

Baptism of Our Lord

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

January 12, 2025
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 in your name, address, etc in the guest book near the entrance to the sanctuary.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship – Setting 4, page 147

Bell Ringing/Welcome/Announcements

Prelude

GATHERING

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.

C: Amen.

P: Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination

P: Merciful God,

C: ...you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.

P: God proclaims these words of assurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine." In † Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God.

C: Amen

Gathering Hymn *We Praise You, O God*

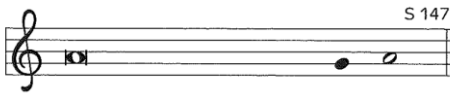
ELW 870

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.

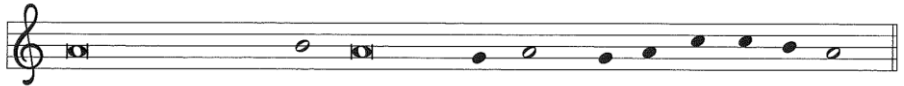
Kyrie



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



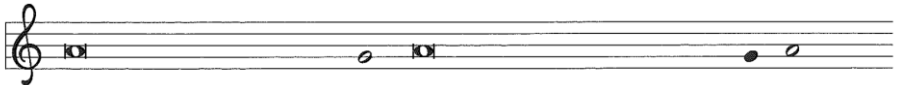
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, 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 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: The Lord be with you. C: **And also with you.**

A: Let us pray together... C: **Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through 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

Isaiah 43:1-7

Near the end of Israel's exile in Babylon, God promises to bring the people home. They need no longer be afraid, because the one who formed, created, and called them by name now redeems them from all their enemies. God declares them precious and honored, and God loves them.

1 But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. 2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. 3 For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. 4 Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. 5 Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; 6 I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth—7 everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

L: The Word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

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.

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 8:14-17

Peter and John are sent to support the new Christians in Samaria, a group that was recently baptized after hearing the good news of Christ through the preaching of Philip. Here the Samaritans receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in the laying on of hands.

14 Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. 15 The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit 16 (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). 17 Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

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.

Gospel**Luke 3:15-17, 21-22**

The reading opens with questions about the identity of the Messiah. John the Baptist insists that he is not the Messiah; instead he points ahead to one who is coming. And whether the voice of God was heard by all or only by Jesus, God settles the matter: Jesus is God's beloved Son.

C: ...Glory to you, O Lord...

15 As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, 16 John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 17 His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." 21 Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, 22 and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. 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 Roger Hardy****Hymn of the Day*****This Is the Spirit's Entry Now******ELW 448*****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: **“hear our prayer.”**
(*Before prayer*) A: With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.... (*Conclusion*) P: We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. **C: Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

MEAL

Offering

Zeke Clemons

Offertory

What Feast of Love (v. 1 & 2)

ELW 487

Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray together.

C: God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

S 152

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.

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

Holy, Holy, Holy

S 153

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

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody with lyrics. The third staff continues with lyrics. The fourth staff concludes the phrase with lyrics. The score is marked 'S 153' in the upper right corner.

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.

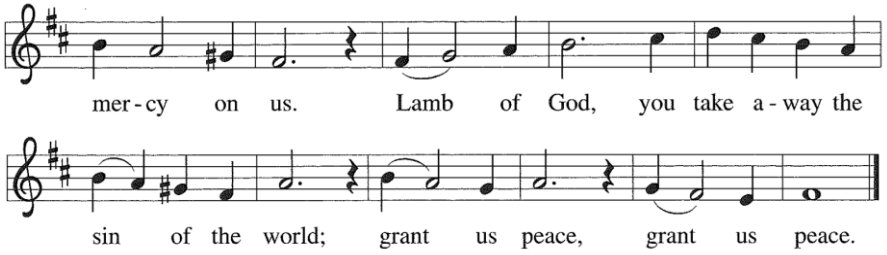
Communion

Lamb of God

S 154

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

The musical score is written on two staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody with lyrics. The score is marked 'S 154' in the upper right corner.



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

Communion Hymns

We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus
We Come to the Hungry Feast

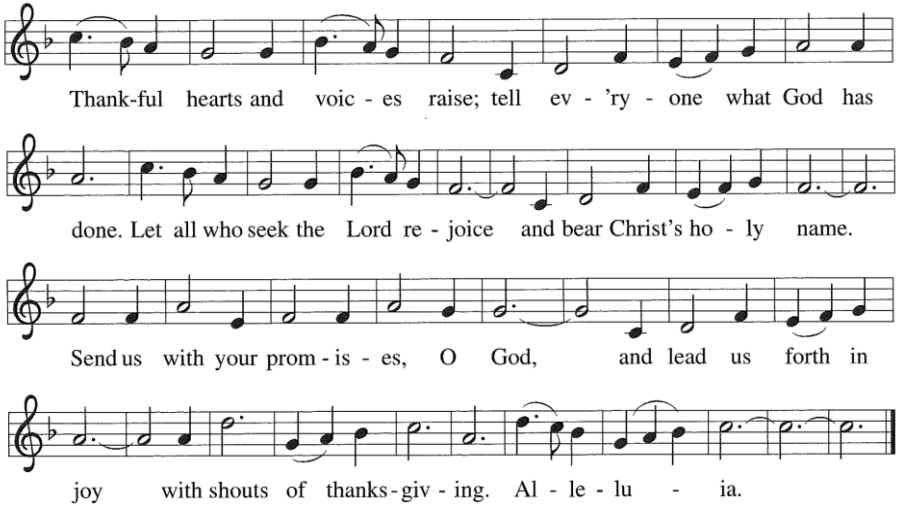
ELW 451
ELW 479

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, O God, and lead us forth in
joy with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia.

