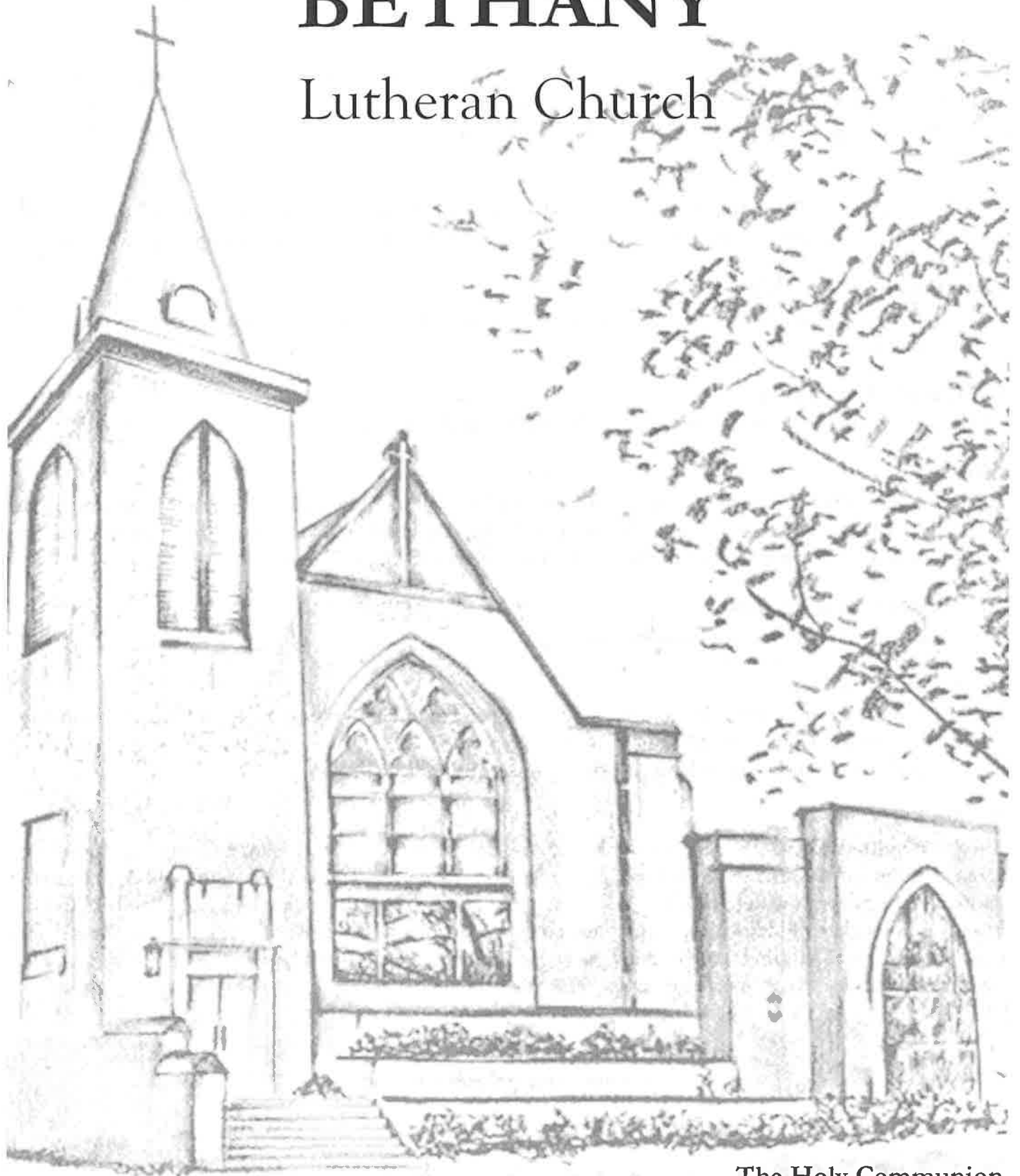


# BETHANY

Lutheran Church



The Holy Communion  
The Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 18, 2022

# WELCOME TO BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

## **Welcome**

In the name of Jesus Christ, we welcome you as we gather to hear God's holy Word and celebrate the meal of Holy Communion. We are blessed by your presence. As God welcomes all people through the saving grace of Jesus, so do we seek to welcome all God's people to be together in Christ – to love, to grow, and to serve.

