

Bethany Lutheran Church
Gathering

Pastoral Welcome and Announcements

Brief Order of Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who is the light and the life of all ages. **Amen**

Trusting in Jesus Christ, who came to share our humanity and bring light to this broken world, let us come before God without fear to make our confession.

Silence for Self Reflection

Comforting God,

We confess before you and in the presence of one another that we are sinners who fail to live as you desire. So often we place our trust in ourselves and not in you. We do not love each other as you have commanded. Because of us, your whole creation suffers. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, forgive us. In your boundless patience and mercy, lead us to live by faith in your promise.

Amen

God's love for us is greater than all our sins. God promises full pardon and complete forgiveness to all who turn from sin and place their trust in Christ, the light of the world. Hear and believe the good news that all your sins are forgiven. With God nothing is impossible.

Amen

Opening Hymn "Comfort, Comfort Now My People" LBW 29

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Blessing of the Advent Wreath

Holy are you, God of the brokenhearted and oppressed; you promised to send your chosen one who gives a garland instead of ashes to those who mourn; who brings down the powerful and lifts the lowly. As we light these candles, open our lips to testify to the true light coming into the world who enlightens everyone. Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like streams in the desert.

Reveal your truth to us, and fill our mouths with shouts of joy that declare the great things that you have done for us.

Amen

"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" v.1-3 WOV 630

Greeting

Grace and peace be with you in the name of the Triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come. **And also with you.**

Kyrie

p. 78 LBW

Prayer of the Day

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

We Hear God's Word

First Lesson

Isaiah 6:1-4, 8-11

Psalm 126

p. 280 LBW

Second Lesson

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Gospel

John 1:6-8, 19-28

Sermon

We Respond In Faith

Hymn of the Day "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers" LBW 25

Nicene Creed p. 84 LBW

Prayers of the Church "Hear our Prayer"

Sharing of the Peace

Special Music H.S. Hand bell Choir

Offering

Offertory Response "Let the Vineyards" p. 86 LBW

Offertory Prayer "Merciful Father" p. 87 LBW

Great Thanksgiving p. 88 LBW

The Lord's Prayer p. 91 LBW

Distribution

Communion Hymns "Lamb of God" p. 92 LBW

Post Communion Canticle "Thank the Lord" p. 92 LBW

We Go To Serve

Benediction

Bells

Dismissal

Sending Hymn "Hark, the Glad Sound" LBW 35

Announcements

Welcome to Worship: A special word of welcome to guests in our midst. Please sign the Guest Register and do come again. Looking for a church home? We invite you to become a part of the family of Bethany.

Hearing Assistance Devices: are available for your use during the worship service. Please ask an usher or the person working with the sound system if you would like to try one.

Invitation to Holy Communion: All who are baptized and believe Jesus is present in the bread and wine and trust in the words "given and shed for you" are welcome to come and partake in the Holy Meal. Children who do not commune are invited to come with their family and receive a blessing.

Prayer Request: Mariam Lang, Gene Lostetter, Eunice Kanne, Fran Anderson, Charles Trittelwitz, Dean Selander, Jane McLain and Carisa Mueller.

Continuing Prayer Concerns: Andy Dahlberg, Eric Hermansen, families of military who have served or are currently serving our country. Missionaries Allan & Marie Krahn and family.

Thank You: for all of the gifts, support and prayers.

-Jon, Amanda, Landon and Prestin Java.

Food Shelf: Bethany church is responsible for the food shelf for part of December. We need volunteers on Tuesday the 16th, 23rd, and 30th from 9-11 and the following Thursdays. Sign up in the Narthex and see LuVerne Anderson if you have any questions.

Sunday School Program: will be next Sunday, 12/21 at 11am.

Potluck Luncheon: will follow the service next week. All are invited and welcome to attend.

Christmas Eve Readers: we are looking for two readers on Christmas Eve. If you are interested see Pastor Jay.

Christmas Worship Schedule: Christmas Eve services will begin at 4:30pm with a service of Lessons and Carols. Christmas morning's communion service will be at 10:00am.

Youth Group Fundraiser: The youth group will be having a silent auction and bake sale on 12/21 after worship. If you have some gently used items to donate please see Nate.

The Week Ahead

Date	Event	Time	Place
Tuesday	Council Meeting	7:00 p.m.	Church
Wednesday	Confirmation	5:30 p.m.	Church
	Choir	6:00 p.m.	Church
	Youth Group Speaker	6:30 p.m.	Church
Sunday	Christmas Program	11:00 a.m.	Church
	Financial Peace	6:00 p.m.	Church

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