

BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



Serving, accepting, and loving all.

Bulletin

November 24, 2024

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Sunday, November 24, 2024

Christ the King, Year B

Introduction

Even after Israel had experienced the vagaries of kings, the people still longed for a true king to set things right. He would have the king's title of Anointed One (Messiah); he would be the "one like a human being" (Son of Man) given dominion in Daniel's vision. Jesus is given these titles, even though he is nothing like an earthly king. His authority comes from the truth to which he bears witness, and those who recognize the truth voluntarily listen to him. We look forward to the day he is given dominion, knowing his victory will be the nonviolent victory of love.

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Amen.

A: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
(The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.)

A: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.

**We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

We have squandered your bountiful gifts.

We have considered the blessings of the harvest our due.

**We have been indifferent in planning and planting
for the future needs of your church.**

For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

**Forgive us, cause gratitude to ripen in our hearts,
and wisdom to mature in our minds,
so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P: In the mercy of almighty God,
Jesus Christ was given to die for us,
and for his sake God forgives us all our sins.
As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ,
and by his authority, I therefore declare to you
the entire forgiveness of all your sins,
in the name of the Father,
and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG NO. 855 Crown Him with Many Crowns

- 1 Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne;
hark, how the heav'nly anthem drowns
all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless king
through all eternity.
- 2 Crown him the virgin's Son,
the God incarnate born,
whose arm those crimson trophies won
which now his brow adorn;
fruit of the mystic rose,
yet of that rose the stem,
the root whence mercy ever flows,
the babe of Bethlehem.

- 3 Crown him the Lord of love--
behold his hands and side,
rich wounds, yet visible above,
in beauty glorified.
No angels in the sky
can fully bear that sight,
but downward bend their burning eyes
at mysteries so bright.
- 4 Crown him the Lord of life,
who triumphed o'er the grave
and rose victorious in the strife
for those he came to save.
His glories now we sing,
who died and rose on high,
who died, eternal life to bring,
and lives that death may die.
- 5 Crown him the Lord of years,
the potentate of time,
creator of the rolling spheres,
ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
For thou hast died for me;
thy praise and glory shall not fail
throughout eternity.

Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800-1894, sts. 1-3, 5; Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, st. 4

GREETING

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

Cantor



We pray for peace, O Lord, make plow - shares of our swords, make



plow - shares of our swords: hear us when we cry to you.

Assembly

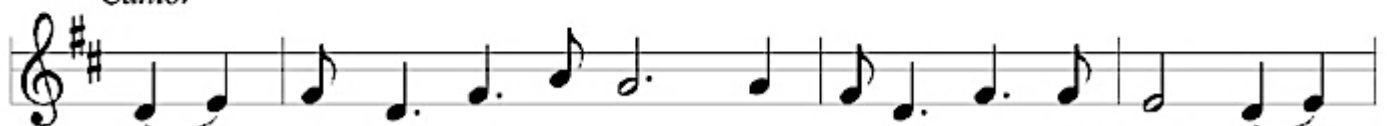


Lord, have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, Lord, have



mer - cy on us: hear us when we cry to you.

Cantor



Christ, make us grow in grace un - til we see your face, un -



til we see your face: hear us when we cry to you.

Assembly



Christ, have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, Christ, have



mer-cy on us: hear us when we cry to you.

Cantor

De - fend your church, O Lord, and root it in your word, and

root it in your word: hear us when we cry to you.

Assembly

Lord, have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, Lord, have

mer-cy on us: hear our cry. A - men.

Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, based on the Kyrie

Music: MY FATHER, HOW LONG, African American spiritual

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray,

Almighty and ever-living God, you anointed your beloved Son to be priest and sovereign forever. Grant that all the people of the earth, now divided by the power of sin, may be united by the glorious and gentle rule of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

WORD

FIRST LESSON: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

To the community for whom this passage was written, it seemed as though the oppression they were experiencing would never end. Daniel's message is: It shall

end. The Ancient One, who is judge, will call all nations to account and will give dominion to "one like a human being," the Messiah.