Should you have no church home, you are invited to consider Bethany. If you have questions for the pastor or church office, please call at 630.879.3444 or visit our website at [www.bethanybatavia.org](http://www.bethanybatavia.org). Welcome!

## **Assistance in Worship**

For those who find it difficult to stand or prefer to sit during any part of the service, please feel free to remain seated.

## **Children's Resources**

Children's worship bulletins are available in the narthex and from the ushers.

## **Nursery**

While not yet staffed, the nursery is open for parents who may find it helpful. The nursery is located on the sanctuary level, where you will find a changing table, rocking chair and some toys. You can still hear the worship service through a speaker in the room. Ask an usher if you need assistance.

## **Cell Phones and Pagers**

Please silence all cell phones and pagers. Thank you.

## **Holy Communion**

In Holy Communion the crucified and risen Christ is present, giving his true body and blood as food and drink. All baptized Christians are invited to the table where Christ himself is host. If you desire to be baptized, or to learn more about Holy Baptism, please speak to the pastor.

## **As We Gather:**

They're unmistakable now. From inflatable Frostys and frosted edibles to trimmed trees and luminous lights, the signs of the season are everywhere. Christmas is coming! Even so, fear, doubt, and confusion run rampant. As it was in the time of King Ahaz, the world is overrun with warfare and violence. As it was for Joseph, our lives carry hidden uncertainties and anxieties. Beyond all the signs, we look for a sign from God. In the midst of it all, we find not a brightly packaged present bedecked with bows. Instead, the sign we find is a savior, wrapped in our fragile humanity, come to be Emmanuel.

# + GATHERING +

**PRELUDE:** The Angel Gabriel  
O Come, All Ye Faithful

Arr. Hopson  
Arr. Anna Laura Page  
Youth Bells

*We stand.*

## CONFESSON AND FORGIVENESS

P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P God of all mercy and consolation,  
come to the help of your people,  
turning us from our sin to live for you alone.  
Give us the power of your Holy Spirit  
that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness,  
and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

*Silence for reflection and self-examination*

P Gracious God,

C **have mercy on us.**

**We confess that we have turned from you  
and given ourselves into the power of sin.**

**We are truly sorry and humbly repent.**

**In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown,  
things we have done and things we have failed to do.**

**Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit,  
so that we may live and serve you in newness of life  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

P God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin,  
and made us alive together with Christ. By grace we have been saved.

In the name of + Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.

Almighty God strengthen us with power through the Holy Spirit,  
that Christ may live in our hearts through faith.

C **Amen.**



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's son, make here your home.  
 2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, but the mys - tic Breath of God,  
 3 Won - drous birth— oh, won - drous child— from his throne, a vir - gin mild!  
 4 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds, back to God his path - way leads;



Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth: God has cho - sen such a birth.  
 was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of wom - an, blos - som fresh.  
 Ver - y God, and Mar - y's son, ea - ger now his race to run!  
 out to van - quish death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.

5 Now your manger, shining bright,  
 hallows night with newborn light.  
 Night cannot this light subdue;  
 let our faith shine ever new.

6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,  
 virgin's son, incarnate Word!  
 To the holy Trinity  
 praise we sing eternally!

