

# Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 19, 2021 – 10am

Modern Worship, ELW Setting 4



Prelude Music

Announcements

**Lighting of the Advent Candle – Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah** (4th verse only) **ELW 240**

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

He is coming, tell the glad tidings. Let your lights be shining!

**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:**

**Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus**

**ELW 254**

**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 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.**

## First Reading: Micah 5:2-5a

*The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. (Ephrathah refers to the area around Bethlehem.) This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.*

<sup>2</sup>But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. <sup>3</sup>Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup>And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; <sup>5a</sup>and he shall be the one of peace.

L: The Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God**

## Psalm: Luke 1:46b-55

<sup>46b</sup>My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, <sup>47</sup>my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup>**for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed:**

<sup>49</sup>you, the Almighty, have done great things for me and holy is your name.

<sup>50</sup>**You have mercy on those who fear you, from generation to generation.**

<sup>51</sup>You have shown strength with your arm and scattered the proud in their conceit,

<sup>52</sup>**casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly.**

<sup>53</sup>You have filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup>**You have come to the aid of your servant Israel, to remember the promise of mercy,**

<sup>55</sup>the promise made to our forebears, to Abraham and his children forever.

## Gospel Acclamation:

## Wait for the Lord

**ELW 262**

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

## Gospel: Luke 1:39-45

Elizabeth, John's mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, are two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. In Elizabeth's inspired greeting and Mary's song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things.

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

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup>where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup>and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup>And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup>For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sermon

Pastor Paul Busekist

## Song of the Day:

## Canticle of the Turning

ELW 723

## 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:

Away in a Manger  
That Boy-Child of Mary

*BLC Bell Choir*  
*ELW 293*

## 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:

All Earth Is Hopeful

*ELW 266*

## Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Christ is near.

C: Thanks be to God.



# Bethlehem

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

1050 Peninsula Drive  
Traverse City, MI 49686  
(231) 947-9880  
[www.bethlehemtc.org](http://www.bethlehemtc.org)

*December 19, 2021*

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

12/20—Summer Grayson-Ogden  
12/22—Inga Nyquist

12/22—Dee Springer  
12/26—Maggie Pearce

### **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 very close to our new threshold, 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. Also, note that the Church Office will be closed on Monday, December 27<sup>th</sup> and will have a half day on Thursday, December 30<sup>th</sup> (9:00am – 12 Noon)**

**For two of our three Christmas Eve services, we are in need of Hospitality greeters for the 6:00pm and 8:00pm services.** Even if you are not a regular Hospitality volunteer, we can use your ability to greet and hand out worship folders. **Also needed are volunteers to assist with decorating the sanctuary on Thursday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>.** This will include setting out the poinsettias and filling the luminaries for the outdoor service. Please contact Barbara Oster if you are able to help out.

**ADVENT WEDNESDAY NIGHT – BLUE CHRISTMAS DECEMBER 22<sup>nd</sup>:** Beginning at 6PM there will be a craft and lessons for the youth so you will be able to attend the Blue Christmas worship at 6:30. Please note the service will last about an hour so there is no dessert following.

## Join us for Advent and Christmas:

Wednesday December 22<sup>nd</sup> –6:30PM Blue Christmas Service (no dessert)

Friday December 24<sup>th</sup>—4:00PM Christmas Eve Service (Sanctuary)

Friday December 24<sup>th</sup>—6:00PM Christmas Eve Service with Luminaries (East Lawn)

Friday December 24<sup>th</sup>—8:00PM Holden Evening Prayer with Christmas Carols (Sanctuary)  
(4:00PM and 8:00PM services will be Livestreamed)

Sunday December 26<sup>th</sup>—10:00AM Lessons and Carols (Sanctuary)

**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. The 2022 dates are now on the sign-up poster.

**Today's altar flowers are donated by:** *Bonnie Gamble in Memory of Angie Kirt, Pam Ryskamp and Tony, Jeanne, Bob Halachukas*

**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](mailto:beo6475@yahoo.com) or 231.668.7038.

**The outdoor food pantry is closed until spring to make sure that none of the food is damaged by the cold.** You can still bring in your staples at any time and place it in the teal bin under the table by the mailboxes. One BLC member knew of an apartment complex for low income residents with food needs and delivered 12 overflowing bags of what had been outside to the very grateful recipients. Please keep the residents of the 72 unit Brookside Commons Apartments in your prayers. Watch for the pantry to jump back into full swing in the spring.

