

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 *"The Advent of Our God"* LBW 22

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Blessing of the Advent Wreath

Holy are you, God of power and glory; you promised to make your mighty presence known among the nations, and to strengthen your people to the end, when Christ will come in clouds to gather his people. As we light this candle, open our eyes to see the sin that separates us from you and from one another, and restore us again, that we may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. Stir up your might and come to save us.

Reveal your face to us, and give us life. Amen

"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" v.1+2 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 in our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; 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 40:1-11

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 p. 254 LBW

Second Lesson 2 Peter 3:8-15a

Gospel Mark 1:1-8

Sermon

We Respond In Faith

Hymn of the Day

"On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry" LBW 36

Nicene Creed p. 84 LBW

Prayers of the Church "Hear our Prayer"

Sharing of the Peace

Special Music 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 Cantic *"Thank the Lord"* p. 92 LBW

We Go To Serve

Benediction

Bells

Dismissal

Sending Hymn *"Prepare the Royal Highway"* LBW 26

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 baptismal 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.

Christmas Program Practice: youth in the Christmas program will practice during Sunday school time through December 14th. For more information contact Gaylen Brown or Tina Kuesel.

Drive through the Park: to see the church's Christmas display at Memory Lake Park. Drive through and check it out.

Food Shelf: Bethany church is responsible for manning the food shelf the second half of December. We need volunteers to help stock shelves on Tuesday the 16th, 23rd, and 30th from 10-12 and to help distribute food the following Thursdays. Sign up in the Narthex and see LuVerne Anderson if you have any questions.

Christmas Eve Readers: we are looking for 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 put them in the senior high Sunday school room by Sunday 12/14. Proceeds will go towards the National Youth Gathering trip next summer.

The Week Ahead

Date	Event	Time	Place
Wednesday	Choir	6:00 p.m.	Church
Friday	Men's Breakfast	6:30 a.m.	Esp. Cabin
Sunday	Christmas Prog. Practice	9:30 a.m.	Church
	Worship	11:00 a.m.	Church
	Financial Peace	6:00 p.m.	Church

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