

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, November 26, 2023

Rev. Susan Engholm, Interim Pastor

First Sunday of Advent, ACS Setting 11

Jan Smith, Accompanist

GATHERING

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

Prelude *Watchman, Tell Us of the Night* arr. Mark Hayes

O Come, O Come Emmanuel arr. Stan Pethel

Bethel Brass-Nicole, Carl, McCoy

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 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" ELW #257 (verses 1,2,7,8)

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!...**

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

The Helland family: Our verse for this first week of Advent is from Psalm 33:22:

Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you.

Today we light the first candle of Advent, the candle of Hope...To remind us that even as we wait, our hope is in the Lord. Let us pray,

Gracious God, as we wait for you to come to us, give us the courage to hope. To hope for patience as we wait, to hope for trust as we fear, and to hope for the grace to see in you the change that is on the way. Amen.

WORD

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

First Reading Isaiah 64:1-9 The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 (read responsively)
Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 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 thirteenth chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**
Gospel Reading Mark 13:24-37 The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**
Sermon
Hymn of the Day "Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying" ELW #436
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 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* arr. Bill Ingram Chime Choir
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...**
Lord's Prayer (ACS p. 24) **Our Father in heaven...**
Communion (ACS p. 25) **O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world...**
Communion Hymn "Christ, Be Our Light" ELW #715
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 "Come Now, O Prince of Peace" ELW #247
Dismissal Go in peace. Keep awake.
 Thanks be to God.
Postlude *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers* arr. Paul Manz

WELCOME

Bethel Lutheran Church—November 26, 2023—First 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. 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: 25th 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.

TODAY

- Hearing assist devices are available: Speak to an usher for assistance.
- Noisy offering: Drop your loose change (or bills) into the metal can, on your way out of the sanctuary to support Bible Camp Youth Camperships!
- Sunday School & Confirmation class: following worship
- Breakfast with Bethel: 10:30 am, Longhorn's Burger House
- The Chosen-Season 3-final episode: 5:30 pm, potluck

MONDAY (11/27)

- Bible Study: 9:00 am

WEDNESDAY (11/29)

- Quilting: 1:00 pm-4:30 pm
- Choir practice: 5:45 pm during Advent
- Light of the World Evening Prayer: 6:30 pm-If you are able, please stay after the service today to help decorate the church for Christmas!

THURSDAY (11/30)

- Last day to turn in your Endowment Grant applications.

SUNDAY-Advent 2 (12/3)

- Worship: 9:00 am
- Congregational Meeting: following worship, Bethel's pastor candidate vote
- Sun. School/Confirmation class/Adult Education (vote first!): following worship

WELCA Cash Offering Collection for McLeod Emergency Food Shelf—Last Sunday.

Special envelopes are available from an usher. Please put your offering in the envelope and place it in the offering plate. Thank you for your generosity!

Endowment Fund grants: We will accept Endowment Grant application forms through Thursday, November 30.

Application forms are on the wall in the narthex. Please place completed applications in the Endowment Committee mailbox.

A Call for a Congregational meeting: Sunday, December 3, immediately following the worship service. **Topic:** The Call Committee will be recommending Bethel's new pastor. A vote will take place at this congregational meeting. If you have questions, contact Ron Foust, Council President at 612-201-2351.

Next WELCA meeting: Tues., Dec. 5, 6:30 pm at church. This is a change from the normal schedule. Meetings are always open to any women who wish to attend.

"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!

Adult Education: Join us for a time of education and conversation during coffee hour! We will have education every Sunday except for the last Sunday of the month. Speak to Cathy H. or Mitch O. if you have questions.

Join us for Monday Bible Study at 9:00 am: We will review the sermon from the day before and look at the Gospel for the coming week. Looking forward to seeing you there!