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397; Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. hymnal version  
 Music: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND, J. Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524  
 Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

**APOSTOLIC GREETING**

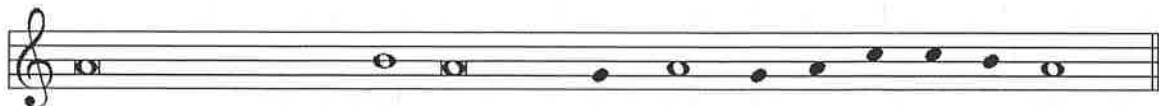
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

**KYRIE**



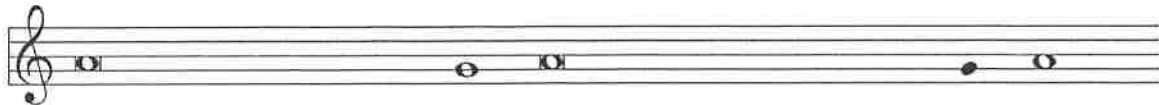
**A** In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



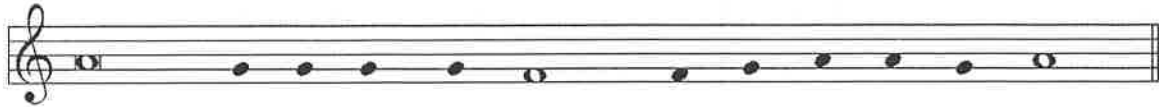
**A** For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



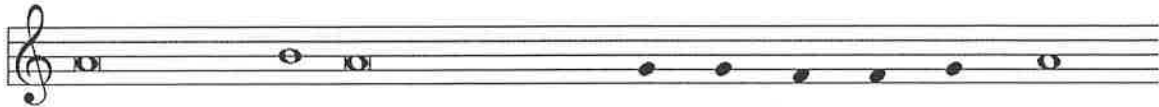
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. C A - men

*We sit.*

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Praise to you, O God, who lives with us,  
sharing our flesh and bones.

As Mary waited and Joseph dreamed,  
so we wait and dream for you.

Bless us and let your face shine upon us,  
more radiant than these candles,  
and more dear than all else we seek.

Restore us and banish all our fears.  
We pray in the name of Emmanuel,  
your promised child and our Savior.

C **Amen.**

'There is a candle in ev'ry soul; some brightly burning, and some dark and cold.  
 And there is a Spirit Who brings a fire, ignites a candle and makes His home.  
 Carry your candle, run to the darkness, seek out the helpless, confused and torn.  
 And hold out your candle for all to see it. Take your candle and go light your world.  
 Take your candle and go light your world.

+ **WORD** +

**FIRST READING:** Isaiah 7:10–16

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, <sup>11</sup>Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. <sup>13</sup>Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the LORD himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. <sup>15</sup>He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup>For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

L Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 80:1–7, 16–18**

Hal H. Hopson

ANTIPHON: Give ear, O Shepherd, O Shepherd of Israel.

A Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph | like a flock;\*  
 shine forth, you that are enthroned up- | on the cherubim.

C **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, | and Manasseh,\***  
 stir up your strength and | come to help us.

A Restore us, O | God of hosts;\*  
 show the light of your countenance, and we | shall be saved.

C **O Lord | God of hosts,\***  
 how long will you be angered despite the prayers | of your people?

A You have fed them with the | bread of tears;\*  
 you have given them bowls of | tears to drink.

C **You have made us the derision | of our neighbors,\***  
 and our enemies laugh | us to scorn.

ANTIPHON

- A Restore us, O | God of hosts;\*  
show the light of your countenance, and we | shall be saved.
- C Let your hand be upon the man of | your right hand,\*  
the son of man you have made so strong | for yourself.
- A And so will we never turn a- | way from you;\*  
give us life, that we may call up- | on your name.
- C Restore us, O Lord | God of hosts;\*  
show the light of your countenance, and we | shall be saved.

**SECOND READING: Romans 1:1–7**

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup>which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, <sup>3</sup>the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup>and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup>through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, <sup>6</sup>including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

<sup>7</sup>To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

L Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

*We stand.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*The choir sings the Alleluia the first time, congregation repeats*



L Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

C Repeat Alleluia

**HOLY GOSPEL:** Matthew 1:18–25

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup>"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." <sup>24</sup>When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, <sup>25</sup>but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*We sit.*

**SERMON**

Pastor Jeff Mikyska  
Matthew 1:18–25





# + THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM +

Leiana Marie Balsan  
Lucas Jonathan Balsan  
December 18, 2022

## PRESENTATION

*Pastor:* In baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

*Pastor:* Would Jennifer, Jaclyn, Mark and Christine please present their God-children for Baptism.

