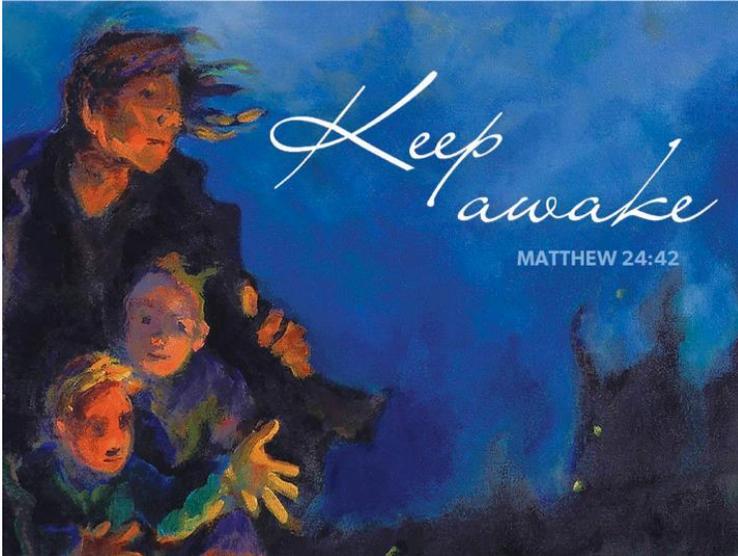




# Welcome to Bethlehem Lutheran Church

God's Family Serving Christ with Love



## 1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY of ADVENT

**November 27, 2022**

W8267 Hwy 33 East,  
Portage, Wisconsin 53901

Pastor Jaime Benson

Office: 608-742-8502

[www.bethlehemLCportage.org](http://www.bethlehemLCportage.org)

Church Office Hours: Mon-Wed 9am-  
3pm, Thurs & Fri 9am-12pm

**Holy Communion** is celebrated each week; all people of God are welcome. We offer it two ways: prepacked and communion at the altar. You can pick up the pre-filled communion cup on your way into the sanctuary or ask the usher for it at communion time. It contains a wafer, which you open first by lifting the clear cellophane on top and then the grape juice. If you would like a **gluten free wafer**, please let the usher know before the start of worship. We also offer communion at the altar for those that wish to come up. Please fill out a Communion Card found in the pew racks and give it to the usher when you come up for communion.

**Children's Worship Activity Bags** are available in the Narthex with activities for your children, please help yourself. You can place the used activity bags in the basket located beneath the activity bag tree as you leave. We have a **Cry Room** for your comfort where you can hear and see the service.

**Hearing assistance devices** are available on the counter in the Narthex for your convenience. Please ask the greeter or usher for help.

**Large print copies of the bulletin** are available in the Narthex.

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*Enter to praise*

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*We invite those who are able to stand each time this symbol ❖ appears in the bulletin.*

❖ ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

#257, v. 1 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

**P:** At every beginning there is a yearning for the one who is coming. O Emmanuel,

**Wake us up to your coming.**

**P:** We gather together to expect the unexpected and imagine the unimaginable. O Emmanuel,

**Wake us up to your coming.**

**P:** We wait for the day when God will recycle tanks into tractors and transform minefields into soccer fields. O Emmanuel,

**Wake us up to your coming.**

**P:** We stay awake by telling stories that offer a glimmer of a future and agitate dormant hope within us. O Emmanuel,

**Wake us up to your coming.**

**P:** Jesus, we welcome your presence now with the lighting of this candle, whose flame brings warmth to winter and fills this place with the glow of hope. **Amen.**

*Light the first candle.*

#257, v. 2 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

❖ CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

**Blessed be God’s name forever. Amen.**

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep. Let us confront our sins, and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of new beginnings,

**we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign. We have strayed from your paths. We prepare for war instead of peace. We dishonor one another and your creation. Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love, that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us. Amen.**

People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign. By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder. You have put on ✝ Christ, and your sins have been washed away. Rejoice in the way of the Lord. **Amen.**

❖ GATHERING HYMN

#249, v. 1-3 “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

❖ 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.**

❖ PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 2:1-5

<sup>1</sup>The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup>In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. <sup>3</sup>Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup>He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. <sup>5</sup>O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD! The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 122

<sup>1</sup>I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD."

<sup>2</sup>**Now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

<sup>3</sup>Jerusalem is built as a city that is at unity with itself;

<sup>4</sup>**to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD,  
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD.**

<sup>5</sup>For there are the thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David.

<sup>6</sup>**Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you.**

<sup>7</sup>Peace be with- in your walls and quietness with- in your towers.

<sup>8</sup>**For the sake of my kindred and companions, I pray for your prosperity.**

<sup>9</sup>"Because of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek to do you good."

