

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Nurture with Love, Serve with Hope
DECEMBER 1, 2024 PASTOR ELAINA SALMON

Prelude *“Jesus, Hope of the World”*

Welcome and Announcements

THE GATHERING

Video *“The Waiting Room”*

(Please stand.)

Song *“Where the Promise Shines”*

*Where the world is waiting for an unknown day,
where a voice, forgotten, cries “Prepare the way!”
Show us in a manger our redemption’s sign;
bring us to a morning where the promise shines.*

*Lead us on, lead us on
to a morning where the promise shines.
Lead us on, lead us on
to a morning where the promise shines*

Litany

P Advent is a time for God’s people to reawaken their longings.
C **We wait in hope for the Lord.**
P We long for every hurt to be healed.
C **We wait in hope for the Lord.**
P We long for every tear to be dried.
C **We wait in hope for the Lord.**
P We long for every injustice to be made right.
C **We wait in hope for the Lord.**
P We celebrate God’s promises and long for those yet to unfold.
C **We wait in hope for the Lord.**

(candlelighting)

P This morning we light the first candle which reminds us that even in the darkness, the light of hope shines. Jesus Christ is the promised One of God, the light of the world. May this light of hope illuminate our hearts throughout this Advent season.

Song “Where the Promise Shines” (continued)

*Lead us On, lead us on
to a morning where the promise shines.
Lead us on, lead us on
to a morning where the promise shines.
To a morning where the promise shines.*

Prayer

A Gracious God, fill our hearts this day with the thrill of hope that is found in each of your promises. Like the people of old, we who have walked in darkness have seen a great light. Ignite our faith and light our path. In Jesus’ name we pray.
C **Amen.**

Gathering Song “Beyond the Moon and Stars” vs 1, 3, 4

*Refrain
Beyond the moon and stars, as deep as night,
So great our hunger, Lord, to see your light.
The sparrow finds her home beneath your wing,
So may we come to rest where angels sing.*

*Our eyes have longed to see your loving face,
To live within your courts for all our days. Refrain*

*Upon our darkness, Lord, a light has shone.
You came to dwell with us in flesh and bone.*

*With shining stars at night, and cloud by day,
you brought us here to see your love’s display.*

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.**

Advent Gathering Song

ADVENT GATHERING SONG

James J. Chepponis

Gently
mp

Come, come Em - man - u - el.

Come, Em - man - u - el.

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Prayer of the Day

- P** 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.
- C** **Amen.**

(Please be seated.)

THE WORD

The First Reading Jeremiah 33:14-16

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."

- A** The Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 25

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

C **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

A Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

C **Show me your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths.**

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

C **Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.**

A Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

C **You are gracious and upright, O Lord;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

A You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

C **All your paths, O Lord, are steadfast love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

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.

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand.)

Gospel Acclamation “Come and Enter In”

Enter in the story, long ago foretold.

Unto us a child is born to save.

Hope amidst the longing,

love that thrills the soul,

joy to the Earth,

and peace that calms the storm.

Come and enter in. (repeat)

Gospel Luke 21:25-36

“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 does not 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.”

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

(Please be seated.)

Sermon **Rev. Elaina Salmon**

(Please stand.)

Hymn of the Day “Come, Now, O God”

*Come now, O God, when our love is forsaken.
Come, when our bedrock of faith has been shaken.
Come, when our deepest of hopes are mistaken.
Come, Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.*

*Come, when we squander the freedom you gave us.
Come, break the systems of sin that enslave us.
Come, though we wonder if you can still save us.
Come, Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.*

*Come, put an end to our self-serving madness.
Come, while the world is enshrouded in sadness.
Come, turn the tears of our mourning to gladness.
Come, Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.*

Prayers of the People

A As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

(a moment of silence)

Song "Watch, O Watch"

Watch, O watch. The dawn will come.

Be still, my soul and pray. (repeated)

A God of righteousness, your people live in hopeful expectation of your coming. Fill your church with renewed passion for our shared mission, and deepen our relationships with other Christians and other faith traditions in our local community and across the world. Lord, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

A God of the cosmos, all creation shows that your presence is near. Help us sense your goodness and love in the sun and moon, in sprouting leaves and bare branches, in the roaring sea and quiet breeze. Lord, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

A God of the nations, your reign extends over all principalities and powers. Give leaders and all in authority hearts for justice and peace. Encourage efforts to enact policies that benefit the common good. Lord, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

A God of change, you accompany us through life's transitions. Be near to all who are changing jobs, moving, welcoming children, or facing the loss of loved ones. Sustain those who are ill or suffering. We pray especially for... In times of change, remind us of your steadfast love. Lord, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

A God of community, your Spirit holds us together. Sustain our care for one another. Inspire us to seek new ways to live together and to embrace the diversity of thought and identity in our communities. Lord, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

A God of memory, we give you thanks for faithful ones who have died. Tend to our grief and sorrow with renewed trust in your promise of abundant and eternal life. Lord, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

A Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

Song “Watch, O Watch”

*Watch, O watch. The dawn will come.
Be still, my soul and pray. (repeated)*

Sharing of Christ's Peace

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

(Please be seated.)

