



Bethlehem Lutheran Church – 2025

Biblical – Understandable – Relevant

Wednesday, December 24, at 4 PM



Service Theme: What Child Is This?

Church Year: The Nativity of Our Lord | **Divine Service:** Setting Four, LSB 203-212

WELCOME:

- ☺ **Visitors:** *Welcome! See our Welcome Table, sign our book, take a bag, and tell us how we can help!*
- ☺ **Prayer Request:** *Use a “yellow” card (Narthex).*
- ☺ **Young Children:** *Activity bags (by worship entrance); Little Lamb Room (off Narthex).*
- ☺ **All Children:** *Children’s Message (join us).*
- ☺ **Phone:** *Please put on silent.*
- ☺ **Hearing Assistance:** *Available in the Narthex.*
- ☺ **Worship From Your Car:** *Receive at our main entrance; then listen from your car (FM 89.9).*

Beginning: Only the Up Lights and Aisle Lights

BELL and CANDLELIGHTING – Please be seated!

WELCOME and PRELUDE: *We listen in silence...*

Bring a Torch, Jeannette Isabella Christopher Ulein
(come and see the Mother and Child) French Carol

INVOCATION:

- L: In the name of God, the Father – *who planned our salvation, in the name of God, the Son* – *who came to save us, and in the name of God, the Holy Spirit* – *who gave us faith to trust in Jesus for eternal life.*
- C: **Amen.**

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Why Are We Processing with the Bible?

During Advent and Christmas, the word of God keeps pointing us to the coming of the Christ, who was born to die!

Angels from the Realms of Glory

CHOIR: vv. 1-3 and ENTRANCE HYMN: vv. 4-5

See the words below / TLH 136 / LSB 367

Lighting of the (1) Candles, (2) Star, and (3) Tree

- 1 Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o’er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation’s story,
Now proclaim Messiah’s birth. **Refrain**

Refrain:

**Come and worship, come and worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

- 2 Shepherds in the field abiding,
Watching o’er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
Yonder shines the Infant Light. **Refrain**
- 3 Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations,
Ye have seen His natal star. **Refrain**

Lighting of the (1) Altar, (2) Chancel, and (3) Nave.

Congregation – Please Arise ↑

- 4 Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In His temple shall appear. **Refrain**
- 5 All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
To the eternal Three in One. **Refrain**

SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY:

L: The LORD be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*

C: And also with you.

L: Let us pray: Dear LORD God Almighty, You ♦designed the world, ♦spoke it into existence through Your Son, and ♦made the people the high point of Your creation. For all of us gathered here today, ♦open our eyes and hearts to Your word and ♦stir our souls to be forever changed for ♦our eternal good and ♦Your eternal glory; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen. ↓ Children! Please come forward!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE:

Some of the Many Names of Jesus

What Child Is This?

HYMN: *What Child Is This*

See the words below / LSB 370

- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary!

He is the Promised One!

He Would Bruise the Head of the Serpent:

Genesis 3:15 ...I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel. // That was the first promise of the Savior on the very day Adam and Eve disobeyed the LORD!

He Would Be a Descendant of Abraham: Genesis

12:3 ...in you all the families of the earth will be blessed. // The Christ of Christmas did His saving work for everyone, but it is critical for everyone to receive **by grace, through faith, in Jesus, for eternal life!**

He Would Be for Us – for You, for Me, for All:

Isaiah 9:6 For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. // Those are four compound names. Each includes *one earthly characteristic* and *one divine characteristic*. The following names are the ♦literal translations and ♦original word order:

Divine	Earthly
▪ Wonderful	Counselor
▪ God	Hero
Earthly	Divine
▪ Father	Forever
▪ Prince of	Peace

The Christ is all those things and much more!

CHOIR: *What Hope! An Eden Prophesied*

Sing to the tune of LSB 366

See the words below / LSB 342

- 1 What hope! An Eden prophesied
Where tame live with the wild;
The lamb and lion side by side,
Led by a little child!
A shoot will sprout from Jesse's stem,
A branch from David's line,
A Prince of Peace in Bethlehem:
The fruit of God's design.

