

## BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Vibrantly open to the spirit, Bethel Lutheran Church seeks to serve God  
and its neighbors by joyfully living into the good news of Jesus Christ.*

Sunday, December 3, 2023

Second Sunday of Advent, ACS Setting 11

Rev. Susan Engholm, Interim Pastor

Jan Smith, Accompanist

### GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

Prelude      *Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending setting by Edwin T. Childs*  
*On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry setting by Edwin T. Childs*

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who opens the heavens and draws  
near to us with salvation. **Amen.**

God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance.

Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

Everlasting God,

**You love justice and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and  
self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression. We are  
complicit in systems of exploitations. We choose comfort over courage. We  
are careless with creation's bounty. Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts  
again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the  
sake of our waiting world. Amen.**

Hear these words of assurance: God clothes you with garments of salvation  
and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of  
☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God's covenant is eternal, and God's  
blessing rests upon us all. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn      "Prepare the Royal Highway" ELW #264

Greeting

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

Kyrie (ACS p. 12) **O Lord, have mercy upon us...**

Canticle of Praise (ACS p. 12) **Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!...**

"Readings for Lighting of the Advent Wreath" written by Pastor Natalia Terfa

Meyer family: Our verse for this second week of Advent is from Paul's letter to  
the Colossians, chapter 3, verse 15: "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,  
to which indeed you were called in the one body." Today we light the second  
candle of Advent, the candle of Peace...Let us pray...**Gracious God as we  
wait for you to be with us, we pray for peace. Give us the courage to seek  
peace in our hearts and in our relationships, and help us to be peacemakers  
in the world, until you bring the reign of peace with you again. Amen.**

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

First Reading      Isaiah 40:1-11      The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**  
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13      (read responsively)  
Second Reading      2 Peter 3:8-15a      The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**  
Children's Sermon  
Gospel Acclamation (ACS p. 14) **Alleluia, Alleluia...**  
    The Gospel according to Mark the first chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**  
Gospel Reading      Mark 1:1-8      The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**  
Sermon  
Hymn of the Day      Comfort, Comfort Now My People ELW #256  
Nicene Creed (ACS p. 16)  
Prayers of Intercession      Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**  
Peace      The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

Offering      *The Advent of Our King setting by Edwin T. Childs*  
Offering Prayer  
    **God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior, Amen.**  
Great Thanksgiving (ACS p. 20)  
Preface for the Day (ACS p. 20-22)      **Holy, holy, holy God of power and might...**  
Hymn      "The Lord's Prayer " Green Binder #134  
Communion (ACS p. 25)      **O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world...**  
Communion Hymn      "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" ELW #240  
Prayer after Communion

## SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

Blessing  
    The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit ✠ remain upon you now and forever. **Amen.**  
Sending Hymn      "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" ELW #249  
Dismissal      Go in peace. Keep awake.  
    **Thanks be to God.**  
Postlude      *Hark, the Glad Sound arr. by Paul Manz*

# WELCOME

Bethel Lutheran Church—December 3, 2023—Second Sunday of Advent

**OUR MISSION STATEMENT**—Vibrantly open to the Spirit, Bethel Lutheran Church seeks to serve God and its neighbors by joyfully living into the good news of Jesus Christ.

**QUESTIONS OR REQUESTS?** Please contact the church office at 320-395-2125 at [bethellutheranlp@gmail.com](mailto:bethellutheranlp@gmail.com). For emergency pastoral care needs, please contact the church office first, and if nobody answers, call Interim Pastor Susan Engholm at 320-293-1811. Bulletin submissions due: Wednesdays at noon. Newsletter deadline: 25<sup>th</sup> of the month. **GivePlus Text 866-298-7547**

SIMPLY GIVING offers convenience for you and much needed consistency for Bethel! Try it this summer! If you have questions contact Stacy Meyer, Financial Secretary, at [finsec@lpbethel.org](mailto:finsec@lpbethel.org).

## TODAY

- Hearing assist devices are available: speak to an usher for assistance
- Congregational Meeting: immediately following worship to vote on the Call Committee's new pastor recommendation.
- Sunday School & Confirmation class: following worship

## MONDAY (12/4)

- Bible Study: 9:00 am-We will review the sermon from the day before and look at the Gospel for the coming week.

## TUESDAY (12/5)

- WELCA meeting: 6:30 pm-This is a change from the normal schedule. The meetings are always open to any women who wish to attend.

## WEDNESDAY (12/6)

- Quilting: 1:00 pm-4:30 pm-Quilters will meet today and the 13<sup>th</sup> of December, then take a break until January, meeting on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays.
- Choir practice: 5:45 pm during Advent
- Light of the World Evening Prayer: 6:30 pm

## SUNDAY-Advent 3 (12/10)

- Worship: 9:00 am
- Sun. School/Confirmation class/Adult Education: following worship

**“Light of the World” Evening Prayer:** Wednesday, December 6, 13 & 20, 6:30 pm.  
**Christmas Eve worship:** 5:00 pm. There will not be a 9:00 worship service that day.

**Poinsettia sign-up:** Help beautify the sanctuary for Christmas by ordering a poinsettia. Sign up on the bulletin board and check your size option. There is also a spot to dedicate your plant in celebration, honor, or memory of loved ones. Make checks out to Bethel Lutheran Church. Give your payment to Judy Angvall. The deadline to sign up is Wednesday, December 13.

**Treat bags** for the youth will be given out on December 17; if you would like to give a monetary donation toward the bags, contact Diane Horsman. Thank you!

**WELCA's Advent Project: A Multigenerational Birthday Party for Jesus!** Bethel will be sponsoring three families through the Lester Prairie School Outreach Program. We have a Giving Tree in the narthex with various items to purchase for our families. The **“Birthday Party for Jesus”** will be **Sunday, December 17**, during the Sunday school/Adult Education time. Bring your gifts to wrap, play some games, enjoy treats, and make some crafts. All ages are welcome!

**The choir will attend the National Lutheran Choir Tuneup** on the 20th of January from 9:00 am to noon at Roseville Lutheran Church. Anyone who enjoys singing is welcome to join us! Please RSVP to Emily Koehler or Jan Smith.

**Year-end giving:** The Church Endowment Fund is an excellent place to give your year-end gift, the gift that keeps on giving, expanding Bethel's outreach abilities. The yellow Endowment Fund envelope assures your gift goes to the intended fund. Please make checks out to Bethel Endowment Fund and place your envelope in the Endowment Committee's mailbox. Thank you in advance!

**Green Lake Lutheran Ministries: Created To Be-Summer 2024:** Online registration opens on December 14, 2023. Online registration is the best, most streamlined way to register for camp and is highly encouraged. Register by February 16 to secure the early bird discount and get \$50 off each registration. Check out all the opportunities in the brochures provided in the narthex. *We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to do the good things God created us to do from the beginning. Ephesians 2:10*

**Lester Prairie Lions Community Breakfast:** Sunday, December 10, 2023 at the Lester Prairie City Hall. Serving: pancakes, eggs, sausage, toast, juice, and coffee from 9:00 am to noon. Free will offering. Proceeds from this event will support local Lions projects. Please come, enjoy, and support!