

✠ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION ✠

Greeting

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

Hymn of Invocation “Prepare the Royal Highway” #343 (G)

Invocation, Confession of Sins and Absolution Page 184-185

✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

Introit *Psalm 80:1, 8a, 9b, 7; antiphon: Ps. 80:3*



P Restore us, | O God;*
let your face shine, that we | may be saved!

C Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph | like a flock!*
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, | shine forth.

P You brought a vine out of | Egypt;*
it took deep root and | filled the land.

C Restore us, O | God of hosts;*
let your face shine, that we | may be saved!

P Restore us, | O God;*
let your face shine, that we | may be saved!

Gloria Patri and Kyrie Page 186

Gloria in Excelsis ~ *Glory to God in the Highest*omitted during Advent

Salutation and Collect of the Day Page 189

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

C [♪] Amen.

Lighting Of The Advent Wreath^① The Second Candle: The Bethlehem Candle

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”
(Micah 5:2 NIV)

^①The Advent wreath contains a number of symbols. The evergreen wreath symbolizes eternal life in Christ. The candles are symbolic of Jesus Christ, the Light of the World. The act of lighting more candles each week anticipates the imminent coming of Christ. The **Prophecy Candle** announces a period of waiting for our Lord. The **Bethlehem Candle** symbolizes preparing to receive the Christ Child. The **Shepherd’s Candle** symbolizes sharing of the news of Christ’s birth. The **Angels’ Candle** symbolizes Christ’s final coming on Judgment Day when He will appear in glory with all His angels. The **Christ Candle** is lighted on Christmas Eve. This central candle signifies that the Light of the World, Jesus, has come.

“So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born.”
(St. Luke 2:4-6 NIV)

P As we light the second candle on our Advent wreath, the Bethlehem candle, we remember how God chose the little town of Bethlehem to be the birthplace of our Savior, fulfilling the Old Testament prophecy and making great what was small. Let us pray:

A We give You thanks, our heavenly Father, that You exalt the humble and bring down the proud. Grant that as we travel once more to Bethlehem to greet our Savior and King, we may be humbled in His presence and blessed to serve Him well; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

P “The day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar;

C “the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.”
2 Peter 3:10

P “A voice calls in the desert:

C “Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for Him.”
Isaiah 40:3

P Two flames leap up in preparation for the coming of our Lord.

C “And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”
Isaiah 40:5

Advent Cantic..... “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” [#357:1,5]



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive
5 O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen wide our



Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
heav'n - ly home; Make safe the way that leads on high,



Un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re - jice! Re - jice!
And close the path to mis - er - y. Re - jice! Re - jice!



Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!
Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Text: Author Unknown • Tune: French, 15th cent. • Text and Music: Public Domain

Old Testament Reading..... **Isaiah 40:1-11** Pew Bible, page 599

["Comfort, comfort My people."]

Gradual *Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.*

P Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!

G **Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!**

P Behold, your King is coming to you,

G **righteous and having salvation.**

P Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

G **From the house of the Lord we bless You.**

Epistle**2 Peter 3:8-14** Pew Bible, page 1019

["The day of the Lord will come like a thief."]

But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

Triple Alleluia and Verse Page 190

P [♪] Prepare the way of the Lord, make his | paths straight;*

all flesh shall see the salva- | tion of God.

St. Luke 3:4b,6

Gospel AcclamationsPages 190-191

Holy + Gospel..... **St. Mark 1:1-8** Pew Bible, page 836

[John begins baptizing and preaching.]

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,

who will prepare your way,

the voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight, ”

John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Nicene Creed Page 191

Children’s Message

Hymn of the Day**“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry” #344 (G)**

Sermon..... **“Our Calling to Be the Advent People of God” 2 Peter 3:8-14**

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____ Away

Offering and Attendance Registration

Offertory ~ *Create in Me a Clean Heart*Pages 191-193

Prayer of the Church

P Let us pray to the Lord. **G** **Lord, have mercy.** or **P** Lord, in Your mercy, **G** **Hear our prayer.**

✝ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✝

Please note our Communion Information in the bulletin.

