



## Bethel Lutheran Church

24 Cameron Road  
North East, MD 21901

[office@blcne.com](mailto:office@blcne.com)

[www.blcne.com](http://www.blcne.com)

Pastor Zach: 301-395-3753

Email: [pastorzach.blcne@gmail.com](mailto:pastorzach.blcne@gmail.com)

### ***FRIENDS OF CHRIST ~ ALL OF OUR PEOPLE***

The Rev. Zachary Wright ~ *Pastor*

Sylke Bargsten (254-394-0582) ~ *Director of Music*

Hazel Shutt (609-865-7752) ~ *Flower Coordinator*

The Rev. Bill Gohl ~ *Delaware-Maryland Synod Bishop*

***We celebrate the promise that all people are loved  
and enough in Jesus Christ as we worship, learn,  
and serve together.***

# *Third Sunday of Advent*

## *December 15, 2024*

*In our Lutheran Tradition, liturgy reminds us that we are one in Christ, so we do it together! You are invited to respond in community with the **bold print** and stand in body or spirit when indicated by the asterisks (\*).*

WELCOME

PRELUDE

\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon. **Amen.**

Let us come in truth before the one who loves us and has freed us from our sin.

Most merciful God, **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

*~time of silent confession~*

A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

\*OPENING HYMN: *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn (ELW 242)*

\*APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

**And also with you.**



**\*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

*The Advent wreath will be lit as we sing the Kyrie (ELW 157) & O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (ELW 257) on the blue insert.*

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY** (*in unison*)

**Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

FIRST LESSON: *Zephaniah 3:14-20* (page 680)

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORIAL READING: *Isaiah 12:2-6*

<sup>2</sup> Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not<sup>1</sup> be afraid,  
for the Lord God is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation.

<sup>3</sup> **With joy you will draw water  
from the wells of salvation.**

<sup>4</sup> And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the Lord, call on God's name;

make known the deeds of the Lord among the nations; proclaim that this name is exalted.

<sup>5</sup> **Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously;  
let this be known in all the earth.**

<sup>6</sup> Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,  
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

SECOND LESSON: *Philippians 4:4-7* (page 154)

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** *Wait for the Lord* (ELW 262) - sung twice

**\*GOSPEL LESSON:** *Luke 3:7-18* (page 46)

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*~Gospel is read~*

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON



\*HYMN OF THE DAY: *Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!* (ELW 246)

\*NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

THE PEACE OF THE CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

*Offerings can be placed in the offering plate on the small table as you walk in the sanctuary.*

\*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (*page 152, setting four*)

The Lord be with you.

**And also 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.**

\*SANCTUS (*page 153*)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**Lord God of pow'r and might:**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**



**\*WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

Holy One...Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**\*LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

**DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT**

**POST COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER**

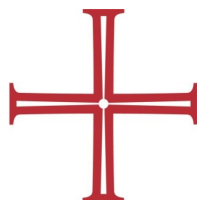
**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*SENDING HYMN: *Prepare the Royal Highway (ELW 264)***

**\*SENDING**

**\*POSTLUDE**



## FLOWERS

The flowers are dedicated to the glory of God, by Cathy Heaps in memory of Dorothy Ross and Christa Fabian.

### SERVER SCHEDULE

	<b>Greeter</b>	<b>Reader</b>	<b>Usher</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>
12/15	Stacy Carey	Mitchell Brown	Paul Markkula	Alex Pelino
12/22	Ruth Noel	Steve Bird	Bill Matthews	Paul Markkula

If you would like to help serve on a Sunday morning, let Pastor Zach know ([pastorzach.blcne@gmail.com](mailto:pastorzach.blcne@gmail.com)).

### SERVICE NOTES

A **special and warm welcome** to everyone here this morning – seekers, members, and guests. We are glad you are here to join our church family for worship!

For worship, you'll need the bulletin and the cranberry-colored hymnal in the pew back in front of you. The liturgy is indicated by page number and can be found in the front half of the hymnal. The hymns are indicated by hymn number and found in the back half of the hymnal.

If you find yourself needing to leave the worship space for any reason (cough, noisy child, overstimulated, etc.), the service is being livestreamed to the television in Fellowship Hall. Feel free to worship in there and come back into the sanctuary when you're ready.

