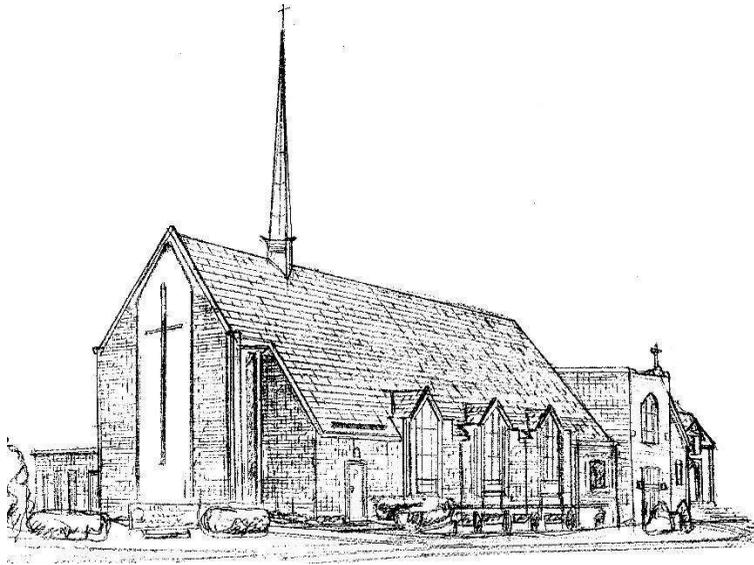


**Bethlehem Evangelical  
Lutheran Church**



**Bulletin**

**December 3 & 4, 2022**

**Second Week of Advent**

***Committed to being and making disciples.***

**Daniel P. Smail & Ellen S. Lundie, Pastors  
Laura M. Henri, Organist and Director of Choirs**

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**Web Page: [www.belc.org](http://www.belc.org)**

# **Sunday, December 4, 2022**

## **Second Sunday of Advent, Year A**

### **Introduction**

*At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases, we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.*

### **GATHERING**

#### **WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**

**Reader:** Praise to you, O God, who gives us courage to start again.

Your fasten righteousness around your waist  
and baptize with the Holy Spirit's fire.

Bless us as we mirror you mighty fire in these simple flames,  
and teach us to mirror your justice in the paths we prepare.

We ask that peace abound,  
until none hurt or destroy over all the earth.

**C: Amen.**

#### **PRELUDE**

#### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,  
who alone does wondrous things.

**C Blessed be God's name forever. Amen.**

L Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep.  
Let us confront our sins,  
and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

*The congregation may kneel as able. Silence is kept for reflection*

God of new beginnings,  
**we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign.**  
**We have strayed from your paths.**  
**We prepare for war instead of peace.**  
**We dishonor one another and your creation.**  
**Purify us with your refining fire**  
**and set us again on your way of love,**  
**that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance,**  
**and welcome your coming among us.**  
**Amen.**

P People of God,  
a new thing is growing in our midst,  
a tender branch,  
a living sign.  
By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder.  
You have put on ✠ Christ,  
and your sins have been washed away.  
Rejoice in the way of the Lord.  
**C Amen.**

## **GATHERING SONG NO. 249 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry**

1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
announces that the Lord is nigh;

awake and hearken, for he brings  
glad tidings of the King of kings!

2 Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin;  
make straight the way for God within,  
and let us all our hearts prepare  
for Christ to come and enter there.

3 We hail you as our Savior, Lord,  
our refuge and our great reward;  
without your grace we waste away  
like flow'rs that wither and decay.

4 Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,  
and make us rise to fall no more;  
oh, let your face upon us shine  
and fill the world with love divine.

5 All praise to you, eternal Son,  
whose advent has our freedom won,  
whom with the Father we adore,  
and Holy Spirit, evermore.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite

## **APOSTOLIC GREETING**

**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C** And also with you.

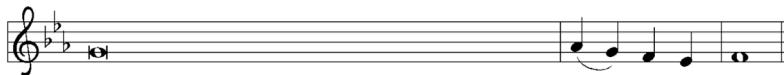
## **KYRIE**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



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



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



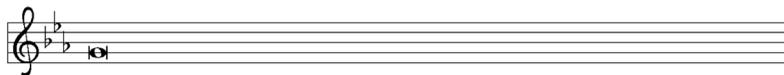
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



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



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

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## **WORD**

### **FIRST READING: Isaiah 11:1-10**

*Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.*

A reading from Isaiah,

<sup>1</sup>A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

<sup>2</sup>The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

<sup>3</sup>His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

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

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

<sup>5</sup>Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

<sup>6</sup>The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.

<sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

<sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

<sup>9</sup>They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain;  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.

<sup>10</sup>On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the  
nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM 72:1-7, 18-19**

<sup>1</sup>Give the king your jus- | tice, O God,  
and your righteousness to | the king's son;

<sup>2</sup>**that he may rule your | people righteously  
and the | poor with justice;**

<sup>3</sup>that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people,  
and the | hills, in righteousness.

<sup>4</sup>**Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people,  
rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor.**

<sup>5</sup>May he live as long as the sun and | moon endure,  
from one generation | to another.

<sup>6</sup>**Let him come down like rain upon | the mown field,  
like showers that wa- | ter the earth.**

<sup>7</sup>In his time may the <sup>1</sup> righteous flourish;  
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall <sup>1</sup> be no more.  
<sup>18</sup>**Blessed are you, LORD God, the <sup>1</sup> God of Israel;**  
**you alone do <sup>1</sup> wondrous deeds!**  
<sup>19</sup>And blessed be your glorious <sup>1</sup> name forever,  
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. A- <sup>1</sup> men. Amen.

## **SECOND READING: Romans 15:4-13**

*God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.*

A reading from Romans,

<sup>4</sup>Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup>May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup>Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. <sup>8</sup>For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, <sup>9</sup>and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,  
and sing praises to your name”;

<sup>10</sup>and again he says,

“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people”;

<sup>11</sup>and again,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,  
and let all the peoples praise him”;

<sup>12</sup>and again Isaiah says,

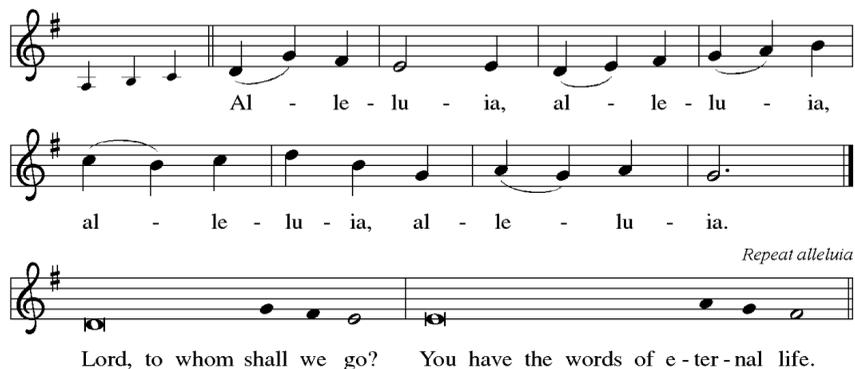
“The root of Jesse shall come,  
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;  
in him the Gentiles shall hope.”

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

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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

## GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12

*Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.*

P The holy gospel according to Matthew.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup>“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” <sup>3</sup>This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

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

<sup>4</sup>Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>Then the people of

Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, <sup>6</sup>and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup>But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruit worthy of repentance. <sup>9</sup>Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>10</sup>Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

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

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

**SERMON – *The Rev. Ellen S. Lundie***

**HYMN OF THE DAY NO. 258 Unexpected and Mysterious**

1 Unexpected and mysterious  
is the gentle word of grace.  
Everloving and sustaining  
is the peace of God's embrace.  
If we falter in our courage  
and we doubt what we have known,  
God is faithful to console us  
as a mother tends her own.

2 In a momentary meeting  
of eternity and time,  
Mary learned that she would carry  
both the mortal and divine.  
Then she learned of God's compassion,  
of Elizabeth's great joy,  
and she ran to greet the woman  
who would recognize her boy.

3 We are called to ponder myst'ry  
and await the coming Christ,  
to embody God's compassion  
for each fragile human life.  
God is with us in our longing  
to bring healing to the earth,  
while we watch with joy and wonder  
for the promised Savior's birth.

Text: Jeannette M. Lindholm, b. 1961

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## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;**

**he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

*A brief silence.*

God, you renew the church in every age. We give thanks for hymn writers and theologians. Inspire teachers, writers, and musicians to delight and instruct your people. God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

You give us a vision of creation in harmony, when hurting and destruction will be no more. Teach us to be stewards of the earth and companions to its creatures. Restore to balance and wholeness what human greed has harmed. God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

You defend the cause of all who are poor and oppressed. Raise up leaders who will govern with equity and serve the common good. Guide judges, lawmakers, and public officials to protect the rights of those who cannot advocate for themselves. God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

You deliver those in need from suffering and fear. Come to the aid of any who are exploited or abused, especially children, elders, and victims of human trafficking. Provide safety and help to our neighbors without shelter, refugees, and those fleeing violence. God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

