



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

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

DECEMBER 7, 2025

10:15 AM



Pastor

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Ryan Gresham
Stanley Haferkamp
Keith Huber

Acolyte

Winston Krieg

Greeter

Stephanie Dahman

Second Sunday in Advent

December 7, 2025 – 10:15 AM

Divine Service: Setting I with Holy Communion

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

Pre-Service Music



December Bible Verse

"But as for me, I will look to the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation;
my God will hear me. "

Micah 7:7

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.

Ring of the Church Bell

OPENING HYMN

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

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.

In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Seek the LORD and his strength;
seek his presence continually!
Remember the wondrous works that he has done,
his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,
O offspring of Abraham, his servant,
children of Jacob, his chosen ones!
He is the LORD our God;
his judgments are in all the earth.
He remembers his covenant forever,
the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations.
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.
In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

KYRIE

LSB 152

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.

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 our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 11:1-10

¹There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

²And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

³And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,

⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

- ⁵Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.
- ⁶The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,
and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,
and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;
and a little child shall lead them.
- ⁷The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
- ⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra,
and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.
- ⁹They shall not hurt or destroy
in all my holy mountain;
for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.
- ¹⁰In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of
him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

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.
Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
From the house of the Lord we bless you.



⁴Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, ⁶that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

⁸For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles,
and sing to your name.”

¹⁰And again it is said,

“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people.”

¹¹And again,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples extol him.”

¹²And again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse will come,
even he who arises to rule the Gentiles;
in him will the Gentiles hope.”

¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

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.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the third chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea,
²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” ³For this is he who was spoken of
 by the prophet Isaiah when he said,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord;
 make his paths straight.’”

⁴Now John wore a garment of camel’s hair and a leather belt around his waist, and
 his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region
 about the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river
 Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism,
 he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to
 come? ⁸Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹And do not presume to say to
 yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ for I tell you, God is able from these
 stones to raise up children for Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the axe is laid to the root of the
 trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into
 the fire.

¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is
 mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the
 Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his
 threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with
 unquenchable fire.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

**☐ 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

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

LSB 344

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc - es
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; Make straight the
3 We hail Thee as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref - uge
4 Lay on the sick Thy heal - ing hand And make the
△ 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to Thee Whose ad - vent

that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and hear - ken,
way for God with - in, And let us all our
and our great re - ward; With - out Thy grace we
fall - en strong to stand; Show us the glo - ry
sets Thy peo - ple free, Whom with the Fa - ther

for he brings Glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.
waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
of Thy face Till beau - ty springs in ev - 'ry place.
we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

It Is Time to Walk in the Way of the Lord *Matthew 3:1-12*

Stand



OFFERTORY

LSB 159



C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
 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."

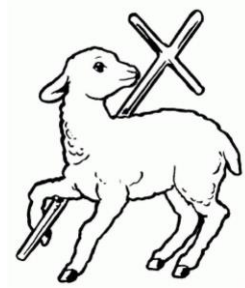
PAX DOMINI

LSB 163

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.



C A - men.



AGNUS DEI

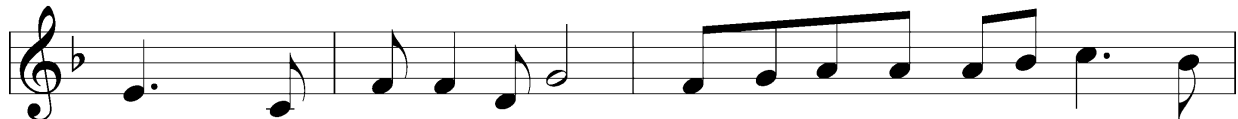
LSB 163



C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace.

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



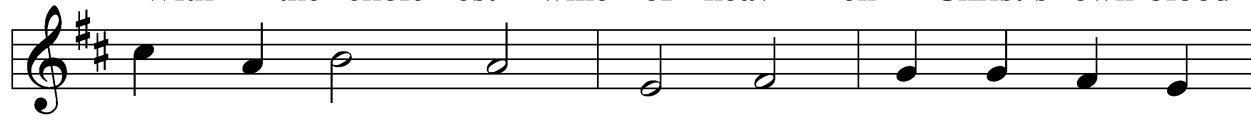
gloom - y haunts of sad - ness, Come in - to the day - light's
lov - ing rev - 'rence greet Him. For with words of life im -
cost nor pain will mea - sure; But the price - less gifts of
this sur - pass - ing won - der That the bread of life is



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.