Prayer after Communion

A: Let us pray. Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world.
In the name of Christ we pray,
C: Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

P: The Spirit of the triune God ☩ bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.

C: Amen.

Sending Song *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee*

ELW 836

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Live in hope.

C: Thanks be to God.



Bethlehem January 12, 2025
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

1/13—Brian Acker

1/18—Kathleen Endline

1/19—Ron Dork

1/14—Judy Fenton

1/18—Debra Jean Knopf

1/19—Tracey Moyer

Worship Servants for January 12

Assisting Minister—Barbara Oster

Lector—Barb Graf

Musicians: David Husser, Zeke Clemons, Denice Bossardet, Pr. Paul

Today's altar flowers are donated: By *Phil Anderson in Memory of Karen Anderson*

A/V—Paul Ton / Jim Hinds

Cookies/Coffee—VOLUNTEER / Mary Ann Tanis

Welcome Table—Gail Goldsmith

Bell Ringer—Gail Goldsmith

Front Door Monitors—VOLUNTEER

Altar Guild—Gail Goldsmith / Mary Ann Tanis

Tech Support—Julia Acker

Counters—Carl Lehto / Cindy Cuba

BOOK CLUB NEWS: The next meeting will be Wed, Jan 15 at 5:30. We will be reading "*The River We Remember*" by William Kent Krueger. The book club has previously enjoyed books by this author. Please enter the kitchen door and join us in the Fellowship Hall if you like to discuss good books. Any questions can be directed to Cindy Monroe at cmonroe@chartermi.net.

Third Thursday Service on January 16th will be a Holden Evening Prayer. The meal will start at 5:45pm and will include Chili with hot dogs rolled in crescent rolls, salad, chips, dessert and beverages. The service begins at 7:00pm. We hope to see you there.

Sledding Day! Join us on Saturday, January 18th from 12:30-2:30pm for a Sledding Day at Twin Lakes! Warm drinks and snacks will be provided. Bring a sled and join in, or bring a chair and a blanket to watch the fun! All ages are welcome!

Let's Play Bunco Cheryl Wegener would like to teach a group to play Bunco. We will have a game day on Sunday, January 19th right after church. Please bring a snack. Pizza and beverages will be provided. There will be another game available also.

Wednesday Bible Studies:

The Adult Bible Study meets from 9:30am—11:30am with the topic of the Book of 1 Corinthians

The Zoom Bible Study meets from 1:30pm—3:00pm -- Group will resume on January 15th. The book will be *Up from Dust: Martha's Story*, a historical fiction by Heather Kaufman. Check emails for chapter/week.

Are you grieving something from a death or something else? It could be any kind of loss, and it hurts. We have a place for you here at Bethlehem on the 1st Monday of the month from 3:30 to 4:30 and the 3rd Monday of the month from 5:30 to 6:30 in the Youth Room. The next date will be January 20. If you have any questions, please contact Peggy Burns at 231 392-6913.

CHAIR YOGA: Chair Yoga continues every Monday at 3:00 in the Fellowship Hall. The group will not meet for the rest of December. Cost is \$5.00 per person. It is slow paced stretches that helps with balance, flexibility and relaxation. Come and try it out.

It's January! Time For Bethlehem's In-person Support at Safe Harbor! Many of us Bethlehem members will be serving Safe Harbor guests on Saturday, 25 January; Sunday, 26 January; Tuesday 28 January. Kitchen Teams will be led by Cindy Monroe, B.J. Christensen, and Tina Dohm and the crews they have recruited. Zeke will be entertaining Tuesday night and we are seeking more talent- guitar, keyboard, other... The sign-ups for other jobs are all in the Gathering Space! Remember, Full-time Safe Harbor personnel are there with us... to explain each job and to deal with any and all issues. The sign-up for treats are also in the Gathering Space. This is needed community outreach. This is heeding Christ's command to serve our neighbors. C'mon and join in! Please contact me with any questions. Tom Rockne Bethlehem Safe Harbor Coordinator M.231.631.0040

2025 Giving Envelopes are Ready for Pick Up I am happy to report that the 2025 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

A big thank you to all who have turned in Olesons' slips. On January 7th, we received a check from Olesons for \$317.06. Olesons' slips never expire. Please continue to turn in your Olesons receipts to Bethlehem. Thanks so much!!! **Also, the area for the Oleson receipts is in the lower cabinets below the mailboxes (under the A-B-Cs...). The cabinet door is marked with the receptacle inside. Unfortunately, we are no longer collecting the receipts from Family Fair.**

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 12

8:45am—Pancake Breakfast (FH)
10:00am—Worship Service (S)

Monday, January 13

12:00pm—Piano Tuning (S)
1:00pm—Finance Committee (CR)
2:30pm—Choir rehearsal (S)
3:00pm—Chair Yoga (FH)

Tuesday, January 14

Bulletin articles due today

9:00am—LWR Quilters (FH)
9:00am—Property Work Group
1:00pm—Friendship Bible Study (Offsite)
6:00pm—Y2A/Christian Ed Meeting (YR / Zoom)
6:30pm—Executive Committee (Zoom)

Wednesday, January 15

9:30am—Adult Bible Study (Library)
11:30am—Music Rehearsal (S)
1:30pm—Zoom Bible Study (Zoom & YR)
5:30pm—Book/Supper Club (FH)

Thursday, January 16

5:30pm—ACA (Library)
5:45pm—Third Thursday Meal (FH)
7:00pm—Third Thursday / Holden EP (S)

Friday, January 17

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

Saturday, January 18

12:30pm—Sledding at Twin Lakes
8:00pm—AA (FH)

Sunday, January 19

9:15am—Sunday School
9:15am—Adult Education (YR)
10:00am—Worship Service (S)
12:30pm—Youth Discipleship Class (Feast of Victory)

