



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

## **SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**

**JANUARY 4, 2026  
10:15 AM**



### Pastor

Rev. Kelly Dean Krieg  
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### Ushers

Brian Crabb  
Daryl Dahman  
Doyle Dahmann  
Tyler Gandy

### Secretary

Janice Pazderny  
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### Acolyte

Dillion Nowicki

### Organist

Ann Sommer

### Greeter

Laramie Kettler

**Second Sunday after Christmas**

**January 4, 2026 – 10:15 AM**

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Representing God's Love  
To our Congregation,  
Community, and the World

## Divine Service: Setting III with Holy Communion

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

*Pre-Service Music*

### January Bible Verse

The steps of a man are established by the Lord, when he delights in his way; though he fall, he shall not be cast headlong, for the Lord upholds his hand.

*Psalm 37:23-24*

### Our Mission Statement

Representing God's Love to Our Congregation, Community, and the World!



### COMMUNION STATEMENT

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.

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### *Ringing of the Church Bell*

OPENING HYMN

*God of Grace and God of Glory*

*LSB 850*

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, On Your peo - ple  
2 Lo, the hosts of e - vil round us Scorn the Christ, as -  
3 Cure Your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; Bend our pride to  
4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion To the e - vils

pour Your pow'r; Crown Your an - cient Church's sto - ry;  
 sail His ways! From the fears - that long have bound us  
 Your con - trol; Shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,  
 we de - plore; Let the gift of Your sal - va - tion

Bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom,  
 Free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom,  
 Rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom,  
 Be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom,

grant us cour - age For the fac - ing of this  
 grant us cour - age For the liv - ing of these  
 grant us cour - age Lest we miss Your king - dom's  
 grant us cour - age, Serv - ing You whom we a -

hour, For the fac - ing of this hour.  
 days, For the liv - ing of these days.  
 goal, Lest we miss Your king - dom's goal.  
 dore, Serv - ing You whom we a - dore.

Text and tune: Public domain

*Stand*

*The sign of the cross  $\text{\textt{T}}$  may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

INVOCATION

LSB 184

**P** In the name of the Father and of the  $\text{\textt{T}}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

CONFESSiON AND ABSOLUTION

LSB 184

**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** who made heaven and earth.

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C** and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

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

**P** O almighty God, merciful Father,

**C** I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

**P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

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## SERVICE OF THE WORD

INTROIT

*Psalm 74:18–19, 21, 20a, 22a; antiphon: v. 2a*

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, **glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God; **for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.**

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; **his understanding is beyond measure.**

But the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him, **in those who hope in his steadfast love.**

Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem!

**Praise your God, O Zion!**

**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.**

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, **glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

## GLORIA PATRI

LSB 186

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

## KYRIE

LSB 186

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

## HYMN OF PRAISE

*Gloria in Excelsis*

LSB 187

**P** Glory be to God on High,

**C** and on earth peace, good - will toward

men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,

we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.

O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.

O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
 that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up - on us.

Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re - ceive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up -

on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.

Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,  
 art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

#### SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And with thy spir - it.

**P** Let us pray.

**C** Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*Sit*

<sup>4</sup> The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. <sup>5</sup> At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, “Ask what I shall give you.” <sup>6</sup> And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. <sup>7</sup> And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. <sup>8</sup> And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. <sup>9</sup> Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?”

<sup>10</sup> It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. <sup>11</sup> And God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, <sup>12</sup> behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. <sup>13</sup> I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. <sup>14</sup> And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days.”

<sup>15</sup> And Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

To us a child is born, to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder.  
And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
Sing to the Lord a new song,  
for he has done marvelous things!

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup>even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love <sup>5</sup>he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup>In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, <sup>8</sup>which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup>making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ <sup>10</sup>as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

<sup>11</sup>In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, <sup>12</sup>so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup>In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup>who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

COMMON ALLELUIA

LSB 190

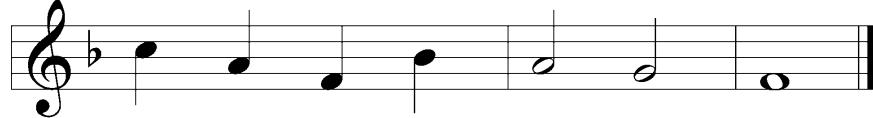


**C** Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:40-52

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.



