

Second Sunday of Advent

December 5, 2021 – 10am

Modern Worship, ELW Setting 4



Prelude Music

Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Candle – Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah (2nd verse only, below) ELW 240

Light two candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.

He shall feed the flock like a shepherd, gently lead them homeward.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God for whom we wait,

C: ... in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you. We fail in believing that your good news is for us. We falter in our call to tend your creation. We find our sense of self in material wealth. We fear those different from ourselves. We forget that we are your children and turn away from your love. Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace. Amen.

P: God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, † your sins are forgiven. You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise, and recipients of divine mercy. God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

C: Amen.

Gathering Song:

Advent Hymn

(words below)

Heaven sent a child to save us, light for all to see; helpless baby, mighty Savior, holy mystery.

Unto us a son is given, born in Bethlehem; Lamb of God, the Light of nations, God in flesh became.

Watching, waiting, longing for the day when His people would glorify the Name above all names.

For the joy that lay before Him, chose our agony; Jesus bore the wrath of Calv'ry, washing sinners clean.

Our Messiah, Christ our brother, word of God in flesh, loosed the chains that held us captive, broke the bonds of death.

Watching, waiting, longing for the day when His people would glorify the Name above all names.

So we wait with expectation for His Advent here. Bride of Christ, His word proclaimed for all the world to hear.

He will come in clouds descending at the trumpet sound; In the light of Christ our Savior, ev'ry knee will bow.

Born in a manger, dying on a tree. Rising Easter morning to set his people free.

We're watching, waiting, longing for the day when all nations will glorify the Name above all names.

Greeting

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

C: And also with you!

Kyrie

A: In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C: Lord, have mercy.**

A: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **C: Lord, have mercy.**

A: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **C: Lord have mercy.**

A: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord have mercy.

A: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **C: Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray together,

C: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading: Malachi 3:1-4

God announces a covenant with Israel. A messenger like Malachi (his name means “my messenger”) will prepare the way for the coming of the Lord by purifying and refining God’s people, as silver and gold are refined.

¹See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Psalm: Luke 1:68-79

⁶⁸Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel, you have come to your people and set them free.

⁶⁹**You have raised up for us a mighty Savior, born of the house of your servant David.**

⁷⁰Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our enemies, ⁷¹from the hands of all who hate us,

⁷²**to show mercy to our forebears, and to remember your holy covenant.**

⁷³This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham: ⁷⁴to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

free to worship you without fear, ⁷⁵holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.

⁷⁶And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,
⁷⁷to give God's people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.

⁷⁸In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

⁷⁹to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Gospel Acclamation: Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord

(Solo)

Prepare ye the way of the Lord. Prepare ye the way of the Lord.

(Congregation)

Prepare ye the way of the Lord. Prepare ye the way of the Lord.

(Congregation)

Prepare ye the way of the Lord. Prepare ye the way of the Lord.

Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

John the Baptist is a herald of Jesus, whose way is prepared by "repentance for the forgiveness of sins." As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.

P: A reading from... **C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁵Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; ⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon – Pastor Paul

Song of the Day: On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

ELW 249

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of Heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the Church / Sign of the Peace

Offering (*encouraged for before or after service, using vase only and not ushers*)

Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray.

C: God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace. Amen.

Words of Institution

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.

Communion

Communion Songs:

Air on Advent (Choir Only)
There's a Voice in the Wilderness

J.S. Bach/Fetke
ELW 255

Final Blessing

P: The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.

C: Amen.

Sending Song:

Even So Come

(*words below*)

All of creation, all of the earth make straight a highway a path for the Lord;
Jesus is coming soon.

Call back the sinner, wake up the saint, let ev'ry nation shout of Your fame;
Jesus is coming soon.

Like a bride waiting for her groom, we'll be a Church ready for you. Ev'ry heart longing for our King, we sing:
Even so come, Lord Jesus come. Even so, come, Lord Jesus come.

There will be justice, all will be new. Your name forever, faithful and true;
Jesus is coming soon.

Like a bride waiting for her groom, we'll be a Church ready for you. Ev'ry heart longing for our King, we sing:
Even so come, Lord Jesus come. Even so, come, Lord Jesus come.

So we wait, we wait for You. God we wait; You're coming soon.

Like a bride waiting for her groom, we'll be a Church ready for you. Ev'ry heart longing for our King, we sing:
Even so come, Lord Jesus come. Even so, come, Lord Jesus come.
Even so come, Lord Jesus come.

God, we wait, we wait for You. God, we wait; You're coming soon.
God, we wait, we wait for You. God, we wait; You're coming soon.

Like a bride waiting for her groom, we'll be a Church ready for you. Ev'ry heart longing for our King, we sing:
Even so come, Lord Jesus come. Even so, come, Lord Jesus come.

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Christ is near.

C: Thanks be to God.



