

First Sunday of Advent

November 27, 2022 – 10am

Modern Worship, ELW Setting 3



Prelude Music

Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Candle – Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah (*1st verse only, below*) **ELW 240**

Light one candle to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.

He shall bring salvation to Israel, God fulfills the promise.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things. Blessed be God's name forever.

C: Amen.

P: Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep. Let us confront our sins, and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God of new beginnings,

C: ... we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign. We have strayed from your paths. We prepare for war instead of peace. We dishonor one another and your creation. Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love, that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us. Amen.

P: People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign. By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder. You have put on Christ, and your sins have been washed away. Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

C: Amen.

Gathering Song:

My Lord, What a Morning

ELW 438

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. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshiping community responds: "Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!"

1 The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. 2 In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. 3 Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. 4 He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. 5 O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 122

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord." (Ps. 122:1)

1 I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord."

2 Now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

3 Jerusalem is built as a city that is at unity with itself;

4 to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the Lord.

5 For there are the thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David.

6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you.

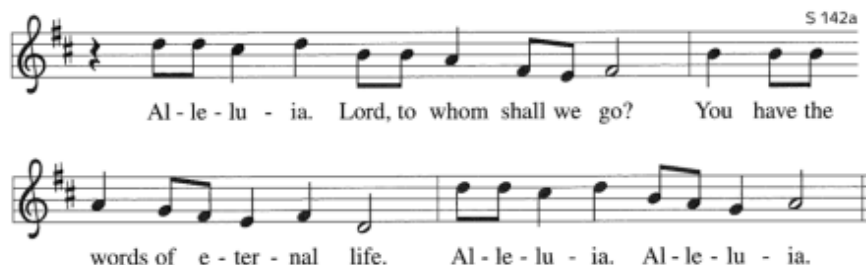
7 Peace be within your walls and quietness within your towers.

8 For the sake of my kindred and companions, I pray for your prosperity.

9 Because of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek to do you good."

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia



Gospel: Matthew 24:36-44

Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives. Therefore, he urges people to stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced.

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

Jesus said to the disciples, 36 “About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 37 For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 38 For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, 39 and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. 40 Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. 41 Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. 42 Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. 43 But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. 44 Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Paul Busekist

Song of the Day:

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

ELW 244

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

Offering Song:

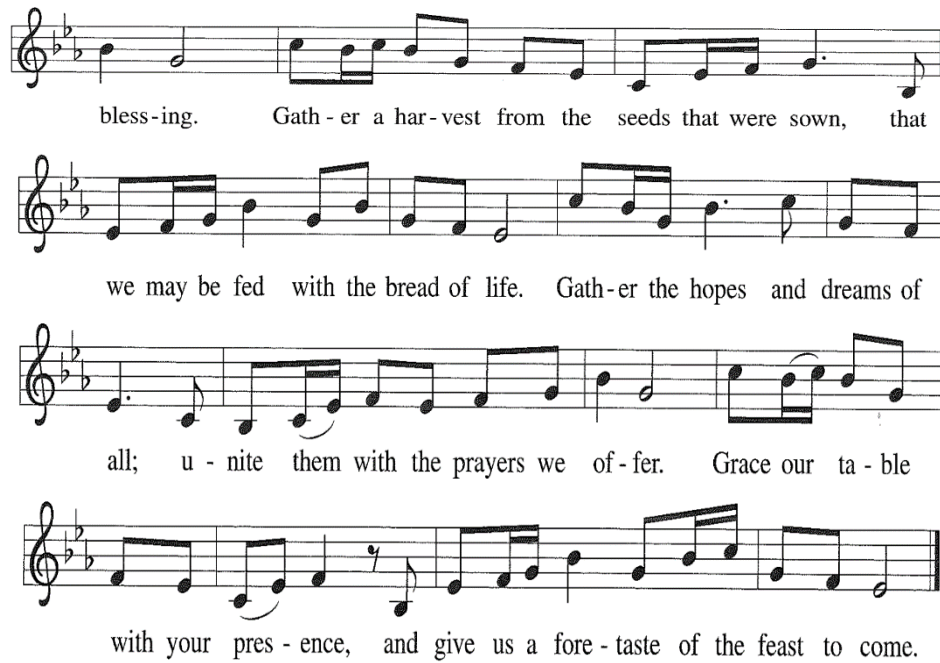
Zeke Clemons

Offertory:

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray.

