

# Nativity of Our Lord

December 24, 2020

Virtual Service, in partnership with Yellow Wood Media



## Pre-Worship Music

**Fum, Fum, Fum**

*Bethlehem Bells*

## Prelude

**Noel**

*Worship Team*

**Tomlin, Cash & Redman**

## 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!**

## Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray together,

C: **Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## Children's Message

**Annie Slabaugh, BLC Youth Director**

## First Lesson

**Titus 2:11-14**

## Choir Anthem

**Holy Is His Name**

*Choir*

**Talbot**

## The Story of Jesus' Birth According to St. Luke

**Luke 2:1-20**

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. <sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" <sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one

another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.”<sup>16</sup> So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

## Sermon – Pastor Paul

### Hymn of the Day

### *Joy to the World*

ELW #267

#### Verse 1

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king; let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.

#### Verse 2

Joy to the earth the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

#### Verse 3

No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground; he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

#### Verse 4

He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love and wonders, wonders of his love.

## 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

### Reading from 1 Corinthians 11 (Source of the 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.

## Lighting of Candles and Silent Night

### Verse 1

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

### Verse 2

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight; glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia! Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

### Verse 3

Silent night, holy night! son of God, love's pure light radiant beams from your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

## Final Blessing

P: Almighty God, who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary, proclaimed joy through the angels, sent the shepherds with good news, and led the magi by a star, bless you this day ☩ through the Word made flesh.

C: Amen.

## Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

C: Thanks be to God.

## Sending Song

### *Jesus, Oh What a Wonderful Child*

Larson

Choir

\*\*\*\*\*

## Post-Worship Carol Sing (for outdoor worship)

## Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

### Verse 1

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king; peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled. Joyful, all you nations rise; join the triumph of the skies; with angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

### Verse 2

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord, late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the God-head see! Hail, the incarnate deity! Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel! Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

### Verse 3

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings. Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

## **O Little Town of Bethlehem**

### **Verse 1**

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by; yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light. The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

### **Verse 2**

For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above, whole mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love. O morning stars together proclaim the holy birth, and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth.

### **Verse 3**

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray, cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel.

## **Away in a Manger**

### **Verse 1**

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

### **Verse 2**

The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes. I love you, Lord Jesus look down from the sky and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

### **Verse 3**

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in your tender care and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

## **O Come, All Ye Faithful**

### **Verse 1**

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant! O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem; come and behold him, born the king of angels: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

### **Verse 2**

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God in the highest: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

### **Verse 3**

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n! Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

# Poinsettia Dedications

## *In Memory of:*

**My Parents**  
by Barbara Oster

**Our Parents**  
by Ron & Marilyn Dork

**Robert Boike, Jerrilyn Boike  
& Kristine Boike**  
by Lisa Boike

**My Parents & brother Paul**  
by Kate Holtfreter

**Paul & Todd**  
by Betty Rutila

**Kristine Boike**  
by Dennis Svec

**\*Fred Schmidt**  
by Janice Schmidt

**Thomas Stretlien**  
**Allen Stretlien & Duaine Dole**  
by John and Jan Stretlien

**\*Virginia Fleming**  
by Cindy & Mandy  
Hitesman

**\*Howard Wilson**  
by Emily Wilson

## *In Celebration of:*

**A Vaccine for Covid-19**  
by Kate Holtfreter

**Her BLC Family**  
by Barbara Oster

**God Is With Us**  
by Tom & Jana Rockne

**All Children &  
Grandchildren**  
by Butch & Jan Waisanen

**Peace on Earth**  
by Tom & Jana Rockne

**The Greatest Christmas Gift**  
by Nancy Ammann

**\*Her Brothers**  
by Kate Holtfreter

**O Come, Emmanuel**  
by all of the members of BLC

**\*Easter Sunday**  
by Kristen Rivard

**\*Our Family**  
by Tom & Cheryl Wegener

*\*denotes an Easter Flower Dedication, previously unpublished*



**Bethlehem**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

## *December 24, 2020*

**Traverse City High School Update:** Last week a plea went out to our wonderful Bethlehem congregation to provide the at-risk students of Traverse City High School with gift cards for Christmas gifts. Again, we had a wonderful response. Over 60 gifts cards plus snacks were donated. TCHS thanks you all for your continued support and wishes all to have a safe, healthy and Happy New Year.

**Stewardship Encouragement 2021 is Underway!** Many pledge cards have been received. Even though the due date (December 1st) is now past, it is not too late to send your pledge in. You can either mail the envelope to BLC or provide it with your offering during Parking Lot Communion at church (Sundays 11-11:45 a.m.) Many thanks and God bless!

**Covid hits our congregation!** Please keep praying for all who are being hit by this illness especially one of our own council members. Even though all in that household were being careful, someone who was ill came to their home without wearing a mask and all are now very sick. Through the wonders of ZOOM this person was able to participate in the most recent council meeting, and the rest of us saw how ill someone could be even without being hospitalized. Another council member had to be in work/home only quarantine for 2 weeks due to recent multiple exposures in that person's essential job. *Know that any of the tough decisions that the council is making are with the well-being of all members in mind.*

**The DECEMBER issue of the STAR is ready!** The STAR is no longer being subsidized by anonymous donors. We thank them for the generosity for three months and their hard work in preparing it for mailing. (There is even a rolling pin involved!!!) The cost of postage for the STAR is now being taken from the general fund. If anyone wants to make an extra donation towards postage due to the monthly cost of keeping all members informed, a notation can be made on any check or envelope. If you read the STAR on line and have not told us, please make certain you contact the office so we are not sending out copies needlessly. Printed STARS will also be available in the "Shooting Star box" outside the church entry later this week. 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>

The outdoor "**Shooting STAR Dispenser**" at BLC is now full with several paper publications, including the December STAR and the current week's worship folder/bulletin. If you would like a copy of a DVD, please contact the church and one will be produced for you.