*Sponsors:* We present Leiana Marie and Lucas Jonathan for baptism.

*Pastor:* David and Amanda, called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Leiana Marie and Lucas Jonathan baptized into Christ?

*Parents:* We do.

*Pastor:* As you bring Leiana Marie and Lucas Jonathan to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

- ✠ to live with them among God's faithful people,
- ✠ bring them to the word of God and the holy supper,
- ✠ teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
- ✠ place in their hands the holy scriptures, and nurture them in faith and prayer, so that Leiana Marie and Lucas Jonathan may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.

✠ Do you promise to help Leiana Marie and Lucas Jonathan grow in the Christian faith and life?

*Parents:* We do.

*Pastor:* Jennifer, Jaclyn, Mark and Christine do you promise to nurture Leiana Marie and Lucas Jonathan in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help Leiana Marie and Lucas Jonathan live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

*Sponsors:* We do.

*Pastor:* People of God, do you promise to support Leiana Marie and Lucas Jonathan and pray for them in their new life in Christ?

**Congregation:** We do.

*We stand.*

### **PROFESSION OF FAITH**

*Pastor:* I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church. Do you renounce the devil and all the forces of evil that defy God?

**Congregation:** We renounce them.

*Pastor:* Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

**Congregation:** We renounce them.

*Pastor:* Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

**Congregation:** We renounce them.

*Pastor:* Do you believe in God the Father?

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

*Pastor:* Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**Congregation:** I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

*Pastor:* Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**Congregation:** 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.

### **THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT**

*Water may be poured into the font during the thanksgiving*

*Pastor:* The Lord be with you.

**Congregation:** And also with you.

*Pastor:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

*Pastor:* We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By baptism into Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you. Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

***Congregation:* Amen.**

*We sit.*

### THE BAPTISM

*Pastor:* Leiana Marie and Lucas Jonathan, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

***Parents and Sponsors:* Amen**

### LAYING ON OF HANDS

*Pastor:* Let us pray: We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

*The pastor lays on hands and prays for the newly baptized saying:*

Sustain Leiana Marie and Lucas Jonathan with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

***Congregation:* Amen.**

### SIGNING WITH THE CROSS

*The pastor marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of the baptized and says:*

*Pastor:* Leiana Marie and Lucas Jonathan children of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

***Congregation:* Amen.**

*Pastor:* Leiana Marie and Lucas Jonathan, let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

***Congregation:* Amen.**

## PRAYER FOR THE FAMILY

*Pastor:* Let us pray. O God, the giver of all life, look with kindness upon family & friends of our baptized. Let them ever rejoice in the gift(s) you have given them. Make them teachers and examples of righteousness for Leiana Marie and Lucas Jonathan. Strengthen them in their own Baptism so they may share eternally with him the salvation you have given them, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Congregation:* Amen.

## WELCOME

*Pastor:* Let us welcome Leiana Marie and Lucas Jonathan.

*Congregation:* We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing his creative and redeeming word to all the world.

*We stand.*

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

*A brief silence.*

A God our shepherd, let your Spirit move with power throughout the church. Give discernment and wisdom to our bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay leaders. Take away our fear, so that we may serve and love, confident that you are guiding us. God, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A God our source, awaken us to the beauty of the earth and the marvelous variety of life. Unite humankind in repairing and caring for your creation. Protect creatures and habitats in peril due to rising seas and warming temperatures. God, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A God our vision, raise up leaders in every nation who dream of freedom and justice for all people. We pray for the work of international organizations that promote peace and human rights, especially Amnesty International (*others may be named*). God, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A God our helper, come to the aid of all who cry out to you. Shelter migrants, refugees, and those fleeing war and famine. Bring relief to individuals and families experiencing hunger, homelessness, or impoverishment. Comfort any who are isolated or lonely. God, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A God our Emmanuel, you are with us in our life together. We give you thanks for gathering us in worship and fellowship, and we remember those who cannot be present.

