
BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

JANUARY 4, 2026: EPIPHANY



SERVING YOU TODAY

Preacher Pastor Pittenger
Pianist Mrs. Kelli Gracia
Acolytes Charleigh & Everett Walsh,
Kayson Crew & Audrey Pasillas
Elder on duty this week: Jeremy Gracia

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday: Join with us as we use The Divine Service, *Rite Two*, starting on page 60, with modifications. *(Please follow along in the hymnal or above the altar as announced)*
Monday: The Office of Compline, pg. 128

Thank you to Jack Pittenger for helping with the service today. Jack is majoring in 'Staff Ministry' at Martin Luther College and like a student-teacher, part of his of study includes assisting a congregation with their worship services.

HYMNS:

167:1-4

*How Lovely Shines
the Morning Star*

173

*The Star Proclaims
the King is Here*

168

*As with Gladness
Men of Old*

167:7

*How Lovely Shines
the Morning Star*

INTROIT: Behold, the Lord, the Ruler, has come, and the kingdom and the power and the glory are in His hands. All kings shall fall down before Him, all nations shall serve Him. Give the King Your judgments, O God, And Your righteousness to the King's Son.

COLLECT: Lord God, heavenly Father, You have given us the light of Your holy Word, the guiding star that leads us to the Christ-child: Send, we beseech You, Your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive this light and make use of it for our salvation, and that we, like the wise men, when they were seeking the star, may not be afraid because of any hardship or peril, but put all our trust in Your only-begotten Son as our only Savior, devote our earthly possessions to the advancement of Your kingdom, and in all things serve Him, Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. Amen.

EPISTLE LESSON

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,²⁴ and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,²⁵ Whom God put forward as a propitiation by His blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in His divine forbearance He had passed over former sins.²⁶ It was to show His righteousness at the present time, so that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.²⁷ Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith.²⁸ For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.²⁹ Or is God the God of Jews only? Is He not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also,³⁰ since God is one—Who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith.³¹ Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law. Romans 3:23-31 (ESV)

GRADUAL: Alleluia! Oh, praise the Lord, all you nations! Laud Him, all you peoples! For His merciful kindness is great toward us: and the truth of the Lord endures forever. Alleluia!

GOSPEL LESSON

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem,² saying, "Where is He who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him."³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him;⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:⁶ "'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a Ruler who will shepherd My people Israel.'"⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared.⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the Child, and when you have found Him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship Him."⁹ After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the Child was.¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.¹¹ And going into the house, they saw the Child with Mary His mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.¹² And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

Matthew 2:1-12 (ESV)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

In peace, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For a right knowledge of Christ, that we would abandon the darkness of this world and embrace the joy of His heavenly light, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For families, that our Father in heaven would bless our households with grace and protection; and that we might remember Him in both joy and trouble and worship before Him forever, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the wisdom of God to enlighten the rulers of this world; and for His blessed Gospel to have free course in our land, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who are afflicted and in need of deliverance, [*including _____,*] that their prayers would be heard by the almighty God who has made us fellow heirs of the unsearchable riches of Christ; and that they would be preserved in the faith until that day when their eternal healing is fully revealed, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the Holy Christian Church, that God's Word would richly abide in her and that many would be led to Christ through her witness, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

All these needs, gracious Father, and whatever else You know that we need, grant for the sake of Him who shattered this world's darkness with everlasting light, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

Give with a joyful heart!

Please consider sharing your gift of time and talent to help at Bethany. Opportunities abound in the coming year:

- Join the Livestream Team or a monthly Altar Care Team.
- Volunteer in our school or library.
- Take a turn maintaining flowerbeds, weed whacking, or mowing.
- Help handle minor maintenance tasks such as changing light bulbs and filters.

Whatever you do will be a blessing!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JUNK DRAWER JESUS

Will meet on January 11, at 3:00pm. Pages 57-78 will be discussed.

BETHANY'S 55's

Calling all 55+ friends! Let's gather for great fellowship, delicious food, and plenty of smiles! We'll meet for a no-host brunch at *That One Place* at **11:00 a.m.** On Monday, January 12th. Hope to see you there!

PHONE DIRECTORY

As the new year is upon us, the office will be working on a new directory. If your information changed, or there were corrections that were needed in the last print, please email them to rnant@bethanyles.com.

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR

Thank you to Gazebo Florist for providing our beautiful weekly altar flowers. If you'd like to sponsor flowers in memory of someone or in celebration of a special occasion, please see the sign-up sheet near the balcony stairs. Cost is \$40, and the flowers may be taken home after the Monday evening service. Questions? Contact Rosemary.

CALENDAR

SUNDAY, 1/4 *Epiphany*

9:00am Worship

10:15am Bible Class/Sunday School/

Christmas Tear Down

11:30am Friends in Faith

MONDAY, 1/5

School Resumes

7:00 Worship

TUESDAY, 1/6

1:00pm Juanita's Bible Study resumes

6:00pm School Board

6:00pm Sunday School Meeting

SUNDAY, 1/11 *Epiphany 2*

9:00am Worship

10:15am Bible Class/Sunday School

11:00am Confirmation "B"

3:00pm Junk Drawer Jesus

2026 Summer Dates:

Camp Lutherhaven (campers going into 4th-8th grade)

Saturday-Thursday; July 11-16th

Youth Convention (grades 8th-12th)

Thursday- Sunday; July 23-26

Church Picnic at Lutherhaven

Sunday, August 2

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www.bethanylutheranportorchard.org | <http://facebook.com/Bethany.Kitsap>

Worship Schedule: Sunday 9:00am, Monday 7:00pm.