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

**The December issue of the STAR is ready.** Feel free to check online at [www.bethlehemtc.org](http://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>.

**After two years of cancellations due to COVID-19, Living Water Ministries has decided to make camp a gift freely given for all campers of Stony Lake.** This means that there are no registration fees for any program at Stony Lake for the summer of 2022!! Adult Leaders from Bethlehem are planning on being there for Week 1 (June 19-24) as long as there are youth interested. Please note that the Living Water Ministries Board of Directors made the decision to make full vaccination a requirement for attendance at any Living Water Ministries event, including camp. If your youth is interested in attending camp this summer, please see Annie after service or reach out to her via email at [annie.slabaugh@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:annie.slabaugh@bethlehemtc.org) no later than Wednesday February 9th.

**Salvation Army Bell Ringing Report: On December 10 and December 11 the following people rang bells for the Salvation Army at Tom's East Bay Market.** The weather was somewhat windy, rainy and snowy but fortunately the temperature was not real cold for a December day. Our thanks go out to the following people who were Bethlehem's bell ringers: Mary Ann Tanis, Chuck and Chris Ardingo, Sue Allen, Gail Goldsmith, Donna Novak, James Hinds, Dan Hahn, Kate Holtfreter, Pat and Sue Burton, Helen Rafeld, John Halstead, Ken and April Kurkowski and Carl and Suzanne Lehto. It must be noted that Sue Allen, Kate Holtfreder and John Halstead each rang 2 one hour shifts. The Salvation Army reported that we received donations of \$680.58 on Friday and \$542.14 on Saturday. The total for the two days is \$1,222.72. This will certainly brighten Christmas for several families. Thank you and Merry Christmas to all you ringers who put your Christmas spirit into action. Carl Lehto

**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](mailto: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!

**Thanks to the dedicated BLC members who joined together to prepare special music for the Advent and Christmas season:**

**Bell Choir:** Crystel Fernholz, Laura Hahn, Kate Holtfreter, Carl Lehto, Cindy Monroe, Jacky Putman, Erin Word. Thanks also to guest Nan Worthington for playing the harp.

**Singing Choir:** Denice and Phil Bossardet, Crystel Fernholz, Cindy Monroe, Carl Lehto

**Video Taping of Bell Choir:** Cassidy White & Pastor Paul

**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 meets 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 is on a break until after New Year's. 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.bethlehemtc.org/pledge)

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

### CALENDAR

#### Sunday, December 19

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

#### Monday, December 20

4:00pm—Drive My Way (FH)

#### Tuesday, December 21

9:00am—LWR Quilters (FH)  
9:00am—Property Work Group  
9:30am—Staff Meeting (CR)  
4:00pm—Drive My Way (FH)  
6:00pm—Council Meeting  
7:00pm—Lautner SG (Offsite)

#### Wednesday, December 22

##### Bulletin articles due today

9:00am—Bible Study (YR)  
11:30am—Music Rehearsal (S)  
1:00pm—Johnson SG (Offsite)  
4:00pm—Drive My Way (FH)  
6:30pm—Blue Christmas Service (S)  
7:30pm—Choir Rehearsal (S)

#### Thursday, December 23

5:30pm—ACOA (GS)

#### Friday, December 24

4:00pm—Christmas Eve Service (S)  
6:00pm—Christmas Eve Service (East Lawn)  
8:00pm—Christmas Eve Service (S)

#### Saturday, December 25

Blessed Christmas to All

#### Sunday, December 26

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