SECOND READING: Romans 13:11-14

<sup>11</sup>Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup>the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup>let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

❖



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

❖ GOSPEL: Matthew 24:36-44

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples,] <sup>36</sup>“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>37</sup>For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup>For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup>and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup>Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>41</sup>Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>42</sup>Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup>But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup>Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.” The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN’S SERMON  
SERMON

❖ SERMON HYMN

#244 v. 1, 4 “Rejoice, Rejoice Believers”

❖ 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 power of 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**

❖ THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *Pray aloud as the spirit guides you*

**P:** As we prepare for the fullness of Christ’s presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

*A brief silence.*

God of all, your children everywhere cry out for mercy. Awaken the global church to the urgent needs of our time. Break down barriers of culture and custom and unite people of all faiths in your redemptive and healing work. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of wonder, the earth’s beauty and abundance is your gift. Teach us your ways of sharing resources and caring for life. Guard fragile habitats, preserve the wild places, and protect endangered plants and animals. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of peace, you judge the nations. Beat our weapons into tools for serving the neighbor. Strengthen the resolve of all who work for an end to war. We pray for lasting peace in the land of Jesus’ birth. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of lovingkindness, you desire fullness of life for everyone. Fill those who hunger. Comfort the grieving and attend to those near death. Bring help and hope to any who are sick or needing your care *especially for all of those on our prayer list*. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of community, you are present when we gather in your name. Guide congregations in transition or conflict. Give wisdom to congregational councils, call committees, and ministry leaders. Keep us alert to unexpected opportunities for mission. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of promise, your goodness is everlasting. We give thanks for the lives of the faithful who now rest in you. We trust that you will bring us into the company of all the saints with rejoicing. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

**P:** God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

### ❖ PEACE

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

### THE OFFERING

*We share our offerings for the mission of Christ through Bethlehem. Thank you for your participation in this ministry to the Glory of God!*

### ❖ OFFERING PRAYER

Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

..we praise your name and join the unending hymn...



**Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:**



**Heav- en and earth are full of your glo- ry. Ho - san- na. Ho - san- na.**



**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.**

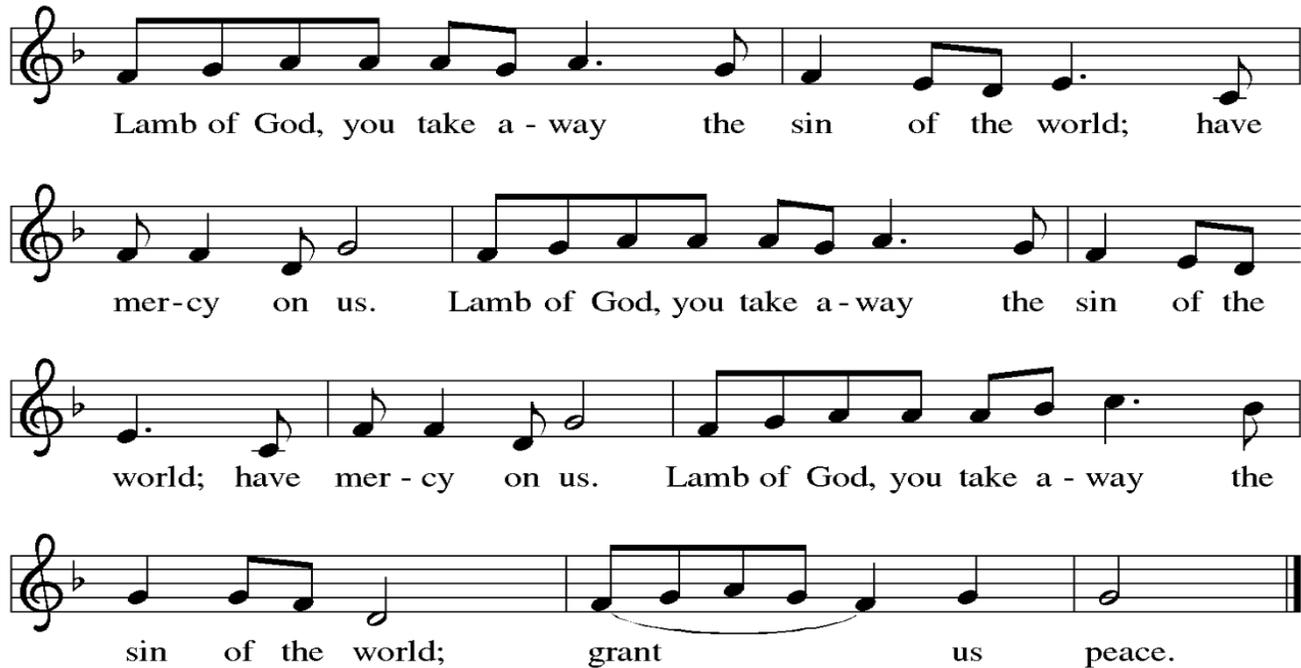
❖ WORDS OF INSTITUTION

❖ 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.**

❖ INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God, who has come to save you.



