



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

## **FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

**NOVEMBER 30, 2025**

**10:15 AM**



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Greeter

Karen Gaskamp

## *First Sunday in Advent*

*November 30, 2025 – 10:15 AM*

### Divine Service: Setting I with Holy Communion

Order of Service: *Lutheran Service Book, pp 151-166*

*Pre-Service Music*



### November Bible Verse

And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

*Genesis 15:6*

### 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.

### *Ringling of the Church Bell*

#### OPENING HYMN

*O Lord, How Shall I Meet You*

*LSB 334*



1 O Lord, how shall I meet You, How wel - come You a - right?  
2 Your Zi - on strews be - fore You Green boughs and fair - est palms;  
3 I lay in fet - ters, groan - ing; You came to set me free.  
4 Love caused Your in - car - na - tion; Love brought You down to me.



Your peo - ple long to greet You, My hope, my heart's de - light!  
And I too will a - dore You With joy - ous songs and psalms.  
I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; You came to hon - or me.  
Your thirst for my sal - va - tion Pro - cured my lib - er - ty.



O kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, Your lamp with - in my breast  
My heart shall bloom for - ev - er For You with prais-es new  
A glo - rious crown You give me, A trea - sure safe on high  
Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, That led You to em-brace



To do in spir - it low - ly All that may please You best.  
And from Your name shall nev - er With-hold the hon - or due.  
That will not fail or leave me As earth - ly rich - es fly.  
In love, all love ex - cel - ling, Our lost and fall - en race.

5 Sin's debt, that fearful burden,  
Cannot His love erase;  
Your guilt the Lord will pardon  
And cover by His grace.  
He comes, for you procuring  
The peace of sin forgiv'n,  
His children thus securing  
Eternal life in heav'n.

6 He comes to judge the nations,  
A terror to His foes,  
A light of consolations  
And blessed hope to those  
Who love the Lord's appearing.  
O glorious Sun, now come,  
Send forth Your beams so  
cheering,  
And guide us safely home.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.  
Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662. Text and tune: Public domain

*Stand*

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

INVOCATION

*LSB 151*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

*LSB 151*

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore 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 118:25–28; antiphon: Zechariah 9:9b, alt.*

Behold, your king is coming to you;  
**righteous and having salvation.**

Save us, we pray, O LORD!

**O LORD, we pray, give us success!**

Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the LORD!

**We bless you from the house of the LORD.**

The LORD is God, and he has made his light to shine upon us.

**Bind the festal sacrifice with cords, up to the horns of the altar!**

You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;

**you are my God; I will extol you.**

**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.**

Behold, your king is coming to you;

**righteous and having salvation.**

**P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**P** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**P** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



**C** A - men.

## HYMN OF PRAISE

### *This Is the Feast*



**C** This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

1 — Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose  
 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and  
 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and  
 4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to  
 5 For the Lamb who was slain has be -

blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*  
 hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*  
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*  
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*  
 gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*  
 This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And al - so with you.

**P** Let us pray.

**C** Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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

<sup>2</sup>It shall come to pass in the latter days  
 that the mountain of the house of the LORD  
 shall be established as the highest of the mountains,  
 and shall be lifted up above the hills;  
 and all the nations shall flow to it,  
<sup>3</sup>and 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 the law,  
 and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

<sup>4</sup>He shall judge between the nations,  
 and shall decide disputes for many peoples;  
 and 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 anymore.

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

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

*Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.*

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.  
 Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.  
 Behold, your king is coming to you;  
 righteous and having salvation.  
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
 From the house of the Lord we bless you.

<sup>8</sup>Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup>The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>10</sup>Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

<sup>11</sup>Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. <sup>12</sup>The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. <sup>13</sup>Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

COMMON ALLELUIA

*LSB 156*

**C** Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL

*Matthew 24:36-44*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the twenty-fourth chapter.