C: Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior. 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 *(Please note: gluten-free wafers and white grape juice cups are available)*

Communion Songs:

***Around You, O Lord Jesus
Fling Wide the Door***

***ELW 468
ELW 259***

Final Blessing

P: God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit,
✠ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sending Song:

Give Me Oil in My Lamp

Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning; Give me oil in my lamp, I pray.
Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning; Keep me burning 'til the break of day.

Sing hosanna, sing hosanna, sing hosanna to the King of kings! Sing hosanna, sing hosanna, sing hosanna to the King!

Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising; Give me joy in my heart, I pray.
Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising; Keep me praising 'til the break of day.

Sing hosanna, sing hosanna, sing hosanna to the King of kings! Sing hosanna, sing hosanna, sing hosanna to the King!

Give me peace in my heart, keep me resting; Give me peace in my heart, I pray.
Give me peace in my heart, keep me resting; Keep me resting 'til the break of day.

Sing hosanna, sing hosanna, sing hosanna to the King of kings! Sing hosanna, sing hosanna, sing hosanna to the King!

Give me love in my heart, keep me serving; Give me love in my heart, I pray.
Give me love in my heart, keep me serving; Keep me serving 'til the break of day.

Sing hosanna, sing hosanna, sing hosanna to the King of kings! Sing hosanna, sing hosanna, sing hosanna to the King!

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Christ is near.

C: **Thanks be to God.**



Bethlehem November 27, 2022
LUTHERAN CHURCH

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

1050 Peninsula Drive
Traverse City, MI 49686
(231) 947-9880
www.bethlehemtc.org

11/28—Kay Rumbach
11/29—Dale Wentzloff

11/30—Natalie Miller
12/1—John Halstead

12/2—Frank Wall
12/2—Bart Duzenberg

Building and Office Hours are: 9:00am – 2:30pm, Monday – Thursday.

Refresh Update: Refresh is winding down this year. We have begun sanding and painting cabinets in our new Library/Conference Room. We hope to have the floor stripped and cleaned in the next few weeks along with some minor touch up items. We have also installed some new lighting in the gathering space. The new lights are LED and are brighter and provide a cleaner look to our gathering space. We do have some small items to finish up but most of our work in the gathering space will begin in 2023. Please let us know if you have any questions about our ongoing projects. Thanks to all who have made contributions and continue to support our work. Thanks, Chuck Ardingo

COVID: Please note that masks are required for unvaccinated persons in worship and highly encouraged for those who are vaccinated.

Today's altar flowers are donated by: Dale and Barbara Wentzloff in Honor of the Wentzloff Family

For your Calendar: The Congregational 2023 Budget meeting will be on Sunday, December 11th after the service. Please stay for this important meeting.

Offerings: The offering plates are now passed during the service. The vase in the back of the Sanctuary is still available for those who prefer not to touch the offering plate.

Third Thursday: The next Third Thursday service will be a service of Christmas Carols on December 15th at 7:00pm. The service will be livestreamed.

The December issue of the STAR is now available. For current issues of the Star, 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>.

Looking for a link to last month's full Council minutes? Type this address/url into your web browser to get the latest approved minutes from Council: bethlehemtc.org/Council-Minutes OR you may call the office to request a copy.

Prayer Requests:

- **Prayer Chain:** Please contact Jan Stretlien at jstretlien@gmail.com or 231-947-3265
- **Prayers read from the altar:** Please call Administrative Assistant in the church office 231-947-9880

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 Christmas tree for the sanctuary. The tree should be balsam or fir and about 14 feet tall. Please contact Carl Lehto at 231-223-7187 home or 231-944-9640 cell. We would like to have the tree by December 10, 2022.

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 or from the Shooting STAR box below the outside mailbox

Are you looking for the Caring Table for your donations? It has been moved inside the coat room to the right.

Coffee and Cookies: You are welcome to stay after the service for coffee, cookies and conversation. This will be done as many Sundays as there are volunteers to make the coffee and/or bring cookies, etc. There is a sign-up sheet available near the cookies. There are open dates, so please sign up!

