



Founded 1860

***Lutheran
Church
Missouri
Synod***

Sunday

December 12th

Pastor

Rev. Mark
Moldenhauer
(979) 551-2293

PastorMark
@Bethlehem
WmPenn.org

Secretary

Mrs. Amy
Schroeder
(979) 836-7303

Office
@Bethlehem
WmPenn.org

Organist

Ann Sommer

AV Tech

Ian Schroeder



Representing God's Love
To our Congregation,
Community, and the World

Divine Service: Setting One

Pre-Service Music

Ringling of the Church Bell

OPENING HYMN

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

LSB 803



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
2 All Thy works with joy sur-round Thee, Earth and heav'n re - flect Thy rays,
△ 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore Thee, Prais-ing Thee, their sun a - bove.
Stars and an-gels sing a-round Thee, Cen - ter of un - bro-ken praise.
Well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean-depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, Drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, Flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash-ing sea,
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it, Foun - tain - head of love di-vine:



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad-ness, Fill us with the light of day.
Chant-ing bird, and flow - ing foun-tain Call us to re - joice in Thee.
Joy - ful, we Thy heav'n in - her - it! Joy - ful, we by grace are Thine!

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CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

LSB 151

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

INTROIT

Psalm 146:5–8; antiphon: Philippians 4:4

Rejoice in the Lord always;

again I will say, Rejoice.

Blessèd is he whose help is the God of Jacob,

whose hope is in the LORD his God,

who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them,

who keeps faith forever;

who executes justice for the oppressed,

who gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Rejoice in the Lord always;

again I will say, Rejoice.

KYRIE

LSB 152

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



C A - men.

C 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.

HOLY GOSPEL

*Luke 7:18–28***P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the seventh chapter.

C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹⁸The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, ¹⁹calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ²⁰And when the men had come to him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?’” ²¹In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. ²²And he answered them, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. ²³And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

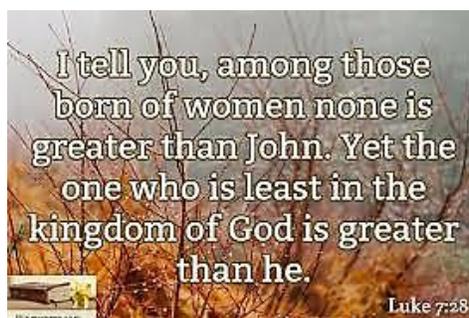
²⁴When John’s messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ²⁵What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings’ courts. ²⁶What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ²⁷This is he of whom it is written,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way before you.”

²⁸I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.





1 Praise the One who breaks the dark - ness With a lib - er -
 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren With a strong, yet
 3 Let us praise the Word In - car - nate, Christ, who suf - fered



at - ing light; Praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners,
 gen - tle, word; Praise the One who drove out de - mons
 in our place. Je - sus died and rose vic - to - rious



Turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight. Praise the One who preached the
 With the pierc - ing, two - edged sword. Praise the One who brings cool
 That we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and



Gos - pel, Heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, Calm - ing
 wa - ter To the des - ert's burn - ing sand; From this
 glad - ness, See - ing what our God has done; Let us



storms, and feed - ing thou - sands With the ver - y Bread of peace.
 Well comes liv - ing wa - ter, Quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
 praise the true Re - deem - er, Praise the One who makes us one.

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SERMON

The Days are Coming – Zephaniah 3:14–20

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Share the News – Luke 7:18–28

APOSTLES' CREED

**☩ I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life † everlasting. Amen.**

OFFERING & OFFERTORY

Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart

LSB 806

The musical score is written on ten staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below the notes. The lyrics are: "Give thanks with a grate-ful heart, Give thanks to the Ho-ly One, Give thanks because He's giv-en Je-sus Christ His Son. Give thanks with a grate-ful heart, Give thanks to the Ho-ly One, Give thanks because He's giv-en Je-sus Christ His Son. And now let the weak say 'I am strong,' Let the poor say 'I am rich,' Be-cause of what the Lord has done for us. And now let the weak say 'I am strong,' Let the poor say 'I am rich,' Be-cause of what the Lord has done for us." The score ends with a double bar line.

Give thanks, _____ give thanks. _____
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THE LORD'S PRAYER

C 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.

