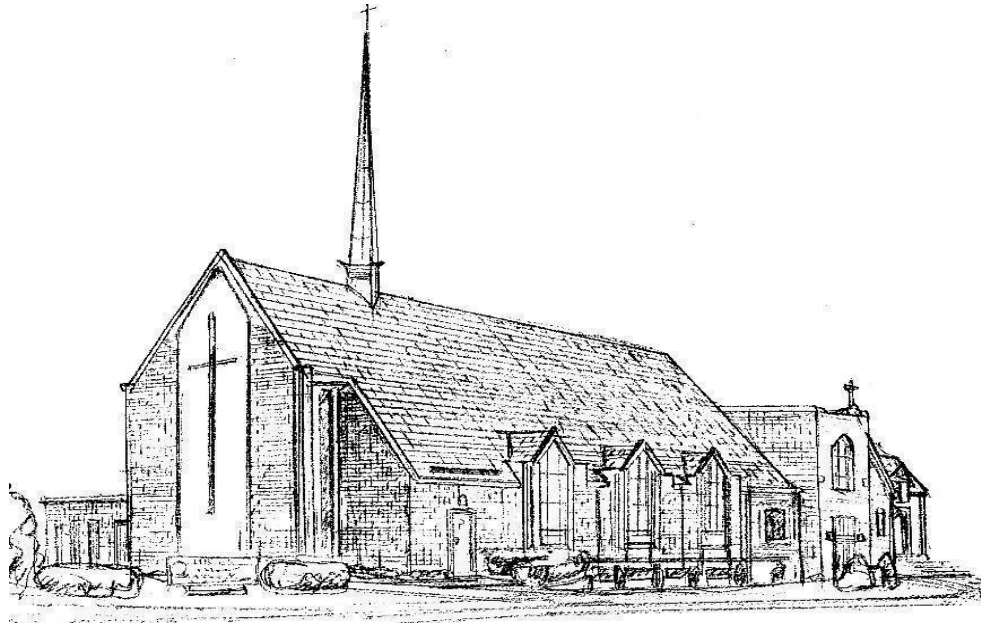


# BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



*Serving, accepting, and loving all.*

**Sunday Bulletin**  
**December 28 & 29, 2024**

**Daniel P. Smail & Ellen S. Lundie, Pastors**  
**Laura M. Henri, Organist and Director of Choirs**

**1719 Mt. Royal Boulevard – Glenshaw, PA 15116**  
**Phone: 412-486-0550**      **E-Mail: [office@belc.org](mailto:office@belc.org)**

**Web Page: [www.belc.org](http://www.belc.org)**

**Sunday, December 29, 2024**

**First Sunday of Christmas, Year C**

## **Introduction**

*On the first Sunday of Christmas we find the boy Samuel and the boy Jesus, both in the temple, both growing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and humankind. We too have returned to the house of God “to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God,” who has gifted us with a savior. As the festival continues, “let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.” It is Christmas, still.*

## **Welcome and Announcements**

## **Prelude**

**Gathering Song #288 “Good Christian Friends Rejoice”**

## **Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
whose steadfast love is everlasting.

**C: Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God  
and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God-with-us,

**C: we confess that we have turned away  
those seeking shelter,  
claiming there is no room when we have plenty.  
We have made power and wealth our idols,  
while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger.  
We have overlooked the shepherds,  
expecting good news in prettier packaging.  
Too often, we have valued violence  
instead of your peace.**

**Turn us from our ways to your ways.  
Grant us the grace to begin again.  
Free us from all that keeps us bound,  
and forgive our sin, through Jesus Christ,  
who gives himself for us. Amen.**

P: Hear the good news and rejoice!

You are God's chosen ones,  
holy and beloved,

✠ forgiven in Christ,  
and freed to respond in joy.

**C: Amen.**

### **Greeting**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ who is Savior and Lord,  
the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

P: Let us pray,

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.

**C: Amen.**

**First Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7**

**Carol No. 242 : "Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn"**

**Second Lesson: Micah 5: 2-5A**

**Carol No. 269 : "Once in Royal David's City"**

**Third Lesson:** Luke 1: 26-35,38

**Carol No. 289:** Angels we have heard on high”

**Four Lesson:** Luke 2: 1-7

**Carol No. 276 :** “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

**Fifth Lesson:** Luke 2: 8-16

**Carol**

## While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

1 While shep-herds watched their flocks by night, all seat - ed on the  
 2 "Fear not!" said he, for might-y dread had seized their trou - bled  
 3 "To you, in Da - vid's town, this day is born of Da - vid's  
 4 "The heav'n-ly babe you there shall find to hu - man view dis -  
 5 Thus spoke the ser - aph, and forth-with ap - peared a shin - ing  
 6 "All glo - ry be to God on high, and to the earth be

ground, the an - gel of the Lord came down, and  
 mind; "Glad tid - ings of great joy I bring to  
 line the Sav - ior, who is Christ the Lord, and  
 played, all hum - bly wrapped in swad - dling bands, and  
 throug of an - gels prais - ing God, who thus ad -  
 peace; good - will hence - forth from heav'n to all be -

glo - ry shone a - round, and glo - ry shone a - round.  
 you and hu - man - kind, to you and hu - man - kind.  
 this shall be the sign, and this shall be the sign:  
 in a man - ger laid, and in a man - ger laid."  
 dressed their joy - ful song, ad - dressed their joy - ful song:  
 gin and nev - er cease, be - gin and nev - er cease!"

