

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2024



Bethany Lutheran Church
2515 Madison Ave., Burlington, IA
Phone: (319) 752-3621
www.bethanyburlington.org

Bethany's Mission Statement: Reaching out in Worship, Fellowship, Learning and Love - we are God's people.

We are so glad you chose to worship with us this morning. We hope everyone feels welcome as we strive to serve and strengthen each other in faith toward God and in love toward all. Now, as you wait for the service to begin, please relax, enjoy the music, and quiet your heart before God.

Christmas Eve

ELW indicates that hymns or liturgy are taken from Evangelical Lutheran Worship-red hymnal

PRELUDE

Welcome, Celebration Bank

(money given to Human Concerns Fund)

We Gather to Acknowledge God's Presence

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CAROLING *"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"* ELW Hymn 270

CAROLING *"It Came upon the Midnight Clear"* ELW Hymn 282

(Please stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, creator of the stars of night,
Companion at the evening table, breath over the deep waters.

C: Amen

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

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

P: Holy and gracious God,

C: we confess that we have sinned against you this day. Some of our sin we know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which we are ashamed—but some is known only to you. In the name of Jesus Christ, we ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore us, that we may rest in peace. Amen.

P: By the mercy of God, we are united with Jesus Christ, in whom we are forgiven. We rest now in the peace of Christ and rise in the morning to serve.

C: Amen.

(Please stand)

OPENING HYMN *"O Come, All Ye Faithful"* ELW Hymn 283

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

KYRIE *"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"* ELW Hymn 275
Vs 1 and 4 only

HYMN OF PRAISE



1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;



yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.
yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.
yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.



Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;
Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;
Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;



ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.



Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;



yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

C: Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

We Listen to God's Word

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

- ² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.
- ³ You have multiplied exultation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
- ⁴ For the yoke of their burden
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
- ⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
- ⁶ For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders,
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
- ⁷ Great will be his authority,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

- L: Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.
- C: Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD;
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**
- L: Declare God's glory among the nations
and God's wonders among all peoples.
- C: For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised,
more to be feared than all gods.**
- L: As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.
- C: Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**
- L: Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.
- C: Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.**
- L: Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, all the earth.
- C: Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is king!
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge
the peoples with equity."**
- L: Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is
therein.
- C: Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O LORD,
for you come to judge the earth.**
- L: You will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with your truth.

SECOND READING

Titus 2:11-14

¹¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

- L: Word of God, word of life.
C: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

ELW Hymn 257

REFRAIN ONLY

P: The Gospel according to Luke the 2nd chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord

GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

⁸Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, ¹⁹and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON

Pastor Misha McFarland-Pollock

We Respond to God’s Word

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Or, “who proceeds from the Father.” The phrase “and the Son” is a later addition to the creed.

(Please be seated)

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

A brief silence.

P: Angels sing with praise, and shepherds run with haste. As we glorify and praise you in this place, send us into the world, proclaiming the salvation you have revealed this night. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

P: The seas roar, and the trees of the forest sing for joy. As creation resounds with praise, inspire us with awe, reverence, and a renewed care for all that fills the fields, skies, and seas. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

P: The nations declare your glory. Uphold the leaders of the earth with your justice and righteousness. Break the rod of the oppressor in every land, and bring peace where there is conflict. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

P: The holy family finds shelter around the animals' manger. Draw near to persons experiencing homelessness, those who are alone this holiday season, and all for whom this world makes no room. Wrap all your children in bands of love and mercy. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

P: A child is born for us and light shines on the weary. Watch over those who give birth this night and attend to those who are dying. Be present in our joys and in our sorrows, we pray for the family of Marian Chaddock. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

P: The heavenly host praises you. With thanksgiving for Mary, Joseph, and all your saints, sustain us in the blessed hope revealed this night. Fashion us by their example into a people zealous for good deeds, sharing your love and mercy with all. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

7PM CHOIR ANTHEM "Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head"

Arranged by Dale Grotenhuis

(Please Stand)

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

(Please be seated)

5PM ONLY SPECIAL MUSIC

By Morehead String Players

7PM ONLY SPECIAL MUSIC - SOLO "O Holy Night"

CHRISTMAS CAROL

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

ELW Hymn 289

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray.

Abiding God, under the cover of darkness, you bring forth life. Nourish us with earth's bounty, that we may freely share the gifts you have first given us, through the one who gives his life for the world, Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

C: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE (Please stand)

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

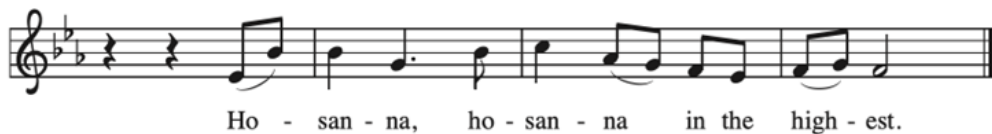
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh
you have opened the eyes of faith
to a new and radiant vision of your glory,
that, beholding the God made visible,
we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

As the shadows lengthen,
we bless you, sheltering God.

We glorify you for the endless, starlit sky,
deep with the mystery of your creative labor
through all time and space.
We praise you for the fertile earth
and for the life its darkness holds and births:
plants of every variety,
animals curled in sleep,
humankind you shaped by your own hand.
Stay with us, for it is evening.
Stay with us, for it is evening.

Through the night
you led your people into freedom.
At day's end
you rained down manna in the wilderness.
At sundown
your Son brought healing to people in need.
In the midday night
when Jesus died on the cross,
life came forth for all.
Stay with us, for it is evening.
Stay with us, for it is evening.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Our hearts burn within us
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Like a mother hen,
hold us close through the coming night.
Watch with those who labor,
accompany those who long for peaceful sleep,
welcome those whose waking will be only in you.
Into our deepest night, come, Lord Jesus.
Come, Lord Jesus.

Come, Holy Spirit,
make here the body of Christ:
in the breaking of the bread,
in justice for our broken world,
in rest for the weary, come, Holy Spirit.
Come, Holy Spirit.

To you, O God,
painter of both night and day,
guiding star and healing sun,
breath of peace and wind of change,
be all glory, all honor, all praise
this night unto the coming dawn, now and forever.
Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*unison*)

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

COMMUNION

P: The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
Amen.

(Please be seated)

LAMB OF GOD



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, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION BY INDIVIDUAL GLASSES

(Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.)

All who believe in the real presence of Christ in the sacrament are invited to commune. Children who do not commune are welcome to come for a blessing. You will be given a wafer. The glasses of dark liquid are wine; the middle ring is juice. There is a bowl of water if you would like to remember your baptism.

COMMUNION HYMN

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

ELW Hymn 257

COMMUNION HYMN

“What Child Is This”

ELW Hymn 296

COMMUNION HYMN

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

ELW Hymn 279

(Please stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Let us pray. We thank you, O God, that you have strengthened our hearts through this feast of life and salvation. Shine the light of Christ on our path, that we may do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you, now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

P: God, the Source of glory,
God, the Word of life,
God, the Spirit of truth
✝ bless you all, now and forever.
C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN *“Silent Night!, Holy Night!”*
Pew candle lighting occurs while hymn is sung

ELW Hymn 281

THE DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.
C: **Thanks be to God.**

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Lector: Michelle Huppenbauer
Communion: Bill Mundt; Teresa Morehead
Greeters: Judy Craven
Candle Lighting: The Morehead Family
Missionary Support: Open
Altar Flowers: Poinsettias
Remember in prayer: Eleonore Benninghoven; The Family of Marian Chaddock;
Jim & Bev Felland

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A Cry Room for infants is available up the stairs and to the right.
There are Kids Celebrate children's bulletins available for youngsters
who'd like to have their own reference to the lessons for this week.
Ask our usher for help.

Please join us for coffee and donuts in the fellowship
hall following the worship service. We would like to
get to know you and offer our friendship.

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ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Today: **Christmas Eve**
5:00 p.m. Candlelight Service @ Bethany
7:00 p.m. Candlelight Service @ Messiah
11:00 p.m. Candlelight Service @ Messiah
Wednesday: **Merry Christmas! Office Closed**
Thursday: 9:30 a.m. Bible Study @ Messiah
Next Sunday: **First Sunday of Christmas**
Hymn Sing!-Hymns will come from the congregation
9:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
10:55 a.m. Lutheran Church of Hope Service

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be at 5:00pm at Bethany. If you are needing a later service, Messiah will hold services at 7:00pm & 11:00pm as well!

HYMN SING DECEMBER 29

On Sunday, December 29, we are having a Hymn sing! This is where the Hymns for Worship service will be picked from the congregation! So have your favorite Hymns picked out and be ready to shout them out! You will need the title and number for the Hymn!

NEW YEAR, NEW SETTING

We will be moving to a new setting in our liturgy. Starting January 5th, we will be using setting 6!

A REQUEST FROM PATTY CHACEY

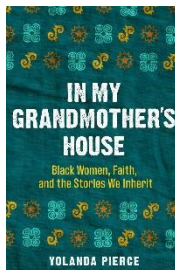
Patty Chacey would love to have some visitors come see her! She is currently out at Klein's Nursing Home.

OUTREACH FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

We will not be taking donations for the month of January! Stay tuned for what we will be doing in February! We will be still taking donations until the end of December for Holiday Meals items.

PASTOR'S BOOK CLUB!

Pastor's Book Club will meet on Tuesday, January 14th at 7:00pm at Bethany. We are reading "In My Grandmother's House" By Yolanda Pierce.



UKRAINIAN RENT RELIEF

We have some red envelopes on our Angel Tree! These envelopes are for monetary donations or gift cards for food or gas, to help the Ukrainian family that Kim & Jeff Engle are sponsoring! The envelopes give a detail on how your donations will go to help with their rent. To donate, just take a red envelope off of the tree and place your donation inside and drop in the offering plate on Sunday. This will be going on through December.

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*Bethany Lutheran Church
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***Pastor Misha's contact info: 412-628-6382;
damisha.mcfarlandpollock@gmail.com***

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Our Staff

Rev. Misha McFarland-Pollock
Cory Byrne
Kim Engle
Wendy Bell
Michelle Huppenbauer
Pam Crable

Pastor
Organist/Choir Director
Stephen Minister Coordinator
Office Administrator
Financial Secretary
Custodian