
BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

ADVENT THREE~~DECEMBER 14, 2025



SERVING YOU TODAY

Preacher Pastor Pittenger
Organist Kelli Gracia & Cathy Sharrett
Acolytes Leah Evans, Meeah Lucas
Isabel Gracia
Elder on duty this week Conrad Plyler

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

*Flowers on the Altar this week are given to the glory of God
by Sam and Penny Bell in celebration of their grandchildren's Birthdays.*

HYMNS

	106	Distribution	Distribution 91	46
<i>Gathering Rite</i>	<i>On Jordan's Bank the Herald's Cry</i>	102, 569, 593	<i>Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates</i>	<i>Sing Praise to the God of Israel</i>

INTROIT: Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be known to God. Lord, You have been favorable to Your land; You have brought back the captivity of Jacob.

COLLECT: Lord God, heavenly Father, You gave Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to become Man and to come in to the world that He might destroy the works of the devil, deliver us poor offenders from sin and death, and give us everlasting life: We beseech You so to rule and govern our hearts by Your Holy Spirit that we may seek no other refuge than His Word, and thus avoid the sin to which we are by nature inclined, in order that we may always be found among the faithful followers of Your Son, Jesus Christ, and by faith in Him obtain eternal salvation; through the same, You beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. Amen.

EPISTLE LESSON

This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. ² Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful. ³ But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. ⁴ For I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. ⁵ Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God. *1 Corinthians 4:1–5 (ESV).*

GRADUAL: Alleluia! Remember, O Lord, Your tender mercies: for they have been from of old. Alleluia!

GOSPEL LESSON

Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ⁴ And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶ And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.” ⁷ As they went away, 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? ⁸ What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. ⁹ What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is he of whom it is written, “ ‘Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.’ *Matthew 11:2–10 (ESV)*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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

For the Church, that She would rejoice in the glad tidings of Her coming Savior and be comforted by the Good News of His perfect life and sacrificial death for Her salvation, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For husbands, wives, children and all Christians, that we would be eager to hear the voice of the Gospel in the forgiveness of sins and, in turn, speak the truth with our neighbors, forgiving one another as Christ has forgiven us, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For Congress and the justices of our nation; for our president, governor; and all others in positions of civil authority, that they may diligently administer their duties in all godly wisdom, justice, compassion and contentment for the well-being of our nation, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the sick and sorrowing, [especially _____,] that the Shepherd of Israel would give ear to their need; and for healing, courage and perseverance to all who cry out to God, that they may find comfort in His enduring Word and the certain hope of the resurrection, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Gather us together from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

2025	Approved Budgeted Monthly Need	Actual Giving
January-June	237499.98	216146.01
July	39583.33	41018.38
August	39583.33	30293.32
September	39583.33	32166.50
October	39583.33	46484.65
November	39583.33	32330.28
December	39583.33	
YTD	435416.63	398439.14
YTD Below Budget	36,977.46	

Ladies, Please consider signing up for Altar Care for the Month of December. With many services, there is much care and attention needed. Please see Arin Starkel for more information.

REQUIRED MINIMUM DISTRIBUTION /QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS

It's that time of year where if you:

- 1) are in your 70s or more, and
- 2) have an IRA, you likely have the choice between an RMD and paying taxes on your interest.

Bethany Lutheran Church is an organization to which you could direct your RMD/QCD without having to pay tax on that donation. Talk to your financial or tax advisors for more information.

POINSETTIA TIME

Help beautify the sanctuary for Christmas! Sign up on the bulletin board next to the ladies restroom to sponsor one or more poinsettias. Cost is \$15 each; plants are yours to take home and enjoy after Christmas Day worship, sign up by December 21st



ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALTERED COMMUNION

Bethany knows that Christmas time is a time for family. Visiting loved ones out of town or having your house be bursting at the seams. With all the holiday activities, if you find yourself missing a communion, please speak with Pastor and he will work with you to schedule a day that will meet your Spiritual needs while you are meeting your family's needs.

GIVING TREE

If you selected a tag from the giving tree, please return the gift, with the tag attached no later than 9:00am Monday morning. There are still a handful of tags on the tree for a quick turn around if you are able to. If you have any questions, please reach out to Rosemary.

FRIENDS IN FAITH

The next friends in Faith event, Nerdy & Nachos Party will be on January 4th at Mrs. Circelli's house. Drop off is 11:30, and pick up is 3:30. Please see Mrs. Bergemann or Carrie Grey for more details.

Holiday Events

Bethany Youth Group Bake Sale	Sun. 12/14, 8:30-9 am/10-11am
Christmas Singing Service ELC-Kindergarten	Sun. 12/14, 11:00am
Christmas Service 1 st -8 th Grade	Thur. 12/18, 6:30pm
ELHS Christmas Concert	Fri. 12/19 7:00pm
Christmas Sunday School Service	Wed. 12/24, 5:00pm
Christmas Eve Candlelight	Wed. 12/24, 11:00pm
Christmas Day Festival Worship	Thur. 12/25 10:00am
New Years Eve Service w/ Communion	Wed. 12/31, 6:00pm

CALENDAR

SUNDAY, 12/14 Advent Three

9:00am Worship with communion

8:30-9/10-11:00am Youth Group Bake Sale

10:15am Bible Class/ Christmas Practice

11:00am ELC-Kinder Christmas Service

MONDAY, 12/15

7:00pm Worship

WEDNESDAY 12/17

8:20am Chapel

6:15pm Choir Practice

THURSDAY 12/18

6:30pm 1ST-8TH Grade Christmas Service

FRIDAY, 12/19

7:00pm ELHS Christmas Concert

SATURDAY, 12/13

1:00-3:00pm Bakesale Drop Off

SUNDAY, 12/21 Advent Four

9:00am Worship

8:10-15am Bible Class/Christmas Practice

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