**C** Glo - ry to You, O Lord.



<sup>36</sup>[Jesus said:] “But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. <sup>37</sup>As were the days of Noah, 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 when Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup>and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup>Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. <sup>41</sup>Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. <sup>42</sup>Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup>But know this, that if the master 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 hour you do not expect.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

NICENE CREED

*LSB 158*

**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.

*Sit*

#### HYMN OF THE DAY

*Savior of the Nations, Come*

*LSB 332*



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, Vir - gin's Son, make  
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the Spir - it  
3 Here a maid was found with child, Yet re - mained a  
4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and



here Your home! Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,  
of our God, Was the Word of God made flesh—  
vir - gin mild. In her womb this truth was shown:  
king - ly hall; God of God, yet ful - ly man,



That the Lord chose such a birth.  
Wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.  
God was there up - on His throne.  
His he - ro - ic course be - gan.

5 God the Father was His source,  
Back to God He ran His course.  
Into hell His road went down,  
Back then to His throne and crown.

6 For You are the Father's Son  
Who in flesh the vict'ry won.  
By Your mighty pow'r make whole  
All our ills of flesh and soul.

7 From the manger newborn light  
Shines in glory through the night.  
Darkness there no more resides;  
In this light faith now abides.

△ 8 Glory to the Father sing,  
Glory to the Son, our king,  
Glory to the Spirit be  
Now and through eternity.

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SERMON  
*Walk in the Light*  
*Isaiah 2:1-5*

*Stand*

OFFERTORY

*LSB 159*



What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to  
me? I will of-fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv-ing and will  
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-  
va-tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my  
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the  
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je-ru-sa-lem.

OFFERING PRAYER

*Sit*

OFFERING

*Stand*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And al - so with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts.



**C** We lift them to the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

**P** It is truly good, 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, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

## SANCTUS

LSB 161



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

**P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

**P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.

**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

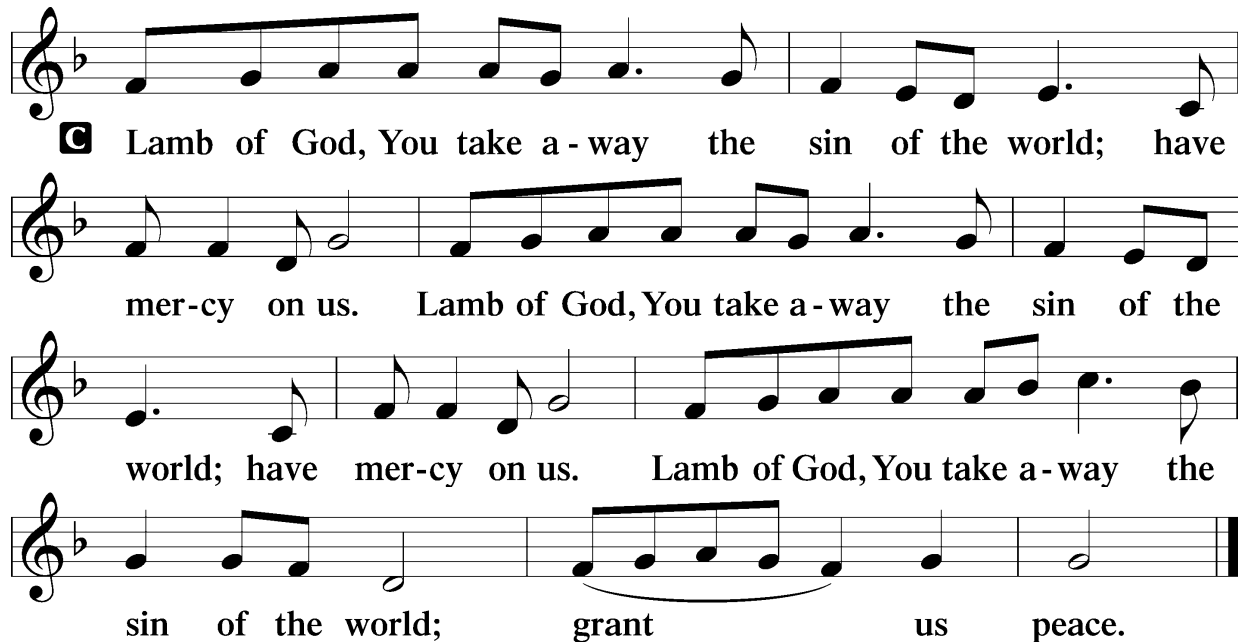
## LSB 163

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.



