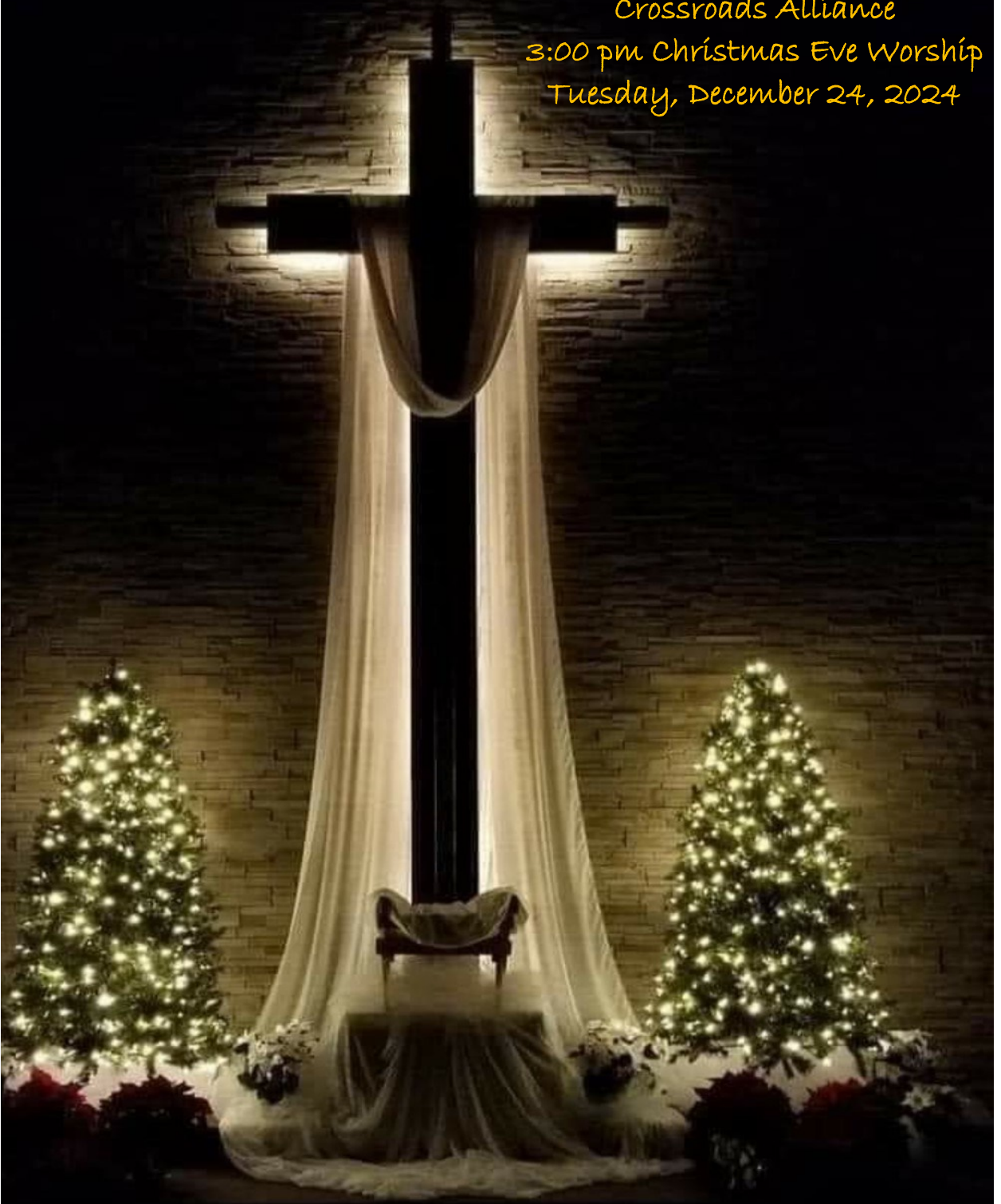


Crossroads Alliance
3:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship
Tuesday, December 24, 2024



ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Ministers/Leaders speak regular print—Assembly speaks bold print
Arrow directives indicate the following: ▲ stand if able ▼ be seated

▼ Prelude

Chris Spence, Piano

▲ Welcome

▲ “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

- ♪ O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
 O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem;
 Come and behold him, born the king of angels;
 O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
 O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.
- ♪ Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
 Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!
 Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
 O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
 O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

▼ Advent Readings and Lighting of the Advent Candles

We light the first candle of Advent —Hope

Jesus called Himself the Light of the World, and at Advent, we light candles to remind ourselves of the light of hope He brought into a world filled with the darkness of sin. What is hope? Hope is looking forward to something wonderful. It's expecting something good to happen. It's light in the darkness. The first candle we light represents hope. When Jesus came, He brought hope for people lost in sin.



