

Baptism of Our Lord
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
January 14, 2024
Sunday 10:00 a.m.



Welcome to All! We are glad that you are able to worship with us today. **Please fill out a connection card in the pews if you like.**

During the service, we will sit or stand in reverence to our Lord. Please do what is physically comfortable and reverent for you. For those who are unable to receive Communion near the altar and wish to have the Pastor administer it at your seat, please obtain a red and white card from one of the ushers and hold it up at Communion time to alert the Pastor. If you or a little one would like to receive a blessing instead of Holy Communion, we invite you to come forward and cross your arms at the time of Communion. Please feel free to introduce yourself to our Pastor and fill out one of the Visitor cards available at our Welcome Table in the Gathering Place.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship – Setting 3, page 138

Pre-Worship Music/Announcements

Prelude

GATHERING

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, creator of darkness and light, word of truth, wind sweeping over the waters.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God, our rock and refuge,

C: ... we pour out our hearts before you. We have known you but have not always loved you. We have wounded one another and sinned against you. We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us. Remember your covenant. Renew your creation. Restore us, that we might proclaim your good news to all. Amen.

P: The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. God has spoken: The time of grace is now. In Jesus, the reign of God has come near. By the authority of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are God's beloved. **C: Amen.**

Greeting

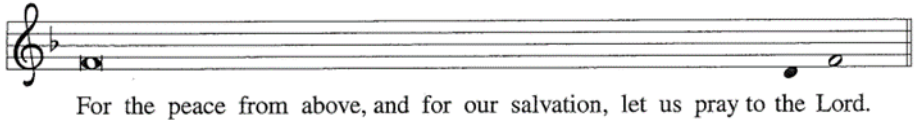
A: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

Kyrie (lead by Pastor Paul)

S 138



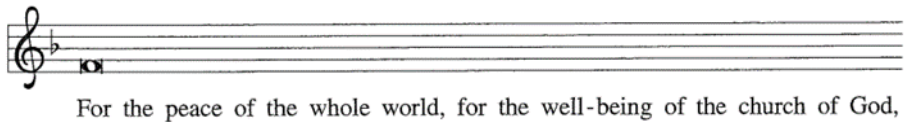
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



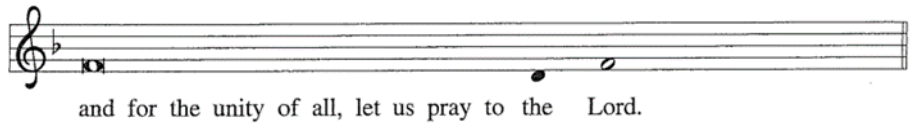
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



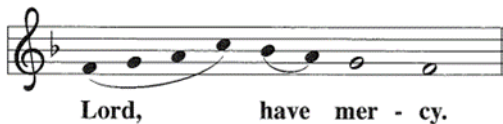
Lord, have mer - cy.



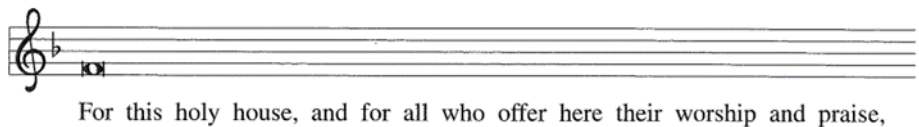
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



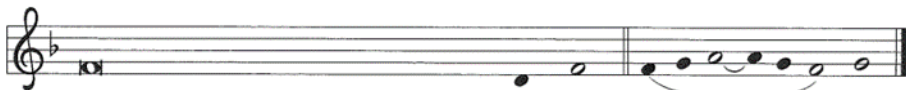
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

Hymn of Praise

Glory to God

Assisting minister

S 139



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray together...

C: Holy God, creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow after your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

First Lesson

Genesis 1:1-5

Out of chaos, God brings order. Out of the formless void, God brings light. This familiar story was good news for the Israelites, who experienced much chaos in their history. It remains good news for us. God created and continues to create new life.

1 In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, 2 the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. 3 Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. 4 And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalmody

Psalm 29

1 Ascribe to the Lord, you gods, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

2 Ascribe to the Lord the glory due God's name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

3 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

4 The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice; the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.

5 The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

6 the Lord makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.