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.

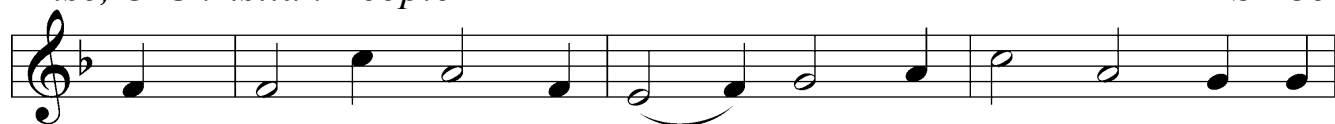
7 Lord, by love and mercy driven,
 You once left Your throne in heaven
 On the cross for me to languish
 And to die in bitter anguish,
 To forego all joy and gladness
 And to shed Your blood in sadness.
 By this blood redeemed and living.
 Lord, I praise You with thanksgiving.

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

Arise, O Christian People

LSB 354



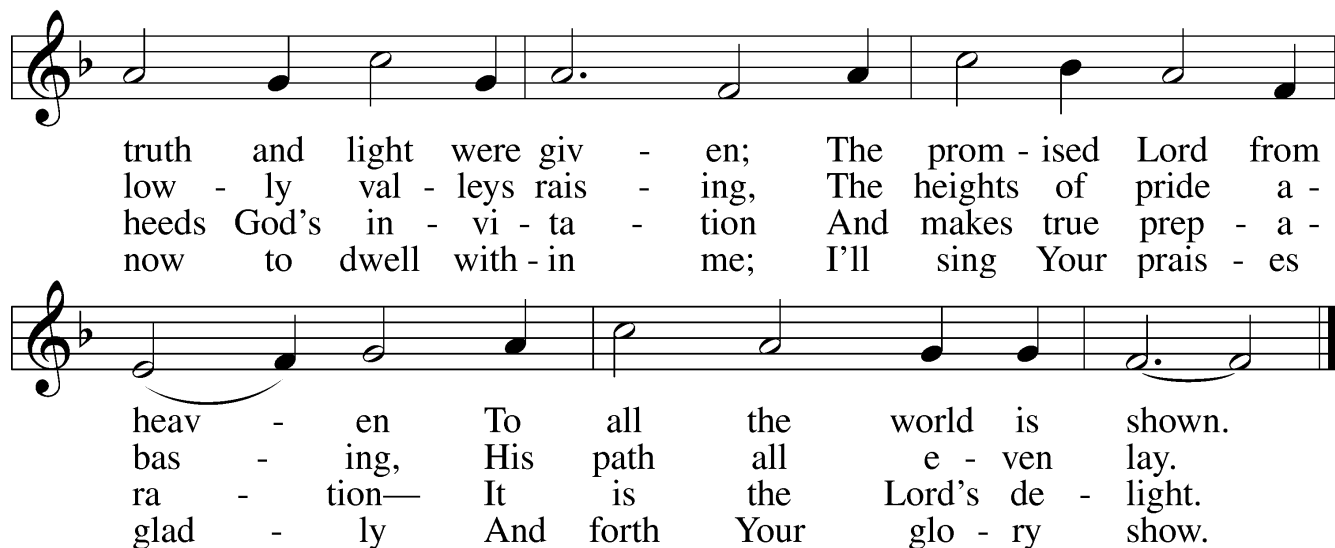
1 A - rise, O Chris - tian peo - ple! Pre - pare your - selves to -
 2 Pre - pare the way be - fore Him; Pre - pare for Him the
 3 The hum - ble heart and low - ly God rais - es up on
 4 Pre - pare my heart, Lord Je - sus; Turn not from me a -



day; Pre - pare to greet the Sav - ior, Who takes your
 best. Cast out what would of - fend Him, This great, this
 high; Be - neath His feet in ter - ror The haugh - ty
 side, And help me to re - ceive You This bless - ed



sins a - way. To us by grace a - lone The
 heav'n - ly guest. Make straight, make plain the way: The
 soul shall lie. The heart sin - cere and right, That
 Ad - vent - tide. From stall and man - ger low Come



