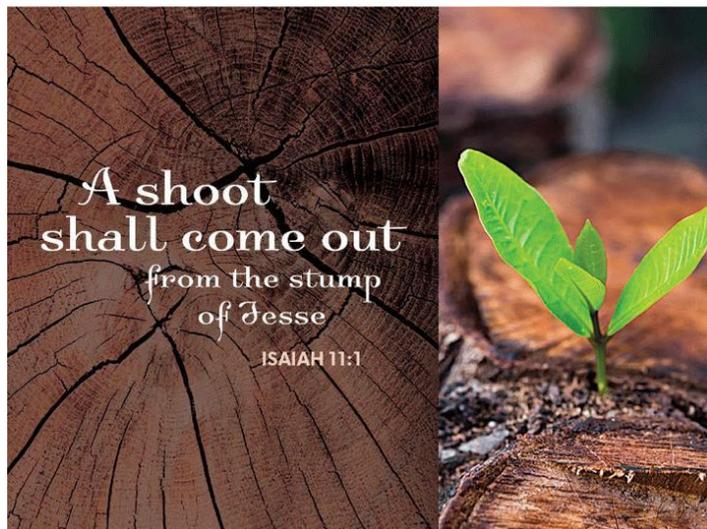




# Welcome to Bethlehem Lutheran Church

God's Family Serving Christ with Love



**2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY of ADVENT**  
**November 30 & December 4, 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.

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

❖ ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

#257, v. 3 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

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

**Prepare us for your coming.**

**P:** We gather together to get ready for what? Only heaven knows. O Emmanuel,

**Prepare us for your coming.**

**P:** We wait for the day when God will create a prevailing peace on the earth, and natural-born enemies turn into newborn friends. O Emmanuel,

**Prepare us for your coming.**

**P:** We get ready for God to come close by laying our lives open to Jesus, asking him to sort through all our mixed motives. O Emmanuel,

**Prepare us for your coming.**

**P:** Jesus, we welcome your presence now with the lighting of these candles, whose flames bring warmth to winter and fill this place with the glow of hope.

**Amen.**

*Light two candles.*

#257, v. 4 “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

#239, v. 1, 4 “Hark, the Glad Sound!”

❖ 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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 11:1-10

<sup>1</sup>A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

<sup>2</sup>The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

<sup>3</sup>His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;

<sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

<sup>5</sup>Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

<sup>6</sup>The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.

<sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

<sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

<sup>9</sup>They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain;  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.

<sup>10</sup>On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 72:1-7, 18-19

<sup>1</sup>Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son;

<sup>2</sup>**that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;**

<sup>3</sup>that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,  
and the hills, in righteousness.

<sup>4</sup>**Let him defend the needy among the people,  
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

<sup>5</sup>May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.

<sup>6</sup>**Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,  
like showers that water the earth.**

<sup>7</sup>In his time may the righteous flourish;  
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

<sup>18</sup>**Blessed are you, LORD God, the God of Israel; you alone do wondrous deeds!**

<sup>19</sup>And blessed be your glorious name forever,  
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen. Amen.

SECOND READING: Romans 15:4-13

<sup>4</sup>Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup>May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup>Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. <sup>8</sup>For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, <sup>9</sup>and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,  
and sing praises to your name”;

<sup>10</sup>and again he says,

“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people”;

<sup>11</sup>and again,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,  
and let all the peoples praise him”;

<sup>12</sup>and again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse shall come,  
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;  
in him the Gentiles shall hope.”

<sup>13</sup>May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. 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.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the' are written below the first staff. The second staff continues the melody with the lyrics 'words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.' The piece ends with a double bar line.

❖ GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12

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

<sup>1</sup>In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup>“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” <sup>3</sup>This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’”

<sup>4</sup>Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, <sup>6</sup>and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup>But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruit worthy of repentance. <sup>9</sup>Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>10</sup>Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup>“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

<sup>12</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN’S SERMON (Sunday)

SERMON

❖ SERMON HYMN

#256 “Comfort, Comfort Now My People”

❖ 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, you renew the church in every age. We give thanks for hymn writers and theologians. Inspire teachers, writers, and musicians to delight and instruct your people. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You give us a vision of creation in harmony, when hurting and destruction will be no more. Teach us to be stewards of the earth and companions to its creatures. Restore to balance and wholeness what human greed has harmed. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

You defend the cause of all who are poor and oppressed. Raise up leaders who will govern with equity and serve the common good. Guide judges, lawmakers, and public officials to protect the rights of those who cannot advocate for themselves. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

You deliver those in need from suffering and fear. Come to the aid of any who are exploited or abused, especially children, elders, and victims of human trafficking. Provide safety and help to our neighbors without shelter, refugees, and those fleeing violence. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

You urge your people to welcome one another as you have welcomed us. Nurture ministries of hospitality and care in this and every congregation. We pray for people who are homebound, hospitalized, or separated from loved ones *especially* for all of those on our prayer list. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

You embrace all who have died trusting in your promises, and we give thanks for their faithful witness. Sustain us in hope until we are united with them in the joy of your eternal presence. 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

### ❖ 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

#250 “Blessed Be the God of Israel”

### ❖ DISMISSAL

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

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## *Depart to share*

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### **This 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:

Flowers: Brad & Lisa Cook in honor of our girls,

Maddie & Katie

### **Please Pray For**

#### **Church Prayer List:**

Angie & Jim Bucholtz

Dick Olson

Barb & Lee Chenoweth

Mark Teslik

### **Next Week's Worship Team**

Wednesday 5:30 pm, 12/7

Altar Guild: Cheryl Hebel

Acolyte: Kenzie Schmidtke

Music:

Sunday 9am, 12/11 Gifts of Bethlehem

Ushers: Kory Anderson

Video Production: Justice Oh

Acolyte: Kinleyh Anderson

#### **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)

Bonnie Bender  
Lynn Grueneberg  
Noretta Moran

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.



