

BETHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

"You have a place here! Joyfully we profess our faith through God's unconditional love. Here and now God dwells in all of our lives, bears our sins on the cross, and forgives us all."

TODAY WE CELEBRATE FRIST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:30 am on Sunday, December 2, 2018

Holy Communion Worship

Pr. Dave Johnson, presiding



Advent is about the “coming days.” God’s people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a “righteous Branch to spring up for David.” The Thessalonians awaited “the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints.” Our Lord’s contemporaries hoped for the time “to stand before the Son of Man.” With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of our Lord in word and supper.

ALL ARE WELCOME

The family of Bethany hopes that your worship experience is spiritually fulfilling and your day begins with our Lord’s gifts of peace and joy.

If you are visiting today, you are invited to the Communion Table.

As Christians of the Reformation tradition, we believe that the Sacrament of the Altar is the Real Presence of Christ’s body and blood, instituted by Christ Himself as a sign of unity. All baptized and confessing believers are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion by intinction—the dipping of the wafer into the wine when the chalice is offered. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available. The assembly is to line up down center aisle and return to seats by side aisles.

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR THE SEASON OF PENTECOST

Minister/Leaders speak regular print—Congregation speaks bold print

Arrow directives indicate the following: ▲ stand if able ▼ be seated

THE GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

▼ Prelude Reflections for Meditation

▼ Welcome and Greeting

▼ Prayers and Praises

▲ Invocation

We gather together in the name of the Father,
the † Son and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

▲ Advent Reading

As we go on a Journey to Bethlehem,
we await with great anticipation for the coming of Jesus.

God is already here with us (Emmanuel) and

He desires for us to embrace the life that He will send in His one and only Son,
Jesus Christ; the one that brings us hope,
peace, joy and love to the world and to each of us.

We light the first candle, the candle of Hope,
with great expectation of the coming Messiah.

The day of salvation is here and now.

The world that we live in can be unkind and unloving.

Sometimes life seems to go all wrong.

Today let us not allow the world to bring us down, but rather choose hope;
a hope in a Savior that will bring light and life to a broken world

▲ **Advent Song and Lighting of the Advent Candle**

"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" verse 1



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
 He shall feed the flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.
 Lift your heads and lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.
 He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune

Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

▲ **Hymn of Gathering**

"Hark the Glad Sound" (page 16)

▲ **Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
 the Lord of Israel who comes to set us free,
 the mighty Savior who comes to show mercy,
 the Dawn from on high who guides us into peace.

Amen.

Let us come before God in confession.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

To you, O God,
we lift up our souls.



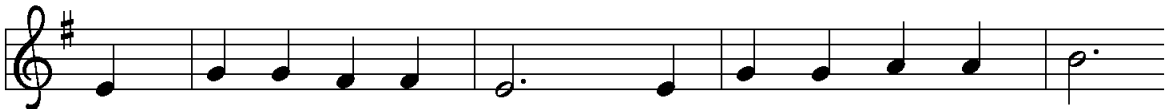
**You know us through and through;
we confess our sins to you.
Remember not our sins;
remember us with your steadfast love.
Show us your ways; teach us your paths;
and lead us in justice and truth,
for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.**

Children of God, come with joy and draw water from the well of salvation.
Remember the gift of baptism: your sin is washed away in the name of † Jesus;
you belong to Christ; you are anointed to serve.
Stand up and raise your heads!
The reign of God is near.
Amen.

▲ **Greeting**

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

▲ **Kyrie**

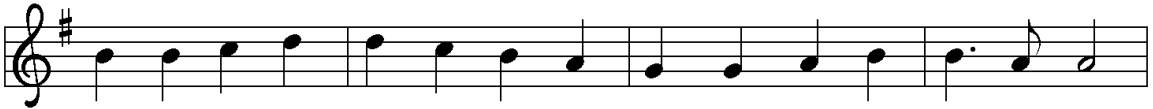


1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

▲ Hymn of Praise



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
 2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
 3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
 Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
 Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
 on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
 Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
 Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
 For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

▲ Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power,
 Lord Christ, and come.

