



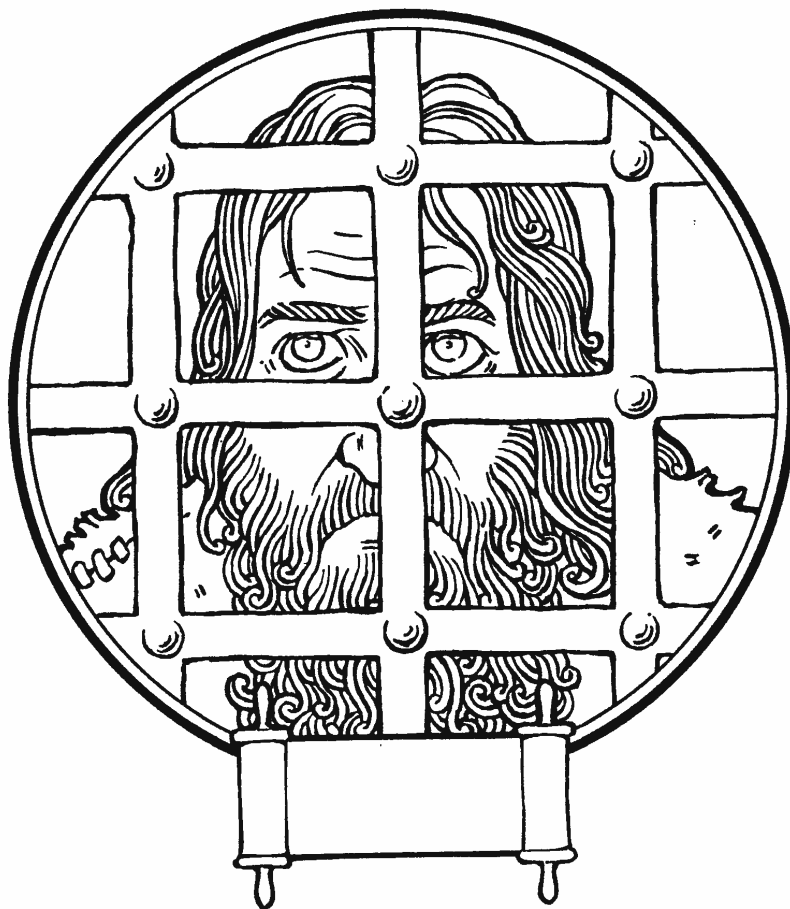
Bethlehem Lutheran Church—William Penn
Founded 1860—Lutheran Church Missouri Synod



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 14, 2025

10:15 AM



Pastor

Rev. Kelly Dean Krieg
(214) 208-1364
PastorKrieg@BethlehemWmPenn.org

Secretary

Janice Pazderny
(979) 836-7303
Office@BethlehemWmPenn.org

Organist

Ann Sommer

Ushers

JR Kettler
Michael Kettler
Robert Kettler
Wayne Klussmann

Acolyte

Kinsley Haferkamp

Greeter

Donna Hinze

Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025 – 10:15 AM

Divine Service: Setting I

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!

Ringling of the Church Bell

OPENING 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

Stand

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

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

C Amen.

CONFESSON 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.

Stand

SERVICE OF THE WORD

INTROIT

Psalm 71:14-18; antiphon; Philippians 4:4

Rejoice in the Lord always;
again I will say, Rejoice.

I will hope continually
and will praise you yet more and more.

My mouth will tell of your righteous acts, of your deeds of salvation all the day,
for their number is past my knowledge.

With the mighty deeds of the Lord GOD I will come;
I will remind them of your righteousness, yours alone.

O God, from my youth you have taught me,
and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.

So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me,
**until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those
to come.**

**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.**

Rejoice in the Lord always;
again I will say, Rejoice.

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 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.

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 35: 1-10

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;
²it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.
³Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
⁴Say to those who have an anxious heart,
“Be strong; fear not!
Behold, your God
will come with vengeance,
with the recompense of God.
He will come and save you.”
⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
⁶then shall the lame man leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.
For waters break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
⁷the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸And a highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Way of Holiness;
the unclean shall not pass over it.
It shall belong to those who walk on the way;
even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.
⁹No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain gladness and joy,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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.



⁷Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

COMMON ALLELUIA

LSB 156



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 eleventh chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

²When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ⁴And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is he of whom it is written,

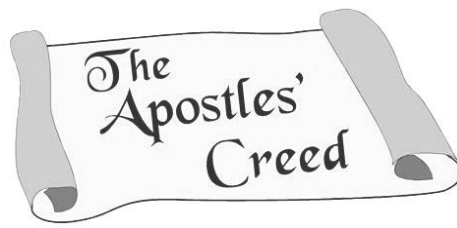
“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way before you.’

¹¹Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. ¹²From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. ¹³For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, ¹⁴and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. ¹⁵He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.