Name tags: Your name tags are back in your mailboxes. Please retrieve them so you can proudly wear them on Sunday mornings. We often have visitors and it helps them if they can see a friendly face and attach a name to it. If you notice a visitor please encourage them to make a nametag which are kept with the welcome notebook.

Choir announcement: Hope you have enjoyed the recent offerings from the choir. New members are always wanted so come add some music into your life! Future rehearsals are Tues Nov. 29, Dec 6 and 13 at 7:00. The choir is excited with its new Advent and Christmas music. The choir will take a break during the beginning of Jan and resume rehearsals on Thurs Jan 26. Contact Tony Bero at bero.tony@gmail.com or 942-1162 so he can have music ready for you.

Adult Bible Study gets together on Wednesdays from 9:00am-11:00am. It is a casual discussion of the Gospel of Mark. Bring your bibles and come, share, learn and grow with us.

The Zoom Bible Study on Wednesdays will conclude its discussion of the Book of Revelation this week. Then the group will take a break during Advent and Christmas and start up again in January. Look for more information of the study topic as we get closer to January.

Sunday School and Adult Education will not meet on Christmas Day, 12/25/22 and New Year's Day 1/1/23.

24 hr food pantry closing for the winter: The outdoor pantry has closed for the winter but food will be stored inside for visitors to the monthly baby pantry and anyone else who stops at our church. Before April anyone in need can contact the office to arrange a pick-up from the indoor storage. If you find a deal too good to refuse from Nov to Apr the teal bin will be available in the coat room for placing your goodies.

With the outdoor Food pantry closed, WELCA would like to make canned goods available for our baby pantry people. So you may still bring what you can to put in the plastic container IN THE COAT ROOM. Thanks for caring.

BLC Book Club: The BLC book club is taking its regular break during the month of Dec. The book for Jan 24 at 5:30 is *The Sunflower* by Richard Paul Evans. It is NOT available as a book club kit so you will need to find your own book. If you are not on the email list and want to be involved send your information to cmonroe@chartermi.net for the ZOOM link.

LAUNDRY BASKET PROJECT UPDATE: The laundry basket project is ongoing. Please drop off any cleaning items in the Narthex. Families who visit the baby pantry have been most appreciative. Blessings to you all!

Monthly STAR: Thanks to all of you who have said that you will read the STAR on line or pick it up at church. Those of you who come to church, be thinking if there is any member close in your neighborhood that you could deliver their copy to them. If you have recently decided to read on line or pick-up at church please call the office and let them know.



Advent is here, and we hope that you will join us for a meal before the Advent services on December 1, 8, and 15. There will not be a meal before the December 22 activity.

Here is our menu:

December 1 – Chef Salad with Cheryl Wegener’s legendary rolls and Connie Christopherson’s home-baked pies. (Holden Evening Prayer - No Livestreaming tonight)

December 8 – Tacos and refried beans. (Taize Service - No Livestreaming tonight)

December 15 – Pizza and Caesar Salad. (Hymn Sing - Will be Livestreamed)

At each meal we will also offer PBJ and bread, punch, water, coffee, and dessert.

The meal begins at 6:00 followed by the service at 7:00. Please note that Advent Services are on Thursday nights and should last approximately 30 minutes (no Communion). We hope to see you there!

Help is still very much needed for the three Advent Dinners on December 1, 8, and 15. You don’t need to commit to all three meals. ANY help is very much appreciated. For more information, please contact Laura Hahn at dandlahn@gmail.com, or 929-1339. Thank you!

Bethlehem Week at Safe Harbor Coming in February - Yes, Bethlehem Lutheran will be joining with Northern Lakes Community Church (a Presbyterian congregation) to provide a week of evening meals again this winter. We will be serving from February 4 through February 10. Bethlehem will take Saturday February 4, Sunday February 5, and Tuesday February 7. “Five Loaves; Two Fish” of Leland is taking February 6- and all Mondays throughout the winter! Northern Lakes will handle the 8, 9, and 10 February. We are coordinating menus as we can to assure variety. Here are a couple other updates:

-I already have the Tina Dohm group committed to February 4th with a lasagna dinner, the Cindy Monroe group signed up for February 5th with a chicken and rice dinner, and the B.J. and Tom Christensen group planning a ham dinner on February 7th. Come January we will have sheets to sign-up to assist in a number of ways outside of the kitchen with guest interaction and providing breakfast and other items. Reach me at any time at 631-0040.