⁹ As I watched,
thrones were set in place,
and an Ancient One took his throne;
his clothing was white as snow
and the hair of his head like pure wool;
his throne was fiery flames,
and its wheels were burning fire.

¹⁰ A stream of fire issued
and flowed out from his presence.
A thousand thousands served him,
and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him.
The court sat in judgment,
and the books were opened.

¹³ As I watched in the night visions,
I saw one like a human being
coming with the clouds of heaven.
And he came to the Ancient One
and was presented before him.

¹⁴ To him was given dominion
and glory and kingship,
that all peoples, nations, and languages
should serve him.
His dominion is an everlasting dominion
that shall not pass away,
and his kingship is one
that shall never be destroyed.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 93 (*Sung responsively*)

¹ The Lord is king, robed in majesty; the Lord is robed in majesty and ¹ armed with strength.

The Lord has made the world so sure that it can- ¹ not be moved.

² **Ever since the world began, your throne has ¹ been established; you are from ¹ everlasting. R**

³ The waters have lifted up, O Lord, the waters have lifted ¹ up their voice;

the waters have lifted up their ¹ pounding waves.

⁴ **Mightier than the sound of many waters, mightier than the breakers ¹ of the sea,**

mightier is the Lord who ¹ dwells on high.

⁵ Your testimonies are ¹ very sure,

and holiness befits your house, O Lord, forever and for- ¹ evermore.

SECOND READING: Revelation 1:4b-8

The book of Revelation begins by celebrating the Almighty God, who spans all of time. Similarly, Jesus is celebrated as the firstborn from the dead who rules over the world's rulers. He is the one whose return we eagerly await.

^{4b} Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood ⁶ and made us a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

⁷ Look! He is coming with the clouds;

every eye will see him,

even those who pierced him,

and all the tribes of the earth will wail on account of him.

So it is to be. Amen.

⁸ “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn -- Gospel Acclamation

O God, Whose Word Well-Planted



1 O God, whose word well-plant - ed yields fruit a hun - dred - fold,
2 O God of seed and har - vest, of sun and soil and rain,
3 O God, your fi - nal har - vest of his - t'ry's an - cient field



we praise your grac - es grant - ed to those who sowed of old,
at - tend the word we sow, lest its plant - ing be in vain.
will test with truth the proud - est that hu - man work can yield.



who by their wit - ness scat - tered good seed up - on the soil
Send show - ers of your Spir - it, bright sun - shine of your grace,
Op - pres - sion's blight will van - ish, fair free - dom's fruits in - crease;



where oth - ers, reap - ing, gath - ered the har - vest of their toil.
that mul - ti - tudes who hear it your gos - pel may em - brace.
and love and joy will flour - ish to clothe the earth with peace.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007

Music: ABIDING PRESENCE, Stephen P. Folkemer, b. 1952

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GOSPEL: John 18:33-37

In John's gospel, the story of Jesus and Pilate presents two different ways of exercising power: through force or with love.

P: The holy gospel according to John.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

³³ Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" ³⁴ Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" ³⁵ Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" ³⁶ Jesus answered, "My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom belonged to this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." ³⁷ Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON- *The Rev. Daniel P. Smail*

HYMN OF THE DAY NO. 430 Rejoice, for Christ Is King!

1 Rejoice, for Christ is king!
Your Lord and king adore;
rejoice, give thanks, and sing,
and triumph evermore:

Refrain

Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

2 Our Savior Jesus reigns,

the God of truth and love;
when he had purged our stains,
he took his seat above: *Refrain*