## AGNUS DEI

## LSB 163



*Sit*

# DISTRIBUTION HYMN

## *Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness*

LSB 636



1 Soul, a - dorn your - self with glad - ness, Leave the  
2 Has - ten as a bride to meet Him, And with  
3 He who craves a pre - cious trea - sure Nei - ther  
4 Now in faith I hum - bly pon - der O - ver



gloom - y haunts of sad - ness, Come in - to the day - light's  
lov - ing rev - 'rence greet Him. For with words of life im -  
cost nor pain will mea - sure; But the price - less gifts of  
this sur - pass - ing won - der That the bread of life is



splen - dor, There with joy your prais - es ren - der.  
mor - tal He is knock - ing at your por - tal.  
heav - en God to us has free - ly giv - en.  
bound - less Though the souls it feeds are count - less:



Bless the One whose grace un - bound - ed This a - maz - ing  
O - pen wide the gates be - fore Him, Say - ing, as you  
Though the wealth of earth were prof - fered, None could buy the  
With the choic - est wine of heav - en Christ's own blood to



ban - quet found - ed; He, though heav'n - ly, high, and  
there a - dore Him: Grant, Lord, that I now re -  
gifts here of - fered: Christ's true bod - y, for you  
us is giv - en. Oh, most glo - rious con - so -



ho - ly, Deigns to dwell with you most low - ly.  
ceive You, That I nev - er - more will leave You.  
riv - en, And His blood, for you once giv - en.  
la - tion, Pledge and seal of my sal - va - tion!

5 Jesus, source of lasting pleasure,  
 Truest friend, and dearest treasure,  
 Peace beyond all understanding,  
 Joy into all life expanding:  
 Humbly now, I bow before You;  
 Love incarnate, I adore You;  
 Worthily let me receive You  
 And, so favored, never leave You.

7 Lord, by love and mercy driven,  
 You once left Your throne in heaven  
 On the cross for me to languish  
 And to die in bitter anguish,  
 To forego all joy and gladness  
 And to shed Your blood in sadness.  
 By this blood redeemed and living.  
 Lord, I praise You with thanksgiving.

6 Jesus, sun of life, my splendor,  
 Jesus, friend of friends, most tender,  
 Jesus, joy of my desiring,  
 Fount of life, my soul inspiring:  
 At Your feet I cry, my maker,  
 Let me be a fit partaker  
 Of this blessed food from heaven,  
 For our good, Your glory, given.

8 Jesus, bread of life, I pray You,  
 Let me gladly here obey You.  
 By Your love I am invited,  
 Be Your love with love requited;  
 By this Supper let me measure,  
 Lord, how vast and deep love's treasure.  
 Through the gift of grace You give me  
 As Your guest in heav'n receive me.

Text: Johann Franck, 1618–77; (sts. 1, 4–5): tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978; (sts. 2–3, 6–8): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662 Text (sts. 1, 4–5): © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005013 Text (sts. 2–3, 6–8) and tune: Public domain

### *The Advent of Our King*

*LSB 331*



1 The ad - vent of our King Our prayers must now em - ploy,  
 2 The ev - er - last - ing Son In - car - nate deigns to be,  
 3 O Zi - on's daugh - ter, rise To meet your low - ly King,  
 4 As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come a - gain



And we must hymns of wel-come sing In strains of ho - ly joy.  
 Him-self a ser-vant's form puts on To set His ser-vants free.  
 Nor let your faith-less heart de-spise The peace He comes to bring.  
 And His true mem-bers all u - nite With Him in heav'n to reign.