Watch over those who travel. I heal the sick and hasten their recovery (*especially*). God, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

**A** God our hope, you bring life out of death, and you promise to be our God forever. Shine upon the faithful who now rest in the fulfillment of your promise and bring us also into your blessed reign of peace. God, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

*The prayers conclude:*

**P** 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.**

## + MEAL +

*We sit.*

**OFFERING MUSIC:** The Yearning

Craig Courtney

There is a yearning in hearts weighed down by ancient grief  
and centuries of sorrow.

There is a yearning in hearts that in the darkness hide  
and in the shades of death abide,  
a yearning for tomorrow.

There is a yearning for the promised One,  
the First-born of creation.

There is a yearning for the Lord who visited His own,  
And by His death for sin atoned, to bring to us salvation.  
Emmanuel, within our hearts, the yearning.

There is a yearning that fills the hearts of those who wait  
The day of His appearing.

There is a yearning when all our sorrows are erased  
And we shall see the One who placed within our hearts the yearning.  
Emmanuel, within our hearts the yearning.

*We stand.*

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray. God of abundance,

C 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.

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

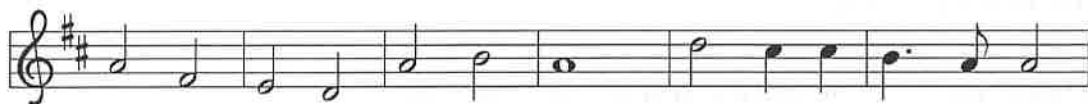
P Lift up your hearts.

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

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

P 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 ever-living 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, Lord God of pow'r 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.

P Holy God, You sent Your Son into the world not as a mighty king,  
but as a small child dependent upon the most ordinary of parents.  
In his earthly life, he would always be surrounded by simple and flawed  
people who did their best, just as we do today. This meal we are about  
to share is a banquet of the ordinary, called into an extraordinary communion.

On 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.

Remembering, therefore,  
his life, death, and resurrection,  
we await his coming again  
in righteousness and peace.

Send your Spirit on us  
and on this bread and wine that we share:  
strengthen our faith,  
increase our hope,  
and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,  
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church,  
both now and forever.

C Amen.

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

C **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.**



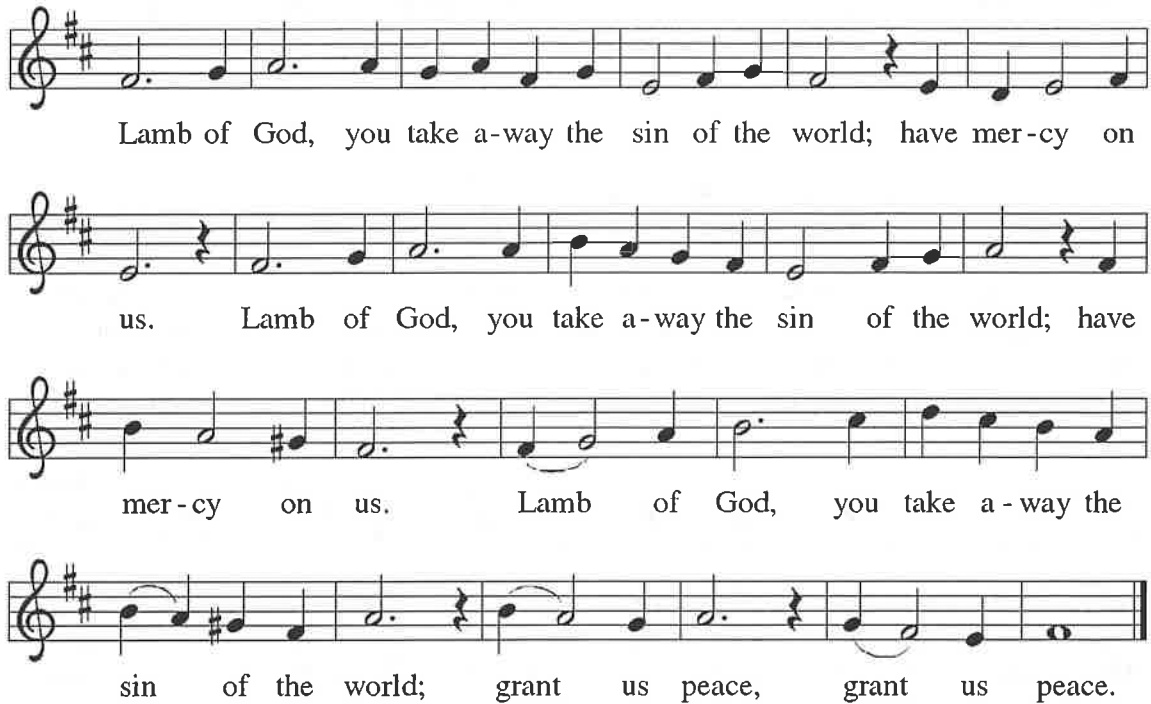
P These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Come, for all is now ready.