3 His kingdom cannot fail;
he rules o'er earth and heav'n;
the keys of death and hell
are to our Jesus giv'n: *Refrain*

4 He sits at God's right hand
till all his foes submit
and bow to his command
and fall beneath his feet: *Refrain*

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

APOSTLES' CREED

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

**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.**

**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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rooted in God's abundant love for the world, let us pray for our neighbors, the church, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Revive our congregations, synods, and national church body to reflect the love, justice, and kinship of your kingdom. Raise up diverse leaders like Justus Falckner, Jehu Jones, and William Passavant, whom we commemorate today who teach and serve your people. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Nourish parched lands and bring relief to flooded places. Protect wildlife habitats and endangered species, that the chorus of creation's praise resounds with joy. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Grant wisdom to the leaders who govern, legislate, and deliberate on our behalf. Advance your nonviolent reign of justice-seeking love through their work. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Draw near to those who are detained, on trial, or incarcerated. Transform systems of retribution into systems of reconciliation and restoration. Empower activists who advocate for change. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Remind us of your enduring love in all seasons. Guide the planning efforts of worship leaders and volunteers who usher our congregation into a meaningful Advent. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

In your eternal presence the saints sing of your majesty. Join our voices with theirs in praise to the one who loves us and frees us from sin.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We offer our prayers to you, gracious God, trusting in your boundless love for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

MEAL

OFFERING- *Offering boxes are located in the narthex and the back of the sanctuary.*

Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring



1 Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to
2 The vines were plant - ed, seeds were sown. They
3 Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we



place up - on your ta - ble. We do not wor - ship
grew in your good plea - sure. What once was com - mon,
lift in prayer be - fore you. Lord, by your grace now



as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.
dai - ly food be - comes a ho - ly trea - sure.
come to us, as hum - bly we a - dore you.

Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer

Music: BARB'RY ELLEN, Appalachian traditional

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OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

C: Gracious God, you bless us with gifts of guidance, new life, growth in grace, and fruitful labor. Accept the first fruits of time and toil, field and orchard we offer here. Bless and multiply these gifts to our nurture and the care of your creation; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Long, Long Ago In Jerusalem

Verses: Cantor or choir



1 Long, long a - go in Je - ru - sa - lem, as the
2 High on a throne sat the might - y Lord, robes
3 Oh, what a sight it was to see and



scrip - tures do re - cord, I - sa - iah to the
flow - ing through the hall, while six - wing - ed an - gels
oh, what a sound to hear! The tem - ple door - posts



tem - ple came to see the ho - ly Lord.
flew a - bove. I - sa - iah heard them call.
shook and quaked, and smoke was in the air.

Refrain: Assembly



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, God's



glo - ry fills all heav'n and earth, God of pow - er and might.

Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, based on the Sanctus

Music: SHADY GROVE, Appalachian traditional

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EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.
You are most holy,
and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish
but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world
to fulfill for us your holy will
and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,
his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension,
and the promise of his coming again,
we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,
not as we ought but as we are able;
we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving

and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,
may be formed to live as your holy people
and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Just as this broken bread was first scattered on the hills, then was
brought together and became one, so let your church be brought together
from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours are the glory and
the power through Jesus Christ forever.

C: Amen.

COMMUNION

Gluten free wafers and grape juice available. Please ask the pastors or communion assistants.

COMMUNION SONG

O Lamb of God, to Earth You Came



1 O Lamb of God, to earth you came to
2 O Lamb of God, the on - ly Son, to

save us all from grief and shame. Shorn of your life, up -
us show mer - cy, Ho - ly One. You save the world from

on the tree you hung in deep hu - mil - i - ty.
all its sin. Lord, give to us your peace. A - men.

Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, based on the Agnus Dei

Music: THE SUFFOLK MIRACLE, Appalachian traditional

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Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, duet with Michelle Spomer

COMMUNION HYMN WOV 778 O Christ the Same

- O Christ the same, through all our story's pages--
our loves and hopes, our failures and our fears;
eternal Lord, the king of all the ages,
unchanging still amid the passing years:
O living Word, the source of all creation,
who spread the skies and set the stars ablaze;
O Christ the same, who wrought our whole salvation,
we bring our thanks for all our yesterdays.