(continued on next page)

7 The voice of the Lord bursts forth in lightning flashes.

8 The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

9 The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare. And in the temple of the Lord all are crying, "Glory!"

10 The Lord sits enthroned above the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king forevermore.

11 O Lord, give strength to your people; give them, O Lord, the blessings of peace.

Second Lesson

Acts 19:1-7

In Ephesus, Paul encounters people who had received John's baptism of repentance but had never heard of the Holy Spirit or of baptism in the name of Jesus. After Paul baptizes them, the Holy Spirit comes upon them and empowers them with gifts of the Spirit.

1 While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. 2 He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." 3 Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." 4 Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." 5 On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—7 altogether there were about twelve of them.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel

Mark 1:4-11

Mark's gospel reports the story of Jesus' baptism with some irony: the one on whom the Spirit descends is himself the one who will baptize others with the Holy Spirit.

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

4 John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5 And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. 6 Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 7 He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals." 8 I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." 9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. 11 And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

Pastor Paul Busekist

Hymn of the Day *Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized ELW#304*

Apostle's 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 Intercession: response after each petition: "**Receive our prayer.**" (*Before prayer*) A: As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation. (*Conclusion*) P: Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. **C: Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace (*Let us give one another a sign of peace according to your comfort level.*)

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

MEAL

Offering (Please be seated.)

Offering Song: Zeke Clemons

Offertory (Please stand, as able.) *As the Grains of Wheat* ELW #465

Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray.

C: **Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

S 144a

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

Great Thanksgiving (continued)

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn...

Holy, Holy, Holy

S 144b

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -

san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

The 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.

P: The gifts of God for the people of God. Taste and see that the Lord is good.
**Please note: *Gluten-free wafers and white grape juice are available.*

Communion *Lamb of God*

S 146

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Communion Hymns

*O Jesus, I Have Promised
I Received the Living God*

*ELW #810
ELW #477*

Post-Communion Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **C: Amen.**

Post-Communion Canticle

Thankful Hearts



Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.



Send us with your prom-is - es and lead your peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks-giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Prayer after Communion

A: Let us pray. Giver of every gift, Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

P: God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, ✠ bless you and remain with you always.

C: Amen.

Sending Song

God, Whose Almighty Word ELW #673

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

C: Thanks be to God.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

1/14—Judy Fenton

1/18—Kathleen Endline

1/19—Ron Dork

1/15—Noah Froehlich

1/18—Debra Jean Knopf

1/19—Tracey Moyer

Worship Servants for January 14

Assisting Minister—Sherri Helman

Lector—Tim Goebel

Musicians: David Husser, Zeke Clemons, Phil & Denice Bossardet, Pr Paul

Today's altar flowers are donated: *By the Congregation in thanks for all of God's blessings.*

Hospitality—Tom Fink/Deb Hissong

A/V—Paul Ton, The Acker Family

Cookies/Coffee—Barb Graf; Mary Ann Tanis

Welcome Table— VOLUNTEER

Bell Ringer—Tim Goebel

Altar Guild—Patty Leibenguth/Erin Word

Tech Support—Julia Acker

Counters—Carl Lehto/Norm Fred

2024 Giving Envelopes are Ready for Pick Up - I am happy to report that the 2024 giving envelopes have arrived! They are available for pick up at your convenience. The boxes are in the narthex in alphabetical order by last name. Please pick yours up as soon as possible so you will have them ready for January giving. If you have any questions or need help, please contact me during regular business hours. Your Bookkeeper, Phil Anderson

The next Third Thursday service will be a Taize 1 service on January 18th at 7:00pm. The service will be livestreamed. The BLC Fellowship Committee will be providing a meal at 5:45 p.m. Please come early and share in fellowship and stay for the service. The January 18th meal will need a couple of volunteers. Gail Goldsmith is still off her foot and not able to help. We need someone to help set up and clean up. Set up starts at 5:00. Dinner will be sandwiches, salad and dessert. Please let Laura Hahn know if you can help. Thank you in advance!

All ages are invited to join us for BLC's annual sledding party! Join us at Twin Lakes Park at 2:30pm on Sunday, January 21st to enjoy some outdoor time in the winter wonderland. If there is not quite enough snow for sledding, Twin Lakes also has a playground, hiking trails, and a wonderful view of the lake - something for everyone! Snacks and drinks will be provided - bring your warm clothes, a sled, and be ready to have some great outdoor fun together!

