

# Bethlehem Lutheran Church

We are called by God to follow Christ in  
love and service to all.



**December 28, 2025**

We encourage children to feel welcome in church during worship. And we recognize that kids need to move and fidget while we share this time together. Tables and coloring pages are available to kids in both the front of the worship space and in the Commons. Parents, please feel free to let your kids move around as needed.

*(Congregation speaks the **bold print** in this program and on the screen.)*

## **Prelude**

Claudius Cazan

## **Welcome and Announcements**

*(please stand)*

Who are these angels who come to earth,  
**bearing the news of a promised birth?**

Who are these shepherds who run to see,  
**and worship the babe on bended knee?**

Who is this child, so small, so slight,  
**of whom the angels sang that night?**

Who is this king, a manger for a throne,  
**who humbles himself to make us his own?**

Who is this God who sends a light  
**into our midst, that glorious night?**

## **Gathering Hymn**

"Good Christian Friends"

ELW# 288

## **Greeting**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God promised and sent, be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## **Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray. Incarnate God,  
in this season of Christmas we give you thanks that your promise has come to  
bring light to our darkness. Grant that we, like the shepherds that ran to see and  
the angels over Bethlehem, may declare your praises in our hearts and lives.  
**Amen.**

## **First Lesson– Who are these angels who come to earth?**

Luke 2:8-14

<sup>8</sup> Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping  
watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> Then an angel of the Lord stood before them,  
and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the  
angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of  
great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup> to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior,  
who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign for you: you will find a child  
wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with  
the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,  
<sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Carol**

Angels from the Realms of Glory  
ELW# 275 (verses 1&4)

## **Second Lesson– Who are these shepherds who run to see?**

Luke 2:15-20

<sup>15</sup> When 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.” <sup>16</sup> So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, <sup>19</sup> and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Carol**

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly, Rejoice

ELW# 276

## **Third Lesson– Who is this child, so small, so slight?**

Hebrews 1:1-14

<sup>1</sup> Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, <sup>2</sup> but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. <sup>3</sup> He is the reflection of God’s glory and the exact imprint of God’s very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup> having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

<sup>5</sup> For to which of the angels did God ever say,

“You are my Son;

today I have begotten you”?

Or again,

“I will be his Father,

and he will be my Son”?

<sup>6</sup> And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,  
 “Let all God’s angels worship him.”

<sup>7</sup> Of the angels he says,  
 “He makes his angels winds  
 and his servants flames of fire.”

<sup>8</sup> But of the Son he says,  
 “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,  
 and the scepter of righteousness is the scepter of your kingdom.

<sup>9</sup> You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness;  
 therefore God, your God, has anointed you  
 with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.”

<sup>10</sup> And,  
 “In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth,  
 and the heavens are the work of your hands;

<sup>11</sup> they will perish, but you remain;  
 they will all wear out like clothing;

<sup>12</sup> like a cloak you will roll them up,  
 and like clothing they will be changed.

But you are the same,  
 and your years will never end.”

<sup>13</sup> And to which of the angels has he ever said,  
 “Sit at my right hand

until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet”?

<sup>14</sup> Are not all angels spirits in the divine service, sent to serve for the sake of those  
 who are to inherit salvation?

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Carol**

Love Has Come

ELW# 292

## **Fourth Lesson— Who is this king, a manger for a throne?**

Isaiah 9:2-7

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> 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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Carol

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming  
ELW# 272 (verses 1, 2, & 4)

## Fifth Lesson– Who is this God, who shines a light?

John 1:1-14

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup> in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Carol

The Bells of Christmas  
ELW# 298 (verses 1 & 4)

## Sermon

## The Prayers

Gracious God, you come from heaven above into the midst of our world.

**Fill our hearts with the joy of the angels at your birth.**

You come from heaven above to the lowliest of human conditions.

**Watch over those in need, the sick, the hungry, the grieving.**

You come from heaven above to walk the way of the cross.

**Guide us to follow your path of forgiveness, mercy, and peace.**

You come from heaven above to become flesh and live among us.

**May we see your glory, full of grace and truth. Amen.**

## Sharing of the Peace

*Greet one another with a word of welcome and peace.*

*(be seated)*

## Offering

Thank you for your offerings today. As Christ comes to us in the bread and cup of the holy table, we present ourselves through our own sacrifice of generosity to love and serve our neighborhood and the whole world. You can also give online at [www.bethluth.org/give](http://www.bethluth.org/give) as a one time donation or as a recurring gift. Use this code to access the giving site.



## Words of Institution

### 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**

*(be seated)*

## Distribution of Holy Communion

*All are welcome at the table of Christ. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available.*



## Communion Hymns

“I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve”

ELW# 271

“The First Noel”

ELW# 300

*(please stand)*

## Communion Blessing

May the gifts of Christ’s body and blood give your strength and hope now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Closing Prayer

O Lord our God,

we give you thanks for the gifts of bread and wine,  
the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Send us out into your world to proclaim with joy:

**Glory to God in highest heaven,  
who unto us the Son has given. Amen.**

## Benediction

May the God who comes from heaven above be born in your hearts and lives this day and always.

