

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 the LWML for preparing tonight's supper.

OUR ADVENT SERVICES are preceded by a fellowship meal. Your assistance in helping to provide food for next week's meal is appreciated!

NEXT WEDNESDAY: "God's Advent Family" an Interview with Joseph, faithful carpenter

BETHLEHEM'S CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE is Sunday, December 17th, during the Divine Service. Plan to join us as our children and youth share the Christmas message!

BETHLEHEM'S HOLIDAY DINNER is Sunday, December 17th, following the Divine Service. Plan to join us for this time of great food and fellowship!

+ + +

Pianist: Sylvia Frenzel
Acolyte: Christopher Harris

Duty Elder: Gil Daughtrey
Altar Guild: Lori Fortner & Dot James

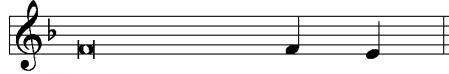
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God's Advent Family services were prepared by Arden W. Mead and Peter J. Mead © 1989 Creative Communications for the Parish, 10300 Watson Rd. St. Louis. MO 63127. **Cover art:** The Adoration of the Magi, by Fra Angelico and Fra Filippo Lippi, National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

✠ THE SERVICE OF LIGHT ✠

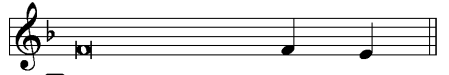
Versicles (for Advent)

P (♪) The Spirit and the Church cry out



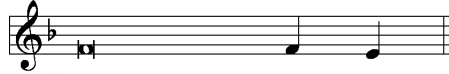
C Come, Lord Je - sus.

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 92:1-8, 12-15

P It is good to give thanks to the LORD,
C to sing praises to your name, O Most High;
P to declare your steadfast love in the morning,
C and your faithfulness by night,
P to the music of the lute and the harp,
C to the melody of the lyre.
P For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work;
C at the works of your hands I sing for joy.
P How great are your works, O LORD!
C Your thoughts are very deep!
P The stupid man cannot know;
C the fool cannot understand this:
P that though the wicked sprout like grass
C and all evildoers flourish,
P they are doomed to destruction forever;
C but you, O LORD, are on high forever.
P The righteous flourish like the palm tree
C and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.
P They are planted in the house of the LORD;
C they flourish in the courts of our God.
P They still bear fruit in old age;
C they are ever full of sap and green,
P to declare that the LORD is upright;
C he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.



Al 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 Hymn Sing Selected Advent Hymns (#331-357)

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Prophecy Candle

✠ READINGS ✠

Old Testament Reading Exodus 30:1-10 Pew Bible page 70

after the readings:

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Hebrews 3:1-6 Pew Bible page 1002

Holy ✠ Gospel St. Luke 1:57-66 Pew Bible page 856

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)*

Hymn “As God’s Advent Family” [Tune: #869]

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 God’s faithful priest once 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 Zechariah, father of John the Baptist

✠ 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 #869]

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!