**Calling all Knitters!!:** There is an overabundance of yarn skeins in the bin under the mailboxes in the narthex. PLEASE feel free to grab some to make hats, mittens, prayer shawls, etc.! The yarn is sorted according to kind, so you can be sure to find something appropriate for whatever project you have in mind. Questions? Call Betty R. (947-1013)

**Christ in Our Home Devotionals for January/February/March.** They can be picked up at the name tag table on Sunday mornings, from the STAR box below the outside mailbox, or during parking lot communion. The newest *Living Lutheran* magazine is also available in the same locations.

**The BLC book club** is excited that another author is going to join us for a discussion of their book on ZOOM. On Tuesday Jan 26 at 5:30 we will discuss *The Marsh King's Daughter* by Karen Dionne. The author lives part of the time in northern Michigan and the setting of the book is in Michigan. There are still 2 library copies of the book in the big box on the ground by the front door of the church if you want to borrow one. Just let Cindy Monroe know if you take one or if you want to join in the fun of the discussion at [cmonroe@chartermi.net](mailto:cmonroe@chartermi.net)

**The daughter of one of our members, Kathi Ivany-Mort, is in need of a vehicle.** She is a single parent of three children, two of which have special needs. She has limited funds but would be open to a fair price and/or payment plan if desired. If you have a vehicle that would seat five people and possibly AWD or 4WD, please contact Kathi on her cell at 231-313-1647 or Kathi's husband, Jef Mort, at their home phone 231-929-4911.

**From Kathi Ivany:** "Praise the Lord! And a special thank you to Margo for your kind and generous gift for my daughter! Erica and her family can certainly use it at this time of the year....I have recently discovered that Erica is trying to save money for an internet connection, so that her children can receive an "inter-face connection" with their schools."

As an aside, an internet company in Rapid City is charging very high fees now to install internet in homes, and though Erica has tried to contest this, it looks like this is the reality these days. Continued prayers for all those trying to stay connected in these challenging times. - Pr. Paul

**A big thank you to those who have turned in Oleson's receipts.** We just received a check from them for \$266.87. Please continue saving your Oleson's receipts for Bethlehem.

**Keep "Hope Spreading":** Don't forget our blog "Hope Spreads Further" is still going strong! We've had many very inspiring entries and hope to read more. We invite you to help us build this blog or just read current entries at <http://www.bethlehemtc.org/hope-spreads-further>. Reach out to Pastor Paul at [paul.busekist@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:paul.busekist@bethlehemtc.org) or Sharon at [admin@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:admin@bethlehemtc.org) if you'd like to contribute to the blog!

**"Zoom Bible Study" will take a Christmas break on Dec 30<sup>th</sup>. We will resume on Jan 6<sup>th</sup>, gathering via Zoom is going strong each Wednesday from noon until about 1:15pm, and each week we are having great conversation and fellowship.** We are using the Augsburg Fortress study of two of Paul's letters: 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians. Please contact Pr. Paul if you are interested in joining.

**Administrative Assistant Needed at Father Fred:** This is a full-time Administrative Assistant position with benefits. The person filling this role must be flexible, able to function well in a highly stimulating environment, respond to interruptions as they occur and work independently to accomplish assigned tasks. The overall function of this role is to provide organizational, clerical and Executive level support.

**Entry Requirements:**

**Education:** Minimum two yr. college degree required

**Experience:** Three to five years of administrative/executive assistant level experience in a professional environment / Previous accounting experience preferred /Advanced level knowledge of Microsoft Office programs / Familiarity with QuickBooks preferred

More details visit [fatherfred.org](http://fatherfred.org)

Send Resume to Executive Director, Candice Hamel [chamel@fatherfred.org](mailto:chamel@fatherfred.org)

This is a year when we cannot visit many of our members to bless them with our Christmas carols. Instead please pull out your BLC directory and take a moment to make a phone call to one or two of them or send a card wishing for a better New Year. Not sure who needs a call or card? How about you choose members whose last name is closest in the alphabet to your own?

**List of Home Bound Members of BLC 2020**  
**BLC = Directory**

**Marlene Baesch BLC**

**Marinan Bradford in Traverse Manor on Draka Rd. Traverse City, MI**

**Carol Collins – Burcham Assisted Living 2700 Burcham Dr. East Lansing, MI 48823**

**Brenda Denoyer at home BLC**

**Richard Fernholz BLC**

**Jo Hasse she is in French Manor BLC**

**Corinne Hill BLC**

**Christian Stretlien and Julie LaPeer 14720 Mc Coll Ave. Thompsonville, MI 49683**

**Tom and Lee Miller BLC**

**Marilyn Skay BLC**

**Nancy Smith BLC**

**Lois Stretlien (Jan's sister in-law) in Traverse Manor Room #24**

**Ellie Tacke BLC**

**Inge Thomas BLC**

**Priscilla Thomas @ Samaritas Assisted Living 4354 Mt. Hope Rd. Williamsburg MI 49690 BLC**

**Jan and Butch Waisanen BLC**

**Dee and Bill Springer Boardman Lake Glens 1400 Brigadoon Ct. TC 49684 BLC**

**Marjorie Whitney in Traverse Manor on Draka Rd. Traverse City, MI BLC**