Bethlehem
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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December 5, 2021

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

12/7—James Hinds
12/8—Rose Taylor
12/11—Marjorie Whitney
12/12—Rachell Moyer

12/7—Denice Bossardet
12/8—Clark Rasmussen
12/12—Garth Stowe

A COVID update from Council:

“For several months, Grand Traverse County has topped the 14-day average 7% Covid positivity threshold set up by Council for our current precautions. At the last Council Meeting, it was voted upon that **if the positivity rate rises to 17.5% that Bethlehem will once again require mandatory masks regardless of vaccination status.** This will ensure that we are doing our part to keep our parishioners and community safe.

Currently, Munson Healthcare has activated Pandemic Response Level Red for the first time in history (<https://www.munsonhealthcare.org/services/community-health/covid19/pandemic-status>), as they are seeing the most Covid cases since last year. At the time of Tuesday's Council vote, the rate was 15%, and **the latest update, as of time of printing, GT County positivity rate is 18.2%, so we ask that ALL worshippers wear masks.** Stay safe, pray for all good things, and see you soon!

-Your Bethlehem Church Council”

Please note that the new Building and Office Hours are: 9:00am – 2:30pm, Monday – Thursday.

CHRISTMAS AT TRAVERSE CITY HIGH SCHOOL IS BACK! Christmas is right around the corner and we have a list of items needed by the students. Near the gathering space there is a list of items desired. **Please return and place in the box provided BY DECEMBER 12TH. DO NOT WRAP GIFTS. NO HATS OR SCARVES ARE NEEDED.** Thank you for supporting the 22nd year from Bethlehem!

Join us for Advent and Christmas:

Wednesday December 8th – 6:30PM Service | 7PM Dessert & Fellowship
Wednesday December 15th – 6:30PM Service | 7PM Dessert & Fellowship
Wednesday December 22nd – 6:30PM Blue Christmas Service (no dessert)
Friday December 24th—4:00PM Christmas Eve Service (Sanctuary)
Friday December 24th—6:00PM Christmas Eve Service with Luminaries (East Lawn)
Friday December 24th—8:00PM Holden Evening Prayer with Christmas Carols (Sanctuary)
(4:00PM and 8:00PM services will be Livestreamed)

ADVENT WEDNESDAY NIGHT - DECEMBER 8TH: We will be frosting cookies to give to our homebound members. If you would like to help with this 'sweet' project, we will begin at 6PM so you will be able to attend worship at 6:30. We are also in need of Christmas sprinkles &/or colored sugars for the decorations. Thanks so much for your time.

Crystal Fernholz is a member of the Music Team. Her name was omitted from the list of people who made WELCA's Thankoffering service so memorable. Please accept our apologies for this oversight.

Please consider signing up for Altar Flowers for a Sunday service. You may use the sign-up poster in the Narthex by signing on the date you request. **Then fill out a pink slip with the necessary information and place it and a check for \$40 (payable to Bethlehem Lutheran Church or BLC) in the offering plate on Sunday morning (Preferable) or during the week, in the Administration Assistant's mailbox near the church office entrance.** You may select either "in honor" or "in memory" or "to celebrate". If someone has already signed on the date you would like, feel free to add your name – we welcome more than one on a Sunday.

Today's altar flowers are donated by: *Tom & Jana Rockne in celebration of their sons, Mikkel, Daniel, and Peter.*

Today's altar flowers are donated by: *Leslie Rasmusson in celebration of her husband, Clark's birthday.*

Celebrate a new child in your life with a rose on the baptismal font! Cost \$10.00 per rose. Contact Barbara Oster at beo6475@yahoo.com or 231.668.7038.

Bethlehem is in need of a sanctuary Christmas tree. The tree should be balsam, spruce or fir and not less than 12 feet tall, and preferable not real wide. We will cut it down and haul it if it is reasonably accessible to a truck and trailer. Please contact Carl Lehto at 231-223-7187 or 231-944-9640.

Volunteers are needed to ring bells for the Salvation Army at Tom's East Bay Store on December 10 and December 11, 2021. The first shift starts at 11:00 am and the last shift starts at 6:00 pm. Each shift is 1 hour long. If you are willing to ring, please call Carl Lehto at 231-223-7187 home or 231-944-9640 cell. We need 16 ringers. You can bring a friend with you to ring. Please dress warmly. Masks are not required but if you choose, you may wear one if you are more comfortable. The needs are greater than ever, so your help will be appreciated more than ever. Merry Christmas. Thank you.

Our blog has been renamed "Paths of Hope". Check it out on the Bethlehem website: <http://www.bethlehemtc.org/new-blog-paths-of-hope>.

Annie is looking for a male co-leader for the upcoming CHARGE Event (Friday March 18 - Sunday March 20 at the Great Wolf Lodge) the male co-leader would be staying with the boys who have registered. Please see Annie after church or reach out to her at annie.slabaugh@bethlehemtc.org for more information!