He Would Be Born in Bethlehem: Micah 5:2 ...as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Too little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity. //

The Christ is the greatest, yet He came and lived a humble, sinless life and died a horrible, sacrificial death to open the way to heaven. It's one thing to know about Jesus, it's completely **different** and **amazing** to know Him as Savior and Lord!

The Apostles' Creed – A Selection:

L: Who is Jesus, the Christ?

C: **[He] 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.**

HYMN: *What Child Is This*

See the words below / LSB 370

- 2 Why lies He in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The babe, the son of Mary!

He is the Saving One!

He Would Save His People from Their Sins:

Matthew 1:18 ...an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." // Since we all have sins, ***we all desperately need Jesus!*** John wrote, **1 John 5:12** He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

Jesus, Name Above All Names

CHOIR – St. 1; HYMN – Stanzas 2-3

See the words below / (AGPS 145) / LSB 970

1. Jesus, name above all names,
beautiful Savior, glorious Lord,
Emmanuel, God is with us
blessed Redeemer, living Word.
2. Jesus, loving shepherd
vine of the branches, Son of God
Prince of Peace, Wonderful counselor
Lord of the universe, Light of the World.
3. Jesus, Way of salvation,
King of kings, Lord of lords,
the way the truth, and the Life,
Mighty creator, My Savior and friend.

He Was Sent to Redeem Us: Galatians 4:4-5

...when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. // Adoption into God's family is not automatically ours, *but God works by His Spirit through His word to* ♦show us our need and ♦enable us to receive.

HYMN: *From East to West*

See the words below / LSB 385

- 1 From east to west, from shore to shore
Let ev'ry heart awake and sing
The holy child whom Mary bore,
The Christ, the everlasting king.
- 2 Behold, the world's creator wears
The form and fashion of a slave;
Our very flesh our maker shares,
His fallen creatures all to save.

He Was Tempted but Did Not Sin: Hebrews 4:15

...we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. // Jesus is our sinless substitute!

He Humbled Himself, but God Exalted Him:

Philippians 2:8-11 [Jesus] humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. // As Jesus humbled Himself to God the Father to save us, let us humble ourselves to Jesus and receive Him as our one source of forgiveness and salvation!

HYMN: *What Child Is This*

See the words below / LSB 370

- 3 So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;
Come, peasant, king, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
The babe, the son of Mary!

He is the Transforming One!

He Came to Set Us Free: Hebrews 2:14-15 ...since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives. // Apart from Jesus, everyone is facing death and hell. However, ***for all who repent and believe***, the outcome will be life and heaven!

He Came to Reconcile Us to God: 2 Corinthians 5:17-18 ...if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. Now all *these* things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through

Christ... // Our sin brought separation, so Jesus did His work to provide our restoration!

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

CHOIR – St. 1; HYMN – St. 3

See the words below / TLH 94 / LSB 380

- 1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

**Refrain: Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”**

- 3 Hail, the heav’n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris’n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth. **Ref.**

He Came to Make Us Children of God: John 1:12-13 ...as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. // As we were each born of our mother – *physically*, it is critical for each of us to be born of God – *spiritually and eternally!*

He Came to Shine Through Us: Matthew 5:14-16 [Jesus said to His disciples who had gathered to hear His Sermon on the Mount:] “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your

light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.” // When – *by grace* – we believe in Jesus for eternal life, **(1)** the Holy Spirit radically changes us from the inside out and **(2)** we are different from the fallen world in our believing, thinking, speaking, and doing. Think about your life: Have you been radically changed? How is Jesus shining through you?

Scripture Passages from the New American Standard Bible, 1995 Version.

Away in a Manger

CHOIR – St. 1; HYMN – St. 3

See the words below / LSB 364

- 1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the [bright] sky looked down
where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
- 3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

Offering: Plates are available in the center aisle.

The LORD has blessed us with life, salvation, and all we need, so let us trust Him, thank Him, honor Him!

↑ **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH:** *Let Us Pray*

After Each Petition: L: LORD, in Your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

- Almighty and most merciful God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we give You thanks for all Your goodness and tender mercies, especially for ♦the gift of Your dear Son, ♦the revelation of Your will, and ♦Your daily supply of what we need for us, our families, and our congregation. Implant Your Word in us that, *with good and honest hearts*, we may keep it and bring forth the fruits of our faith.