THE MEAL

Invitation to the Offering

P In faith and hope, let us offer our gifts so that even as we await Christ’s coming, we may
 be a part of what God is doing in the world right now.

Offering

*(Our offering is an act of worship and thanksgiving for all God has first given us. Our gifts
support the mission of the church to “nurture with love and serve with hope.”)*

(Please stand.)

Offertory Song “Bread of Life”

Refrain

*Bread of life, hope of the world,
Jesus Christ, our brother:
feed us now, give us life,
lead us to one another.*

*Be with your people, Lord,
send us your saving Word:
Jesus Christ, light of gladness,
come among us now. Refrain*

*Bring to our world of fear
the truth we long to hear:
Jesus Christ, hope of ages,
come to save us now. Refrain*

Offertory Prayer

- A Creator God,
you made the whole world,
even the farthest stars,
and you draw near to feed us.
We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine.
Strengthen us with this food
that we may live in expectation
for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C **Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer

- 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 our thanks and praise.**
- P Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.
- 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,
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.
- P Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
C **Christ has died.**
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.
- P With this bread and cup
we remember your Word dwelling among us,

full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.

(Sung response)

C ***Come, come Emmanuel.***
Come, Emmanuel. (repeated)

P Holy God, we long for your Spirit.
Come among us.
Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.
(Sung response)

C ***Come, come Emmanuel.***
Come, Emmanuel. (repeated)

P All praise and glory are yours,
Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High,
one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

P Remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray,

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, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

P God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

(Please be seated.)

Communion Distribution

Communion Songs

“Lamb of God”

*Lamb of God, you take away our sin
Lord, have mercy on us,
and may your peace be with us.
Lamb of God, you take away our sin. (repeat).*

“Christ Be Our Light”

*Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.*

Refrain

*Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.*

*Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice. Refrain*

*Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed. Refrain*

*Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone. Refrain*

*Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
signs of your kingdom come. Refrain*

(Please stand.)

Communion Blessing

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

C **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

- A Generous God,
 we thank you for the gift of life,
 for the bread of salvation.
 We thank you for coming among us,
 for leading us into peace.
 We thank you for showering us with mercy,
 for sending us into the world.
 Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us
 as we feed the hungry in your name.
- C **Amen.**

SENDING

Blessing

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

Sending Song “Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning”

*Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
for this work's almost done. Refrain*

*Refrain
Children, don't grow weary;
children, don't grow weary;
children, don't grow weary,
for this work's almost done.*

*Darker midnight lies before us,
darker midnight lies before us,
darker midnight lies before us,
for this work's almost done. Refrain*

*Lo, the morning soon is breaking,
lo, the morning soon is breaking,
lo, the morning soon is breaking,
for this work's almost done. Refrain*

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,

*keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
for this work's almost done. Refrain*

Dismissal

P Go in peace to nurture with love and serve with hope.
C **Thanks be to God!**

PRAYERS FOR THE COMMUNITY

MariLynn Bergmark	Bob Hoster	Dave Nommenson
Sharon Bolerjack	Nancy Iwan	Dick Pierce
Hazel Brant	Monica Johnson	Charlotte Pohlman
Scott Browne	Pat Johnson	Misty Pounder
Anthony Campagna	Caty K	Brilee Robbins
Gary Cobbett	Zepplyn Killmer	Ken Rose
Sidney Colburn	Lenny Kobilca	Frank Roy
Jim Connelly	Carrie Koon	Ben Sabourin
Beau Dowling	Rev. John Lang	George Scheel
Maggie Driscoll	Nancy Lang	Bernie Schroeder
Finley Engnell	Sue Lucheon	Tim Schroeder
Bob Erickson	Scott Lundgren	Virginia Schroeder
Elwood Faulhaber	Bill Lynch	Sharon Skopec
Judy Faulhaber	Dede Machowski	Gene Sobba
Abby Galvin	Hanna Mau	Gary Sperka
David Gilchrist	Jim McKeever	Burt Swartz
Hazel Grant	Ruth Ann Miller	Dom Thielmann
Chriss Hassel	Omni Rook Myers	Kayley Koter Taddeo
Mary Hately	Linda Nelson	Chuck Vlcek
Marie Heeren	Jane Nilles	Kyle Williams
Mike Hoffman		

For Sean Acosta, Dustin Johnson, Steve Kleinfelder, Damen McDermott,
Chad Peters, Mitch Pohlman and all others serving our country and their families.