**C** Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

<sup>40</sup>The child [Jesus] grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

<sup>41</sup>Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. <sup>42</sup>And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. <sup>43</sup>And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, <sup>44</sup>but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, <sup>45</sup>and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. <sup>46</sup>After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup>And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup>And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." <sup>49</sup>And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" <sup>50</sup>And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. <sup>51</sup>And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

<sup>52</sup>And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

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



**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  $\ddagger$  of the world to come. Amen.

## HYMN OF THE DAY

### *Within the Father's House*

LSB 410

1 With-in the Fa-ther's house The Son has found His home,  
 2 The doc-tors of the Law Gaze on the won-drous child  
 3 Yet not to them is giv'n The might-y truth to know,  
 4 The se-cret of the Lord Es-capes each hu-man eye,

And to His tem-ple sud-den-ly The Lord of life has come.  
 And mar-vel at His gra-cious words Of wis-dom un-de-filed.  
 To lift the earth-ly veil that hides In-car-nate God be-low.  
 And faith-ful pon-d'ring hearts a-wait The full e-piph-a-ny.

5 Lord, visit Thou our souls  
 And teach us by Thy grace  
 Each dim revealing of Thyself  
 With loving awe to trace

△ 6 Till we behold Thy face  
 And know as we are known  
 Thee, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
 Coequal Three in One.

Text: James R. Woodford, 1820-85, alt. Tune: Johann Balthasar König, 1691-1758;  
 adapt. William H. Havergal, 1793-1870. Text and tune: Public domain

## SERMON

### *Never Far From Home* Luke 2:40-52

Stand

## OFFERTORY

LSB 192

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

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

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

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

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

OFFERING PRAYER

*Sit*

OFFERING



INSTALLATION OF CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

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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
Sunday School Secretary:	Emily Searle

*Thank You*

*Stand*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

### SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

#### PREFACE

LSB 194

**P** The Lord be with you.

Musical notation for the response 'The Lord be with you.' It consists of a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a common time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics 'And with thy spir - it.' are written below the notes.

**P** Lift up your hearts.

Musical notation for the response 'Lift up your hearts.' It consists of a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a common time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics 'We lift them up un - to the Lord.' are written below the notes.

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

Musical notation for the response 'Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.' It consists of a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a common time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics 'It is meet and right so to do.' are written below the notes.

**P** It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, having created all things, took on human flesh and was born of the virgin Mary. For our sake He died on the cross and rose from the dead to put an end to death, thus fulfilling Your will and gaining for You a holy people. 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 195

Musical notation for the beginning of the Sanctus hymn. It consists of a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a common time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes.

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

Musical notation for the continuation of the Sanctus hymn. It consists of a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a common time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes.

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

ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,  
 bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.  
 Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

LSB 196

**C** Our Father who art in heaven,  
 hallowed be Thy name,  
 Thy kingdom come,  
 Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;  
 give us this day our daily bread;  
 and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass  
 against us;  
 and lead us not into temptation,  
 but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and  
 ever. Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

LSB 197

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My  $\text{\tfrac{X}{P}}$  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  $\text{\tfrac{X}{P}}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

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



**C** A - men.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the

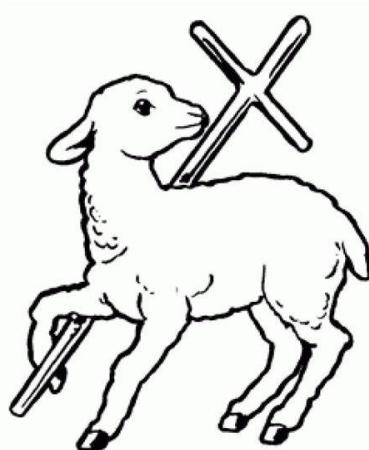
world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that

tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the

world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

*Sit*



## DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

### *The Gifts Christ Freely Gives*

LSB 602



1 The gifts Christ free - ly gives He gives to you and me  
 2 The gifts flow from the font Where He calls us His own;  
 3 The gifts of grace and peace From ab - so - lu - tion flow;  
 4 The gifts are there each day The ho - ly Word is read;



To be His Church, His bride, His cho - sen, saved and free!  
 New life He gives that makes Us His and His a - lone.  
 The pas - tor's words are Christ's For us to trust and know.  
 God's chil - dren lis - ten, hear, Re - ceive, and they are fed.



Saints blessed with these rich gifts Are chil - dren who pro - claim  
 Here He for - gives our sins With wa - ter and His Word;  
 For - give - ness that we need Is grant - ed to us there;  
 Christ fills them with Him - self, Blest words that give them life,



That they were won by Christ And cling to His strong name.  
 The tri - une God Him - self Gives pow'r to call Him Lord.  
 The Lord of mer - cy sends Us forth in His blest care.  
 Re - stor - ing and re - fresh - ing Them for this world's strife.

