

BETHLEHEM EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES.....10:15 A.M.
 SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BIBLE CLASSES.....9:00 A.M.

CHURCH: 1515 SOUTH LOOP 256, PALESTINE, TX 75801
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PASTOR: The Reverend David L. Adler

“TO GIVE LIGHT TO THOSE WHO SIT IN DARKNESS”

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!

AS WE GATHER: The Christian Church Calendar begins a new year in the season called Advent. “Advent” means “coming” and is the name of a 4 week season of the Church Year which focuses on the coming of Jesus. He came as a 1) baby to be our Savior; He comes to us 2) now in Word and the Sacraments; and He will come again 3) on the Last Day. Advent is a season of preparation and repentance ... a time to get ready ... join us each Sunday and Wednesday during Advent and make the most important preparations for Christmas possible by getting the right Spirit of the Birthday of our King!

The Church Year begins in Advent by telling the story of our Lord’s earthly ministry. As we prepare to celebrate His first coming at Christmas in the Means of Grace, we also look to the final resurrection when He will come again on the Last Day. Advent is a time of anticipation and expectation. We do our best to hold off on Christmas celebrations and wait until the close of Advent to even sing Christmas Hymns. Our postures can help us visualize such waiting. Tonight we focus on The Lord of Advent who calls his people to be watchful during this season. God’s Word encourages in us an expectant posture toward the coming of our Lord.

OUR THANKS to Ray Hughes for cooking hamburgers and to everyone who assisted preparing tonight’s supper.

OUR CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE: On Christmas Eve our Service of Carols, Lessons and Candlelight is at 7 p.m, Sunday, December 24. The Christmas Day Divine Service (with Holy Communion) is Monday at 10:15 a.m.

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|--|----------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Organist: | Mary Bowden | Duty Elder: | Gil Daughtrey |
| Acolyte: | Jessica Bowden | Altar Guild: | Lori Fortner & Dot James |
| Voices: <i>Mary</i> -Megan Taylor; <i>Elizabeth</i> -Kristen Harris; <i>Male Voice</i> -Albert Harris | | | |

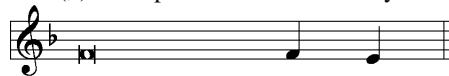
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God’s Advent Family services were prepared by Arden W. Mead and Peter J. Mead © 1989 Creative Communications for the Parish, 10300 Watson Rd. St. Louis. MO 63127. **Cover art:** The Adoration of the Magi, by Fra Angelico and Fra Filippo Lippi, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.; Samuel H. Kress Collection.

✠ THE SERVICE OF LIGHT ✠

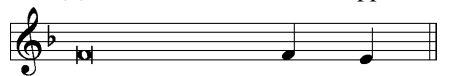
Versicles (for Advent)

P (♪) The Spirit and the Church cry out



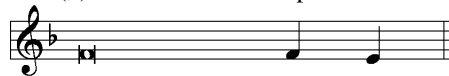
C Come, Lord Je - sus.

P (♪) All those who await His appearance pray



C Come, Lord Je - sus.

P (♪) The whole creation pleads



C Come, Lord Je - sus.

Phos Hilaron ~ *Hymn of Light* Page 244

Thanksgiving for the Light Page 245

✠ PSALMODY ✠

Psalm 141 Page 245

Psalm of the Day **Psalm 113**

P Praise the LORD!

C Praise, O servants of the LORD, praise the name of the LORD!

P Blessed be the name of the LORD

C from this time forth and forevermore!

P From the rising of the sun to its setting,

C the name of the LORD is to be praised!

P The LORD is high above all nations,

C and his glory above the heavens!

P Who is like the LORD our God,

C who is seated on high,

P who looks far down

C on the heavens and the earth?

P He raises the poor from the dust

C and lifts the needy from the ash heap,

P to make them sit with princes,

C with the princes of his people.

P He gives the barren woman a home,

C making her the joyous mother of children. Praise the LORD!

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.

Advent & Christmas Hymn Sing Selected Advent (#331-357) & Christmas Hymns (#358-393)

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Prophecy, Bethlehem, and Shepherd's Candles

✠ READINGS ✠

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 7:10-14 Pew Bible page 572

after the readings:

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Galatians 3:23-4:7 Pew Bible page 974

Holy ✠ Gospel St. Luke 1:26-38 Pew Bible page 855

after the reading:

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

P In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

C But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son. (Hebrews 1:1-2a)

Advent & Christmas Hymn Sing “As God’s Advent Family” [Tune: #374]

¹ As God’s Advent family,

Join we now the chorus

Of the saints who faithfully

Waited long before us,

Children of the Lord most high,

Strengthening each other,

Seeking Christ, Who now draws nigh

As our Lord and Brother.

² Lo, the angel of the Lord

Tells of God’s great favor,

How God’s Son, by all adored,

Comes to be our Savior!

As the blessed Virgin heard

And was blessed by hearing,

May we hearken to the Word

Of the Lord’s appearing.

Text: Arden W. Mead, Peter J Mead • Tune: FANG DEIN WERK

God’s Advent Family Interview Mary, the mother of our Lord

✠ CANTICLE ✠

Magnificat ~ Song of Mary Page 248

Offering and Attendance Registration

✠ PRAYER ✠

Litany Page 249

Collect for Peace and Lord’s Prayer Page 251

Benedicamus and Benediction Page 252

Closing Doxology “As God’s Advent Family” [Tune #374]

As God’s Advent family, join we now the chorus

Of the saints who faithfully waited long before us,

To God - Father, Spirit, Son - glory e’er be given,

May God’s will on earth be done as it is in heaven!

Text: Arden W. Mead, Peter J Mead • Tune: FANG DEIN WERK

Silent Prayer, Announcements and Sending:

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