Preface and Sanctus ~ *Holy, Holy, Holy*Pages 194-195

Lord’s Prayer, the Words of Our Lord, and Pax DominiPages 196-197

Agnus Dei ~ *Lamb of God* Page 198

Distribution Hymns **“Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord” #637**

“The Advent of Our King” #331 (E)

“Comfort, Comfort Ye My People” #347 (OT)

Nunc Dimittis ~ *Song of Simeon*.....Pages 199-200

Thanksgiving and Post-Communion CollectPages 200-201

Salutation, Benedicamus and BenedictionPages 201-202

Hymn of Departure **“Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord” #352 (E)**

Silent Prayer

Announcements

Sending:

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **G** **Thanks be to God!**

Note: The Letters in parentheses after the Hymn number indicate hymns selected because of direct connection to the Propers (i.e., Scripture Readings) for the day ... OT=Old Testament, FR=First Reading, SR= Second Reading , Ps=Psalm; V=Verse; E=Epistle, G=Gospel. Hymns with no such indication are hymns that, while having no direct connection to the Propers, still support the theme of the day.

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SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 10, 2017

OUR 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!

COMMUNION INFORMATION: Bethlehem congregation confesses and affirms what the Bible teaches, namely that in this sacred meal Jesus Christ is truly present with His body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine, given for the forgiveness of sins. Since participation in this Sacrament is based on complete agreement and unity in all doctrine, and since Christian Churches vary widely in their teachings even about the Lord's Supper, **first time visitors desiring to commune are asked to speak to the Pastor before approaching the Altar.** Normally only confirmed members, active and in good-standing, of congregations in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and synods with whom we are in Altar Fellowship (in North America: Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti, Lutheran Church-Canada and American Association of Lutheran Churches) will be invited to commune with us. Lutherans who are inactive (i.e., not currently members in good standing), who have not communed in the last six months or more, and/or guests who are formerly "Missouri Synod" but now worship in a different denomination **should also speak to the Pastor before approaching the Altar.** **All communicants are asked to Register by signing the Registration sheet in the Narthex.** Please note that in registering you affirm that you have 1) examined yourself (1 Cor. 11:27-28; 2 Cor. 13:5) 2) that you acknowledge, confess, and repent of your sins (which includes the sin of irregular worship), and 3) by God's grace, as the Catechism also teaches, intend to change such sinful behavior in thought, word, and deed and live a godly life in accord with God's Word. If this is not your intent and you commune, you do so untruthfully and will not receive the Lord's Supper to your spiritual benefit, but to your great harm (1 Cor. 11:29). Communicants are ushered forward by row. Please receive the host upon an open palm. The Chalice (or common cup) is available at every table. The Duty Elder will offer the individual cups and is followed by the Pastor who will offer the Chalice. Please tip the base of the chalice yourself to avoid spillage. The individual cups in the center ring contain de-alcoholized wine for those who have so requested. You may direct questions to the Pastor or Duty Elder.

WORSHIP NOTES: The Chasuble is a Eucharistic Vestment which the Pastor puts on before preparing the Sacramental vessels. It is a visual mark indicating that in the transition from the Service of the Word to the Service of the Sacrament something extraordinary is about to take place. The use of such a vestment is in keeping with both Lutheran tradition and practice; as our Lutheran Confessions state (*Ap XXIV*).

AS WE GATHER: Christmas is fast approaching. Are you ready? This time of year, our to-do lists grow in length: decorations, food, gifts, shopping, parties, and more. As we check each item off the list, we convince ourselves that we are more prepared to celebrate Christmas. Today, however, we encounter John the Baptizer in the Gospel. John calls us to prepare for our Savior's coming in a different way, a more significant way. John calls us to repent. Repentance is more than just something to check off our to-do list. It's a change of heart that the Holy Spirit brings about. Look to the Lord this Advent for the repentance and forgiveness He gives as we prepare for His Son's coming. That's how to be truly ready for Christmas.

AS WE COME INTO THE SANCTUARY - let us be sensitive to the needs of those who use the quiet and reverence of the Prelude as a time to prepare their hearts and minds for the Divine Service. **ALSO:** 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, His Word, our fellow-worshippers, and our Pastor by limiting movement during Scripture Readings, Sermon & prayers. Thank you.

IN TODAY'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON the children learned how each of us is like the lame beggar as we stand before God (Acts 3). Yet through the Means of Grace, God's Word and Sacraments, God bestows on us what Christ accomplished on the cross: forgiveness of sins. In your family discussions, talk about what it means to have the "forgiveness of sins."

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE "Leviticus: Life in the Blood" -- Holiness. What is it? Leviticus shows how God goes to great lengths not only in defining true holiness, but also in sharing His holiness with his redeemed and ransomed people.

THE COLOR FOR ADVENT is blue, the color of hope and anticipation. Royal blue is a reminder that Jesus Christ is the King whose coming fulfilled God's promises of rescue from sin and death. The Advent Wreath is one way we mark this time of waiting, with an additional candle lit each week.