*We sit.*

## LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## COMMUNION

*Our Lord Jesus Christ welcomes you to this meal of the baptized. The crucified and risen Christ is present in the Lord's Supper, giving us his true body and blood as food and drink.*

*Gluten-FREE rice wafers are available upon request and for those desiring it, non-alcoholic wine cups are in the center of the tray.*

MUSIC FOR THE COMMUNION

HYMN: The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

ELW #265



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,  
2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,  
3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;  
4 Of her, Em-man - u - el, the Christ, was born



with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:  
all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;  
"To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.  
in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,  
thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,  
"My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."  
and Chris-tian folk through-out the world will ev - er say:



most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."  
most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."  
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,  
"Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."      Glo - ri - a!

Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924  
Music: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE, Basque carol



1 Fling wide the door, un - bar the gate; the King of glo - ry  
 2 He is the rock of our be - lief, the heart of mer - cy's  
 3 Oh, hap - py towns and bless - ed lands that live by their true  
 4 Come, Lord, our Sav - ior, Je - sus Christ; our hearts are o - pen



comes in state; the Lord of lords and King of kings, the  
 gen - tle self. His king - ly crown is ho - li - ness; his  
 king's com - mands. And bless - ed be the hearts he rules, the  
 wide in trust. Oh, show us now your love - ly grace, up -



Sav - ior of the world who brings his great sal - va - tion  
 scep - ter is his love - li - ness; he brings our sor - rows  
 hum - ble plac - es where he dwells. He is the right - ful  
 on our sor - rows shine your face, and let your Ho - ly



to the earth. So raise a shout of ho - ly mirth and  
 to an end. Now glad - ly praise our king and friend, and  
 Son of bliss who fills our lives and makes us his, cre -  
 Spir - it guide our jour - ney in your grace so wide. We



praise our God and Lord, Cre - a - tor, Spir - it, Word.  
 wor - ship him with song for sav - ing us from wrong.  
 a - tor of the world, our on - ly strength for good.  
 praise your ho - ly name, from age to age the same!

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590-1635; tr. Gracia Grindal, b. 1943

Music: MACHT HOCH DIE TÜR, J. A. Freylinghausen, *Geistreiches Gesangbuch*, 1704

Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

*We stand.*

**POST-COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER**

**P** May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in his grace.

**C** Amen.

**A** Let us pray. God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** Amen.

**+ SENDING +**

**BENEDICTION**

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

**C** Amen.



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
 plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing  
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

### DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Live your faith. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

