

Welcome to Bethel Lutheran Church!
4 Advent / Sunday, December 21, 2025



“Rehearsal for Christmas Eve”

“Rehearsal for Christmas Eve” is one of 15 Christmas plays included in the book *No Stable Too Small*, written by Lois Anne DeLong and Barbara Anne Antonucci. The goal of the authors was to write plays that would teach children the full context of the Christmas story, including the prophecy that Christ’s birth fulfilled. The intent was also to create simple, adaptable, and fun pieces of drama to emphasize the role the children have in spreading the good news of the gospel. Today’s performance is actually a “play within a play” which tells the story of one young actor’s search for the real meaning of Christmas and how he finds it at a Christmas pageant rehearsal.

Accompaniment

McCoy Helland, Trombone
Avery Burchett and Mia Serum, Guitar
Livia Serum, Piano

Children in the Program

Drake Pariseau, Felicity Govig, Jameson Heuer, Lennon Sawatzke, Axel Klumb, Grant Serum, Wrigley Anderson, Lynken McBride, Evie Koehler, Mia Serum, Etta Helland, Lachlynn Sawatzke, Avery Burchett, Adderley Helland

Scripture and Prayer Readers

Olivia Radtke, Ashlyn Rosenau, Hannah Smith, Alex Overbye, McCoy Helland, Grady Meyer, Adderley Helland, Dean Smith

Gathering

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

MEDITATION TIME “Lo! He Comes With Clouds Descending” arr. by Thomas Keesecker
 “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” arr. by Mark Hayes

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Adderley Helland

GATHERING SONG “Canticle of the Turning” (red hymnal #723)

PRAYER OF THE DAY AND ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

This morning, we light four candles. The first, a reminder that we are called to wait and stay awake as we wait. The second, a beacon of hope in God’s promise of the Messiah baptizing all with the Holy Spirit. The third, a challenge to us to live as John the Baptist and Jesus lived. The fourth, a testament to our foundation built upon the Holy Spirit. You became incarnate through the Holy Spirit, taking on human flesh, within this splintered and divided world, to experience all that we experience, the good and the bad. In our pain and fear, we tend to shut our doors and harden our hearts. Help us build upon the Holy Spirit at work within us, so that our doors stay open and our hearts stay softened. Amen.

SONG AFTER THE CANDLE LIGHTING “Christ Be Our Light” (red hymnal #715 vs. 1,2,3,4)

Word

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

FIRST READING: Luke 1:26-38

SONG “The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came” (red hymnal #265, v. 1-3)

SECOND READING: Luke 1:38-45

SONG “My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness” (red hymnal #251, v. 1)

THIRD READING: Matthew 1:18-25

SONG “Savior of the Nations Come” (red hymnal #263, v. 1-3)

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM “Rehearsal for Christmas Eve” Bethel Children and Youth

SONGS DURING THE CHRISTMAS PROGRAM (please sing with us)

“Angels We Have Heard on High” (v. 1 & chorus)

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plains,
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains,
Gloria, in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.**

“Hark the Herald Angels Sing” (v. 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!"

“What Child Is This” (v. 1)

**What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!**

“We Three Kings of Orient Are” (v. 1 & chorus)

**We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.
O star of wonder, star of light, star of royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.**

SONG “Go Tell It on the Mountain” (red hymnal #290)

PEACE The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING “Come on Ring the Bells”

Chime Choir

OFFERING PRAYER

Lord of abundance, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

LORD’S PRAYER (purple ACS p. 24)

Sending

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

SONG “Blessing”

May God bless you and keep you. May God’s face shine upon you. May God look upon you with favor and give you peace, and give you peace, and give you peace. Amen.

SENDING SONG “Joy to the World” (red hymnal #267)

DISMISSAL Go in peace. Keep awake. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE “Joy to the World” arr. by Robert W. Thygerson

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CHRISTMAS EVE READINGS: Is 9:2-7; Ps 96; Titus 2:11-14; Lk 1-14-20

NEXT SUNDAY’S READINGS: Is 63:7-9; Ps 148; 1 Peter 4:12-19; Matt 2:13-23

Thank you to those serving today!

GREETER: Brayden McBride, Jill & Brian Duncan

CANDLELIGHTER: Bethel youth

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTER: Govig family

USHER: Jaxen McBride & Ron Foust

LECTOR: Bethel youth

COFFEE: Ron Foust

TREATS: Dana, Cheryl, Diane, Julie, Judy

Serving Christmas Eve

ALTAR GUILD: Judy Angvall

CANDLE LIGHTER: Lynken McBride

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Adderley Helland

USHER: Nicole Kleve & Bryon Weisenburger

LECTOR: Adderley Helland

TREATS: Sara Jepsen & Emily Koehler

Bethel's 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.

This week at Bethel

Sunday, December 21 (4 Advent)

- Worship: 9:00 a.m. w/ "Rehearsal for Christmas Eve" presented by Bethel Children & Youth
- Fellowship: following worship

Wednesday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)

- Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship service with holy communion: 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 28 (1 Christmas)

- Worship: 9:00 a.m.
- Fellowship: following worship

QUESTIONS OR REQUESTS? Contact the church office at 320-395-2125 or bethellutheranlp@gmail.com. If you need emergency pastoral care, please call Pastor Molly Wills at 320-339-8169 or email her at pastor@lpbethel.org.