CHARGE - Living Water Ministries has made the decision to cancel the Great Lakes Youth Gathering in January and will instead combine it with CHARGE this year in a hybrid type event! Therefore, grades for CHARGE will be **6th - 12th** and the event will take place from **March 18th - 20th** here in Traverse City at the Great Wolf Lodge! As registration to fills up fast, Annie needs to know who is interested so that we can figure out cost for families right away. **Please let her know if your youth is interested in attending CHARGE in 2022.** She will send further information such as forms to fill out and what the family cost will be once we know the total number of people interested!

NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING - The National Youth Gathering has returned and will be taking place **July 24th - 28th in Minneapolis, MN for grades 8th - 12th!** **If your youth is interested, please let Annie know.** She will then send an email to all interested families with cost info and a form to fill out!

The delivery of the pecans have been delayed until December. Those who have ordered will be notified when they are ready for pick-up.

The December issue of the STAR is ready. Feel free to check online at www.bethlehemtc.org < About Us > "The Online Bethlehem Star" or type this URL to get these directly: <http://www.bethlehemtc.org/the-bethlehem-star-newsletter>.

The BLC community pantry has been the wish of a BLC member who chooses to remain anonymous. Through his gentle coaxing your current council decided that the time was right for BLC to have its own pantry due to its unique location. A sturdy cupboard has been purchased, assembled and placed outside the kitchen door thru a grant from the Trapp family. **A huge thank you to everyone who has donated so generously. Please keep the pantry in mind whenever you are shopping special deals at your favorite store. If you can get 2 for the price of one, and really don't need an extra, please bring it to church. There will always be a blue container under the giving table by the mailboxes where you can place your extra items. We appreciated your donations, but please check expiration dates if you are selecting items from your personal cupboard. We do not want to donate "bad" food to "good" people.**

The newest Living Lutheran magazine and the January/February/March Christ in our Home can be picked up at the welcome table on Sunday mornings, from the Shooting STAR box below the outside mailbox, or during parking lot communion. We still have copies of the October/November/December *Christ in our Home* available.

The Wednesday morning bible study of Matthew has resumed from 9-11am. All are welcome. Bring your own bible. We read the bible and then talk about what we read. We say a prayer for any needs that are shared. Come. Join a fellowship. Leader is Barbara Graf.

Quilters need help! We meet on Tuesdays 9:00am-11:00am. It is not traditional quilting. We tie three layers of fabric together. The "quilts" are sent all over the world when needed by Lutheran World Relief. So if you can tie or even cut, please join us on Tuesday mornings.

"Zoom Book Study" gathering via Zoom will continue on Wednesdays from 1:30pm until about 3:00pm. Besides the thought-provoking discussions, we also have great conversation and fellowship. For this series, we will discuss the Gospel of Matthew. Please contact Pr. Paul if you are interested in joining.

A big thank you to all who turned in their Olesons' receipts to Bethlehem. We just received a check from them for \$179.90. So far this year, we have received \$435.52 total from Olesons' receipts. Please continue to turn in your Olesons' receipts to Bethlehem. Thanks again.

Have something important going on at Bethlehem that you'd like others to know about? Maybe a Small Group? A Club Event? Feature it on the Screen Announcements and on our Facebook Events Page! If there is something you'd like featured or included for either Screen Announcements or Facebook Events please reach out to Annie at annie.slabaugh@bethlehemtc.org.

Bethlehem sends weekly emails directly to your inbox with important announcements and information! If you are not getting them for any reason or if you have something you'd like to have added please reach out to Annie at annie.slabaugh@bethlehemtc.org.

Still time to Pledge...paper-free!

There is still time to pledge, and your stewardship committee is making it easier than ever to take that next step to help our BLC ministry! See www.bethlehemtc.org/pledge

The church calendar has returned below. Please be sure to notify the office (admin@bethlehemtc.org or 231.947.9880) to be sure that your group is on the calendar.

CALENDAR

Sunday, December 5

10:00am—Worship Service (S)
11:00am—Parking Lot Communion
11:00am—Bell Rehearsal (S)

Monday, December 6

4:00pm—All-Star DE

Tuesday, December 7

9:00am—LWR Quilters (FH)
9:00am—Property Work Group
10:00am—Staff Meeting (CR)
4:00pm—Drive My Way (FH)
6:30pm—Christian Ed Meeting (GS)

Wednesday, December 8

Bulletin articles due today

9:00am—Bible Study (YR)
11:30am—Music Rehearsal (S)
1:30pm—Zoom Bible Study
4:00pm—Drive My Way (FH)
6:00pm—Bell Choir Rehearsal (S)

Thursday, December 9

9:00am—Baby Pantry
1:00pm—Rebecca Anna Circle (FH)
4:00pm—Drive My Way (FH)
5:30pm—ACOA (GS)

Friday, December 10

6:00pm—Faith & Family (FH)

Sunday, December 12

10:00am—Worship Service (S)
11:00am—Parking Lot Communion
11:00am—Bell Choir Rehearsal (S)