You urge your people to welcome one another as you have welcomed us. Nurture ministries of hospitality and care in this and every congregation. We pray for people who are homebound, hospitalized, or separated from loved ones; especially those we name within our hearts (*a brief silence...*). God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

You embrace all who have died trusting in your promises, and we give thanks for their faithful witness. Sustain us in hope until we are united with them in the joy of your eternal presence. God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

**P** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C** **And also with you.**

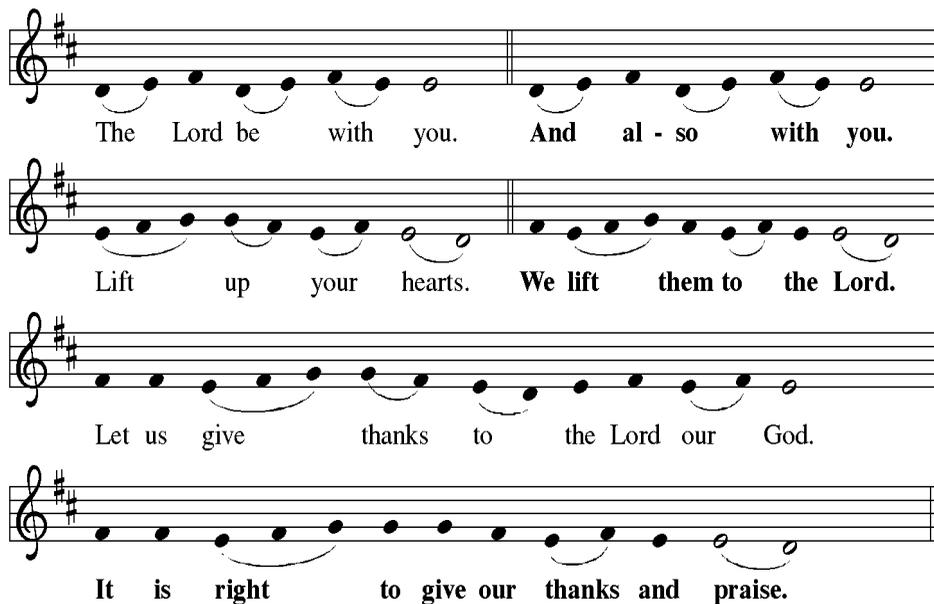
## **MEAL**

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

**L** Eternal God,

**C** you make the desert bloom  
and send springs of water to thirsty ground.  
Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money,  
and make us messengers of your mercy and love  
for all in need of your healing and justice.  
We ask this through Christ our Savior.  
Amen.

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## **PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn

## **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of  
 pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
 san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the  
 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy God, the Beginning and the End,  
 our Salvation and our Hope,  
 we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.  
 When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair,  
 you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy.  
 At this end of the ages  
 your Son Jesus came to bring us your love  
 and to heal all the suffering world.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
 shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,  
his life, death, and resurrection,  
we await his coming again  
in righteousness and peace.

Send your Spirit on us  
and on this bread and wine we share:  
strengthen our faith,  
increase our hope,  
and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,  
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church,  
both now and forever.

**Amen**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God, who has come to save you.

## **COMMUNION SONG**



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, grant us peace.

**SENIOR CHOIR - *A Shoot Shall Come Forth***

## COMMUNION HYMN NO. 241 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

1 O Lord, how shall I meet you,  
how welcome you aright?  
Your people long to greet you,  
my hope, my heart's delight!  
Oh, kindle, Lord most holy,  
your lamp within my breast  
to do in spirit lowly  
all that may please you best.

2 I lay in fetters, groaning;  
you came to set me free.  
I stood, my shame bemoaning;  
you came to honor me.  
A glorious crown you give me,  
a treasure safe on high  
that will not fail or leave me  
as earthly riches fly.

3 Love caused your incarnation;  
love brought you down to me.  
Your thirst for my salvation  
procured my liberty.  
Oh, love beyond all telling,  
that led you to embrace  
in love, all love excelling,  
our lost and fallen race.

4 Rejoice, then, you sad-hearted,

who sit in deepest gloom,  
who mourn your joys departed  
and tremble at your doom.  
All hail the Lord's appearing!  
O glorious Sun, now come,  
send forth your beams so cheering  
and guide us safely home.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-1676; tr. composite

## POST COMMUNION CANTICLE ELW 204

### Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise



Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.



Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980  
Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923  
Text and music © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

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## **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

L Let us pray.

Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy,  
bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ.

As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled,  
sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery.