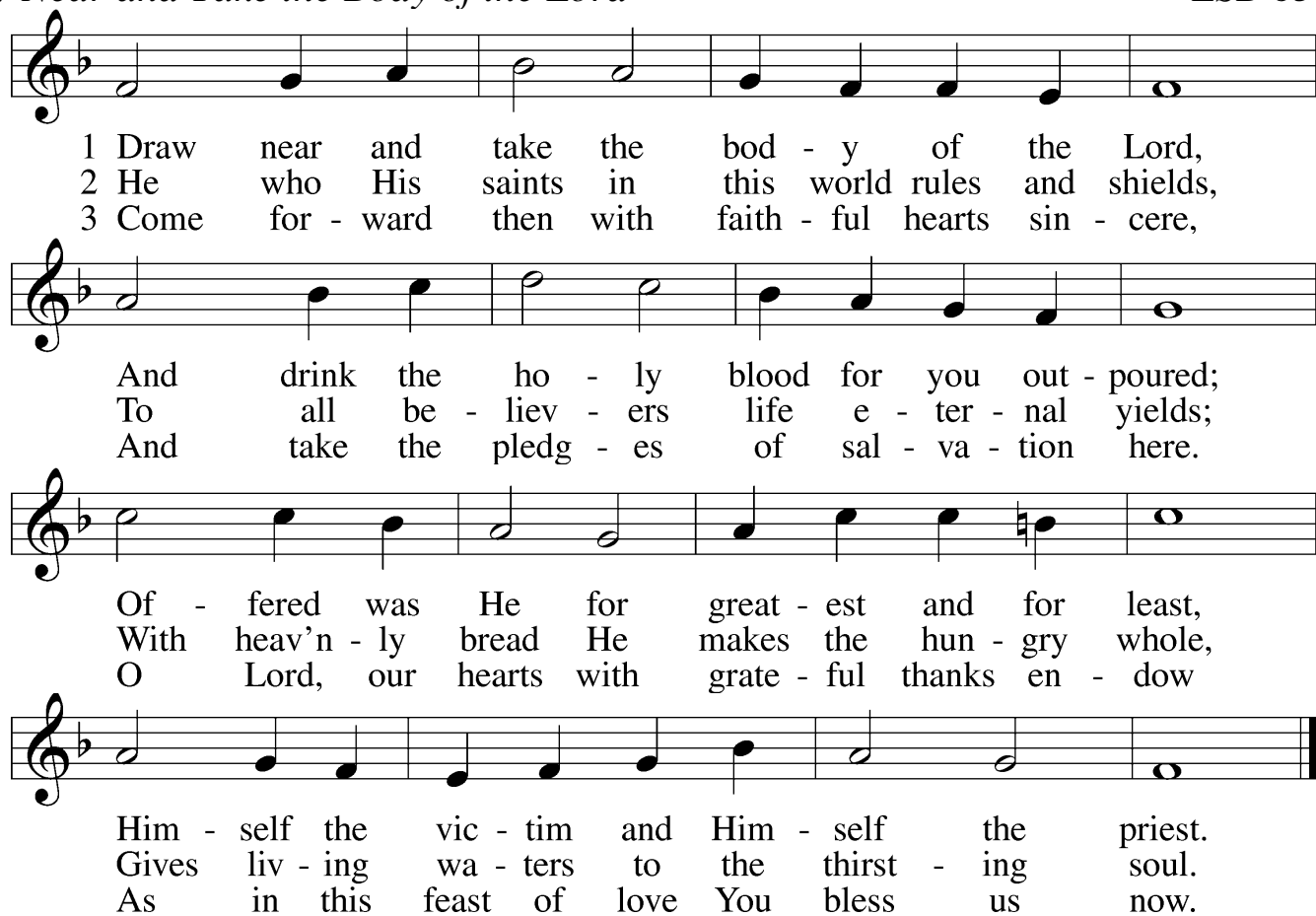
truth and light were giv - en; The prom - ised Lord from
low - ly val - leys rais - ing, The heights of pride a -
heeds God's in - vi - ta - tion And makes true prep - a -
now to dwell with - in me; I'll sing Your prais - es

heav - en To all the world is shown.
bas - ing, His path all e - ven lay.
ra - tion— It is the Lord's de - light.
glad - ly And forth Your glo - ry show.