### POSTLUDE: Variations on "Joy to the World"

Arr. Hopson

## LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Jeffrey Mikyska, Presiding Minister  
Todd Toles, Assisting Minister  
Alan Spear, Organist  
Andrea Gustafson, Reader  
Ian Gutierrez, Doug Clark, A/V  
Kathy Richmond, Dorothy Thorsen, Altar Guild  
Leslie Grashorn, Ryan Grashorn, Acolytes  
Jon Habegger, Bill Dreymler, Ushers  
Todd Toles, Susan Walz, Margie Schuett, Comm Asst's  
Festival Choir  
Youth Bells

## STAFF

Jeffrey Mikyska, Senior Pastor  
Mark Waldron, Director of Music  
Alan Spear, Organist  
Steven Ritter, Visitation Pastor  
Darlene Hutchens, Church Administrator  
Susan Jarocki, Administrative Assistant  
Ed McQuillan, Financial Secretary  
Emma Hess, Youth Director

## YOUR CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

Todd Toles, President  
Alan Spear, Vice President  
Doug Boehm, Secretary  
Steve Mickelson, Treasurer  
Karol Clark  
Aidan Garrity  
Brad Hirt

Pastor Jeff Mikyska  
Jackie Page  
Kathy Richmond  
Mia Rusev  
Ed Schalk  
Marsha Schuster

If you have questions or concerns for members of the Church Council you're invited to speak with them personally or via email to [council@bethanybatavia.org](mailto:council@bethanybatavia.org).

## Liturgy Credits

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LET US PRAY...

*We pray for all who are hospitalized in our greater community and for those who are serving them.*

**Please pray for those who are part of the life of Bethany who struggle with illness and other concerns:**

Mary Bradtmueller, Robert Granquist, **Delores Hoffman**, Deb Hruby, Anna Jackson, Karin Johnston, Luke & Diane Land, Bill Lechnick, Bob Novy, Louise Pruitt, JoAnn Sargent, Val Schalk, George & Shirley Striedl, Pat Sullivan

**Please pray for those who are homebound and those in a care facility:**

Mark Anderson	Silverado Memory Care, St Charles
Lois Elfstrom	Aurora, IL
Bill Keele	Heritage Woods
Pam Klingberg	Heritage Woods
Wanda Krentz	Harry J. Ekstam, Holmstad
Mildred Miller	Reserve of Geneva, Geneva
Joan Olson	Michaelsen Health Center, Holmstad
Pat Quast	Asbury Gardens
Jay & Carol Wierz	Harry J. Ekstam, Holmstad

**Please pray for all those serving in the military, especially those who are connected to our congregation.**

**Please pray for our family and friends:**

Jeffrey Campbell	Nephew of Nan Phillips
Kate and Family	Friend of John & Karol Clark
Damon Schultz	Son-in-Law of Shyla Carbone
Sue S.	Friend of Bob & Sue Novy
Nicole	Friend of Linda Sullivan
Alice Hendrikson	Friend of Lynn & Bill Dreymler
Bigby Suddarth	Friend of Allie Mikyska
Mary Rasori	Sister-in-Law of Brian & Tara Shannon
Maureen Scollon	Friend of Lois Benson & Dottie White
Lauren Hanson	Supervisor of Janice Reynolds
Jaylene Lumppp	Acquaintance of Janice Reynolds
Pam Paszotta	Sister of Tom & Dee Schuman
Senaida Stafford	Niece of Tom & Dee Schuman
Emily	Friend of Tom & Dee Schuman
Chris Sidler	Friend of Luke & Diane Land
Tina Motter	Sister of Jackie Page
Derek McGrath	Friend of Sue & Bob Novy
Lisa	Friend of Beth Richard
John	Son of Jan Bristow
Lynn Krambeer Stoddard	Cousin of Pastor Jeff & Gail Mikyska
Heather	Friend of Schuman Family
Gretchen VanKempema	Daughter of Ann Holch
Loy Williams	Friend of Ann & Fred Holch
Ryan Anderson	Son of Aaron Anderson
Linda Raish	Friend of Kathy Richmond & Sandy Conn
Vic and Anne Lee	Friends of Debbie Garrison
Lynne Morrow	Friend and Colleague of Pastor Jeff & Gail
Kenzie	Friend of Katie Robertson
Rebecca and family	God-Daughter of Beth Lawniczak
Josh Braun	Nephew of Pastor Jeff & Gail