Guide us toward your promised future,  
coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

**C Amen.**

## **SENDING**

### **BLESSING**

P God the eternal Word,  
who dwells with us in Jesus,  
and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit,  
‡ bless you now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## **SENDING SONG NO. 260 The King Shall Come**

1 The King shall come when morning dawns  
and light triumphant breaks,  
when beauty gilds the eastern hills  
and life to joy awakes.

2 Not as of old a little child,  
to bear and fight and die,  
but crowned with glory like the sun  
that lights the morning sky.

3 Oh, brighter than the rising morn  
when Christ, victorious, rose  
and left the lonesome place of death,  
despite the rage of foes.

4 Oh, brighter than that glorious morn  
shall dawn upon our race  
the day when Christ in splendor comes,  
and we shall see his face.

5 The King shall come when morning dawns  
and light and beauty brings.  
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray:  
come quickly, King of kings.

Text: John Brownlie, 1859-1925

## **DISMISSAL**

**L** Go in peace, with Christ is near..

**C** Thanks be to God.

## **POSTLUDE**

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*Altar Flowers* The flowers in the Sanctuary this weekend are dedicated to

the Glory of God and the adornment of His House in memory of Thomas Bridge, given by Steve and Angie Matecka and in memory of my mother, Betty Youkers, given by Barb and Larry Nugent.

### **Those Serving at worship this weekend**

#### **Advent Candle Wreath Lighter & Prayer Reader**

**6pm - Eric & Koonteera James**

**8am - Joe & Linda Ulrich**

**10:30am - Bret & Marcia Boyle**

#### **LECTORS**

**6:00pm - Joe Kayda**

**8:00am - Fran Mears**

**10:30am - Wendy Farone**

#### **COMMUNION ASSISTANTS**

**6:00 pm - Joe Kayda**

**8:00am - Fran Mears**

**10:30am - Wendy Farone**

#### **LAY ASSISTANTS**

**8:00am - Shirley Good**

**10:30am – Dalton Crump**

#### **Advancing the Slides**

**6:00pm - Judy Begenwald**

**8:00am - Jim Good**

**10:30am - Misty Baker**

**ACOLYTE 10:30am - Cam Hubstenberger**

**Ushers are: 8am -- Russ Bennardo & Donna Tappe**

**10:30am – Rich McHale & team**

**Monthly Counting Team: Debby & Jim Cenci, RuthAnn & Joe Leech and Chet Kletke**

**Monthly Benevolence for December is: Crisis Center North** Your special envelope may be placed in the offering basket at any Worship service, or they can be mailed directly to the church office. Thank you for your generous support.

**The Week at Bethlehem**

**Sunday, December 4th**      Second Sunday in Advent  
8:00am Worship/Communion  
9:15am Sunday School Students & Adults  
\*10:30 am Worship/Communion  
\*Live streamed worship service  
Following late service    Coffee Hour - Personnel  
NO Confirmation

**Monday, December 5th**      9:00-2:30p PACC (Fellowship Hall)  
7:00pm Fellowship Com. Mtg.

**Tuesday, December 6th**      6:00pm NA Mtg. in Fellowship Hall

**Wednesday, December 7th**    10:30a & 7p Pastor's Bible Study  
7pm Boy Scouts (Fellowship Hall)

**Thursday, December 8th**      4:30-7:00pm Act -1

**Saturday, December 10th**      9:00a & 11:00a CPR Classes  
10:00a Christmas Pageant Rehearsal  
6pm Evening Worship/Comm.

**Sunday, Dec. 11th**              Advent Week #3



**MUSIC ANGELS**

Would you like to honor/remember someone this Christmas while helping us to defray the cost of our Christmas music? A gift to our music angels would be the perfect way. Simply complete the form below by Dec. 11th and place it along with your gift into the offering box or mail it into the church office. No gift is too small. All amts. Appreciated!

-----  
Music Angels

In honor/memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

Amt. of gift \$ \_\_\_\_\_



## 2023 calendars are being collected

for the “North Hills Community Outreach”

Collection will begin November 1st. and

continue *through December 18th.*

Calendars can be placed in the labeled

box in the Narthex.

Thank you for your continued support of this social ministry project.



Families Celebrate Advent & Christmas is a colorful deck of cards that is full of rituals, prayers and reflections. Endlessly flexible for busy schedules, you can create a new after-meal ritual, use them as decorations, or carry them on the go. Explore the entire season from Advent to Christmas through Epiphany. **Card decks are available in the Narthex.** If you have any questions, please let Pastor Ellen know ([e.lundie@belc.org](mailto:e.lundie@belc.org)).