5 Before the dawning day  
 Let sin's dark deeds be gone,  
 The sinful self be put away,  
 The new self now put on.

6 All glory to the Son,  
 Who comes to set us free,  
 With Father, Spirit, ever one  
 Through all eternity.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. John Chandler, 1806–76, alt. Tune: Aaron Williams, 1731–76. Text and tune: Public domain





1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing Praise to  
 2 Praise we Him, whose love di - vine Gives His  
 3 Where the pas - chal blood is poured, Death's dread  
 4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Pas - chal



our vic - to - rious King, Who has washed us in the tide  
 sa - cred blood for wine, Gives His bod - y for the feast—  
 an - gel sheathes the sword; Is - rael's hosts tri - um-phant go  
 vic - tim, pas - chal bread; With sin - cer - i - ty and love



Flow - ing from His pierc - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Through the wave that drowns the foe. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Eat we man - na from a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!

5 Mighty Victim from the sky,  
 Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath You lie;  
 You have conquered in the fight,  
 You have brought us life and light.  
 Alleluia!

7 Easter triumph, Easter joy!  
 This alone can sin destroy;  
 From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,  
 Newborn souls in You to be.  
 Alleluia!

6 Now no more can death appall,  
 Now no more the grave enthrall;  
 You have opened paradise,  
 And Your saints in You shall rise.  
 Alleluia!

8 Father, who the crown shall give,  
 Savior, by whose death we live,  
 Spirit, guide through all our days:  
 Three in One, Your name we praise.  
 Alleluia!

Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Robert Campbell, 1814–68, alt. Tune:  
 Kirchengeseng, 1566, Ivanceice. Text and tune: Public domain

*Alleluia!*

# Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

LSB 347



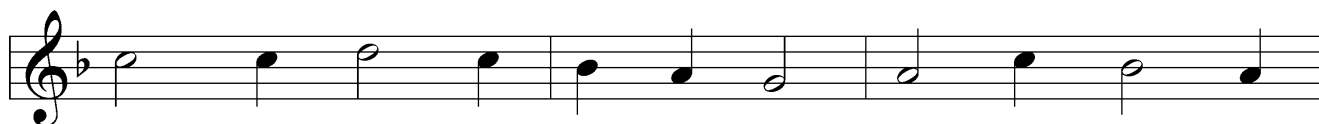
1 "Com - fort, com - fort ye My peo - ple, Speak ye peace," thus  
2 Yea, her sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out each  
3 Hark, the her - ald's voice is cry - ing In the des - ert  
4 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed; Make the rough - er



saith our God; "Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, Mourn - ing  
dark mis - deed; All that well de - served His an - ger He no  
far and near, Call - ing sin - ners to re - pen - tance, Since the  
plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, As be -



'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem  
more will see or heed. She hath suf - fered man - y a day,  
King - dom now is here. O that warn - ing cry o - bey!  
fits His ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord



Of the peace that waits for them; Tell her that her  
Now her griefs have passed a - way; God will change her  
Now pre - pare for God a way; Let the val - leys  
Now o'er earth is shed a - broad, And all flesh shall



sins I cov - er And her war - fare now is o - ver."  
pin - ing sad - ness In - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.  
rise to meet Him And the hills bow down to greet Him.  
see the to - ken That His Word is nev - er bro - ken.

Tune and text: Public domain

*Stand*

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

*Thank the Lord*

*LSB 164*



**C** Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

*LSB 166*

**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 in 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.

BENEDICTION

*LSB 166*

**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.

## CLOSING HYMN

### *Prepare the Royal Highway*

LSB 343



- 1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The King of kings is near!  
2 God's peo - ple, see Him com - ing: Your own e - ter - nal king!  
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen To greet your prom-ised king!  
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; It comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley A lev - el road ap - pear!  
Palm branch-es strew be - fore Him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion Its trib - ute too should bring.  
His rule is peace and free - dom And jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of Glo - ry Fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
All lands, bow down be - fore Him! All na - tions, now a - dore Him!  
So let your praise be sound - ing For kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, For He ful - fills God's Word!