Kate  
Floyd Anderson  
Barbara Garrison  
Paul Mazen  
Ed Bonnes  
Bonnie Palshis  
Heather Staudacher, Dr. Mark Staudacher & family,  
Phil  
Kathy Dee's Family  
Mary Jo Benstein's Family  
Susan Sheley  
Bonnie  
Carole W.  
DeAnne & Gary  
Rabbi Margaret Frisch Klein  
Brad Blue  
Megan Campbell  
Diane Ekstam Johnson  
Tammy English  
Jerry Martin  
Teri Prokes  
Tony Prokes  
Kelli Robertson  
Wolfgang Smailus  
Ed Stahl

Friend of Karol Clark  
Beth Richard's Father  
Bill Garrison's mother  
  
Cousin of John & Karol Clark  
Sister-in-Law of Doug Boehm  
Friend/Coworker of Beth Richard  
Lynn Dreymler's brother  
Teri Figura  
Teri Figura  
Daughter of Louise Pruitt  
Friend of Pastor Jeff  
Friend of Ann & Fred Holch  
Niece & Nephew of Shirley Grant  
Friend of Pastor Jeff  
Friend of Lois Benson  
Granddaughter of Scotty & Maureen Scollon  
Mother of Mary Helen Ekstam  
Daughter of Shirley Streidl  
Father of Nicki McVey  
Sister of Sue & Bob Novy  
Brother-in-law of Bob & Sue Novy  
Daughter of Diane Schalk  
Brother-in-law of Marty Offutt Gruber  
Father of Dan Stahl

**Please pray for those who mourn the passing of:**

Sharyn Collins  
John McKinnis  
Mike Harland  
Richard Franzen  
David Smith  
Dorothy Carlson

Cousin of Rick & Wendy McKinnis  
Cousin of Rick & Wendy McKinnis  
Co-Worker of Rick McKinnis



## THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

### Sunday, December 18

9am	Worship - Baptisms	Sanctuary
10am	Coffee Hour – Balsan’s Hosting	Fellowship Hall
10:30am	Sunday School	Ministry Center, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor
5pm	Blue Christmas Service	Chapel

### Monday, December 19

8:30am	Bethany Walking Group	Ministry Center Gym
9am	Counters	Conference Room
7pm	Troop 6 Leaders	Lower Level

### Tuesday, December 20

8:30am	Bethany Walking Group	Ministry Center Gym
9am	Quilters	Fellowship Hall
6:30pm	Girls BSA Troop 6	Ministry Center Gym

### Wednesday, December 21

8:30am	Bethany Walking Group	Ministry Center Gym
6:30pm	Confirmation Class	Fellowship Hall

### Thursday, December 22

8:30am	Bethany Walking Group	Ministry Center Gym
6:30pm	Boy Scout Troop 6	Ministry Center Gym/Vlahn Room
6:30pm	Bell Choir	Balcony
7pm	Festival Choir	Sanctuary

### Friday, December 23

	Altar Guild/Set-Up Poinsettias	Sanctuary
8:30am	Bethany Walking Group	Ministry Center Gym

### Saturday, December 24

7:30am	Men’s Basketball	Ministry Center Gym
10am	Al-Anon	Library
10am	Al-Ateen	Lower Level
4pm	Christmas Eve Children/Family Service	Sanctuary
8pm	AA	Fellowship Hall
8:30pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	Sanctuary

### Sunday, December 25

8am	AID Christmas Day Lunch Event	Lower Level
8am	Christmas Day Worship Service	Online Only
10:30am	No Sunday School Today	Ministry Center
2:30pm	Hesed House Preparation	Kitchen
4:30pm	Hesed House Serving	Hesed House
	Family Emergency Shelter	