5 The gifts are in the feast,  
 Gifts far more than we see;  
 Beneath the bread and wine  
 Is food from Calvary.  
 The body and the blood  
 Remove our ev'ry sin;  
 We leave His presence in  
 His peace, renewed again.

6 All glory to the One  
 Who lavishes such love;  
 The triune God in love  
 Assures our life above.  
 His means of grace for us  
 Are gifts He loves to give;  
 All thanks and praise for His  
 Great love by which we live!

*Christ, the Word of God Incarnate*

LSB 540



1 Christ, the Word of God in - car - nate, Lord and Son of  
2 Christ, the liv - ing bread from heav - en, Food for bod - y,  
3 Christ, the shoot that springs tri - um - phant From the stump of  
4 Christ, our good and faith - ful shep - herd, Watch - ing all Your



A - bra - ham; Christ, the ra - diance of the Fa - ther,  
food for soul; Christ, the man - na dai - ly giv - en,  
Jes - se's tree; Christ, true vine, You nur - ture branch - es  
lambs and sheep; Christ, the gate that guards the sheep - fold,



Per - fect God, the great I AM; Christ, the light, You  
Nour - ish, strength - en, make us whole. Feed us with the  
To bear fruit a - bun - dant - ly. Graft us in - to  
Nev - er - fail - ing vig - il keep. When we stray, Good



shine un - van - quished, Light and life You bring to all; Light our  
food of heav - en, Fore - taste of the feast to be; Quench our  
You, O Sav - ior; Prune our hearts so we re - main Fruit - ful  
Shep - herd, seek us, Find us, lift us, bear us home; Lamb of



path with Your own pres - ence, Grant us grace to heed Your call.  
thirst with liv - ing wa - ter Spring-ing up e - ter - nal - ly.  
branch-es in Your vine - yard Till e - ter - nal life we gain.  
God, our shep - herd, keep us; Let us hear Your voice a - lone.

5 Christ, the way that leads unfailing  
To the Father's home on high,  
Christ, the truth that frees the captive,  
Christ, the life that cannot die.  
Mediator to the Father,  
Sacrifice and great High Priest:  
Lead us to Your heav'nly mansions,  
There to share Your wedding feast.

△6 Christ, the Alpha and Omega,  
Christ, the firstborn from the dead,  
Christ, the life and resurrection,  
Christ, the Church's glorious head:  
Praise and thanks and adoration  
And unending worship be  
To the Father and the Spirit  
And to You eternally.

*Gentle Mary Laid Her Child*

LSB 374



1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;  
2 An - gels sang a - bout His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;  
3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;



There He lay, the Un - de-filed, To the world a strang - er.  
Heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth Glo - ry all a - round Him.  
He is still the Un - de-filed But no more a strang - er.



Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Sav - ior?  
Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, Heard the an - gels sing - ing;  
Son of God of hum - ble birth, Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;



Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His fa - vor.  
All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ring - ing.  
Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glo - ry!

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*Wide Open Stand the Gates*

LSB 639



1 Wide o - pen stand the gates a - doned with pearl, While  
2 He speaks the Word the bread and wine to bless: "This  
3 The cher - u - bim, their fac - es veiled from light, While



round God's gold - en throne The choirs of saints in  
is My flesh and blood!" He bids us eat and  
saints in won - der kneel, Sing praise to Him whose



end - less cir - cles curl, And joy - ous praise the Son!  
drink with thank - ful - ness This gift of ho - ly food.  
face with glo - ry bright No earth - ly masks con - seal.



They watch Him now de - scand - ing To vis - it wait-ing earth.  
All hu - man thought must fal - ter—Our God stoops low to heal,  
This sac - ra - ment God gives us Binds us in u - ni - ty,



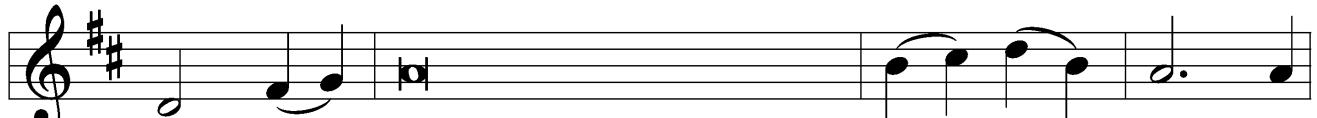
The Lord of Life un - end - ing Brings dy - ing hope new birth!  
Now pres - ent on the al - tar, For us both host and meal!  
Joins earth with heav'n be - yond us, Time with e - ter - ni - ty!