We light the second candle of Advent —*Peace*

Jesus is the Prince of Peace, and at Advent, we light candles to remind ourselves of the light of hope and promise of peace He brought to a world ravaged by sin. What is peace? Peace is the end of hostility and fighting. It's when all things are as they should be. It's harmony. It's rightness and wholeness. The second candle we light represents peace. When Jesus came, He brought peace between God and humanity.

We light the third candle of Advent —*Joy*

Jesus is the Joy of our Salvation, and at Advent, we light candles to remind ourselves of the light of hope, promise of peace, and joy of salvation He brought to a lost and broken world. What is joy? Joy is a feeling of great happiness. It's pure bliss. It's overwhelming gladness bubbling up in your soul. The third candle we light represents joy. When Jesus came, He brought joy to our hearts.

We light the fourth candle of Advent —*Love*

Jesus is the demonstration of God's love, and at Advent, we light candles to remind ourselves of the light of hope, promise of peace, joy of salvation, and overwhelming love He brought to us. What is love? Love is when you care more about others than yourself. It's sacrifice. The Bible tells us that God is love. The fourth candle we light represents love. When Jesus came, He showed us how much God loves us.

▲ Invocation

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

▲ "Joy To The World, Verse 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.

▲ Greeting

Unto us a child is born. Unto us a Son is given;
and the government shall be on His shoulder;
His name shall be called Wonderful, Mighty Counselor, the Prince of Peace.
O sing unto the Lord a new song; for He has done marvelous things.

Glory be to the Father, and to the † Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.
Grace, mercy, and peace be with you all.
And also with you.

▲ Lighting of the Christ Candle

Our Hope,
Our Peace,
Our Joy,
and our Love is found in you O Lord.

▲ *“Joy To The World, Verse 2”*

♪ Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.



▲ Prayer of the Day

Almighty God,
you have 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 only † Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.**
Amen.

▼ God's Word from the Old Testament

A reading from Isaiah 9:2-7

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. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. 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. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. 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. His authority shall grow continually, 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.

The Word of God. Word of Life.
Thanks be to God.



▼ God's Word from the Psalms

Let us read responsively, Psalm 96

Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

**Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD;
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**

Declare God's glory among the nations and
God's wonders among all peoples.

**For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised,
more to be feared than all gods.**

As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.

**Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**

Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.**

Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

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."

**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.**

Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming,
O LORD, for you come to judge the earth.

**You will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with your truth.**



▼ **God's Word from the New Testament**

A reading from Titus 2:11-14

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He 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.

▼ **God's Word from the New Testament**

A reading from Luke, Chapter 1, verses 26-38, 46-56

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus.

He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his

servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.” And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

▲ **Acclamation**

Alleluia! I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:
**to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior,
 who is the Messiah, the Lord. Alleluia!**

▲ **The Birth Of Jesus**

The Gospel according to Luke the 2nd chapter, verses 1-20

Glory to you, O Lord.

Pastor Dave

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them


concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.


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


▼ The Message Of Christmas

The Joy of Christmas


▼ "Angels We Have Heard On High"

 Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joy astray

 Shepherds why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo

 Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing
Come adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord the newborn King

Gloria in excelsis Deo
Gloria in excelsis Deo
Gloria
Gloria
Gloria

 See Him in the manger lay
Jesus, Lord of heaven and earth
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid
With us sing our Savior's birth
Gloria in excelsis Deo
Gloria in excelsis Deo
In excelsis Deo
In excelsis Deo.

▲ Prayers of Intercession

This is the time to share the prayers that you carry in your hearts.

Trusting in God's good news of great joy for all people, we offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and the world God loves.

A brief silence.