Pancake Breakfast: BLC's annual Pancake Breakfast is Sunday, January 28th beginning at 8:45am! We will have several different types of pancakes, breakfast sausage, drinks, and delicious maple syrup generously donated by Still Point Farm, a local family farm in Empire, MI (syrup will be available for purchase if desired). The breakfast is a fundraiser for BLC's Youth Program and the upcoming ski trip, and many of the kids will be here cooking, cleaning, and helping! Come enjoy a delicious breakfast while also supporting the kids of the congregation! Thank you for your love and support!

TAKING A PAUSE FOR PANCAKES: On Sunday, January 28, our Bethlehem Youth are hosting a Pancake Breakfast fund raiser!! In order that we all have the opportunity to attend and give our support, the Adult Ed classes will not meet that Sunday as there is also no Sunday School that day. Please come and support our youth...pancakes are always a great way to start a new week!!

It's Time For Safe Harbor! Bethlehem will be hosting at Safe Harbor on January 27, 28, and 30. Cindy Monroe and her kitchen team will be offering a chicken & rice dish on Saturday the 27th; Tina Dohm and her group an Italian lasagna on Sunday the 28th, and B.J. Christensen and friends a ham and scalloped potatoes dinner on Tuesday the 30th. As a reminder, "Loaves & Fishes" handles each and every Monday night throughout the winter season. Sign-up sheets for other jobs at Safe Harbor and for donating snacks will be posted in the Gathering Space at Bethlehem on January 7th. It will be important to fill those quickly. If you have any questions on job responsibilities you are considering, please call me. Full-time Safe Harbor personnel will always be with you. Food donations will be due as follows- at BLC on 25 JAN for 27JAN; at BLC by 28JAN for 28JAN; at BLC 30JAN for 30JAN. Tom Rockne, Bethlehem Safe Harbor Coordinator, Mobile 231.631.0040

Temple Talk on Active Shooter Situations, What Should We Do? The Safety and Security Committee will be presenting a brief Temple Talk on Active Shooter situations during worship on January 21, 2024. We need to be prepared in case something would happen in our church or in our community. This presentation will give important points of what to do if you are involved in a situation. We want to help you to be aware and what you should do. Stay safe!

Ski Trip: Join us for an Intergenerational Ski Trip to Crystal Mountain on Sunday, February 18th! The date is tentative and time is to be decided, but mark this down on your calendar so you don't miss a great day of fun on the slopes with other members of Bethlehem!

New member orientation: A meeting for those considering membership at Bethlehem Lutheran Church will be held Sunday Jan 28 after the service. Please contact the office at 947-9880, Pastor Paul, or cmmonroe@chartermi.net if you plan to attend.

COLLEGE AND MILITARY MEMBERS: We are again looking to send love packages to our college and military members. Please give us their name and the COMPLETE address by February 4th. We will be mailing packages around the middle of the month. Thank you.

DIRECTORY NEWS UPDATE – The company producing the directory is moving slower than anticipated. We are now looking at January or February for delivery.

FOR BOOK CLUB MEMBERS: The book club will discuss *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus at its Jan 23 pizza dinner meeting at 5:30. Don't be deceived by the title of this book. It actually should make you laugh outloud!!! Yes, some chemistry is involved, but so much more! There are still some copies of the book in the bin outside the front door. Just sign your name on the sheet by the corresponding number of your book. Please contact Cindy Monroe at cmonroe@chartermi.net if you want to participate and cannot come to church in order to give plenty of advance notice so that ZOOM can be set up.

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

Sunday, January 14

9:15am—Sunday School
9:15am—Adult Ed
10:00am—Traditional Worship Serv (S)
11:15am—Worship and Music (CR)

Monday, January 15

10:00am—Sustaining Endow (Zoom)

Tuesday, January 16

Bulletin articles due today

9:00am—Property Work Group
9:00am—LWR Quilters (FH)
12:00pm—Sarah Circle (Library)
6:30pm—Council Meeting (Library)
7:00pm—Lautner SG (Offsite)

Wednesday, January 17

9:30am—Adult Bible Study (YR)
11:30am—Music Rehearsal (S)
1:30pm—Zoom Bible Study

Thursday, January 18

5:30pm—ACA (Library)
5:45pm—Third Thursday Meal
7:00pm—Third Thursday -Taize 1 Service (S)

Friday, January 19

STAR articles due today

10:00am—Sew Pieceful (FH)
1:00pm—Lehto SG (Library)

Sunday, January 21

9:15am—Sunday School
9:15am—Adult Ed
10:00am—Worship Service (S)
12:30pm—Confirmation Class (YR)
2:30pm—Sledding at Twin Lakes