Text: Nahum Tate, 1625–1715

Music: CHRISTMAS C M, Weyman's *Melodia Sacra*, 1815; arr. George F. Handel, 1685–1759

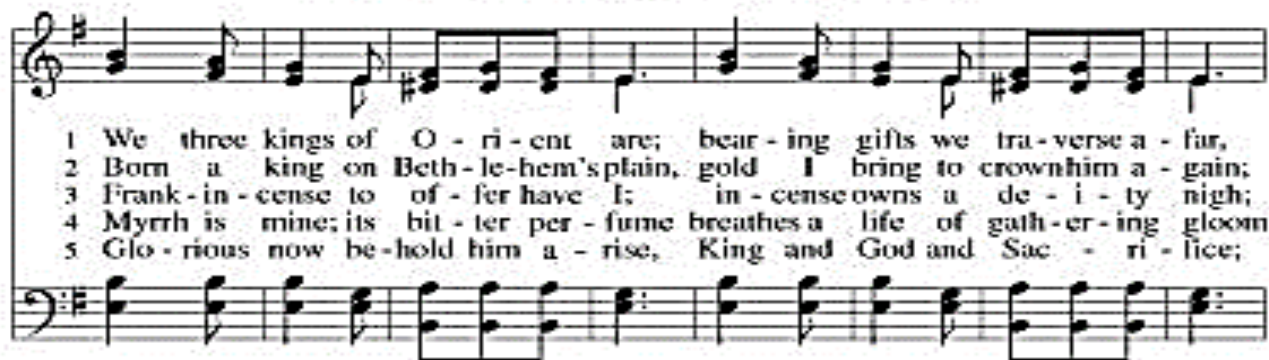
**Sixth Lesson: Luke 2: 21-36**

**Carol 282 : "It came upon a Midnight Clear"**

## Seventh Lesson: Matthew 2: 1-11

### Carol

#### We Three Kings of Orient Are

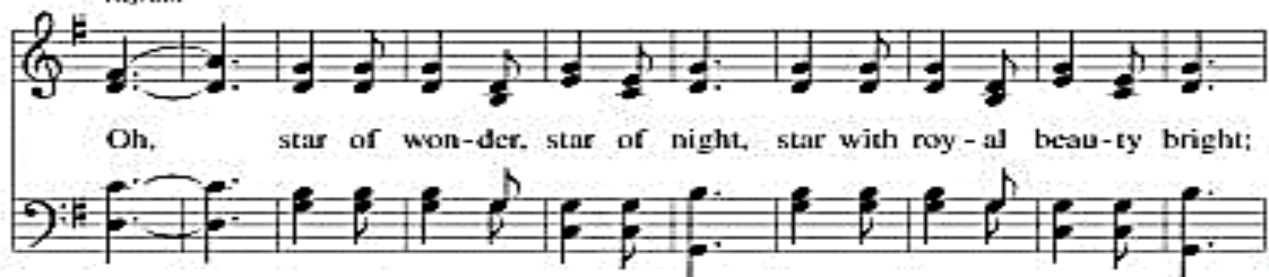


1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - fur,  
2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a - gain;  
3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense owns a de - i - ty nigh;  
4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom;  
5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri - lice;



field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.  
king for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.  
prayer and prais - ing, glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.  
sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb,  
heav'n sings al - le - lu - ia; al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.

#### Refrain



Oh, star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright;



west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

Text: John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820-1891, alt.

Music: THREE KINGS OF ORIENT, John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820-1891

## Eighth Lesson: Matthew 2: 13-18

### Carol 278 : "Away in a manger"

**Nineth Lesson: John 1: 1-14**  
**Carol 296 : “What Child is This”**

## **Nicene Creed**

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit  
and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified  
under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge  
the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,**

**who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come.  
Amen.**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

A: Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

*A brief silence.*

A: For those who teach and those who learn, we pray. Bless the education ministries of your church. Guide Sunday school teachers, college and seminary professors, and Bible study leaders in our ongoing faith formation and curiosity. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

A: For the thriving of creation, we pray. Protect the habitats of pangolins and porcupines, penguins and parrots, and all wild animals and creeping things. Increase our knowledge of the natural world and the care of its inhabitants. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

A: For the nations of the world, we pray. Raise up rulers who lead with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Let your peace rule in their hearts and in all lands. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

A: For the well-being of your people, we pray. Keep watch over all who travel this holiday season. Accompany those who are alone or ill. Console parents and children whose relationships are strained or severed. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**