Text: J. K. Wilhelm Loehe, 1808-72; tr. Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923-2007. Tune: Christlich Neu-vermehrt . . . Gesangbuch, 1663, Erfurt. Text: © 2002 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005013. Tune: Public domain

*Stand*

NUNC DIMITTIS

LSB 199



**C** Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-  
cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,



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



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



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



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

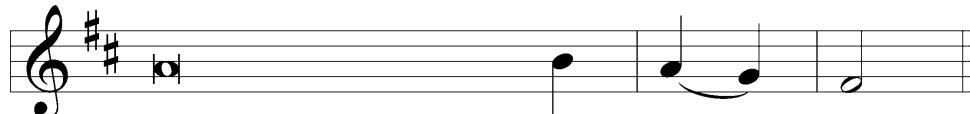


is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

## THANKSGIVING

LSB 200

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



**C** and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

**P** Let us pray.

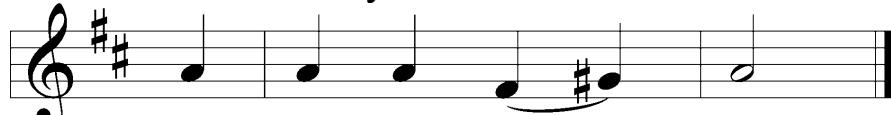
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and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

**C** Amen.

## SALUTATION AND BENEDICAMUS

LSB 201

**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And with thy spir - it.

**P** Bless we the Lord.



**C** Thanks be to God.

## BENEDICTION

LSB 202

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look upon you with favor and  $\dagger$  give you peace.



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

*Sit*

## CLOSING HYMN

*Of the Father's Love Begotten*

LSB 384



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten Ere the worlds be -  
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, When the vir - gin,  
 3 This is He whom seers in old time Chant - ed of with  
 4 O ye heights of heav'n, a - dore Him; An - gel hosts, His  
 △ 5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Fa - ther, And, O Ho - ly



gan to be, He is Al - pha and O - me - ga,  
 full of grace, By the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,  
 one ac - cord, Whom the voic - es of the proph - ets  
 prais - es sing. Pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore Him  
 Ghost, to Thee Hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



He the source, the end - ing He, Of the things that are, that  
 Bore the Sav - ior of our race, And the babe, the world's Re -  
 Prom - ised in their faith - ful word. Now He shines, the long - ex -  
 And ex - tol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth be  
 And un - end - ing prais - es be, Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, And that fu - ture years shall see  
 deem - er, First re - vealed His sa - cred face  
 pect - ed; Let cre - a - tion praise its Lord  
 si - lent, Ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring  
 min - ion, And e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

A - men.

Text: Aurelius Prudentius Clemens, 348–c. 413; (sts. 1–4): tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.; (st. 5): tr. Henry W. Baker, 1821–77. Tune: Plainsong, 13th cent., mode V. Text and tune: Public domain



## POSTLUDE

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

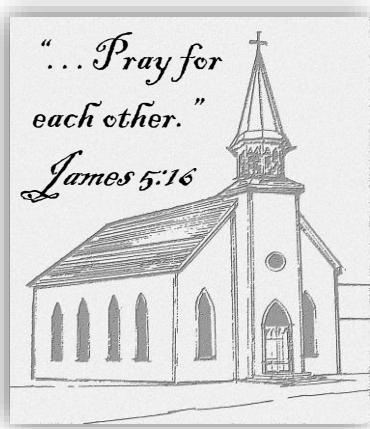


members: Renee Brinkmann, Mildred Holle, Lathel Norris, Elvera Schroeder, and others who are unable to come to church.