Please return the blue inserts to the back table, so we can use them throughout this Advent (blue) season.

### COMMUNION INSTRUCTIONS

**The communion table is God's table.** Jesus invites all who desire to partake of His body and blood to come forward and receive God's amazing grace in the promises of forgiveness and eternal life. At **communion distribution**, please come forward to the altar rail, filling in the space from right-to-left. Pastor Zach will hand you a wafer to eat. You may then take wine from the tray (center ring is grape juice), drink it, and dispose of your cup in the basket as you return to your seat. If you want a blessing instead, please indicate this by folding your arms across your chest.

*All hymns are under Bethel's CCLI license (#11313912) and streaming license (#20849338). All rights reserved, unless otherwise indicated.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

You are invited to make Christmas Cards for our neighbors at Calvert Manor next week before worship around 10am or after worship for a few minutes. We need to make around 100, so plan to help out!

The Sock, Hat, & Mitten Tree is up in the back of the sanctuary and needs you to decorate it. If you're at the store and want to pick-up a couple items, the tree will be up through the Christmas season.

Our last Advent Soup Supper is this Wednesday, Dec. 18. We'll gather for soup and bread supper from 6-6:30pm. A study on the Songs of Luke from 6:30-7:30pm will follow. If you'd like to bring soup or bread, please sign-up on the sheet in the back.

Youtherans will gather tonight for a Christmas party at Grace, Hockessin (2033 Graves Rd, Hockessin, DE 19707) from 4:30pm-6:00pm. Bring a gift worth between \$10-\$15 for a white elephant gift exchange.

You are invited to attend the St. Philip's Christmas Cantata tonight at 7pm at St. Philip's Lutheran (5320 Limestone Road, Wilmington, DE 19808). You'll find Pastor Zach in the tenor section.

### Christmas Eve Services

- 3:30pm Barn Service at NEW BARN LOCATION (Wonderland Farm, 1200 Blue Ball Road, Elkton, MD 21921)
- 8:00pm Traditional Service with Candlelight & Holy Communion

### OUR STEWARDSHIP

December 1	Worship—44	Offering—\$2,932
December 8	Worship—42	Offering—\$2,048

Please fill the wood food basket in the back for the St. Mary Anne's food pantry. Specific needs: **shelf-stable milk, add-water-only pancake mix, canned meat (tuna, chicken, Vienna sausages), peanut butter & jelly, and cereal** \*Make sure to check those expiration dates.



If you would like to give online, you can use the QR, which will redirect you to our giving platform.

*Thank you for you for your faithfulness and generosity.*

### COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mike Beiter	Ray Weygand	Terry Fuss	Rayanne Lavery
Steve Bird	Kelly Campana	Stacy Igo	Abby Brown
Pastor Zach			

If you have a question, concern, or a new idea,  
make sure to tell someone!

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

*Blue print indicates a church event.*

*Regular print indicates an outside community event.*

### Sunday, December 15th—Third Sunday of Advent

- 9:30am Youth Sunday School
- 10:30am Traditional Worship Service
- 1:00pm Korean Church Bible Study
- 4:30pm Youtherans (Grace, 2033 Graves Rd, Hockessin, DE 19707)
- 7:00pm Christmas Cantata (St. Philip's, 5320 Limestone Road, Wilmington, DE 19808)

### Monday, December 16th

- 6:30pm Pastor Tom Bible Study
- 7:00pm Sisters of Serenity NA Group

### Tuesday, December 17th

- 6:30pm North East AA Group

### Wednesday, December 18th

- 1:00pm Korean Church Bible Study
- 6:00pm Advent Soup Supper

### Thursday, December 19th

- 8:30am Men's Bible Study (meet at JoJo's in Elkton)
- 12:00pm Children's Sermon (via Facebook, YouTube, and Beacon)
- 12:30pm Choir Rehearsal
- 4:00pm Nicanor
- 5:00pm Women's AA Group

### Friday, December 20th

- 5:30pm AA Women's Cecil Social

### Saturday, December 21st

### Sunday, December 22nd—Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 9:30am Youth Sunday School
- 10:30am Traditional Worship Service
- 1:00pm Korean Church Bible Study