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## 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.*



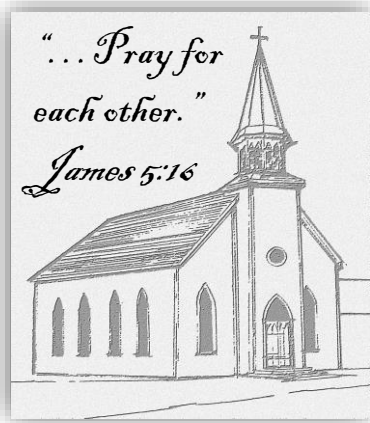
**Congregation:** Healing for Lillian Hayden from knee surgery; healing for Don Koester as he recovers from back surgery; for Edith Erwin, healing; for Donna Hinze, who is recovering from back injury, give her peace and healing in the days and weeks ahead; for Tom Hayden's recovery after surgery and continued healing; for Adeline

Platt's health; for health and healing for Lathel Norris; for Blake Powers, Edith Erwin, and Deloris Griffin; for our shut-in members: Renee Brinkmann, Mildred Holle, Lathel Norris, Elvera Schroeder, and others who are unable to come to church.

**Community:** for Grace Lutheran School, that they may continue to be a place for the children of our community and congregation to learn and grow in their faith and knowledge of God's world; may our Lord continue to deliver to us favorable weather; for Brenham Pregnancy Center and those whose lives they touched; Faith Mission; families and individuals cared for by Child Protective Services.

**World:** for all those suffering through war, may God watch over and protect His children, and by His Holy Spirit, may they all come to know Christ as their Savior and thus enjoy eternity with Him, 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

### *Bethlehem at Prayer*



Prayer is a vital part of our life together in Christ. To that end, *Bethlehem at Prayer* is a means to encourage more intentional prayer for one another. This is an opportunity for us to support one another in faith, lifting up each household by name before our gracious God. While members can always request prayers at any time, this effort ensures that every family at Bethlehem is prayed for regularly. We invite you to join us in encouragement and intercession, praying for our brothers and sisters in Christ each week.

*Please remember these families in your prayers this week:*

- Gaddy – Randy, Sharon
- Gandy – Tyler, Haley
- Kohring – Jerry, Doris
- Kolbasinski – Frankie, Vickie
- Schwartz – Roy
- Searle – Lance, Tracy, Emily, Lucas

*May the Lord bless and strengthen them in faith and life.*



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## This Week's Schedule

**November 30 – December 7**

**Today:**

***First Sunday in Advent***



**8:15 AM**

Christmas Program Practice

**9:00 AM**

Sunday School, Adult Bible Class

**10:15 AM**

Divine Worship: Setting I with Holy Communion

Acolyte:

Amelia Kettler

Greeter:

Karen Gaskamp

Ushers:

Brian Crabb

Daryl Dahman

Doyle Dahmann

Tyler Gandy

**Tuesday:**

**6:30 PM**

LWML Ornament Exchange

**Wednesday**

**4:30 PM**

Confirmation Class 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grades

**6:00 PM**

Advent Midweek Meal

**7:00 PM**

Advent Vespers Service:

(Holy Communion Following)

Acolyte:

Dillion Nowicki

Ushers:

Glenn Foster

Delwin Gaskamp

Kevin Goessler

Kevin Harrington

**Thursday:**

**6:00 PM**

Elders' Meeting

**6:30 PM**

Ladies' Bible Study

**Saturday**

**7:30 AM**

Men's Club Breakfast, Bible Study & Meeting

**Next Sunday:**

***Second Sunday in Advent***

**8:15 AM**

Christmas Program Practice

**9:00 AM**

Sunday School, Adult Bible Class

**10:15 AM**

Divine Worship: Setting I with Holy Communion

Acolyte:

Winston Krieg

Greeter:

Stephanie Dahman

Ushers:

Connor Gresham

Ryan Gresham

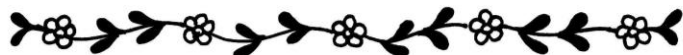
Stanley Haferkamp

Keith Huber



**Serving in November: Elder – Clinton Kettler / Trustee – Kevin Harrington**

*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 by Karen Gaskamp*



**November 30 – Advent 1** – Being a Gospel-motivated voice for life means loving all our neighbors, regardless of their size, condition, or past. As servants in the Master's house (Matthew 24:43), we not only need to be

prepared for Christ's coming (Matthew 24:44; Romans 13:11), we should be eager to make all others ready, preaching the Gospel to them, inviting them "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord" (Isaiah 2:3) that they, too, might be brought into the safety of the ark of the holy Church.



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



**Men's Club monthly breakfast** is this **Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 AM** in the Parish Hall. All men of the congregation are invited to attend. Breakfast will be served, with fellowship and Bible study to follow. **Men of the congregation, this is your opportunity to be involved in your congregation, bond as brothers in Christ, and be fed, both in body and Spirit.** So, mark your calendars and bring your appetites!



Christmas Open House at the Parsonage

**Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, any time 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.



*How beautiful is our church at Christmas!* It is that time of the year to place your order for poinsettias. The cost is \$13.00 where checks may be payable to Bethlehem Lutheran. In the narthex, forms are available with an attached envelope to place your order and payment. Please place the forms in the basket in the narthex. **The deadline for orders is Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>.** If you have any questions, **please contact Vickie Ashorn at 979-277-4393.**



The ladies of the LWML will be having their annual ornament exchange and dinner. The event will be held this **Tuesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 PM.** If there are any ladies who would like to attend this social we would love to have you. Please **RSVP to Vickie Ashorn at 979-277-4393.** Bring a wrapped ornament to exchange.



#### Men's Club/LWML Christmas Party Dinner

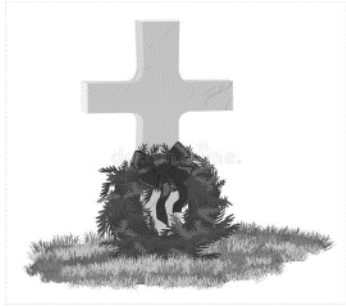
On **Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup>,** the LWML and the Men's Club will be having their annual Christmas dinner **at 6:30 PM.** Those attending need to bring a wrapped gift (\$5.00) for a fun game.



#### Wednesday Advent Meals

Midweek Advent Worship Services begin this Wednesday, **December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 PM.** Before these services, we will gather for a meal in the Parish Hall at **6:00 PM.**





## **Wreaths Across America Ceremony** **Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 AM**

Members of the congregation are invited to a wreath placing ceremony at the gazebo to thank God and honor our veterans. Thank you to everyone who donated money for a wreath. We now have enough wreaths for all of our veterans in the cemetery.



The Board of Education is preparing for the Christmas Eve children's program. The service will be held at 6:30 PM in the church on Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Practices are December 7<sup>th</sup>, December 14<sup>th</sup> and December 21<sup>th</sup> from 8:15 AM – 9:00 AM** with a small breakfast being served afterwards for the kids. If you have any questions, please contact the Board of Education.

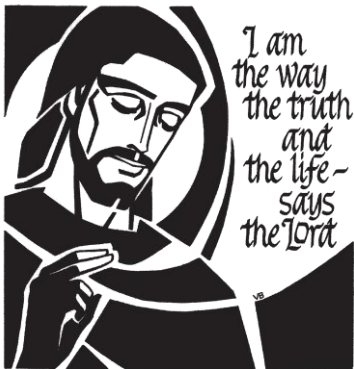


### **Reminder:**

The *annual Voters' Meeting* for the election of officers and approval of the 2026 budget is *Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>* immediately following the midweek Advent worship service.

Please see the inserts for the ballot and proposed budget.