Glory to you, God, for the song of the angels, proclaiming to the world Christ's holy birth. Give your church a joyful song to sing, that we bring the good news of peace and salvation to all people.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Glory to you, God, for the stars that shine in the depth of the night. Provoke awe in our hearts at the expansive mystery of the cosmos. Open us to find beauty in the clear darkness of night and in the first glimmers of dawn.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Glory to you, God, for the child born to us who establishes a kingdom of justice and righteousness. Break bonds of oppression, bring reconciliation to warring lands, and establish peace from this time onward and forevermore.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Glory to you, God, for Mary's loving care. Lead us to tend to one another in time of need. Share the comfort of your presence with all people tonight who are alone or separated from loved ones due to estrangement, incarceration, or illness. *Especially for those we name before you now (either in silence or out loud).*

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Glory to you, God, for the faithfulness of the shepherds in their vocation. Grant rest to any who feel exhausted from their work during this season: retail and restaurant workers, church musicians, administrative staff, and clergy, organizers of charitable-giving events, and service workers doing essential tasks.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Glory to you, God, for the multitude of the heavenly host. We rejoice in the zeal of all your saints who have witnessed the appearing of your grace, and who reveal to us your salvation for all.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

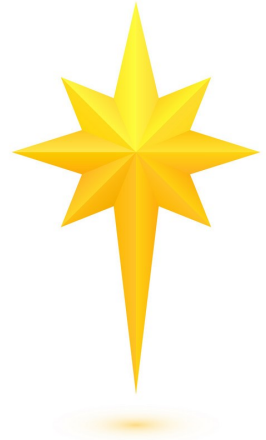
Abide with us, O God of mercy, and receive our prayers according to your abundant grace. **Amen.**

▼ Offering

*The gifts received this evening will be designated according to each church's designated envelope.
Loose or undesignated offerings will be designated for Hurricane Relief.*

▲ "Joy To The World, Verse 3"

♪ *No more let sin and sorrow 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.*



▲ The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give Him 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, through Christ our Lord.

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.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, in the night in which he was betrayed,
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**

▲ Communion

The mystery hidden for the ages is revealed for us in this meal.
Come, behold and receive your God.

**He gives us hope, joy, peace, and love forever
through Jesus Christ, the baby of Bethlehem. Ame**

▼ The 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

We give you thanks, O God,
**that in this bread and cup of Christ's very life,
you give us food for our journey.**
**As you led the magi by a star, as you brought the holy family home again,
guide us on the way unfolding before us.**
**Wherever we go, may our lives proclaim good news
of great joy in † Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

▼ Candle Lighting

*From the Christ candle, pastors light their candles, ushers light from pastors light each row.
Please carefully tip unlit candles to receive the flame from those already lit.
Lights are turned off.*

▲ “Silent Night”

♪ 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.

♪ Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight:
Glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

♪ Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love’s pure light
Radiant beams from your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

Please extinguish candles when lights are turned back on.

▲ Prayer

On this day, O God, you gave us Christ the Son to save us.
As you sent the one foretold, send us now with good news for all people.
Let the gladness of this feast have no end as we share with others the joy
that fills us with His Grace, His Truth, His Light;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.



▲ "Away In A Manger"

♪ Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep in the hay.

♪ The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
And stay by my cradle til morning is nigh.

♪ 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.

▲ Benediction and Dismissal

May Christ, who by his incarnation has filled us with grace and truth,
give you peace this Christmas and always.
Almighty God, Father, † Son, and the Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

Amen

Glory to God in the highest! Peace to God's people on earth!
Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!



▲ “Go Tell It On The Mountain”

- ♪ Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!
- ♪ While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. *Refrain*
- ♪ The shepherds feared and trembled
when, lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain*
- ♪ Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

▲ Sharing of the Peace

Let us share that joy and peace with each other.
The peace of God be with you.
And also with you.

For those who are comfortable, greet each other with the love of the newborn King and God's peace.

CROSSROADS ALLIANCE

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Bethany Lutheran Church, ELCA ~ Pastor Dave Johnson

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Thank you to those who assisted in the Christmas Eve worship service:

Musician: Chris Spence, Piano, Grace Methodist Church of Norway

Pastor: Pastor Dave Johnson, Bethany Lutheran Church

Greeters: Adyson Brklund, Tori Trudeau, Bethany Lutheran Church

Ushers: Maddex Burklund, Mason Trudeau, Bethany Lutheran Church

Readers:

