



Bethel Lutheran Church

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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.***

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 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: *All Earth Is Hopeful (ELW 266)*

*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 your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM

FIRST LESSON: *Micah 5:2-5a (page 671)*

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

RESPONSORIAL READING: *Psalm 80:1-7*

¹ Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

² **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.**

³ Restore us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

⁴ **O Lord God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

⁶ **You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

SECOND LESSON: *Hebrews 10:5-10 (page 174)*

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

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

***GOSPEL LESSON:** *Luke 1:39-55 (page 43)*

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: *Savior of the Nations, Come (ELW 263)*

*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

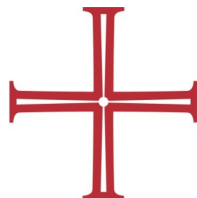
ANNOUNCEMENTS

***BENEDICTION**

SENDING HYMN: *Canticle of the Turning (ELW 723)

***SENDING**

***POSTLUDE**



FLOWERS

The flowers are dedicated to the glory of God, by Ruth Ferretti in memory of Anna Kadlecik, her mother.

SERVER SCHEDULE

	Greeter	Reader	Usher	Acolyte
12/22	Ruth Noel	Steve Bird	Bill Matthews	Paul Markkula
12/29	Marie Lynch	N/A	Gretchen Brown	Chris Brown

If you would like to help serve on a Sunday morning, let Pastor Zach know (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 after worship. We need to make around 140, 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.

Christmas Eve Services

- 3:30pm Barn Service at NEW BARN LOCATION (Wonderland Farm, 1200 Blue Ball Road, Elkton, MD 21921) - *Make sure to dress warm and bring your own chair*
- 8:00pm Traditional Service with Candlelight & Holy Communion

In the new year, we are going to start a Bethel Kids Club on Wednesday afternoons. We need two volunteers each week to spend time with us from 1:30-3:30. Even if you can only do one day, that's fine! Can you help? Sign-up on the sheet in the back of the sanctuary.

2025 Flower Sign-Up Sheet is up on the hallway bulletin board. Cost remains the same at \$35 for two vases. You can place a check in the offering plate with "Flowers" in the memo line.

We have been asked to send Christmas greetings to one of our former members, Donna Roberts. You can send cards to her at: The Regency, Room 213, 5001 Old Montgomery Highway, Tuscaloosa, AL 35405.

OUR STEWARDSHIP

December 8	Worship—42	Offering—\$2,048
December 15	Worship—46	Offering—\$1,022

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 22nd—Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 9:30am Youth Sunday School
- 10:00am Christmas Card Making
- 10:30am Traditional Worship Service
- 11:45am Christmas Card Making
- 1:00pm Korean Church Bible Study

Monday, December 23rd

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

Tuesday, December 24th—Nativity of Our Lord

- 3:30pm Barn Service @ Wonderland Farm (1200 Blue Ball Road., Elkton, MD 21921)
- 6:30pm North East AA Group
- 8:00pm Christmas Eve Service with Candlelight and Communion

Wednesday, December 25th—Christmas Day

- 1:00pm Korean Church Bible Study

Thursday, December 26th

- 4:00pm Nicanor
- 6:30pm Women's AA Group

Friday, December 27th

Saturday, December 28th

Sunday, December 29th—First Sunday of Christmas

- 9:30am Youth Sunday School
- 10:30am Service of Lessons and Carols
- 1:00pm Korean Church Bible Study