**Bethel Lutheran Church**

Rev. Donna Olsen, Supply Pastor | Jan Smith, Accompanist

First Sunday of Christmas | Sunday, December 29, 2024

ACS Holy Communion Setting 11

**Mission Statement**

Vibrantly open to the Spirit, Bethel Lutheran Church seeks to serve God

and its neighbors by joyfully living into the good news of Jesus Christ.



**Gathering**

**The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.**

**Meditation time** Infant Holy, Infant Lowly arr. by Robert W. Thygerson

What Child is This? arr. by Robert Thygerson

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Confession, Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon. **Amen.** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of mercy, **we confess that we have sinned.** **We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.**

God of might, **we confess that we have sinned.** **We have turned away from our neighbors.** **We have trusted false promises.**

God in our midst, **we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us.** **Bring your mercy to birth in us.** A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through + Christ Jesus, whose day draws near. **Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG *Once in Royal David's City* (Red ELW #269)**

**Greeting (Purple ACS p. 12)**

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 (Purple ACS p. 12)**

**Canticle of Praise (Purple ACS p. 12)**

**Prayer of the Day**

**Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**Word**

**God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.**

**FIRST Reading: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26**

18 Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy wearing a linen ephod. 19 His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. 20 Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife and say, “May the Lord repay you with children by this woman for the loan that she made to the Lord,” and then they would return to their home.26 Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the Lord and with the people.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God**.

**PSALM:**148 **(read responsively)**

1 Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise God in the heights.  
2 **Praise the Lord, all you angels;** **sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**  
3 Praise the Lord, sun and moon; sing praise, all you **|** shining stars.  
4 **Praise the Lord, heaven of heavens,** **and you waters above the heavens.**  
5 Let them praise the name of the Lord, who commanded, and they were created,  
6 **who made them stand fast forever and ever,** **giving them a law that shall not pass away.**   
7 Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;  
8 **fire and hail, snow and fog,** **tempestuous wind, doing God’s will;**  
9 mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;  
10 **wild beasts and all cattle,** **creeping things and flying birds;**  
11 sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;  
12 **young men and maidens,** **old and young together.**   
13 Let them praise the name of the Lord, whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.  
14 **The Lord has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants,** **the children of Israel, a people who are near the Lord. Hallelujah!**

**SECOND Reading: Colossians 3:12-17**

12 As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. 13 Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 14 Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. 15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. 17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation (Purple ACS p. 14)**

**Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia. Christ is risen, ris’n indeed.**

**Gospel:** The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

41 Now every year [Jesus’s] parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. 42 And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. 43 When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents were unaware of this. 44 Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day’s journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. 45 When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. 46 After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. 47 And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. 48 When his parents saw him they were astonished, and his mother said to him, “Child, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously looking for you.” 49 He said to them, “Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” 50 But they did not understand what he said to them. 51 Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was obedient to them, and his mother treasured all these things in her heart.  
52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years and in divine and human favor.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Children's Sermon**

**Sermon**

**Hymn of the Day *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* (Red ELW #288)**

**NICENE Creed (Purple ACS p. 16)**

**Prayers of Intercession** God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

**Peace** The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

**Meal**

**God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.**

**OfferTORY *In the Bleak Midwinter* (Red ELW #294)**

**OfferTORY Prayer**

**God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day. Amen.**

**Great Thanksgiving**

**Dialogue (Purple ACS p. 20)**

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.**

**Preface (Purple ACS p. 20)**

**Holy, Holy, Holy (Purple ACS p. 20)**

**Thanksgiving at the Table (Purple ACS p. 21)**

…with every breath. **We praise you, O God.**

…into the future. **We rejoice in you, O God.**

…with us now. **We thank you, O God.**

…proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

**…**in your church, without end. **Amen.**

**Lord’s prayer (Purple ACS p. 24)**

**Communion (Purple ACS p.25)**

**communion song O Little Town of Bethlehem (Red ELW #279)**

**Prayer after Communion**

**Sending**

**God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.**

**Blessing**

God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, our hope for the journey, + bless and keep you now and forever. **Amen.**

**Sending hymn *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* (Red ELW #270)**

**Dismissal** Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly. **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude** While By Thy Sheep arr. by Mark Hayes

**About the Prayer of the Day**

The prayer of the day is based on a prayer for dawn in the Eastern and Leonine churches. We ask that, like the boy Jesus, we receive God’s wisdom, the knowledge of God’s word, and the ability to live in God’s good will.

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**Welcome to Bethel Lutheran Church!**

**We’re glad you’re here! If you are new to Bethel, here is some helpful worship information:**

We use the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* [red book] and the *All Creations Sings* [purple book], containing liturgy and hymns. Liturgies are indicated by (ELW p.) or (ACS p.) and are in the front of the hymnal, with the numbers at the bottom of the page. Hymns are indicated by (ELW#) or (ACS#) and are in the back two-thirds of the hymnal, with the numbers at the top of the page. Songs from the Green Book are indicated by (GB#).

