

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Greeting

L The Lord be with you. **C** And also with you.

Versicles..... Page 219

✠ PSALMODY ✠

Common (or seasonal) Antiphon..... Page 220

Venite ~ O Come, Let Us SingPages 220-221

Common Antiphon Page 221

Psalms..... **Psalm 72:1-11**

[Give the King Your Justice]

L Give the king your justice, O God,
C and your righteousness to the royal son!

L May he judge your people with righteousness,
C and your poor with justice!

L Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people,
C and the hills, in righteousness!

L May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the children of the needy,
C and crush the oppressor!

L May they fear you while the sun endures,
C and as long as the moon, throughout all generations!

L May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
C like showers that water the earth!

L In his days may the righteous flourish,
C and peace abound, till the moon be no more!

L May he have dominion from sea to sea,
C and from the River to the ends of the earth!

L May desert tribes bow down before him
C and his enemies lick the dust!

L May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render him tribute;
C may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts!

L May all kings fall down before him,
C all nations serve him!

All 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.

Office Hymn..... “As With Gladness Men of Old” #397(G)

✠ READINGS ✠

Old Testament Reading..... **Isaiah 60:1-6** Pew Bible, page 619

[The people of the nations come to worship the King.]

after each reading:

L This is the Word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

Epistle **Ephesians 3:1-12** Pew Bible, page 977

[The mystery of Christ revealed: good news for all people.]

Sequence Hymn..... “The People That in Darkness Sat” #412:1,4,6 (OT)

Holy ✠ Gospel..... **St. Matthew 2:1-12** Pew Bible, page 807

[The Wise Men visit the child Jesus and His mother, Mary.]

Responsory – Common Page 221

Children’s Message

Hymn of the Day “O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright” #395(G)

Sermon..... “Where Is He?” Text St. Matthew 2:1-12

1. He is in his _____
2. He is in his _____
3. He is in our _____

✠ CANTICLE ✠

Te Deum ~ We Praise You, O God.....Pages 223-225

Offering and Attendance Registration

✠ PRAYER ✠

Kyrie, Lord’s Prayer, and CollectsPages 227-228

L Lord, in Your mercy, **C** Hear our prayer.

Benedicamus and Benediction Page 228

Hymn of Departure “Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning” #400

Silent Prayer

Announcements

Sending:

L Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God!

THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD (OBSERVED)

January 01, 2017

MISSION STATEMENT: *Steadfast in the Word, Bethlehem Lutheran Church shares Christ and serves people with friendship in His love in all of God's world.*

WELCOME TO BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH! We extend a most joyous welcome to all who are worshipping today. We are confident the Lord will reveal Himself to you through this Divine Service so that you may know the joy of His presence in your life. To our guests: If you have any questions about the Christian faith or about Lutheran worship and practice, please ask the Pastor, one of our Elders, or any of our members. God bless you in Christ Jesus!

OUR STEWARDSHIP LAST WEEK

<u>OFFERINGS</u>		<u>ATTENDANCE</u>	
General Offering	\$4911.00	Christmas Day	59
[Needed per week:	\$2,668.00]	Communion	51
Building Fund	\$.00	Christmas Eve	92
[Needed per week:	\$350.00]		
Christmas Eve	\$1698.00		

AS WE GATHER The Feast of the Epiphany is a celebration of Christ's divine nature manifested in the humanity of the child Jesus in Bethlehem. Beginning with the Wise Men from the east, down through the present day, all nations are coming to His light, and kings to the brightness of His rising. The visitation of the Magi is the first unfolding in time and space of the mystery of Christ, which is that all people are fellow heirs, members of one Body, and participants in the promises of Jesus through the Gospel. In the presence of such a child—God in human flesh who brings all people into oneness with Himself—the royal visitors cannot but worship, offering such gifts as gold, frankincense, and myrrh in grateful response to the love of God made manifest in the humanity of Jesus.