APOSTLES' CREED

LSB 159

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

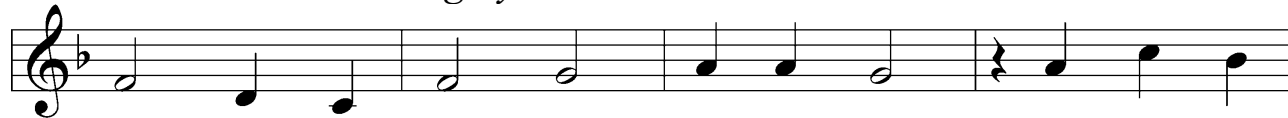
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.

Sit



Let Children Hear the Mighty Deeds

LSB 867



1 Let chil - dren hear the might - y deeds Which God per -
 2 So make to them His glo - ries known, His works of
 3 Our sons and daugh - ters we shall tell And they a -
 4 O teach them with all dil - i - gence The truths of
 5 To learn that in our God a - lone Their hope se -



formed of old, Which in our youn - ger
 pow'r and grace; And we'll con - vey His
 gain to theirs That gen - er - a - tions
 God's own Word, To place in Him their
 cure - ly stands, That they may nev - er



days we saw, And which our par - ents told.
 won - ders down Through ev - 'ry ris - ing race.
 yet un - born May teach them to their heirs.
 con - fi - dence, To fear and trust their Lord,
 doubt His love But walk in His com - mands.

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CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



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
△ 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 domain



SERMON

Faith on the Edge
Matthew 11:2-15

Stand

C 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

Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

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.*Sit*

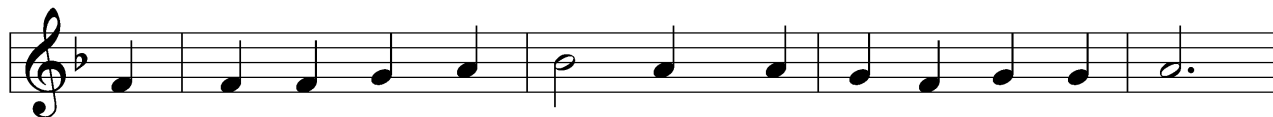
CLOSING HYMN

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

LSB 398



1 Hail to the Lord's a - noint - ed, Great Da - vid's great - er Son!
 2 He comes with res - cue speed - y To those who suf - fer wrong,
 3 He shall come down like show - ers Up - on the fruit - ful earth;
 4 Kings shall fall down be - fore Him And gold and in - cense bring;
 5 O'er ev - 'ry foe vic - to - rious, He on His throne shall rest,



Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, His reign on earth be - gun!
 To help the poor and need - y And bid the weak be strong;
 Love, joy, and hope, like flow - ers, Spring in His path to birth.
 All na - tions shall a - dore Him, His praise all peo - ple sing.
 From age to age more glo - rious, All bless - ing and all - blest.



He comes to break op - pres - sion, To set the cap - tive free,
 To give them songs for sigh - ing, Their dark - ness turn to light,
 Be - fore Him on the moun - tains Shall peace, the her - ald, go;
 To Him shall prayer un - ceas - ing And dai - ly vows as - cend;
 The tide of time shall nev - er His cov - e - nant re - move;



To take a - way trans - gres - sion And rule in eq - ui - ty.
 Whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, Were precious in His sight.
 And righ - teous - ness in foun - tains From hill to val - ley flow.
 His king - dom still in - creas - ing, A king - dom with - out end.
 His name shall stand for - ev - er— That name to us is Love.



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.



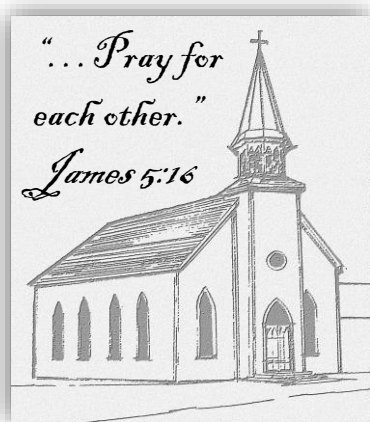
Congregation: Healing for Lillian Hayden from knee surgery; healing for Don Koester as he recovers from back surgery; for Edith Erwin, healing; for Tom Hayden's recovery after surgery and continued healing; for Adeline Platt's health; for health and healing for

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 – Greg, Brenda, Ryan
- Glenz – Trevor, Hanna, Peyton
- Landeck – Chris, Carin
- Latham - Colleen
- Smitherman – Chris, Ann, Samuel, Deloris Griffin
- Straker – Jim, Cheryl
-

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Week's Schedule **December 14 – December 21**

Today:

Third Sunday of Advent



8:15 AM	Christmas Program Practice
9:00 AM	Sunday School & Adult Bible Class
10:15 AM	Divine Worship: Setting I
Acolyte:	Kinsley Haferkamp
Ushers:	JR Kettler Michael Kettler
	Robert Kettler Wayne Klussmann

Wednesday:

4:30 PM	Confirmation Class 7 th /8 th Grades
6:00 PM	Advent Evening Prayer Service Meal
7:00 PM	Advent Evening Prayer Service
	(Holy Communion Following)
Acolyte:	Taylor Nowicki
Ushers:	Caleb Klussmann Don Koester
	Corey Klussmann Valgene Kohring

Saturday:

8:30 AM	Sisters in Christ
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Next Sunday:

Fourth Sunday of Advent



8:15 AM	Christmas Program Practice
9:00 AM	Sunday School & Adult Bible Class
10:15 AM	Divine Worship: Setting I with Communion
Acolyte:	Michael Hinze
Ushers:	Travis Medve Charles Meyer
	Paul Richter Colin Schomburg

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 Donna Hinze.



December 14 – Advent 3 – God sends us, like John, to be His messengers and share His Gospel with the world before He comes (Matthew 11:10). Instead of grumbling against one another (James 5:9), we have the privilege

of sharing Christ's forgiveness, comfort, and encouragement with those having feeble knees and anxious hearts (Isaiah 35:3-4), especially with those frightened women facing surprise pregnancies, women enduring the cross of barrenness, and those carrying the guilt of abortion.



YOUNG AT HEART DINNER

The Youth League will be hosting the Young At Heart dinner **TODAY** 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.



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 this Wednesday, December 17th, **at 7:00 PM**. Before this service, we will gather for a meal in the Parish Hall at **6:00 PM**.



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**.

The last practice is December 21st from 8:15 – 9:00 AM, with a small breakfast being served afterwards for the kids. If you have any questions, please contact the Board of Education.

FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR

The 2026 Flower Chart is posted in the Parish Hall foyer. Please sign up as the Holy Spirit speaks to your heart or for that special occasion such as anniversaries, birthdays, or other remembrances. The church secretary will remind you of your upcoming commitment via email or phone call. The Bethlehem LWML appreciates your support.



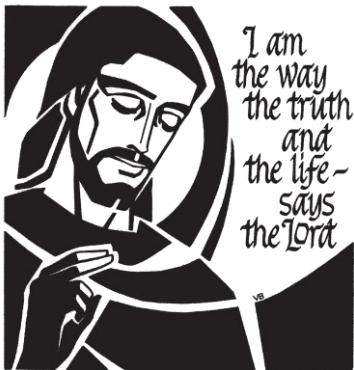


VOTERS' 2026 BUDGET AND ELECTION

Board of Elders:	Chris Smitherman
Board of Trustees:	Doyle Dahmann Robert Kettler
Treasurer:	Kellie Goessler
Financial Secretary:	Jackie Kankel
Collector:	Stanley Haferkamp
Board Of Education:	Amy Schroeder
Board Of Stewardship:	Mary Wells
Board of Missions:	Connie Foster Dorcas Schroeder
Head Usher:	Paul Richter
Sunday School Superintendent:	Sharon Schwartz

The 2026 Budget was approved, and Bethlehem Lutheran's financial records will be audited after the first of the year.

Sunday School Corner

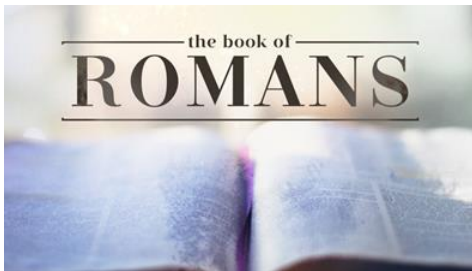


In our Winter unit, we continue our study of the New Testament, beginning with the account of Mary and Martha and continuing through Jesus appearing to Thomas. This morning, the kids studied the lesson “A Welcome Truth – Mary and Martha.” Jesus and His disciples visit the home of sisters Mary and Martha. Mary sits at the Lord's feet to hear His words. Martha, busy with meal preparations, asks Jesus to tell Mary to help. Instead, Jesus gently tells Martha that Mary has chosen the more important thing. To reinforce this lesson with your kids, as a family, discuss: Both of these women loved Jesus, but they showed it in different ways. Jesus reminds them here that while serving is good, we shouldn't let it take precedence over hearing God's Word. What are some ways we can show Jesus how much we love Him? Today, we are often so distracted that we neglect what matters most: God's Word. What are some things that distract us from God's Word? What are things that we, like Martha, worry about so we get distracted from God's Word? When we look

to God's Word, how does God help us with those distractions and worries? When we hear God's Word, our faith is nourished—not by what we are doing, but by what God is doing through His Word. What is your favorite thing about going to church or coming to Bible class? 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.



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
Dec. 3	Advent Service	49	\$200.03 Milton Schwartz Memorial \$30.00
Dec. 7	Sunday School Youth Bible Class Adult Bible Class	18 3 24	\$84.00
Dec. 7	Worship Service	109	\$7,408.08
Dec. 10	Advent Service	68	\$251.18

Alleluia!