You may have also seen that Safe Harbor is going to be open days on the weekends. Safe Harbor will be looking for volunteers to assist the professional staff with supervision on Saturdays and Sundays during the day. Those shifts will be from 8AM to 1PM and 1PM to 6PM. If you have never volunteered at Safe Harbor before, this could be a good place to start. I can assist you in signing up for one of these opportunities. Look forward to a regular great response from Bethlehem members. More to come. Mark your calendars! Thank you. Tom Rockne Bethlehem Safe Harbor Coordinator M.231.631.0040

2022 BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH Art & Craft Show Thank You! “Many hands make work light”

A heart filled “thank you” goes out to volunteers that participated in the November 5th “Art & Craft Show” fundraiser. Our goals of organizing a productive fundraiser, providing a community event, which gives more exposure to Bethlehem, and brings in new faces to our church, were overwhelmingly reached for the fourth time. From the planning stages to the day of the show, there have been many hands working together that made this event happen. We were blessed with a fundraiser totaling ≈\$4,000.00.

SPECIAL THANK YOU! - Nancy Ammann & the Christian Education Team, Phil Anderson, Chuck & Chris Ardingo, Maureen Bauer, Dorene Boyd, Pastor Paul Busekist, Betty Cole, Julie & Tom Cole, Cindy Cuba, Gail Ericson, Barb Graf, Gail Goldsmith, Laura Hahn, John Halstead, Sheryl Hellenga, Janet Hinds, Jim Hinds, Deb Hissong, Kate Holtfreter, Pam Kerns-Quilt Donation, Janet Landis, Carl & Susan Lehto, Emily Leibenguth, Cindy & Jim Monroe, Tracy Moyer-Lap Quilts, Barbara Oster, Dave & Peggy Peppler, Jana & Tom Rockne, Eileen Rubino, Kay Rumbach, Betty Rutila, Lisa Schlagel, Ken Smith, Mary Ann Sparks, Mary Ann Tanis, Paul Ton, Pat & Frank Wall, Barb & Dale Wentzloff, Judy Wieske, Barb Wright and all those who brought in baked goods for the Christian Education Bake Sale. A special kudos goes out to my sister, Sue VanZee, for helping map off the church building layout for the vendors. Also, thank you to all church members that came to check out the 45 artists and crafters to support the fundraiser.

Faith is taking on all challenges with an open heart and mind, with no doubts, total trust in His Word. Thank you, Bethlehem, for hosting the 4th “Art & Craft Show” and making it happen.

Blessings, Patty Leibenguth, Kris Smith and the Craft Show Team

A big thank you to all who have turned in Oleson's receipts. We just received a check from them for \$186.58 for a grand total of \$651.20 for the year 2022. Please continue to drop off your Oleson's receipts at Bethlehem!!! Thank you so much!!!

Hoop's Pet Food Pantry: This is the only pet food pantry in NW lower Michigan. They primarily provide dry food, wet food, treats, cat litter and toys for mostly dogs and cats but they will support any type of pet to the best of their ability. Please visit them at the Square Deal Country Store, 900 Woodmere Ave, TC from 1100am – 2:00pm on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of every month with your donations OR you may leave donations in the tub on our "donations" table in the coat room. The volunteers have expressed their appreciation when receiving our donations. Please note that they are anticipating an increased need over the winter,

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 admin@bethlehemtc.org.

Please consider signing up for Altar Flowers for a Sunday service. There are plenty of dates available for the rest of the year. 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 Administrative 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.

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 admin@bethlehemtc.org

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 on the calendar.

Sunday, November 27

10:00am—Worship Service (S)

Tuesday, November 29

Bulletin articles due today

9:00am—LWR Quilters (FH)

9:00am—Property Work Group

10:00am—Staff Meeting (CR)

7:00pm—Choir Rehearsal (S)

Wednesday, November 30

9:00am—Adult Bible Study (YR)

11:30am—Music Rehearsal (S)

1:30pm—Zoom Bible Study

Thursday, December 1

5:30pm—ACOA (FH)

6:00pm—Advent Meal (FH)

7:00pm—Advent Service (S)

Sunday, December 4

10:00am—Worship Service (S)

11:15am—Worship and Music meeting (CR)

2:00pm—WELCA Christmas Tea (GS)