****EMERGENCY PASTOR**:** Pastor Molly will be on vacation Dec. 20-23, and Dec. 29-Jan. 2.

During this time, contact Pastor Cathy Jones at 763-528-1784, House of Grace, Montrose.

ADDRESS: 77 Lincoln AVE N, Lester Prairie, MN 55354, (Mailing USPS: PO Box 207)

WEBSITE: www.lpbethel.org | **FACEBOOK:** www.facebook.com/lpbethel

BULLETIN SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Wednesday at noon

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: 25th of the month

VANCO GIVING: Scan the QR code or visit www.lpbethel.org

under the "Give" section, or complete an application and submit it to the church office.

TEXT GIVING: To give, text dollar amount to **866-298-7547**



MID DECEMBER 2025

\$ Contributions:	4,335.19
\$ To Meet Budget:	10,262.01
\$ Difference:	-5,926.82
Weekly Average Attendance:	60

FOR THE YEAR 2025

YTD \$ Contributions:	101,688.38
YTD \$ To Meet Budget:	123,144.12
YTD \$ Difference:	-21,455.74

Announcements and Upcoming Events

- **NO QUILTING UNTIL THE NEW YEAR:** The quilting group will resume on Wednesday, January 7, 2026, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Anyone is welcome to join us on Wednesdays!
- **FOOD BAG ITEM COLLECTION:** We are collecting **granola bars and protein bars** to donate to Common Cup Ministry's Weekend Food Program for school children in need. Donations may be left in the Common Cup Corner in the narthex.
- **NOMINATION COMMITTEE SEEKING CANDIDATES FOR 2026:** Open positions include **Congregation Council:** Vice-President, Finance Board, and Education Board (all 2-year terms). *The Finance and Education Board members partner with another board member, and only one member needs to attend the monthly council meeting.*
Congregation Committees: Endowment Committee 3-year terms/*need two*; Audit 3-year term/*need one*; Nominations Committee 1-year terms/*need four*; Representatives for ELCA Synod Assembly in June/*need one male and one female*. Contact Peggy Wick, Ron Foust, Cathy Houg, Emily Koehler, or Tamie Foust with questions or if you're interested in volunteering.
- **YOUTH TASK FORCE SOCIAL:** Bethel will host the 7th-12th-grade youth of Lester Prairie High School on Wednesday, January 21, from 12:40 p.m. to 1:40 p.m. We're looking for volunteers to set up, serve hot cocoa, and get to know the youth of our community! Volunteers, please arrive by 11:30 a.m. to start setting up and stay after to help break down and clean up. If you'd like to help, please let Pastor Molly know.

CHURCH COUNCIL EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: (2 yr. term) David Gohl
952-358-0201; david.g.m.gohl@gmail.com
Vice-President: (1 yr. term) Peggy Wick
612-499-0186; sully72828@gmail.com
Council Secretary: (2 yr. term) Julie Hanson
320-485-7870 or 612-396-8038; j3hanson@tds.net
Treasurer: (1 yr. term) Jill Duncan
320-420-6284; treasurer@lpbethel.org
Financial Secretary: (2 yr. term) Stacy Meyer
320-620-1040; finsec@lpbethel.org

CHURCH COUNCIL BOARD MEMBERS

Trustee Board: (1 yr. term) Jeff Hanson
320-485-7870 or 612-396-8374; j3hanson@tds.net
Trustee Board: (2 yr. term) Bryon Weisenburger
320-282-4747; bryonw@usa.com
Finance Board: (1 yr. term) Mitch Overbye
952-237-3320; moverbye8@yahoo.com
Finance Board: (2 yr. term) Sara Jepsen
605-760-0685; candsjepsen@gmail.com
Education Board: (1 yr. term) Pete Hallberg
507-430-8609; phallberg58@icloud.com
Education Board: (2 yr. term) Katie Radtke
952-215-6878; gemini.radtke@gmail.com

Ways to Participate in Sunday Morning Worship

You can serve with family, friends, or on your own—no experience is necessary!

A **Greeter** welcomes every member and guest at the front door. This role involves making introductions, assisting those with full hands, providing directions, extending invitations, and sharing a warm smile. For questions, please call Ron Foust at 612-201-2351.

An **Usher** greets people at the sanctuary door, lights the candles before the service, distributes bulletins, informs parents about our nursery, collects offerings, guides individuals to communion, answers questions as they arise, and provides a welcoming and helpful presence for both members and guests! For questions, please call the office at 320-395-2125.

A **Lector** is responsible for reading scripture lessons during worship services. Occasionally, you may also be asked to assist with other parts of the service, such as reading prayers or liturgy. For questions, please call Cathy Houg at 320-282-2152.

A **Communion Assistant** helps the pastor during the service, primarily assisting with communion and baptisms. For questions, please call Pastor Molly at 320-339-8169.

The Altar Guild prepares the sanctuary for worship by arranging the sacraments, filling candles, and changing altar cloths. For questions, please call Judy Angvall at 612-501-3233.

Sign up to **Light the Altar Candles** before the worship service and during the Advent season.

All sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board in the narthex.

Other ways to participate include providing special music, offering flowers to decorate the sanctuary, delivering a children's message, or joining the Worship & Music Committee. If you need more information, please contact the office.

*We welcome volunteers of all ages and look forward to your involvement!
Together, we can fulfill our mission and ministry!*