A REQUEST: Out of respect for God's House and courtesy for other worshippers, please turn off all cell phones. **Please** also encourage one another to show respect to God, our fellow-worshippers, and our Pastor by limiting movement during Scripture Readings, Sermon & prayers. Thank you.

LAY-LED SERVICES: Due to the unavailability of our usual pulpit and altar supply pastor, the Board of Elders chose, instead of a Divine Service, to have a lay-led Matins/Morning Prayer service today, with a sermon read that Pastor Adler completed. Such lay-leading of Matins/Morning Prayer and reading of an approved sermon do not go against Augsburg Confession Article V, regarding the Office of the Holy Ministry, and Article XIV, regarding only ordained pastors preaching the Gospel and administering the Sacraments.

PASTOR ADLER IS ON VACATION this week. Our thanks to the Board of Elders, especially Devin Jackson, for leading Matins/Morning Prayer and to James Taylor for leading the Bible Class. In case of pastoral care please contact your elder. Pastor Adler will be back this Tuesday.

TODAY'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON is "Jesus Is Rejected at Nazareth." In Nazareth, throughout His ministry, and even today, Jesus is rejected by people who do not have faith in Him. God's Word clearly shows that Jesus is God's Son, and in faith, we believe. With your family, discuss, "How does sin blind our eyes to the Savior and cause us to suffer from sin's effects with sickness, trouble, and even physical death?"

THE JANUARY edition of ***The Bethlehem Star*** newsletter is in your mailbox in the narthex. Make sure you have picked up your copy!

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK: Isaiah 42:1-9; Romans 6:1-11; St. Matthew 3:13-17.

MIDWEEK ACTIVITIES resume on Wednesday, January 4th with Catechism at 4:30 PM, choir practice at 5:15 PM, a pot luck supper at 6:00 PM, and Bible classes at 7:00 PM. The Adult class will start a study of the Gospel of John. Come and join the fellowship!

PORTALS OF PRAYER devotion booklets for January through March are on the shelf in the narthex. Make sure you have one and pick up an extra copy for a friend!

FLOWER CHART FOR 2017: The cost of the Chancel flowers are \$25 PER VASE. Members have the option to purchase one or two arrangements.

OFFERING ENVELOPES for 2017 are in your boxes. Make sure you pick yours up. If you would like a box, see Lea Rosier.

THE YOUTH ARE COLLECTING USED CELL PHONES to benefit senior citizens and victims of abuse nationwide. They are also collecting used ink cartridges. If you have any, please see Yanneth Harris.

GREETING CARDS: There are a variety of greeting cards in Garber Hall that you may purchase for a donation to Mites.

CHILI FRIDAY IS JANUARY 27TH and there are many opportunities for service. Megan will have a sign up poster in the narthex. We also need SILENT AUCTION items. All proceeds will go to Hope Station. Please talk to Megan about how you can assist.

CIRCUIT 14 RETREAT will be Saturday, February 4th from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM here at Bethlehem. The topic will be "Aging and Dying Well IN Christ Jesus: End-of-Earthly-Life Issues and Ministry" presented by Rev. Dr. Robert W. Weise. Registration is \$20 per person, including lunch. The deadline to register is Saturday, January 28th. If you wish to attend, please notify the church office.

OUR WORSHIP STYLE: We are a "liturgical" church. That means that the basic pattern of our worship is drawn from the services that have been used by Christians for many centuries all across the world. The components of the Liturgy come from the Bible and serve to focus our worship on God's Word and our response to His Word in faith. As Martin Luther once said, "We worship to hear God speak and to speak to the God who hears us." If you are new to our worship format let it serve as a witness of our response to God who reaches out to us. In time, we pray that you, too, will celebrate the rich spiritual rewards of our heritage in Worship.