- 2 O Christ the same, the friend of sinners, sharing
our inmost thoughts, the secrets none can hide;
still as of old upon your body bearing
the marks of love in triumph glorified.
O Son of Man, who stooped for us from heaven--
O Prince of life, in all your saving power;
O Christ the same, to whom our hearts are given:
we bring our thanks for this the present hour.
- 3 O Christ the same, secure within whose keeping
our lives and loves, our days and years remain;
our work and rest, our waking and our sleeping,
our calm and storm, our pleasure and our pain:
O Lord of love, for all our joys and sorrows,
for all our hopes when earth shall fade and flee;
O Christ the same, beyond our brief tomorrows,
we bring our thanks for all that is to be.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926

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POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

Gracious God, we give thanks for your pruning, planting, and nurture. We rejoice that you have used the harvest of field and vineyard to renew and sustain us. Lead us as we go from this life-giving meal into lives of grateful service to you and your cherished creation; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

C: Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.
C: Amen.

SENDING SONG NO. 660 Lift High the Cross

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.

1 Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,
our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. *Refrain*

2 All newborn servants of the Crucified
bear on their brows the seal of him who died. *Refrain*

3 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised, draw us all to thee. *Refrain*

4 So shall our song of triumph ever be:
praise to the Crucified for victory! *Refrain*

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827-1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874-1956

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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Children's Space

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.

Are You Interested in Becoming A Member at Bethlehem Lutheran?

Dear friends, as we enter the autumn months this is a time think about new starts and blessed beginnings. Have you been visiting Bethlehem, considering becoming a member of the congregation? Do you have questions about our congregation or the ministry we share here? Please feel free to reach out to one of our pastors (Pastor Dan, d.smail@belc.org or Pastor Ellen, e.lundie@belc.org), they would be delighted to spend some time with you, answer your questions, and faithfully discern the next steps. Thank you for being an important part of this joy filled family of faith!

Thanksgiving Eve --- Change to service time!!!!

Ecumenical Worship Service Once again this year one of our neighboring churches will host a community Thanksgiving Eve service on Wednesday, November 27th. The service will take place at Parkwood Presbyterian Church in Allison Park at **7:30pm**. **It is not at 7:00pm as we were originally told.** Check their church web-site for details.

A little look ahead.

The 2025 Flower Chart is here and will be posted on the wall in the hallway across from the office on the weekend of Nov. 30th & Dec. 1st. Start to think of important dates and events that you and your family would like to honor or remember someone on. Then, plan to sign up for altar flowers on that date or one that is open close to it when the chart is hung.

***THEY'RE FREE ***

*Now is a good time to start thinking about COVID-19 protection. You might consider getting updated COVID vaccines -- including the new Novavax vaccine. The COVID-19 vaccine is available at no cost through most insurance plans, including Medicare Part B.

*Using the [COVIDTests.gov](https://www.covidtests.gov) website, US households can once again order four free at-home COVID test kits. The government opened the ordering system on Sept. 26, 2024. You may also call 1-800-232-0233 to order your tests.

*Autumn is also a good time to get your flu vaccine. The flu vaccine is available at no cost through most insurance plans, including Medicare Part B.

Information from your Health & Wellness Team

The Week at Bethlehem

- Sunday, Nov. 24th 8:00 am Worship & Communion
 9:15am Sunday School
 *10:30am Worship & Communion
* Live streaming of worship service
 4:30p Madrigal Dinner Rehearsal
 6:30-8:30pm Confirmation/High School
 Hangout and GaGa
- Monday, Nov. 25th 9:00-2:30p PACC (Fellowship Hall)
 11a-2p Passage to Recovery (Library)
 6:30-8:30pm Girl Scouts (Fellowship Hall)
- Tuesday, Nov. 26th 9:00-2:30p PACC (Fellowship Hall)
 10:30-11:30a AA (Schmid Hall)
 6:00-8:30pm NA (Fellowship Hall)
- Wednesday, Nov. 27th 7:30pm Comm. Worship @ Parkwood
 Presbyterian Church
 7-8:30p Boy Scouts Mtg. (Fellowship Hall)
 NO Handbell Choir Rehearsal tonight
- Thursday, Nov. 28th Happy Thanksgiving – from the BELC Staff
 Office Closed
- Friday, Nov. 29th Office Closed
- Saturday, Nov. 30th/Dec. 1 Advent Wk.#1 6:00pm Worship