BENEDICTION

LSB 166

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

LSB 347



1 "Com - fort, com - fort ye My peo - ple, Speak ye peace," thus
2 Yea, her sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out each
3 Hark, the her - ald's voice is cry - ing In the des - ert
4 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed; Make the rough - er



saith our God; "Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, Mourn - ing
dark mis - deed; All that well de - served His an - ger He no
far and near, Call - ing sin - ners to re - pen - tance, Since the
plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, As be -



'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem
more will see or heed. She hath suf - fered man - y a day,
King - dom now is here. O that warn - ing cry o - bey!
fits His ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord



Of the peace that waits for them; Tell her that her
Now her griefs have passed a - way; God will change her
Now pre - pare for God a way; Let the val - leys
Now o'er earth is shed a - broad, And all flesh shall



sins I cov - er And her war - fare now is o - ver."
pin - ing sad - ness In - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.
rise to meet Him And the hills bow down to greet Him.
see the to - ken That His Word is nev - er bro - ken.



POSTLUDE

Welcome to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, where we worship in the name of the One who was, who is and who is to come, Jesus Christ our Lord. Blessings to you as you celebrate with us today.

December Bible Verse

“Cast your burden on the LORD, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved.”

Psalm 55:22

Our Mission Statement

Representing God’s Love to our Congregation, Community, and the World!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Week’s Schedule

December 12 – December 19

Today:

Third Sunday in Advent

8:00 AM	Children’s Christmas Eve Service Rehearsal
9:00 AM	Sunday School/Adult Bible Study
10:15 AM	Divine Worship Service
Acolyte:	Caleb Klussmann
Guest Register:	Stephanie Dahman
Ushers:	Clinton Kettler Henry Kettler
	Matt Kettler Robert Kettler
6:00-8:00 PM	Bethlehem at Independence

Monday:

10:00 AM Worship Online

Wednesday:

7:00 PM Midweek Advent Worship Service

Thursday:

6:00 PM LWML/Men’s Club Christmas Party

Friday:

12:00 PM Youth Christmas Caroling

Next Sunday:

Fourth Sunday in Advent

8:00 AM	Children’s Christmas Eve Service Rehearsal
9:00 AM	Sunday School/Adult Bible Study
10:15 AM	Divine Worship Service
Acolyte:	Lane Janner
Guest Register:	Susan Dieterich
Ushers:	Don Koester Valgene Kohring
	Charles Meyer Arturo Maya

Serving in December: Elder – Paul Richter / Trustee – Melvin Ashorn

If you have a question or thought concerning spiritual care or the church property, please contact the appropriate elder or trustee.



The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God by Stephanie Dahman.



Our Church Members: Newly Elected 2022 Officers, Deloris Griffin, Al Hafer, Reeves Ham, Lathel Norris, those affected by COVID-19, and those recovering from various illnesses

Our Shut-ins: Renee Brinkmann, Mildred Holle, Mary McCoy, James Schoenemann, Lorine Schroeder

Friends of the Congregation are posted on the bulletin board in the parish hall.



On Wednesday, an **Emergency Voters Meeting** was held to hear a recommendation from the parish hall renovation committee. The committee recommended and the **voters approved the leveling of the parish hall** at a cost of \$11,331.00 from Anchor Foundation out of Bryan/College Station.

Camp Pioneer

It is time to start thinking about going to Camp Pioneer in the summer of 2022 at Camp Lone Star. If you are between the ages of 8 and 18 and are interested in attending, please notify the church office.



The **Christmas Eve Service FINAL Rehearsal** is next **Tuesday, December 21st at 6:00 PM.**

We will also have a Christmas/Bag-Stuffing Party. *We look forward to seeing you there!*

Pass the Plate

The Board of Elders would like to once again start passing the offering plates to collect the tithings and offerings. **Beginning at the Christmas Eve service on December 24th** and then continuing on Sunday mornings the offering plates will once again be used.



Offering Envelopes for 2022 are available

for you to **pick up** in the **Parish Hall**. If you don't have a box assigned to you and would like offering envelopes, please contact the church financial secretary, Amy Schroeder, at 979-255-4206.

Last Week at Bethlehem

SERVICE	ATTENDANCE	GIFTS IN RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL
12-1 Midweek Worship	20	General Fund: \$265.00
12-5 Sunday School	34	\$18.48
12-5 Adult Bible Class	16	Christmas Bags Donation: \$140.00
12-5 Worship Service	130	General Fund: \$4,700.00 Building Fund: \$500.00