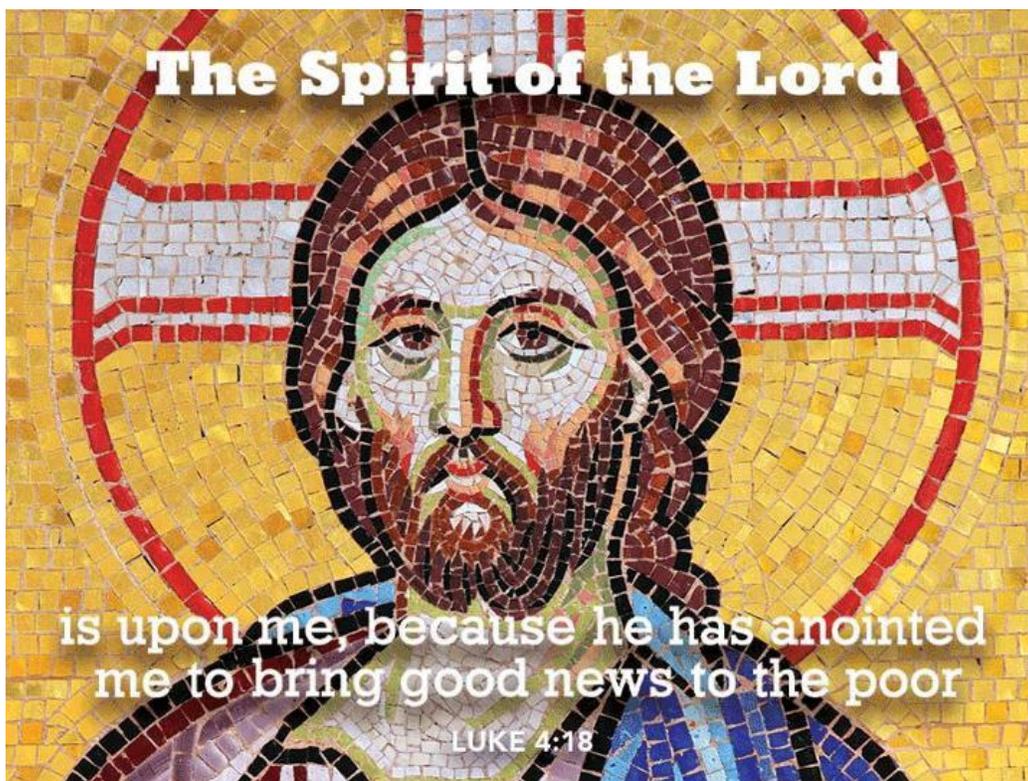




Welcome to Bethlehem Lutheran Church

God's Family Serving Christ with Love



2ND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY, January 12 & 17, 2021

W8267 Hwy 33 East, Portage, Wisconsin 53901

Pastor Jaime Benson pastor.jaime.benson@gmail.com

608-742-8502 www.bethlehemLCportage.org bethluch15@gmail.com

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

Holy Communion is celebrated each week; all people of God are welcome. Please fill out a Communion Registration card found in the pew racks, and put it in the offering bowl as you leave the sanctuary. 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.

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. Due to Covid-19 we are asking that you **reserve the Cry Room** and it will only be for one family at a time.

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.

Enter to Praise

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Please rise in body and/or spirit.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who creates us, redeems us, and calls us by name.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned against you and your beloved children. We have turned our faces away from your glory when it did not appear as we expected. We have rejected your word when it made us confront ourselves. We have failed to show hospitality to those you called us to welcome. Accept our repentance for the things we have done and the things we have left undone. For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us and lead us, that we may bathe in the glory of your Son born among us, and reflect your love for all creation. Amen.

Rejoice in this good news: In ✚ Christ Jesus, your sins are forgiven. You are descendants of the Most High, adopted into the household of Christ, and inheritors of eternal life. Live as freed and forgiven children of God. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN (Sunday)

#315, v. 1 & 2, "How Good, Lord, to Be Here"

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

Lord God, source of every blessing, you showed forth your glory and led many to faith by the works of your Son, who brought gladness and salvation to his people. Transform us by the Spirit of his love, that we may find our life together in him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

You may be seated for the readings

FIRST READING: Isaiah 62:1-5

The people's return to Judah after the exile was marred by economic and political troubles. Nevertheless, the prophet declares, Jerusalem and Judah will be restored. God will rejoice over Jerusalem as a bridegroom rejoices over the bride, and the people are called to the celebration.

¹For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. ²The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name

that the mouth of the LORD will give. ³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. ⁴You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate; but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the LORD delights in you, and your land shall be married. ⁵For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your builder marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: 36:5-10

We feast upon the abundance of your house, O LORD. (Ps. 36:8)

⁵Your love, O LORD, reaches to the heavens, and your faithfulness to the clouds.