A: For the ministry of this place, we pray. Let the word of Christ dwell among us. In times of conflict, clothe us in love and move us to forgiveness. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

A: For your holy, beloved, and chosen ones of every time and place, we give thanks. Draw us all into everlasting praise and joy. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

A: We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen**

**Peace**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

**OFFERING** – *offering boxes are located in the narthex and back of the sanctuary*

**The Offering Prayer**

P: Let us pray,

**C: 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.**

## **Communion Liturgy**

### **Words of Institution**

#### **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.**

### **Distribution of Communion**

#### **Communion Hymns**

In the Bleak Midwinter #294

Angels from the Realms of Glory #275

#### **Benediction & Blessing**

P: The God of love,

Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,

lavish you with grace,

illumine your path,

and increase your joy,

today and always.

## **Sending Carol**

On Christmas Night #274

### **Dismissal**

Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **POSTLUDE**

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

**\*LIVESTREAM NOTICE\*\*** Each Sunday, the 10:30 am service is livestreamed on YouTube. Please be aware that those in the chancel area (within the communion rail) are viewable online, this includes children who come forward for the Children's Sermon. There is also use of wide shots of the congregation. If you have any concerns about you or your children appearing in livestream footage, please speak with one of the pastors or the AV team

**Altar Flowers** – The flowers on the altar today are dedicated to the glory of God and the adornment of his house in In loving memory of my dad Paul Pagano given by Ginny Villani and in Loving memory of Frank A. Postava, jr. today on your heavenly birthday, given by Marianne & Al, and Suzanne.

### **Children's Worship**

We encourage children to worship in the sanctuary as much as possible. However, we know that some days, a break may be needed. Please stop in the lounge for shorter breaks where there are coloring activities and snacks provided. All children must be accompanied by an adult. The nursery is also available downstairs in Fellowship Hall with the ability to hear the service.

**2025 Offering Envelopes** have been placed in the church mailboxes. If you have not picked yours up, please grab them. Last names are on each box so please be sure to check and make sure they are yours and not that of someone's that you got.

## Serving at worship

### Slide Advancers

Dec. 28<sup>th</sup> Eric James

Dec. 29<sup>th</sup> Miriam Kerr

### Money Counters

David & Valerie Martincek

Dan & Sandy McGowan

### This week at Bethlehem

Monday, Dec. 30<sup>th</sup> Office open

Tuesday, Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> Office closed

Wed., Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> Office Closed  
HAPPY NEW YEAR

Thursday, Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup> Office open  
Regular hours with full staff

Sat. Jan. 4<sup>th</sup> 6pm Worship/Communion

Sunday, Jan. 5<sup>th</sup> 8am Worship/Communion  
9:15am Sunday School  
\*10:30am Worship/Communion

\* Live Streaming

11:45am De-Greening of the church

6:30-7:30pm Confirmation & High School Hangout

7:30pm Grog

LIFT Epiphany & Purse filling Party @ Evert's Home



**Saturday, January 25 at 7:00pm**

Join us for fun night to fight off the winter cold with a **Chili Cook Off**  
**and Family Game Night!**

Please contact the church office if you would like to bring chili and enter the cook off for your chance to be named Bethlehem's very own ***Chili Champ for 2025!***

In addition to great food, we will once again host a **Pictionary** team game, but please feel free to bring along your own game, if you'd like!

If you'd like to attend the event (no cooking required), please RSVP to the church office. This is helpful for planning, but not required.



**Hope to see  
you there!**



### Christmas Angel Wish List Project

A special Thank you for everyone that participated in the Glade Run and Trinity Lutheran Christmas Angel Gift project for 2024. I want to personally thank the Santa's helpers who took time from their busy schedules to make our delivery to each place. Because of the generosity of their time and your gifts so many children should have had a very Merry Christmas.

Can't wait to help again next year!

### **LIFT SCHEDULE of Upcoming Events --Mark your calendars !!**

January 5, Sunday - Epiphany Party + Purse Filling @ Everts' home

January 12, Sunday - LIFT Faith Salad + 2025 Planning Meeting



## **DON'T THROW THOSE AWAY!**

(Thanks to those who did not throw them Away!)

**Because YOU did not throw your extra 2025 calendars away, our collection this year that is being donated to North Hills Community Outreach resulted in 115 calendars being collected.**

**Thanks to all who supported this annual drive!**

### **Reminder to all Committee chairs**

We hope you are planning out your committee report for it to be included into our annual report to the Congregation ahead of our annual meeting on Jan. 26<sup>th</sup> following our late service. We must have the completed report out 2 wks. before the meeting and therefore that means, all reports from the chairs will be need to be completed & turned into the church office on or before Mon Jan 6<sup>th</sup>.



### **De-Greening of the Church**

De-greening will take place on **Sunday, 1/5 after the 10:30 service**. Many hands make light work.

We hope you can join us ! 😊