**By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins,
 and redeem us for your life of justice,
 for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and forever.**

Amen

▼ ***God's Word from the Scriptures (NRSV)***

A reading from Jeremiah, Chapter 33, verses 14-16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

▼ ***God's Word from the Psalms (NRSV)***

Let us read responsively Psalm 95:1-10

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

**O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame;
do not let my enemies exult over me.**

Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long.

**Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.**

Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O Lord!

Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

**All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.**

▼ **God's Word from the Scriptures (NRSV)**

A reading from 1 Thessalonians, Chapter 3, verses 9-13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

▼ **Children's Message**

▲ **Gospel Acclamation**



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

▲ **God's Word from the Gospel (NRSV)**

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, Chapter 21, verses 25-36
Glory to you, O Lord.

“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

▼ **Sermon—God's Word Applied to Life**

▼ **Hymn of the Day**

“Come, Precious Ransom”
(Please stand for the last verse)

- ♪ 1. Come, O precious Ransom, come,
 Only hope for sinful mortals!
 Come, O Savior of the world;
 Open are to you all portals.
 Come, your beauty let us view;
 Anxiously we wait for you.

♪ 2. Enter now my waiting heart,
 Glorious King and Lord most holy.
 Dwell in me and never leave,
 Though I am but poor and lowly,
 What vast riches will be mine
 When you are my guest divine!

♪ 3. My hosannas and my palms
 Graciously receive, I pray you;
 Evermore, as best I can,
 Homage I will gladly pay you,
 And in faith I will embrace
 Life eternal by your grace.

♪ 4. Hail! Hosanna! David's Son!
 Jesus, hear our supplication!
 Let your kingdom, scepter, crown
 Bring us blessing and salvation;
 That forever we may sing:
 Hail! Hosanna to our king!

▲ ***The Apostles Creed***

**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.

▲ *Prayers of Intercession*

As we await the coming of Christ, we pray in hope for the church,
the world, and all of creation.

(A brief silence)

Equip your church, merciful God. Secure our roots in the soil of your eternal word.

Ease our worries and remove our shame.

Grow our faithfulness and let your steadfast love blossom among us.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Sustain your creation, holy God. Water the parched soil.

Restore depleted fields. Send farmers, forest rangers, and gardeners
to care for fig trees and wheat fields, gardens and arboretums.

Increase our love for the land.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grow peace within us, abundant God.

Raise up leaders in every community grounded in your justice and mercy.

Increase their love for all people.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Feed the hungry, living God. Gather our harvest into a feast for our neighbors.

Move us to nurture those who are bereaved and lonely.

Empower those living with HIV/AIDS and all who are sick.

We pray especially for —

Kim Davis, Orice Walters, Tom & Dorothy Temple,

Sarah Underhill, Kristin Underhill, Mike, Theresa, Erick Schultz, Tony Solda,

Ron Arnold, Terry, Kierstin, Jen, Rosie Buteyn, Arlene Coulter, Debi Phelps,

Dan Gyselinck, Paula Conery, Ryan Dedo, Blake Sternhagen, Jean Guldswoog,

Rodney Walter, Paula Reynolds, Danielle Kitz, Sandy Verbos,

those who have received prayer shawls and are in need of comfort,

those who have requested special prayers through our website,

and others that we now name silently or aloud.

(brief silence)

In every situation help them to know you are with them always, let us pray.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Increase our joy, wondrous God.
 Plant thanksgiving in our hearts and multiply the good fruit of
 our outreach ministries and creation care programs.
 Guide us in our service to local and global neighbors.
 Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We offer our own prayers to You, either silently or aloud.

(other intercessions may be offered)

In thanksgiving, we remember all who have died and now rest in your glory.

