

First Sunday of Christmas

December 29, 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.

Hymn Sing Sunday

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

CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 100)

P: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

C: **Worship the Lord with gladness;
come into his presence with singing.**

P: Know that the Lord is God.

It is he that made us, and we are his;

C: **we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.**

P: Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise.

C: **Give thanks to him, bless his name.**

P: For the Lord is good;

C: **his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.**

(Please stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting.

C: **Amen.**

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

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

C: **God-with-us, we confess that we have turned away
those seeking shelter, claiming there is no room when we have plenty.
We have made power and wealth our idols, while you show us true glory:
a baby in a manger. We have overlooked the shepherds, expecting good
news in prettier packaging. Too often, we have valued violence instead of
your peace. Turn us from our ways to your ways. Grant us the grace to
begin again. Free us from all that keeps us bound, and forgive our sin,
through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us.**

Amen.

P: Hear the good news and rejoice! You are God's chosen ones,
holy and beloved, † forgiven in Christ, and freed to respond in joy.

C: **Amen.**

We Listen to God's Word

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

¹⁸Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy wearing a linen ephod. ¹⁹His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. ²⁰Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "May the Lord repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the Lord"; and then they would return to their home.

²⁶Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the Lord and with the people.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Colossians 3:12-17

¹²As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

Luke 2:41-52

⁴¹Now every year [Jesus'] parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." ⁴⁹He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sing 8 - 10 hymns selected by the congregation

LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our rock, our fortress, and our deliverer.
Let us remember his mercy, for he is gracious and compassionate.

**C: We thank you for calling us to faith in Christ,
for putting your Spirit within us,
for giving us the mind of Christ,
for gathering us into your church.**

P: We thank you, Lord, for extending your grace to us,
for calling us to a life of gratitude,
for calling us to service in your kingdom.

C: Thanks be to God!

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, for he satisfies the thirsty,
fills the hungry with good things, and heals the afflicted.
Let us celebrate his abundant goodness.

**C: We thank you, gracious Father, that you provide for all our needs,
for the food on our tables,
for the clothes on our bodies,
for the beds we sleep in,
and for the dwellings that shelter us.**

P: We praise you for all your gifts that go beyond our basic needs,
for the things that make our work easier,
for the conveniences of modern life, for the beauty and pleasure that you
bring into our lives.

C: Thanks be to God!

POEM: "Rekindle the Gift" (Steve Garnaas-Holmes)

You have a treasure in you,
a seed of glory planted from stars,
a song written for only you to sing.

You have gifts to give.

The treasure is buried,
and it may take some digging to recover.

The song is forgotten, but still hidden in your bones.

Nothing that happens to you can remove it,
no fear or shame destroy it,
no failure ruin it. It is who you are.

Rekindle the gift.

Listen for the quiet voice, the Spirit of Life singing in you.

Listen... and sing.

Tune your life to its melody.

Let it sing in you, let it sing you into life.

Rekindle the gift that is God within you.

Give God this joy— for it is God who is singing.

We Respond to God's Word

APOSTLES' CREED (*unison*)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.*

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again 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

SUNG PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH - *There Is a Longing in Our Hearts*

There Is a Longing in Our Hearts

Refrain – All



There is a long-ing in our hearts, O Lord, for you to re -



veal your - self to us. There is a long-ing in our




hearts for love we on - ly find in you, our God.

Leader or All



1 For jus - tice, for free - dom, for mer - cy:
2 For wis - dom, for cour - age, for com - fort:
3 For heal - ing, for whole - ness, for new life:
4 Lord, save us, take pit - y, light in our



hear our prayer. In sor - row, in grief:
hear our prayer. In weak - ness, in fear:
hear our prayer. In sick - ness, in death:
deep - est night. We call you; we wait:

Refrain



be near; hear our prayer, O God.

(Please Stand)

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

We Share in the Holy Meal

(Please Stand)

DIALOGUE

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right and salutary that we should...

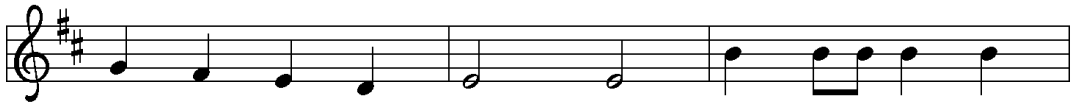
...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow-er and might,



heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. 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.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth, for you have had mercy on us and given your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for the salvation you have granted to us through Jesus, the Word made flesh, the child of Mary; the Light of the world, our Immanuel. Send the Spirit of your Son into our hearts, that as your beloved children we may welcome our Savior who comes to us in his body and blood.

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.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*unison*)

**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

P: A child has been born for us, a Son given to us.
Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

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 – Congregation chooses two hymns to sing

(Please stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food.
Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace,
comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy.

C: Amen.

AFFIRMATION OF CHRISTIAN VOCATION

P: Sisters and brothers, both your work and your rest are in God. Will you endeavor to pattern your life on the Lord Jesus Christ, in gratitude to God and in service to others, at morning and evening, at work and at play, all the days of your life?

C: I will, and I ask God to help me.

P: Almighty God, by the power of the Spirit you have knit these your servants into the one body of your Son, Jesus Christ. Look with favor upon them in their commitment to serve in Christ's name. Give them courage, patience, and vision; and strengthen us all in our Christian vocation of witness to the world and of service to others; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE

P: Beloved in the Lord, God has shown you what is good. What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

BENEDICTION

P: Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING HYMN – Chosen by the congregation

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

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WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Lector: Jessica King
Usher: Susan Swanson
Communion: Jim & Sharon Martindale
Greeters: Mark & Bonnie Rosenberg
Missionary Support: Open
Altar Flowers: Poinsettias
Remember in prayer: Dorothy Hopson; Barb West; Norma Bock

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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: **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

Wednesday: **Office Closed: Happy New Year's Day!!**

Thursday: 9:30 a.m. Bible Study @ Messiah
Annual Reports are due!

Next Sunday: **Second Sunday of Christmas**
9:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
10:55 a.m. Lutheran Church of Hope Service

LAST DEPOSITS OF THE YEAR

Any last-minute giving to the church for the year **must** be in to the office no later than 10:00am on Tuesday, December 31!

NEW YEAR, NEW SETTING

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

2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes will be out for pickup in the fellowship hall this Sunday, December 29.

A REQUEST FROM PATTY CHACEY

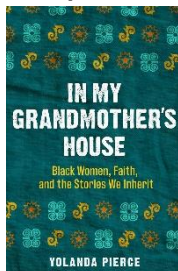
Patty Chacey would love to have some visitors come see her! She is currently out at Klein's Nursing Home.

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE

Anybody that has an annual report, please have them turned into the office by Thursday, January 2! Thank you!

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 the last Sunday to donate.

OUTREACH FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

We will not have donations for January for food pantry. Thank you everyone for your generosity! Stay tuned for what February will be!

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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