- We humbly implore You to rule and govern Your Church throughout the world. Bless all those who proclaim Your truth that we may be preserved in the pure doctrine of Your saving Word and that ♦faith in You may be strengthened, ♦love toward others increased, and ♦Your kingdom extended.
- Grant repentance and wisdom to all who are in authority in our nation, and to all those who make, administer, and judge our laws, that they may ♦maintain all that is good, ♦quickly turn from all that is wicked, and ♦swiftly punish all who do wrong, so that ♦Your truth is known and loved, ♦You are honored by many, ♦Your undeserved blessing rests upon our nation, and ♦law-abiding citizens lead quiet and peaceful lives.
- According to Your good pleasure, *turn the hearts of our enemies and adversaries*, that they may cease their hostilities and walk with us in meekness and in peace.
- Comfort, O God, with Your Holy Spirit all who are in ♦trouble, ♦want, ♦adversity, ♦sickness, or ♦peril of death. Grant courage and steadfastness, *especially to those who suffer for Your name's sake*, that they may accept their afflictions in the confidence that You are ♦with them, ♦will help them, and, one day, ♦will welcome them into paradise.
- Although we have deserved Your righteous wrath and punishment, *we thank You for Your great forgiveness through Jesus* and pray for Your continual deliverance ♦from all harm and danger to body and soul, ♦from false doctrine, ♦from war and bloodshed, ♦from serious illness, ♦from calamity by fire and water, ♦from famine, ♦from discouragement, and ♦from all who seek to harm us.
- May You ♦grant us blessed gatherings with family and friends, ♦help us to live in ongoing

repentance, and keep us ever-ready for Jesus' return.

- Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen. ↓

**Thank You to the Following
Who Beautified Our Church for Christmas!**

To God Be the Glory!

Alan & Linda Blaha, Ed & Patti Cepis, Pastor & Kathy Green, Gloria Hurka, the Jasulevich family, Will Mild, Greg & Cindy Slepko, Rand & Debbie Stender, Bill & Norma Sweeny, and Terry & Lynda Tomasch.

*You are welcome to take your poinsettia home
after today's service – help yourself!*

THE SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

SELF-EXAMINATION MUSIC – see the self-exam:

Once In Royal David's City (With No Eye Had Seen Jn. 1:8)

LORD'S SUPPER SELF-EXAMINATION: 1 Cor. 11:28

Let's answer honestly and receive with repentance!

1. Do I believe the Bible is true? Y N John 17:17
2. Am I sorry for my sins? Y N 2 Cor. 7:10
3. Am I trusting in Jesus for eternal life? Y N Ac. 4:12
4. Am I baptized? Y N Matt. 28:19; Acts 2:38-39; Tit. 3:5
5. Do I desire to live for Christ? Y N 2 Cor. 5:15
6. Am I forgiving all others? Y N Mark 11:25
7. Am I doing my part to reconcile? Y N Mt. 5:23-24
8. Are the elements of the Lord's Supper bread, body, wine, and blood? Y N 1 Cor. 10:16
9. Is the main benefit of the Supper the assurance of the forgiveness of sins? Y N Matt. 26:26-28
10. Do I understand and agree with the teachings of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS)? Y N 1 Cor. 10:15-22

Uncertain? Ask an usher for "The Lord's Supper" brochure and "A Simple Explanation of Christianity." *The pastor would be glad to talk/meet with you!*

↑ CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION:

L: Let us pray: Dear Father in heaven, You want us to be dead serious about knowing Your word and doing Your will.

C: **We admit we have fallen short.**

L: We know our sins have the power to separate us from You for all eternity.

C: **We are helpless to remove our sins.**

L: We thank You for sending Your Son to live in our place and bear our eternal punishment.

C: **We ask for Your mercy and forgiveness.**

L: For all who are ♦sorry for their sins, ♦trusting in the Christ for eternal life, and ♦desire to live godly in Christ Jesus, I announce God's forgiveness to you, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

[John 20:19-23]

C: Amen.