For those we name in our hearts, and for those who have not yet found Jesus.

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Give Thanks Text & music: Henry Smith, Text & music © 1978 Integrity's Hosanna! Music

Christ Be Our Light Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957 Text © 1993 Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP Publications.

Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning Text: African American spiritual

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERVING TODAY — Pam Laasch

MUSICIANS — Sandy Doeber and Sue Gray

TECH CREW — Gary Gray, Sue Gray and Zach Howell

ADVENT EVENING PRAYER

Join us for an hour of connection and prayer on Wednesday, December 4 at 7pm in the Sanctuary. May it be a holy pause in your Advent season.

SWEDISH POTATO SAUSAGE

Bethany's Swedish Potato Sausage Sale is happening on Sunday, December 22. We'll need all our helpers for peeling, chopping, mixing, filling, and selling the Swedish potato sausage. To place an order, submit the enclosed form by December 15. Sausage can be picked up on December 22 between 10AM-12PM.

POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

If you would like to order a poinsettia, order forms are available. Kindly turn in your orders to the church office by December 11th. Please call the office at 630-257-7953 or email bethanylmt@aol.com.

DONATIONS TO THE OPEN PANTRY were given by Mary Horne, Al & Cele Albrecht and South Suburban Dietetic Association.

A DONATION THE CEMETERY FUND was given in memory of John Jaje, anniversary of his death on Dec. 5, by Kelly Jaje.

A DONATION TO THE GENERAL FUND was given in memory of Rita Ludwig by Tuscola Stone, Mrs. MariLynn Bergmark, Kristen & Joe Falese, Sharon Ahlberg and the Salmon Family.

ELECTRONIC GIVING is available to support Bethany Lutheran Church. It is fast, easy and secure. You can schedule a weekly or monthly contribution that is automatically debited from your savings or checking account. Make a one-time donation to a special fund; even direct the gift in honor or in memory of someone. Visit our website: bethanylemont.org and click the Donate button on the homepage.

💎 🎁 We're In Our Giving Era 🎁 💎

Call it what you want to but this Advent we are kicking off the Season of Hope with something new! Taking inspiration from the goodwill and joy that friendship bracelets have been spreading thanks to Taylor Swift and all of us Swifties, we are reimagining these bracelets as a quick way to give a gift and make a connection with your neighbor this holiday season.

Starting the first Sunday in Advent we need you to grab at least 4 bracelets during worship that represent each week of Advent. We ask that as we move through the season, that you give the friendship bracelet for the week away to someone outside of your family and outside of our church community.

Week 1: Hope ★

Week 2: Peace 🕊️

Week 3: Joy 😄

Week 4: Love ❤️

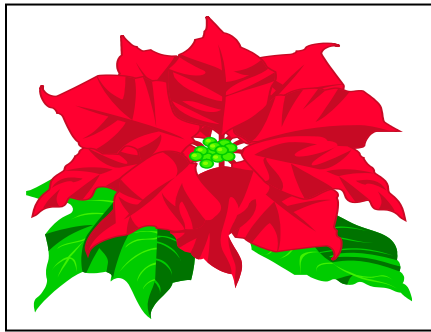
Tell them about friendship bracelets, spread the joy of the season, and invite them to the awesome things we have going at Bethany! They can hear our children make a *long story short* in the Christmas Pageant? Or at the service of the longest night, they may be reminded that they too *can do it with a broken heart?*

Hold on though, *I think there's been a Glitch?* It's not just the evangelism committee who will be assembling these bracelets. You are invited to help make these bracelets too! We will have two bracelet making events where you can come join in the fun of making friendship bracelets. The first event will take place Sunday December 1st at 9:30am before worship. The second event will be Wednesday December 11th at 7pm. Also if you have someone at home just screaming "*don't call me kid*", not to worry, all ages are welcome and we will have special bracelet stations for our littlest bracelet makers too (as long as they won't eat the beads)!

These bracelets will be a small way to bring the gift of hope, peace, joy, and love found in God's coming to walk among us on Earth to our community. *So join us! Come make the friendship bracelets, take the moment and taste it, you've got no reason to be afraid.*

Head First, Fearless 🧠❤️

The Evangelism Committee



***2024
Christmas
Poinsettias
Order***

Name _____

Email Address _____

OR phone _____

\$20 Altar Poinsettias (pick up after Christmas Eve service)

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

2024 Swedish Potato Sausage Order

Orders due by December 15th.

Bethany Lutheran Church will be hosting their Swedish Potato Sausage Sale on December 22, 2024. Potato Sausage will be \$7/pound. Order pickup is between 10am-Noon on the day of the sale and payment is due at that time. Cooking instructions will be added to the package at pickup.

Name _____

Email Address _____

OR phone _____

of lbs: _____

Are there any special instructions for your order?