**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:*

- Haferkamp – Stanley, Julie, Tanner, Kinsley
- Hardin - Julie
- Maya – Arturo, Lesloe, Alexis, Kayla, Marc
- Thornton - Rosemary
- Wellmann – Ray, Rebecca
- Wellmann - Rallin

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **This Week's Schedule**

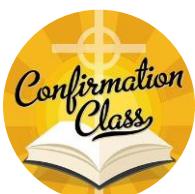
**January 4 – January 11**



<b>Today:</b>	<b><i>Second Sunday After Christmas</i></b>	
<b>9:00 AM</b>	Sunday School & Adult Bible Class	
<b>10:15 AM</b>	Divine Worship: Setting III with Communion	
<b>11:30 AM</b>	Youth League Meeting	
Acolyte:	Dillion Nowicki	
Greeter:	Laramie Kettler	
Ushers:	Brian Crabb	Daryl Dahman
	Doyle Dahmann	Tyler Gandy



<b>Tuesday:</b>	<b><i>The Epiphany of Our Lord</i></b>
<b>7:00 PM</b>	Worship Service with Setting III Communion



<b>Wednesday:</b>	
<b>4:30 PM</b>	Confirmation Class 7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> Grades



<b>Thursday:</b>	
<b>6:30 PM</b>	Ladies Bible Study



## Next Sunday: *The Baptism of Our Lord*

<b>9:00 AM</b>	Sunday School & Adult Bible Class	
<b>10:15 AM</b>	Divine Worship: Setting I with Communion Baptism of Rylee Ann Molitor	
Acolyte:	Taylor Hinze	
Crucifer:	Wyatt Schramme	
Greeter:	Judy Baichtal	
Ushers:	Caleb Klussmann	Corey Klussmann
	Don Koester	Valgene Kohring
<b>11:30 AM</b>	Shekel Store	

## Serving in January: Elder – Chris Smitherman/Trustee – Doyle Dahmann

*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  
Laramie Kettler*



## *O Come Let Us Adore Him*

Please join us for an **Epiphany Worship Service**  
with **Holy Communion** Tuesday at 7:00 PM.

## **Epiphany Worship**

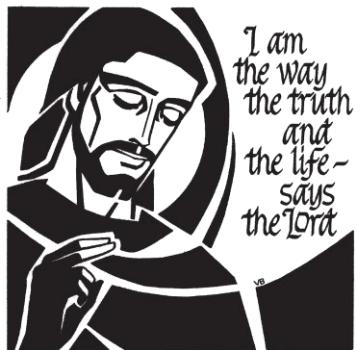


# LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

**January 4 (Christmas 2)** – God used Joseph, who adopted Jesus as his own son (Luke 2:41), to care for our Lord as He (Jesus) mysteriously lived a perfectly human life as our substitute. Through Jesus, God has now adopted us as His own children and has promised us an eternal

inheritance in His kingdom (Ephesians 1:5, 11). Christians should be encouraged to likewise consider and promote adoption as a godly way to preserve and care for the lives of God's precious children and bring them into His kingdom.

## 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 "The Seeing Sign – Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind." When Jesus encounters a man born blind, His disciples wrongly assume the man's sin or his parents' sin is the cause of the blindness. Jesus corrects their assumption, telling them the man's blindness was so that the

works of God might be displayed in him. Sight restored, the man and then his parents find themselves before the Pharisees, who try to claim the man was never blind. When the man asserts the truth of his healing, the Pharisees cast him out. Encountering Jesus once again, the man confesses his faith in the Son of Man. To reinforce this lesson with your kids, as a family, discuss: What are the two different meanings of the word see? Can you think of some things that we say that show the second meaning of see? The Pharisees could see with their eyes, but they could not see Jesus as Lord and Savior. What keeps people today from seeing Jesus as Lord and Savior? When the man who was blind from birth was made to see, it wasn't just his eyes that were changed. His whole brain would have been rewired to receive messages from his eyes. He was practically born all over. What would be new to you if you had not been able to see for your entire life and then you were given your sight? What would be new to you if you had never known Jesus your whole life, but then you "saw" Him? Also, parents, you can join Pastor Krieg in the adult Sunday School class. See you next week!!

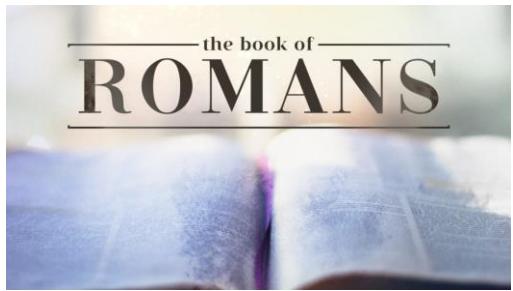
## High School Lesson

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
Dec. 28	Sunday School	11	\$44.00
	Youth Bible Class	1	
	Adult Bible Class	18	
Dec. 28	Worship Service	102	\$3,035.03



A large, ornate, cursive-style script of the word "Alleluia!" is centered on the page. The letter "A" is particularly prominent, with a large loop at the top and a decorative flourish at the bottom. The entire word is enclosed within a circular outline.