Text: Valentin Thilo, 1607–62; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–74, alt. Tune: New Catechismus Gesangbüchlein, 1598, Hamburg, alt. Text and tune: Public domain

Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord

LSB 637



1 Draw near and take the bod - y of the Lord,
2 He who His saints in this world rules and shields,
3 Come for - ward then with faith - ful hearts sin - cere,

And drink the ho - ly blood for you out - poured;
To all be - liev - ers life e - ter - nal yields;
And take the pledg - es of sal - va - tion here.

Of - fered was He for great - est and for least,
With heav'n - ly bread He makes the hun - gry whole,
O Lord, our hearts with grate - ful thanks en - dow

Him - self the vic - tim and Him - self the priest.
Gives liv - ing wa - ters to the thirst - ing soul.
As in this feast of love You bless us now.

Text: Latin, 7th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt. Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois Text and tune: Public domain

1 Once He came in bless - ing, All our sins re -
 2 Now He gent - ly leads us; With Him - self He
 3 Soon will come that hour When with might - y
 4 Come, then, O Lord Je - sus, From our sins re -

dress - ing; Came in like - ness low - ly,
 feeds us Pre - cious food from heav - en,
 pow - er Christ will come in splen - dor
 lease us. Keep our hearts be - liev - ing,

Son of God most ho - ly; Bore the cross to
 Pledge of peace here giv - en, Man - na that will
 And will judg - ment ren - der, With the faith - ful
 That we, grace re - ceiv - ing, Ev - er may con -

save us; Hope and free - dom gave us.
 nour - ish Souls that they may flour - ish.
 shar - ing Joy be - yond com - par - ing.
 fess You Till in heav'n we bless You.

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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 - joice 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

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.

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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.*



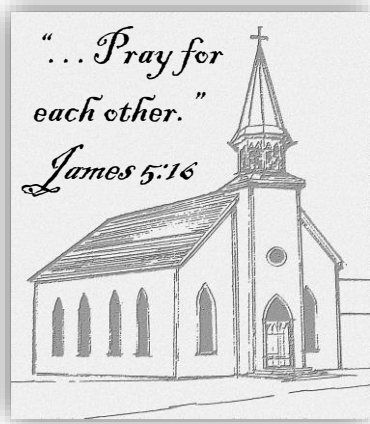
Congregation: Healing for Lillian Hayden from knee surgery; healing for Don Koester as he recovers from back surgery; for Edith Erwin, healing; for Tom Hayden's recovery after surgery and continued healing; for Adeline Platt's health; for health and healing for Lathel Norris; for Blake Powers, Edith 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:

- Gaskamp – Delwin, Doris
- Gaskamp – Karen
- Krieg – Kelly, Jennifer, Giuliana, Norman, Winston
- Lampe – Hattie
- Searle – Sandra
- Siemsglusz – Kathleen

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Week's Schedule

December 7 – December 14

Today:

Second Sunday in Advent



8:15 AM

Christmas Program Practice

9:00 AM

Sunday School, Adult Bible Class

9:00 AM

Youth League Meeting

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

Wednesday:

8:30 AM

Sonshine

4:30 PM

Confirmation Class 7th/8th Grades

6:00 PM

Advent Midweek Meal

7:00 PM

Advent Evening Prayer Service:

(Voters Meeting Immediately Following)

Acolyte:

Taylor Hinze

Ushers:

Craig Kankel

Clinton Kettler

Caleb Kettler

Matt Kettler

7:45 PM

Voter's Meeting

Thursday:

6:30 PM

Ladies' Bible Study

Friday:

5:00 – 7:00 PM

Christmas Open House at the Parsonage

Next Sunday:

Third 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:

Kinsley Haferkamp

Greeter:

Donna Hinze

Ushers:

JR Kettler

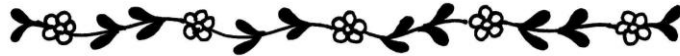
Michael Kettler

Robert Kettler

Wayne Klussmann

Serving in December: Elder – Brad Molitor / Trustee – Michael Schroeder

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 Travis, Samantha and Tessa Medve in honor of Tripp Medve's first birthday



December 7 – Advent 2 – We rejoice that God Himself defends the cause of the poor and needy (Psalm 72:4) and that He does this primarily through us, His saints. We must be careful, however, that we don't fall into self-

righteousness and become a pharisaical "brood of vipers" (Matthew 3:7), always pointing out the sins of others while neglecting our own. Instead, as children of Abraham, we are all to "bear fruit in keeping with repentance" (Matthew 3:8), remembering that the things of God's Word were "written for our instruction" (Romans 15:4), as well as for the instruction of others.



YOUNG AT HEART DINNER

The Youth League will be hosting the Young At Heart dinner on **December 14th**, after the worship service. All church members over 65 are invited to attend the meal



CHRISTMAS CAROLING

On Friday December 19th, starting at 3:15 PM the Youth League will be Christmas Caroling at Brenham Nursing and Rehab. We are inviting the congregation to join us as we carol to our shut-ins in town followed by the country shut-ins.



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.**



Christmas Open House at the Parsonage

Friday, December 12th, 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 TODAY.** If you have any questions, **please contact Vickie Ashorn at 979-277-4393.**



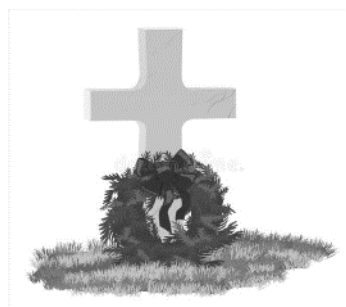
Men's Club/LWML Christmas Party Dinner

On **Thursday, December 18th**, 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 Meal

Midweek Advent Evening Prayer Service on **December 10th at 7:00 PM**. Before this service, we will gather for a meal in the Parish Hall at **6:00 PM**.



Wreaths Across America Ceremony

THIS Saturday, December 13th, 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 24th**.

Practices are December 14th and December 21st 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.

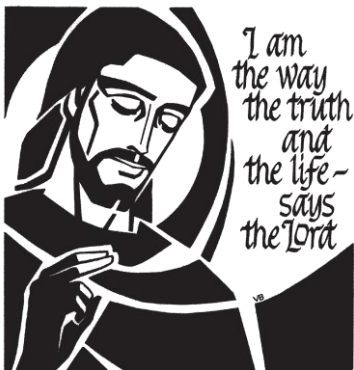


Reminder:

The *annual Voters' Meeting* for the election of officers and approval of the 2026 budget is *Wednesday, December 10th* 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!

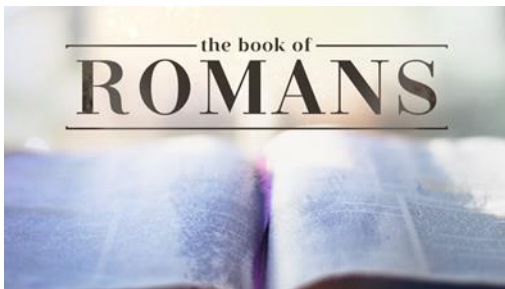
High School Lesson

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 5 – Flirt Like an Egyptian (Genesis 39)

In this week's lesson, our High School class explored Joseph's encounter with Potiphar's wife in "Flirt Like an Egyptian." Students looked at how temptation, false accusation, and injustice played out in Joseph's life, and how God remained with him through it all. Even when Joseph suffered for doing what was right, the Lord preserved him and worked through his trials for a greater purpose. We discussed how Christ, too, was falsely accused and unjustly condemned, yet through His suffering brought about our salvation. Joseph's story points us to the One who is with us in every trial and who turns even evil intentions toward His saving plan.

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 a.m. 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. 26	Thanksgiving Eve Service	55	\$905.00
Nov. 30	Sunday School Youth Bible Class Adult Bible Class	16 4 28	\$86.00
Nov. 30	Worship Service	100	\$2,912.00 James Schoenemann Memorial \$25.00 Milton Schwartz Memorial \$200.00

Holy, Holy, Holy