**VOLUNTEER  
DRIVERS  
NEEDED**

### 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.



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 from Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup>



### Gifts of Bethlehem Concert, Auction & Potluck Sunday, Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> 9 am

Following the event, we will be hosting a Congregational Potluck open to everyone. If you are interested in attending the potluck and would like to bring a dish to pass, it might be helpful to use the following guidelines:

Last Names A-H: Main Dish  
Last Names I-R: Side Dish/Fruit/Veggie  
Last Names S-Z: Dessert

(\*Beverages will be provided)

**ELCA Good Gifts Giving Tree:** In the entryway is a tree with ornaments. Each ornament will have a gift you can contribute towards. How it works:

1. Select an ornament off the tree – **it's yours take home**
2. Two ways to give:
  - a. Put your money in a Good Gifts envelope (they will be near the tree) with your name, envelope number, & item donating towards & turn it in during offering or to office. Checks should be made out to Bethlehem.
  - b. OR, You can visit <https://goodgifts.elca.org/> and contribute directly
3. If you are giving this gift in honor of someone, there are cards available next to the tree to let them know of your contribution.



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

**This Week:**

**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

**Friday, December 2**

10:30 am Tai Chi

**Saturday, December 3**

9 am Decorating Church, & Trees

10:30 am Christmas

Program Practice & Lunch

**Sunday, December 4**

**Silent Auction Starts**

9 am Worship

10:15 am Sunday School

**Monday, December 5**

10:30 am Tai Chi

1 pm Card Club

**Tuesday, December 6**

5 pm Finance Meeting

**Wednesday, December 7**

10:30 am Tai Chi

5:30 pm Worship

6:15 pm Choir Rehearsal

6:30 pm Confirmation

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



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



**December 17<sup>th</sup>**

Meet at church at 1:30 pm to caravan to a variety of homes and care facilities. Everyone is welcome including children. Masks may be requested or required depending on preferences. If you would like to join us Caroling, please sign up via the link

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090F44A8AE22ABFB6> or call/text Katie Zirbes at 417-0247.



**December 18<sup>th</sup>**

Advent is the first season in the church year.

**Cross out the lower case letters to find some Advent words.**

I	C	M	Y	M	R	A	T	N	P	U	W	E	H	L
i	M	I	E	f	S	t	S	w	I	g	A	e	H	f
i	W	p	e	b	A	d	w	q	I	m	r	v	T	
m	d	R	s	b	E	n	w	A	k	m	D	r	i	Y
s	n	A	t	j	W	r	m	A	n	d	K	a	i	E

Look around! Other people are getting ready too. **Can you find these people in worship?**

- Someone wearing blue
- Someone holding a baby
- Someone with glasses
- Someone who is smiling
- Someone with white hair
- Someone who is wearing a sweater
- Someone who is reading the Bible

**Everyone waits together!**

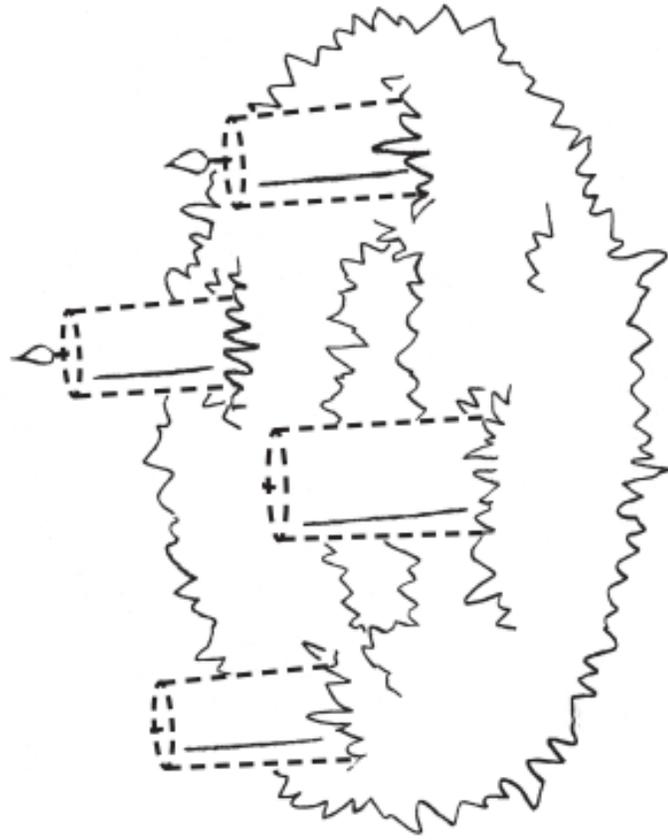
**PRE-READER**



Advent 2

- Today is the **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday** in Advent.
- The color we use for Advent is **blue**.
- Blue is a color that means **hope**.

**Trace the dotted lines to draw the Advent candles. Then color them blue.**





**The child would show them how to live in peace and love each other.**

Isaiah tells us that a **child** will bring **peace**.  
The child would bring peace to all **people**—and to **animals**, too!

During Advent we **hope** for peace.

**See who can live together in peace! Draw a line to connect each pair of matching shapes.**