**2023 Flower Chart** - The flower chart for next year has been hung on the wall across from the office in the hallway. Stop by and check it over -pick your date(s) early to get your dedications scheduled for your most wanted dates in 2023.

**ANNUAL REPORT** – Hard to believe it is the time of the year for committees to start thinking about their part of the big annual report we publish each year ahead of the Annual Church Meeting. If you would, please start putting on your thinking caps and begin the process of preparing your report and get it into the office by sometime during the first week of January to allow us time to organize, prepare, print and distribute them on time to our members. Early report submissions are always appreciated.



*Christmas Gifts*

**Reminder - All gifts for Glade Run and Trinity Lutheran must be returned no church no later than, TODAY, December 4<sup>th</sup>.**

Please be sure your tag is securely attached to the outside of your package so we know which organization should be getting that package and so once they receive it from us, they will also know what person it should be given to. Questions should be directed to Marianne in the church office.

Please- no Bows on the gifts they smash while transporting them for delivery.

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**Advent Bible Study with  
Pastor Ellen and Pastor Dan**

We'll be exploring the sacred Scriptures, discussing the history and significance of some beloved carols, and celebrating the treasured traditions of this glorious season. Classes will be held on December 7th, 14th, and 21st . We will offer two sessions each Wednesday, a morning session at 10:30 and an evening session at 7:00. Please join us for this inspiring study that will most certainly get you in the Christmas spirit! On December 21st , please bring some of your favorite Christmas cookies to share with the rest of the class. Thanks for your faithful participation!

\*Please be advised, in the event of wintry weather, we heed the guidance of the Shaler Area School District. A two- hour delay means no morning Bible study session. If there's a cancellation... Bible study will be cancelled that day as well. Thank you!



Bethlehem Christmas Pageant 2022

This year's Christmas Pageant is on Sunday, December 11 at the 10:30 am worship service. All children and youth are invited to participate! We need everyone, our littlest ones to our junior and senior high youth! There will be a rehearsal on December 10 at 10:00 am to familiarize everyonewith the pageant and organize costumes. Attendance at the rehearsal is encouraged but not required to participate in the pageant.If your child(ren) will participate in the pageant please let Pastor Ellen know (412) 486-0550 or [e.lundie@belc.org](mailto:e.lundie@belc.org). Thanks for being involved in this special time at Bethlehem!



## GOOD GIFTS ANIMALS TO

### “FILL THE STABLE”

The shepherds found baby Jesus lying in a manger, surrounded by God's animals. What better way to celebrate the birth of Christ than to share those same animals – to **“fill the stable”** -- so that families can prosper.

The animals we provide will be used not only for food, but also to generate income. Oxen and donkeys help till fields, sheep produce warm wool, cows and goats give protein and milk, and chickens provide an abundance of nutritious eggs. As the animals multiply, families can sell surplus food for extra income. A bountiful and enduring blessing! These gifts can make a real, life-changing difference for those who live with hunger and poverty.

Each gift counts twice – once for your loved ones and again for someone you may never meet. Even better, these are gifts that last for more than a couple days or weeks; they keep on giving for years to come.

The costs of all the animals are listed below. You don't have to buy a 'whole' animal; the money donated will be combined to purchase as many animals as we can. Donations may be given in memory and honor of loved ones. Deadline for donations is **December, 11th** to be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin. Any received after that will be published at a later date.

cow \$500	a share of - nativity animals \$75
share of cow \$50	donkey \$400
goat \$50	sheep \$150
piglet \$30	rooster \$15

loxen & plow \$500

2 chickens \$25



**POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE**

Again this year, the chancel will be decorated with red poinsettias for Christmas Eve. *Plants may be picked up following the 10:30 p.m. worship service on Christmas Eve.*

**All orders and money are due into the church office no later than Sunday, December 11th to guarantee your dedication is listed in the bulletin. All order received after that will be posted in a future Sunday bulletin.**

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**COMBINED**

**POINSETTIA ORDER / DONATION FORM**

I would like give # \_\_\_\_\_ red poinsettias plants at **\$6.50 each** for a six-inch pot

I would like to give \$ \_\_\_\_\_ toward Christmas decorations.

I would like to donate \$ \_\_\_\_\_ toward ELCA Good Gifts / World Vision animals to **“fill the stable..”**

or name a specific animal \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) as you want it printed in the bulletin

\_\_\_ I will pick up my plant \_\_\_ Please give my plant to a shut-in



Join us for

Join us for  
**BREAKFAST  
WITH SANTA**

Bethlehem Lutheran Church - 1719 Mt Royal Blvd - Glenshaw

**Saturday, December 17, 2022**

**9:30 am**