**Amen.**

## Sending Hymn

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

ELW# 290

## Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is with us.

**Thanks be to God!**

## Postlude

Claudius Cazan

## Brewed Theology

Wanna grab a cup of coffee – or a beer – and spend a little time talking about some topics regarding faith and culture? Do you have questions about why things in the world are happening the way they are? Do you want to talk about relevant matters, but don't know where to start? Did I mention a cup of coffee or a beer?

In January:

### Topic: Affluenza Wealth– Gift or Curse?

- 01/08, 1pm @ Wheat Montana
- 01/29, 6pm @ Branigans



## FLBC Men's Retreat

Jan 23-25

- **Theme:** Transformation
- **Dates:** January 23-25, 2026
- **Ages:** 9th grade to 110 years old
- **Facilitators:** Pr. Keith Weatherford, Pr. Jason Asselstine, and Pr. Paul Anderson.
- **Study:** The retreat will be guided by the book, *"On the Threshold of Transformation" by Richard Rohr Daily Meditation for Men.*

**Activities Include:** A variety of activities are available such as hikes, service projects, music around the campfire, and more. The weekend will feature morning and afternoon devotions, small group activities, a bonfire letting go ritual, and will conclude with Sunday worship.



## FLBC Ski & Snowboard Retreat

Feb 13-16

**For Jnr & Snr High School Youth Groups & Families**

Come for an awesome weekend filled with good food, fellowship, snow games, worship and FUN! Let FLBC be your homebase as you spend your days skiing or snowboarding at Whitefish Mountain Resort or Blacktail Mountain Resort. Downhill snow sports not your forté? Some of the best cross-country ski trails in the Valley are a few miles from camp, or spend the day at camp relaxing and enjoying the view of Flathead Lake. Post skiing activities include hot chocolate by the fire, group games, relaxing with friends, and worship.



## Warming Center

During these cold winter nights, it's important that we remember those most vulnerable. Please consider helping as you are able to provide a meal at the Warming Center once a month. If you are concerned about the cost, all ingredients will be supplied. Meal Coordinators, Jeff (732-453-4208) and Savannah (845-857-8973) have sauces, beans, spaghetti products, etc. Just give them a call and pick up what you need to make a soup or casserole. Let them know that you are from BLC. Sign up sheets are on the table in the Commons. For questions, please contact Sherry Korthase at 770-639-6621. Thank you!



# Christmas Word Search

X T N B Y Y V K N H C L J T M E M	Bethlehem
R M G C A C A T T L E T M V C P W	Christmas
E A V F S W G J X W Q H L H H M G	Nazareth
V N J E S U S H R I L J Y G R M T	Shepards
V G H K G S M V J S E A H H I A G	Wise Men
F E E B Y T A G O E L N E Z S L A	Gabriel
T R R E Y A R Q S M Z Y R Q T W B	Cattle
W O O T Z R Y V E E U Y W S M H R	Census
L B D H A E I J P N E X U Q A H I	Joseph
V A O L H K T W H W U T O A S Z E	Manger
W B X E D G O H C E N S U S J J L	Angel
D Y F H S H E E P X J J Z V I N U	Herod
S F V E A S E L Z R E E V D G U G	Jesus
W S V M N A Z A R E T H R P D Y S	Sheep
S U F S H E P A R D S M G B J W X	Baby
H H X I X G U M E W L W B B G S E	Mary
B N K M M A N G E L P B R Q Z K Y	Star



### **Prayer Concerns: Illness/surgery:**

Celeste Hauser, Erika Hauser, Doug Morton, John Devine, Annette Gunderson, Brad Holmgren, Delphia Blumenthal, and Patty McEntire.

### **Travel:**

Pastor Scott and Jana visiting family in KY.

**Thank you to all our assisting ministers for helping us this Sunday!**

**Thanks to Christopher Miller for leading worship and  
brining the word today.**

### **This Week at Bethlehem**

#### **SUNDAY**

9:00am  
10:30am

#### **12/28**

Worship  
Bell Choir Practice

#### **MONDAY**

10:00am  
6:00pm

#### **12/29**

Respite Care, FH  
Feeding the Flathead, FH

#### **WEDNESDAY**

6:45am  
10:00am

#### **12/30 New Year's Eve**

Men's Breakfast and Bible Study, FH  
Respite Care, FH

#### **THURSDAY**

**OFFICE CLOSED**

#### **01/01– New Yer's Day**

#### **SUNDAY**

9:00am  
10:30am

#### **01/04**

Worship  
Bell Choir Practice



Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
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