PRAYER FOR RIGHT RECEPTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER:

L: Dear Father, in the beginning You created all things by the Word, who is Your Son; then, *in the fullness of time*, the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth. Now, *with repentant hearts*, as we receive the body He gave – along with the bread, and the blood He shed – along with the wine, help us to rejoice in Your love and forgiveness, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER: *See back of either hymnal:*

L: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

A: **Our Father who art in heaven...**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Combining: Mt 26:26-28; Mk 14:22-24; Lk 22:19-20; 1Co 11:23-25

PAX DOMINI (Latin): *Peace of the Lord*

L: The peace of the Lord be with you always!

C: Amen.

AGNUS DEI: *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

See the words below / LSB 621

- 1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence
And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly-minded,
For with blessing in His hand
Christ our God to earth descending
Comes our homage to demand.
- 2 King of kings yet born of Mary,
As of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords in human vesture,
In the body and the blood,
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heav'nly food.

DISTRIBUTION INSTRUCTIONS:

- ♦ If you are ready to receive: Come forward now.
- ♦ Receiving at your pew: Please inform an usher.
- ♦ Alcohol-Removed Wine: Center of each tray.
- ♦ Receive. Go in peace. Return via the side aisle.
- ♦ Main dismissal! After everyone has returned.

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION: God Rest You

Merry Gentlemen Traditional English Carol

LORD'S SUPPER DISMISSAL**POST-COMMUNION COLLECT:** *Let Us Pray*

L: Gracious God, *heavenly Father*, we give You thanks for assuring us that we are forgiven through *the Christ of Christmas*, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

INDIVIDUAL CANDLES ARE LIT:Organist – The Carols of ChristmasUshers – Please come forward with a candle.Congregation:

- ✦ **TO LIGHT YOUR CANDLE** – *Tip it*
- ✦ **ALL LIT CANDLES** – *Keep them upright*
- ✦ **PASS YOUR FLAME** – *To those in your pew*

HYMN: *Silent Night, Holy Night*

See the words below / TLH 646 / LSB 363

- 1: Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

1: **Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!**
Alles schlaeft, einsam wacht
Nur das traute hochheilige Paar.
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!

- 2: Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
- 3: Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

HYMN: *O Holy Night*

See the words below

(organist music – see sheet music in hymn file)

1. O holy night, the stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth;
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
'Till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn;

Chorus

Fall on your knees, Oh hear the angel voices!
O night divine! O night when Christ was born.
O night, O holy night, O night divine.

2. Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming;
With glowing hearts by his cradle we stand:
So, led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
Here come the wise men from Orient land,
The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger,
In all our trials born to be our friend;

Chorus

He knows our need, To our weakness no stranger!
Behold your King! Before Him lowly bend!
Behold your King! your King! before him bend!

HYMN: *Joy to the World*

See the words below / TLH 87 / LSB 387

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- 3 No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

BENEDICAMUS and BENEDICTION:

- L: Let us bless the Lord. *[Ps. 103:1]*
C: **Thanks be to God.**
L: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord
make his face shine upon you and be gracious
unto you; the Lord look upon you with *favor*
and give you peace. *Numbers 6:24-26*
C: **Amen.**

PLEASE EXTINGUISH YOUR CANDLE

You may put it in the box in the Narthex

Blessings to You and Yours for a Christ-Centered Christmas!

CANDLE EXTINGUISHING and POSTLUDE:

The Carols of Christmas

Organist: Gayle Powers – Thanks!

JOIN US DURING THIS SEASON OF CHRISTMAS

- ➡ **Christmas Day** – service at 10 AM
- ➡ **Sat, 12/27** – (no class); service at 4:00
- ➡ **Sun, 12/28** – service 9 AM; (no classes)
- ➡ **Wed, 12/31** – service 4:00
- ➡ **Thurs, 1/1/26** – service at 10 AM
- ➡ **Resume Full Schedule** – 1/3 & 1/4

2026 Offering Envelopes

Available in the Narthex. Want a box but could not find yours? Please contact the church office.

Connect With Us

➡ **Website:** BLC7500.com ➡ **YouTube:** Benefit from the Bible ➡ **Facebook:** Bethlehem Parma

Regular Services: Saturdays at 4:00; Sundays at 9:00

Studies: Wed 1; Thurs 10; Sat 3; Sun 10:30

Church Office: Wed & Thu: 9:30-3:30; Sat: 2:00-6:00

Pastor Green: RevRLGreen@aol.com; 440-292-5915

Festivals: Website > Important Links > Festivals

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