ABOUT THE COVER: We all have names. Some of us may like our name, others may not, but all our names have meaning. The name of Jesus is especially meaningful to us who believe in Him. He is our salvation. "At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth" (Philippians 2:10). Jesus' name holds so many meanings, but most important, it means that God loves us and sent His Son to save us.

LIFE QUOTES: "We are weary and overwhelmed by a multitude of life issues. Sometimes we are prideful after doubting God's Word and trusting something else. As the culture decays and evil abounds, we may believe that God asks the impossible of us ... In the face of evil, let it be said of us: Look! They remember 'the Lord, who is great and awesome,' and they 'fight for [their] brothers ... sons ... daughters ... wives, and ... homes' (Nehemiah 4:14)." Linda Bartlett, former president of Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • www.lutheransforlife.org

STEWARDSHIP VIEWPOINT (Luke 2:21) "And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb." There it is: the shortest Gospel lesson of the whole Church Year. It is for the festival of the Circumcision and Name of Jesus. What more do you need to know than the Name of Jesus? The Lord Saves. That's who Jesus is: the Lord who saves us sinners. That simple Gospel message is the foundation of our faith and the strength to live out our faith in action.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY THIS WEEK

<p>Sunday (01/01)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">9:00 AM 10:15 AM</p> <p>Acolyte: Organist: Altar Guild: Duty Elder:</p> <p>Wednesday</p> <p style="text-align: right;">4:30 PM 5:15 PM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM</p> <p>Sunday (01/08)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">9:00 AM 10:15 AM</p> <p>Acolyte/Crucifer: Organist: Altar Guild: Duty Elder: After Church:</p>	<p>The Epiphany of Our Lord [Observed] Sunday School/Bible Class Divine Service (Matins)</p> <p>Jessica Bowden Mary Bowden Lea Rosier & Mary Unk Steve Unk</p> <p>Catechism Choir Practice Potluck Bible Classes</p> <p>The Baptism of Our Lord Sunday School/Bible Class Divine Service (Setting 3) / Holy Communion</p> <p>Christopher Harris Mary Bowden Lea Rosier & Mary Unk Steve Unk LWML Meeting</p>
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IN THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:

National Leadership and Military: including members Kyle Lawson and Kyle Shepherd, as well as Robert Garcia [Juanita's son], Jason Payne [Kay Wickliffe's son], and Jeremy Stafford [Marcy Hogan's nephew]

Health needs - Members: George Nelson, Pastor Roy Southard, Carson Taylor (10/23); **Friends:** Gary Enders (11/20) [Donna Hughes' brother], Brice Harrington (12/11) [Mary Unk's grandson], Joan Mosley (11/20) [Hughes' friend], Lorie Owens (12/18) [Julie Schoppe's sister & Ken Koehler's daughter], Bob Schneider (12/18) [Lana Bowden & Tim Lawson's uncle]

Homebound - Members: Opal Garber, Nikki Hightower, Dorothy Jackson, Martha Kaudelka, Ardelle Samford, Johnnie Weaver, Connie Wunderlich; **Friends:** Benjamin Garcia, Neva Kosted

Celebrating this week: Wedding Anniversaries: Nolan & Kathy Green... **Baptismal Birthdays:** Sandy Teets... **Birthdays:** Patricia Collins, Dustin Pharis, Hattie Pharis, Emma Rollo, Johnny Weaver

NOTE: New prayers requests are in **BOLD**. Prayers submitted will stay on the prayer list for two weeks unless updated. Please inform the Pastor and the Church Office regarding the status of submitted prayers so we may be timely and up-to-date in petitions to our gracious God.

TO START OUR PRAYER CHAIN CALL LEA ROSIER AT (903) 729-1879 or (903) 391-5678

www.belctx.org
info@belctx.org

Rev. David L. Adler,
Pastor

BETHLEHEM EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Sunday School: 9:00 AM
Adult Bible Class: 9:00 AM
Divine Service: 10:15 AM

"To Give Light to Those who Sit in Darkness"