⁶**Your righteousness is like the strong mountains, your justice like the great deep; you save humankind and animals, O LORD.**

⁷How priceless is your love, O God! All people take refuge under the shadow of your wings.

⁸**They feast upon the abundance of your house; you give them drink from the river of your delights.**

⁹For with you is the well of life, and in your light we see light.

¹⁰**Continue your lovingkindness to those who know you, and your favor to those who are true of heart.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

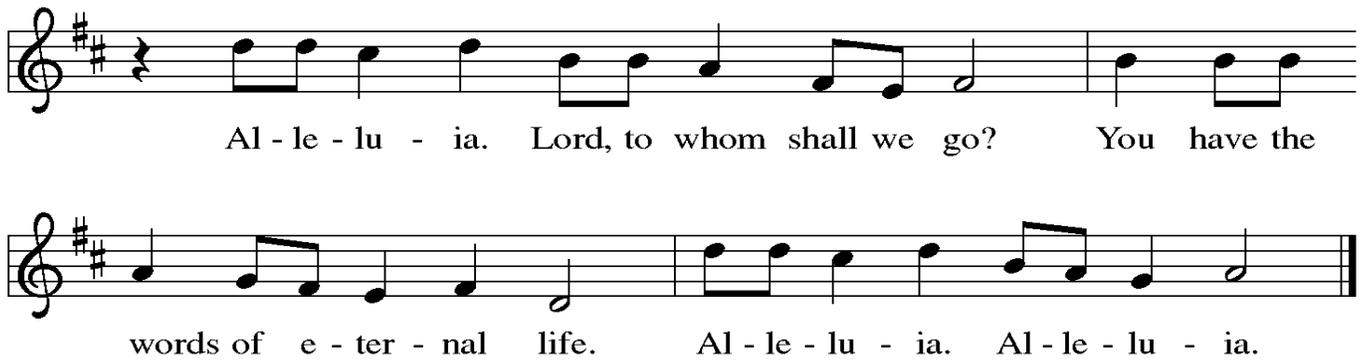
The congregation at Corinth experienced division as people were comparing their spiritual gifts, thinking some to be superior to others. Paul invites this fractured community to trust that God's Holy Spirit has gifted them all perfectly for their mission together.

¹Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed.

²You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. ³Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Please rise in body and/or spirit for the Gospel



GOSPEL: John 2:1-11

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

Turning water to wine at the wedding at Cana is described as the first of Jesus' signs. Through many such epiphanies, Jesus reveals that he bears God's creative power and joyful presence into the world.

¹On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ²Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." ⁴And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." ⁵His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." ⁶Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. ⁹When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom ¹⁰and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." ¹¹Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him. The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

You may be seated

CHILDREN'S SERMON (Sunday)

SERMON

Please rise in body and/or spirit

SERMON HYMN (Sunday)

#488 V. 1 & 2 "Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness"

THE 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: The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance; so we are bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made.

A brief silence.

By your Spirit, activate within your church gifts of faith, healing, and prophecy. Unite those who profess your name across congregations, denominations, and geographic boundaries. Open our hearts to recognize and celebrate surprising miracles. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Your creation reflects your generosity. Bless farmers, migrant farmworkers, orchard-keepers, ranchers, and all who tend the abundance of the land. Protect food and water sources from destruction, that all can eat and drink and be satisfied. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

By your Spirit, grant wisdom, knowledge, and discernment to those who hold leadership positions at any level. Direct policymakers toward compassionate decisions that build up safe and just communities. Lead all authorities in seeking and serving the common good. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

As Jesus provided generously in a moment of need, provide generous gifts of healing for those in need this day especially for all of those on our prayer list. Provide abundantly for all who are hungry or thirsty, all seeking shelter, and all who seek peace. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

You see us for who we are and you delight in us. Embrace those struggling with self-worth, wrestling with self-identity, or facing significant life transition. Remind us that nothing can separate us from your love. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

You bless us through the spiritual gifts of the saints who have gone before us. We give thanks for the life of Martin Luther King Jr. and all who have modeled the way of courageous faith. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

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

Due to Covid-19, we will not be collecting offerings as usual. You may put your offering in the bowl upon leaving the sanctuary. 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

Blessed are you, O God, Sovereign of the universe. You offer us new beginnings and guide us on our journey. Lead us to your table, nourish us with this heavenly food, and prepare us to carry your love to a hungry world, in the name of Christ our light. **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.**

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.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to God's table. There is a place for you and enough for all.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Communion is celebrated with individual elements in your pew or you may come up to the altar to receive the prepackaged elements. You may sit after receiving Communion.