ADVENT MID-WEEK SERIES: This year's midweek Advent worship series theme is "*God's Advent Family*" - Interviews with Bible Characters from the CHRISTmass Story: This Wednesday, December 13th, we meet Joseph, faith carpenter. Each service is preceded by a fellowship meal. Make sure you put this time of Advent preparation, fellowship and worship on your schedule!

ADVENT MEALS: The Evangelism Committee will host this week's Advent Midweek supper on December 13th. See Megan Taylor if you would like to help.

GIFT WRAPPING FOR TOY DRIVE we will be assisting at the Palestine Food Pantry TOY STORE at Court Drive Church of Christ on Thursday, December 14th from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM. See Jerry Hartenberger for more details.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS SERVICE: Fill your hearts with joy as we await our Savior's birth at the children's Christmas Service. "From Heaven Above" will be presented during the Divine Service on December 17th. Dress rehearsal will be THIS Saturday, December 16th at 10:00 a.m. Please see Melanie Jackson for more information.

BETHLEHEM'S CHRISTMAS DINNER will be NEXT Sunday, December 17th, following the Divine Service. Ham and turkey will be provided. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for sides and desserts. See Megan Taylor for how you can help with food, decorating and clean-up.

THANK YOU to all who helped with the tree decorating!

FLOWER CHART FOR 2018: The cost of the Chancel flowers are \$25 PER VASE. Members have the option to purchase one or two arrangements.

CHILI FRIDAY: It's not too early to start thinking about our annual Chili Friday! We are looking for helpers and silent auction donations. Please see Megan Taylor or Donna Hughes if you would like to help.

NEWSLETTER - The **DECEMBER** edition of *The Bethlehem Star* newsletter is in your mailbox in the narthex. Make sure you have picked up your copy. Items for the January edition are due in the church office next Sunday. Thank you!

OUR STEWARDSHIP LAST WEEK			
OFFERINGS		ATTENDANCE	
General Offering	\$5598.00	Sunday School	38
[<u>Needed per week</u>]	[\$2,668.00]	Divine Service	68
Building Fund	\$250.00	Communion	64
[<u>Needed per week</u>]	[\$350.00]	Advent I (12/06)	49

ABOUT THE COVER: God the Father speaks clearly to His people. Through the words of the prophet Isaiah, He tells His people what He is doing and why He is doing it. Therefore, He sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for Jesus, and He sends people of faith to prepare the way for people to come to faith through the Holy Spirit. As a Christian, you have also been made a messenger of God.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; St. John 1:6-8, 19-28.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY THIS WEEK		
Sunday (12/10)		Advent 2
	9:00 AM	Sunday School & Bible Classes
	10:15 AM	Divine Service (Setting 3) / Holy Communion
	Acolyte/Crucifer:	Kristen Harris
	Organist:	Mary Bowden
	Altar Guild:	Lori Fortner & Dot James
	Duty Elder:	Gil Daughtrey
	After Church:	LWML Meeting/ Children's Christmas Service Practice
Tuesday (12/12)	6:00 PM	Board of Elders
	7:00 PM	Church Council
Wednesday (12/13)	6:00 PM	Advent Meal
	7:00 PM	Advent Midweek II
	Acolyte:	Christopher Harris
	Organist:	Mary Bowden
	Duty Elder:	Gil Daughtrey
Thursday (12/14)	9:00 AM	Circuit 14 Winkel – Our Redeemer, Longview
	6:00 PM – 9:00 PM	Gift wrapping for Toy Drive at Court Drive Church of Christ
Saturday (12/16)	10:00 AM	Children's Christmas Service dress rehearsal
Sunday (12/17)		Advent 3
	9:00 AM	Children's Christmas Service
	10:15 AM	Sunday School & Bible Classes
	Divine Service	
	Acolyte:	Matthew Jackson
	Pianist:	Sylvia Frenzel
	Altar Guild:	Lori Fortner & Dot James
	Duty Elder:	Gil Daughtrey
	After Church:	Holiday Dinner/ Evangelism Meeting / Newsletter items due

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], and Jeremy Stafford [Marcy Hogan's nephew]

Health needs - Members: George Nelson, Marjorie Smith (now at TruCare), **Ann Worsham** (12/10); **Friends:** Joan Smith (12/3) [Dorothy Jackson's niece]

Homebound - Members: Dorothy Jackson, Martha Kaudelka, Ardelle Samford, Johnnie Weaver ... **Friends:** Benjamin Garcia

Celebrating this week: Birthdays: Neva Broad, Megan Taylor ... **Wedding Anniversaries:** Ray & Donna Hughes

All who commune

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

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Rev. David L. Adler,
Pastor

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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”