Hold all who mourn in the comfort of your eternal light,
 and bring us to delight in the new life you promise.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Confident that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us,
 we bring to you these prayers and those unspoken,
 in the name of Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

▲ **Sharing of the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Greet those seated near you with love and the sign of Christ's peace.

THE MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

▼ **Offering and Presentation of the Gifts**

*September-December Mission ~ Good Samaritan Fund
 Special envelopes available—(make checks to Bethany Lutheran Church)*

▲ **Offertory Prayer**

God of abundance,
**we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation,
 and with them our very lives.**
**Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need
 until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.**
Amen.

▲ **The Great Thanksgiving and Words of Institution**

The Lord be with you.

And also 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.

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God.

You comforted Your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom You will also make all things new in the day when He comes again to judge the world in righteousness.

And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:



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



heav'n 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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, 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.

▲ **The Lord's Prayer**

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**

God fills the hungry with good things.

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

▼ **Distribution of Communion and Canticle**

(Sung to the melody of "O God Our Help in Ages Past")



1. O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2. O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3. O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf - fered death our lives to save: have mer - cy now, we pray
 you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer - cy now, we pray
 e - ter - nal peace with God you made: have mer - cy now, we pray

Music: ST. ANNE, William Croft, 1678–1727

▲ **Post Communion Blessing**

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
 strengthen you and keep you in His grace until He comes again.
 In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

▲ **Post Communion Prayer**

Holy One,
**we give you thanks that in this bread and cup
 we have feasted again on your endless love.
 Let that love overflow more and more in our lives,
 that we may be messengers to prepare your way,
 harvesters of justice and righteousness,
 and bearers of your eternal Word,
 our Savior Jesus Christ.
 Amen.**

THE SENDING*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world*

▲ **Hymn of Sending***"Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow" (page 17)*▲ **Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
 In the name of the Father and the † Son and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

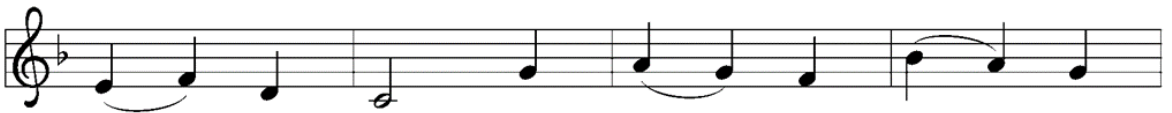
▼ **Temple Talk***Erv Sparapani*▼ **Announcements***Anyone is welcome to announce any upcoming events or share thoughts of interest*▲ **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia.

Hark, the Glad Sound!



1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be -
 soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
 shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
 fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
 of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
 arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751

Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow



1 Through the night of doubt and sor - row, on - ward
 2 One the light of God's own pres - ence on the
 3 One the strain that lips of thou - sands lift as
 4 On - ward, there - fore, sis - ters, broth - ers; on - ward,



goes the pil - grim band, sing - ing songs of ex - pec -
 ran - somed peo - ple shed, chas - ing far the gloom and
 from the heart of one; one the con - flict, one the
 with the cross our aid. Bear its shame, and fight its



ta - tion, march - ing to the prom - ised land. Clear be -
 ter - ror, bright - 'ning all the path we tread. One the
 per - il, one the march in God be - gun. One the
 bat - tle till we rest be - neath its shade. Soon shall



fore us through the dark - ness gleams and burns the
 ob - ject of our jour - ney, one the faith which
 glad - ness of re - joic - ing on the far e -
 come the great a - wak - 'ning; soon the rend - ing



guid - ing light; pil - grim clasps the hand of
 nev - er tires, one the ear - nest look - ing
 ter - nal shore, where the one al - might - y
 of the tomb! Then the scat - t'ring of all



pil - grim step - ping fear - less through the night.
 for - ward, one the hope our God in - spires.
 Fa - ther reigns in love for - ev - er - more.
 shad - ows, and the end of toil and gloom.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR DECEMBER 9

Lector—Bill Rice

Prayer Assistant —Bill Rice

Communion Assistant —Peter Kivisaari

COMMUNITY ADVENT CONCERT

Tonight, Sunday, December 2, at 6:00 pm is the Community Advent Concert at St. Mary's Catholic Church. A reminder that each church needs to bring 4 pans of bars/or 8 dozen cookies for the concert **Sunday** night. Please pass the word along.

MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICE/SOUP SUPPER

Join us on Wednesday evenings beginning Wednesday, December 5 for the Advent Midweek service and soup supper. Bethany will be providing the meal for this coming Wednesday evening.

LIGHT AT THE INN

Crossroads will be hosting Light at the Inn from Sunday, December 9—Sunday, December 16th. Anyone wishing to volunteer, please contact either Peggy Gatra or Norma Raboin.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16

The Christmas Children's program will be at 8:30 am. Following worship will be the 3rd Sunday BLG Breakfast. Between worship services (Bethany and Grace) there will also be Crossroads Bake Sale Fundraiser.

Bethany Lutheran Church Financial Summary

October 2018

Monthly Income	Monthly Expenses	+/-	YTD Income	YTD Expenses	+/-	Balance Sheet
\$7,365.15	\$9,618.18	-\$2,253.03	\$82,384.87	\$88,243.57	-\$5,858.70	\$52,443.14

BETHANY CALENDAR OF SERVICES AND EVENTS

Bethany meetings and events are posted on the
homepage of www.norwaybethany.org

Sun, Dec 2	First Sunday in Advent, Pr. Dave Johnson presiding 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Coffee Social 6:00 pm Advent Community Concert at St. Mary's Church
Mon, Dec 3	10:30 am Prayer Shawl Sisters
Tue, Dec 4	9:00 am Community Coffee 9:00 am Cover Girls 10:30 am Worship Team Meeting
Wed, Dec 5	10:00 am Women's Bible Study 5:30 pm WWWJ practice 6:00 pm Midweek Advent Worship/Soup Supper
Thu, Dec 6	7:00 am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 6:30 pm Pub Theology
Sun, Dec 9	Second Sunday in Advent, Pr. Dave Johnson presiding 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Coffee Social
Mon, Dec 10	10:30 am Prayer Shawl Sisters 6:00 pm Ladies Guild
Tue, Dec 11	9:00 am Community Coffee 9:00 am Cover Girls
Wed, Dec 12	10:00 am Women's Bible Study 5:30 pm WWWJ practice 6:00 pm Midweek Advent Worship/Soup Supper
Thu, Dec 13	7:00 am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 6:30 pm Pub Theology

BETHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

Ministers	All the members of this Body of Christ
Church Address	130 O'Dill Dr., Norway, MI 49870
Pastor	Pr. David Johnson
Pastor's Hours	Mon & Thurs—10:00 am—12 pm and by appointment
Emergency Phone	651-769-3365
Pastor's Email	ftp565@yahoo.com
Office Secretaries	Linda Hawkinson; Assistant Secretary-Andrea Anderson
Office Hours	Mon & Thurs-9am-12pm; Tue & Wed—flex time, call first
Office Phone	906-563-8472
Office Email	bethanyoffice@norwaymi.com
Website	www.norwaybethany.org

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SERVE AS WORSHIP ASSISTANTS TODAY . . .

Leader	Pr. Dave Johnson
Greeters/Ushers	
Lector	John Aune
Prayer Assistant	Orice Walters
Communion Assistant	Diane Gendron
Music—Synthia	(Barb Rice or Ray Anderson)
Altar Guild	Diane Gendron

ALTAR FLOWERS

To the Glory of God

Altar flower sign up forms at front entry - \$15 per bouquet (checks: Bethany Ladies Guild)

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