## **Sunday School Corner**



In our Fall unit, we begin our study of the New Testament, beginning with the announcement of Jesus' birth and continuing through the sending of the seventy-two. This morning, the kids studied the lesson "A Water Wonder – Jesus Walks on Water." Jesus takes His inner circle—Peter, James, and John—up on a mountain. There, they see Jesus in His heavenly glory as Moses and Elijah appear alongside Him, discussing His upcoming departure. In his excitement, Peter offers to build three tents so they can remain on the mountaintop. Suddenly, a cloud—a sign of God's presence—appears and a voice speaks out from it: "This is My Son, My Chosen One; listen to Him!" (Luke 9:35). To reinforce this lesson with your kids, as a family, discuss: Can you think of the most exciting, best day you've ever had? What was it?

Sometimes we call this type of event a “mountaintop experience.” Can you stay up there on the mountaintop all the time? If Jesus had done as Peter suggested and stayed up there on the mountain, what would He have missed out on doing? Why is it important for us that Jesus didn’t just pitch a tent up there and stay there? Jesus used this event to strengthen the faith of the disciples. How does Jesus strengthen our faith today? When do we see Jesus? When will we see Jesus in all His glory? Do you ever think about that or look forward to that? How does that help you when you think about someone you know who has gone on to heaven? Also, parents, you can join Pastor Krieg in the adult Sunday School class. See you next week!

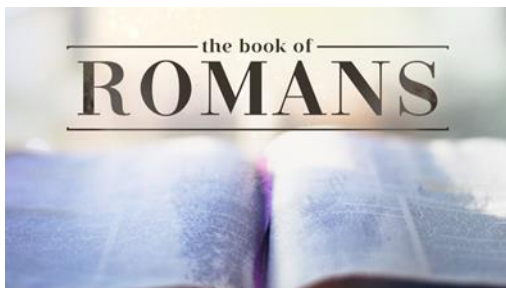
## *High School Lesson*

Our High School Sunday School class is beginning a new study series using Not-So-Nice Bible Stories: Master Criminals. In this engaging and thought-provoking study, students will explore the stories of some of Scripture’s most notorious wrongdoers, and discover how God’s mercy and grace still shine through even the darkest human deeds. Each lesson points us to Christ, who took the punishment for all sin upon Himself and gives us forgiveness, life, and salvation. Join us as we dig into God’s Word, wrestle with tough questions, and see how even “master criminals” reveal our need for the one true Savior, Jesus Christ.

### **Lesson 4 – Getting His Goat (Genesis 27)**

This week, our High School Sunday School class studied Jacob’s deception of his father, Isaac, in “Getting His Goat.” Students examined how Jacob and Rebekah resorted to lies, disguises, and manipulation to secure the blessing, a vivid reminder of how sin spreads when we try to take God’s promises into our own hands. Yet even through this tangled mess of deceit, God’s gracious purposes were not undone. We discussed how the Lord works His salvation despite human scheming, ultimately fulfilled in Christ, the true Firstborn who received the curse of our sin so that we might receive His blessing.

## *Adult Sunday School Lesson*



St. Paul’s letter to the Romans is often called the “chief part of the New Testament.” Romans clearly lays out the heart of the Christian faith: we are justified by grace alone through faith alone on account of Christ alone. In this rich epistle, Paul teaches on sin and righteousness, law and Gospel, baptism, the struggle against the old Adam, and life

lived in the freedom of the Gospel. Whether you've been attending or have yet to join us, this is a wonderful time to dig into God's Word together and grow in our understanding of His mercy in Christ. Come and be strengthened in the faith that saves and learn how the Gospel shapes our daily lives. We look forward to studying this treasure of Scripture with you! If you could not attend today, please join us next Sunday during the Adult Bible Study hour before church, starting at 9 AM 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.

### 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

DATE	SERVICE	ATTENDANCE	GIFTS IN RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL
Nov. 23	Sunday School	15	\$90.00
	Youth Bible Class	2	
	Adult Bible Class	28	
Nov. 23	Worship Service	131	\$5,917.78