**QUESTIONS OR REQUESTS?** Contact the church office at 320-395-2125 or bethellutheranlp@gmail.com. For emergency pastoral care needs, call Pastor Molly Wills at 320-339-8169 or email pastor@lpbethel.org.

**ADDRESS:** 77 Lincoln AVE N, Lester Prairie, MN 55354, **(Mailing USPS: PO Box 207)**

**WEBSITE:** [www.lpbethel.org](http://www.lpbethel.org)

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Description automatically generated**FACEBOOK**: www.facebook.com/lpbethel

**BULLETIN SUBMISSION DEADLINE:** Wednesdays at noon

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:** 25th of the month

**ONLINE GIVING:** scan the QR code

**TEXT GIVING:** To give, text dollar amount to **866-298-7547**

**SIMPLY GIVING** offers convenience for you and much-needed consistency for Bethel! For more information, contact Stacy Meyer, Financial Secretary, at finsec@lpbethel.org**.**

**HEARING ASSIST DEVICES AVAILABLE**—speak to an usher for assistance.

**THIS WEEK AT BETHEL…**

**December 29, 2024…**

* Welcome and thank you, Pastor Donna Olsen, for leading us in worship today!
* *The Chosen* & Fellowship hour following worship

**Wednesday, January 1, 2025** ***(Happy New Year!)***

**Sunday, January 5, 2025**

* Worship: 9:00 am
* *The Chosen* & Fellowship hour following worship

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS**

* **NOMINATING COMMITTEE SEEKING 2025 VOLUNTEERS:** Open positions include:

Council positions: President, Secretary, Financial Secretary (all 2-year terms),

Finance Board and Education Board (both 2-year terms, they partner with another board member, and only one person from each board needs to attend the council meetings) Committee positions: Cemetery 2-year term, Mission Endowment 3-year term/need two, Audit 3-year term/need one, Nominating 1-year term/need four, Synod Assembly in June/one male & one female. ***Contact Peggy Wick, Ron Foust, or Brian Duncan if you want to serve in 2025!***

* **UPCOMING MILESTONE CLASSES: *God’s Grace for 2nd graders*:** January 12 with a Blessing during worship on January 19. ***Ten Commandments for 4th graders*:** February 2 with a Blessing during worship on February 9. ***Stewardship for 6th graders*:** February 9 with a Blessing during worship on February 16. The classes will be held after worship.
* **REMINDER:** Email your Financial Annual Reports to [bethellutheranlp@gmail.com](mailto:bethellutheranlp@gmail.com) by **January 10!** *(Council Treasurer, 2025 Budget, and WELCA Treasurer)*
* **YOUTH TASK FORCE SOCIAL:** Bethel will host the Youth Task Force Social **on Wednesday, January 15, 12:40 pm-1:40 pm.** We will need volunteers to come early to set up card-making supplies on the tables, pop popcorn, etc., and volunteers to sit at each table to help the students. If you would like to volunteer, contact Pastor Molly.
* **BETHEL’S ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, SUNDAY, JANUARY 26**: The meeting will begin immediately following worship. A potluck meal will follow the meeting.Please make every effort to attend this important meeting for our congregation.
* **A MULTI-LEVEL AGE GIRL SCOUT TROOP** will meet monthly at our church starting January 18 at 1:00 pm. At the first meeting, they will decide which Saturday of the month to meet and what time. Girls K-12 are invited to join. It will be a multi-level age group because it is the only Girl Scout troop available in Lester Prairie. The leader is Deb Riske. If anyone is interested in joining, contact Deb at 612-804-3188 or [dwriske@gmail.com](mailto:dwriske@gmail.com).
* **BETHEL BREAKFAST:** Since the annual meeting is scheduled for January 26, 2025, the next Bethel Breakfast at Longhorn’s will be on **January 19, 2025!**
* **FAITH THAT OVERFLOWS 2025:** Registration for GLLM summer programs is open! By registering early, you will not only reserve your place, but you’ll save money too! **The Early Bird Discount ends on February 13, 2025!** Every registration received before then will receive $65 off each registered program (some restrictions apply.) GLLM scholarships are available for any program including youth camps, and retreat programs. Bethel also has scholarships available, contact Emily Koehler or Pete Hallberg if you are interested. Visit gllm.org for more information and register today! If you have questions, contact the office by phone at 320-796-2181 or email [camp@gllm.org](mailto:camp@gllm.org).
* **CREATIVE SOULS RETREAT, FEBRUARY 7-9, 2025:** Escape the cold and snow and enjoy a cozy weekend of creating! Crafters of all skills and projects are invited to a weekend of dedicated time to create and work on projects. No need to think about meals or dishes, because we have those covered. When you need a break, there is space for taking a brisk walk, reading a book, or even enjoying a nap. Join us for a weekend filled with whatever your creative soul needs! Register before the deadline - **Tuesday, January 28!** Visit [gllm.org](http://gllm.org/) for more information and register today!