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

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

*You may come forward to receive communion at this time. If you prefer to celebrate communion in your pew with prepackaged elements, please let the usher know.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Attn Women's Group: Please RSVP To Kathryn Crawford if you plan to come to Dec. Luncheon

❖ BLESSING

God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, ✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

❖ SENDING HYMN

#248 v. 1, 4 “People, Look East”

❖ DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near. **Thanks be to God.**

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*Depart to share*

**This Week’s Worship Team**

Thanksgiving Eve Wed. 5:30 pm, 11/23 - Hymn Sing

Altar Guild: Cara Druckrey

Acolyte: Kinleyh Anderson

Music: Carla

Readers: Darlene Anderson & Lisa Cook

Sunday 9am, 11/27

Ushers: Dianna Bush

Reader: Bobbie Goodman

Video Production: Jeff Melby

Communion Assistants: Nancy Loether & Bobbie Goodman

Altar Guild: Nancy Loether

Acolyte: Kayson Bulgrin

Music: Carla

Flowers: Travis & Cara Druckrey in honor of Dean & Bonnie Halsizer’s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary

**Next Week’s Worship Team**

Wednesday 5:30 pm, 11/30

Altar Guild: Cara Druckrey

Acolyte: Alex Hayes

Music: Samantha

Sunday 9am, 12/4

Ushers: Bonnie Dixon

Reader: Bonnie Dixon

Video Production: Jeff Melby

Communion Assistants: Judy Traut & Nancy Loether

Altar Guild: Judy Traut

Acolyte: Mikayla Bovre

Music:

**Please Pray For**

**Church Prayer List:**

Joan & Roger Von Haden & family

Angie & Jim Bucholtz

Dick Olson

Barb & Lee Chenoweth

Mark Teslik

Bonnie Bender

Lynn Grueneberg

Noretta Moran

**Our Extended Family Prayer Concerns:**

Bev Grams (Carla Gerhardt’s mother)

Sharon Stickford (friend of Ginny Paulson’s)

Lavern Allhiser (brother-in-law of Sandy Sween)

Freda Manzullo (Mark Teslik’s sister)

Deb Moe & family (Sandra Sween’s cousin)

Steve Rohrbacher (Marie & Ed’s son)

Tom Teslik (Mark Teslik’s son)

**Transportation Needed for Church Member**

Mark Teslik is unable to drive at this time and is looking for volunteers who would be interested in driving him to & from LaVita to exercise while family members are out.

Time would be Monday-Wednesday-Friday late morning. If you are

interested in helping at all, please call Mark at: 608-469-1077.



**Open Church Council Seats in 2023**



Looking for members interested in being on the church council. It is a 3 year term and you must be a voting member. Term would start at the end of the 2023 annual meeting. Let Pr. Jaime, a current council member or the office know if you’d like to put your name on the ballot. There are 3 open seats.

**This Week:**

**Wednesday, November 23**  
**Church Office closing at noon**

10:30 am Tai Chi  
5:30 pm Thanksgiving Eve  
Worship – Hymn Sing  
NO Confirmation Class

**Thursday, November 24**  
Thanksgiving Holiday (office closed)

**Friday, November 25**  
Office closed for holiday

**Sunday, November 27**  
9 am Worship  
NO Sunday School

**Monday, November 28**  
10:30 am Tai Chi  
1 pm Card Club

**Tuesday, November 29**  
9 am Quilters

**Wednesday, November 30**  
**Food Drive Ends**  
10:30 am Tai Chi  
5:30 pm Worship  
6:15 pm Choir Rehearsal  
6:30 pm Confirmation

**Thursday, December 1**  
9 am Marketplace set up &  
live tree being delivered

*Attn: Women's Group  
Please RSVP To Kathryn  
Crawford if you plan to  
come to Dec. Luncheon*



Now accepting gift basket donations for the Gifts of Bethlehem Silent Auction until Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>. Can be dropped off in the office. The auction will be online & in person again from Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup>



**Gifts of Bethlehem  
Concert, Auction &  
Potluck**

Sunday, Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>  
9 am

Followed by a  
Congregational Potluck  
– see the December  
Chimes for more details

**No Sunday School  
Today, Nov. 27th**



All are welcome to come help decorate the church for Christmas!

**Thursday, Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> at 9 am:**

- Marketplace in narthex being set up

**Saturday, Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>**

- 9 am Tree & church decorating
- 10:30 am Christmas program rehearsal, followed by lunch



Give right from your cell phone or our website ("Online Giving" page). Download the Vanco Mobile App & set up a free account.

Mobile Invite Code: 546RYN