary shepherds, who hasten to worship the child. Having seen the Savior in the flesh, the shepherds quickly spread the news of His birth. To prepare your kids for this lesson, as a family, discuss, "How can we share the message of the birth of the Savior today?" So don't miss out on this exciting lesson, and parents, you can stay and join Pastor Krieg in the adult Sunday School class. See you next week!

New Adult Sunday School Lesson



What is the Office of the Keys? What is Christian discipline and excommunication? These are just a few of the questions we looked at as we began our study over Unit 10, The Use of the Keys and The Office of the Holy Ministry. Next week, we continue with Unit 10. If you could not attend today, please join us next Sunday during the Adult Bible Study hour before church, starting at 9 a.m., to learn the answers to these questions and so much more. Now is the time to commit yourself to a deeper and more meaningful understanding of God’s Word and your relationship with Him. I hope to see you all next Sunday as we continue our studies. And if you would like a free digital copy of the Life with God book, you can get it here:

<https://storage.snappages.site/HBG39K/assets/files/LifeWithGod-part1.pdf> (part 1)

<https://storage.snappages.site/HBG39K/assets/files/LifeWithGod-part2.pdf> (part 2)



Online Giving

You may give tithes and offerings online by clicking the “Give” tab on our website (<https://www.bethlehemwmpenn.org/>), or just scan the QR code to the left.

Last Week at Bethlehem

SERVICE	ATTENDANCE	GIFTS IN RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL
12-06 Midweek Worship	78	General Fund: \$1,236.00 Jon Siemsglusz Memorial: \$25.00
12-10 Sunday School	28	\$80.50
12-10 Youth Bible Class	4	
12-10 Adult Bible Class	34	
12-10 10:15am Worship	137	General Fund: \$2,275.80 Men’s Club: \$125.00 Sunday School Ed: \$25.00 Bible Study Book: \$25.00