You may be seated

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We give you thanks, gracious God, for we have feasted on the abundance of your house. Send us to bring good news and to proclaim your favor to all, strengthened with the richness of your grace in your Son, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Annual Congregation Meeting – Jan. 30 after 9 am worship

Please rise in body and/or spirit

BLESSING

God, who leads you in pathways of righteousness, who rejoices over you, and who calls you by name, ✠ bless your going out and your coming in, today and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN (Sunday)

#310, "Songs of Thankfulness and Praise"

DISMISSAL

Go with Christ into a weary world. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

Depart to Share

This Week's Worship Team

Wednesday 5:30 pm, 1/12

Music:

Usher: Geoff Gilbert

Acolyte: Zoe Zellmer

Sunday Morning Service 9am, 1/16

Music: Carla

Reader: Ellen Kabele

Usher: Travis Cox

Video Production: Brady & Lori Cox

Acolyte: Courtney Hernkind

Coffee Hour: Darlene Anderson

Altar Flowers: Cook Family in honor of grandparents

Next Week's Worship Team

Wednesday 5:30 pm, 1/19

Music:

Usher: Geoff Gilbert

Acolyte: Alex Hayes

Sunday Morning Service 9am, 1/23

Music: Carla

Reader: Darlene Anderson

Usher: Jim Crawford

Video Production: _____

Acolyte: Riley Paulsen

Coffee Hour: Cloe Rehdantz

Please Pray For

Church Prayer List:

Karen Schluter

Jeremy Schilling

Bonnie Bender

Lynn Grueneberg

Noretta Moran

If you have added someone to the prayer list, please contact church staff with an update and if you'd like them still listed. New prayer requests will be listed for one month. We then ask that you contact the office if you'd like them to remain on the list. Thank you.

Our Extended Family Prayer Concerns:

Judy Fleres (Ginny Paulson's cousin)

Dan Langan Sr. (Dan Langan's father)

Lynn Henrickson (Del & Margaret Molden's in-law)

Fred Richardson (friend of Rohrbachers)

Jody Crosby (friend of Denhartighs)

John & Judy Skille (Tania Anderson's parents)

Deb Moe & family (Sandra Sween's cousin)

Betty Hayes (Chad Hayes' grandma)

Steve Rohrbacher (Marie & Ed's son)

Tom Teslik (Mark Teslik's son)

Rick Voight (Halley Harms' father)



Poinsettias- if you ordered poinsettias you can come pick those up after worship or anytime when the church is open. There are protective plant sleeves in the coat closet to take them home in. 16 extra plants were ordered and are available for purchase (\$12). Please contact Julie in the office if you'd like to buy one or several.

2021 Contribution Statements

Please help us save a stamp by picking up your 2021 contribution statements. Located in the narthex.



2022 offering envelopes ready for pick up in the narthex.

We are looking to fill some spots on a few different committees:

Stewardship & Church Council.

- Stewardship: we technically don't have a committee right now & are looking for people to help out. Stewardship covers projects such as the annual ministry fair (time & talents),



volunteer appreciation, financial planning workshops, the annual stewardship campaign, other special projects.

- Church Council: **three spots will be open in 2022.** Council is a three year term and you must be a voting member. Term would start at the end of the 2022 annual meeting. Let Pr. Jaime, a current council member or the office know if you'd like to put your name on the ballot.

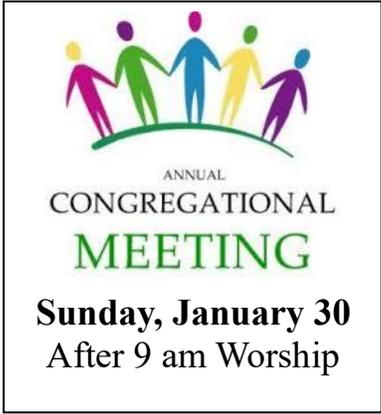


Please prayerfully consider being involved and joining one of these committees.

Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will offer their affordable, non-invasive, and painless health screenings on **Thursday, February 17th at Bethlehem Lutheran Church.** Four screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat which is closely tied to stroke.

Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests + Osteoporosis screening for our members special \$139 pricing. The screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. In order to register for this event please call 1-888-653-6450 or visit <https://lisa.social/HSC>.

Being proactive about your health by knowing your risks helps you and your doctor address problems early.



This Week:

Wednesday, January 12
Food Pantry Helpers
 10:30 am Tai Chi
 5:30 pm Worship
 6:30 pm Confirmation

Friday, January 13
 10:30 am Tai Chi

Saturday, January 15
 Mission Trip Departure

Sunday, January 16
 9 am Worship
 10 am Sunday School

Monday, January 17
 10:30 Tai Chi
 1 pm Card Club
 6:30 pm SRA Mtg

Tuesday, January 18
 9 am Quilters

\$10 off
Friends & Family
Savings Coupon



Call to register at
1-888-653-6450