Our Blessing Box

Our outdoor food pantry has been a blessing to our community providing needed items to those who are food insecure. Your generosity shows your commitment to do God's work but still day after day the box is being emptied by those in need. Here are some of the most desired foods:

Single serve meals Cereals small individual packages Pop Tarts Granola bars

Individual: fruit cups, rice pkg., potato pkg. Peanut butter -- crackers small sized boxes

Hearty soups with lift off tops Tuna—in foil packages Ensure individual bottles

Individual packages of cookies Single serve Coffee packets Cans of Stew or veggies

Cans of spam Grab and go items—single serve with lift off lids

Small size Deodorants small bottles or shampoo individual bars of soap

NO MEDICATIONS OF ANY KIND



Bible Study

We are taking a break until December 4th and we will continue thru the 11th and 18th with our Advent classes. We have a morning opportunity at 10:30am and also an evening one at 7:00p. Everyone is welcome to attend as your schedule allows.

DON'T THROW THOSE AWAY!



How many 2025 calendars have you received? How many can one family use? We are collecting 2025 calendars **thru next weekend Nov 30 & Dec. 1.** to be distributed to local food banks. So please bring them for our drive.

Thank you for your continued support of Bethlehem's many social ministry projects.



YOUTH NEWS:

Nov. 24th 6:30-8:30pm Confirmation/High School
Hangout and GaGa

Annual Report

Committee Chairs - Start thinking about your committee report for in our annual report to the Congregation....before we blink it will be 2025 and we will be putting all the reports together.



POINSETTIA PLANTS for Christmas

Below is the form if you wish to purchase a red poinsettia plant to adorn the Chancel on Christmas Eve. Plants may be picked up on Christmas Eve following the 10:30 p.m. service or during the week at a time when the office is open. If you have any questions, please contact Marianne in the church office. You may also use this form to give a donation to help defray cost of general Christmas decorations used around the church.

** All orders and money due by Sunday, December 8th to guarantee your dedication(s) is listed in our Christmas bulletin.

POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

I would like to give # _____ red poinsettia plant(s) at \$6.50each for a six-inch pot.

I would like to give \$ _____ toward Christmas decorations.

IN MEMORY OF _____

IN HONOR OF _____

GIVEN BY _____

(Name as you want it printed in the bulletin)



GOOD GIFTS ANIMALS TO "FILL THE STABLE"

The yearly tradition at Bethlehem is to donate poinsettias to decorate our church home to 'welcome the baby Jesus'. We know too that the shepherds found baby Jesus lying in a manger, surrounded by God's animals. Many of our Christmas songs refer to the animals in the stable: "Away in a Manger" mentions "the cattle are lowing", and "The Friendly Beasts" refers to the donkey – shaggy & brown, the cow – all white and red, the sheep – with the curly horn.

This is the twelfth year -- and maybe now a tradition at Bethlehem -- that the option is provided to "**fill the stable**" with animals to welcome the baby Jesus. We believe that God's love in Jesus is a gift to us, and through ELCA Good Gifts and World Vision we can share that love with others. Our donations to buy animals can transform the lives of families in need. Many of these animals can be used not only for food, but also to generate income.

The costs of the animals are listed below. Donations for animals may also be given in memory and honor of loved ones and be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

cow	\$500	share of a cow	\$50	piglet	\$30
goat	\$50	sheep	\$150	10 chicks	\$10
Rooster	\$15	2 chickens	\$25		

What better way to celebrate the birth of Christ than to share these same animals so that families can prosper! Sheep produce warm wool, cows and goats give protein and milk, and chickens provide an abundance of nutritious eggs. As the animals multiply, families can sell surplus food for extra income. A bountiful and enduring blessing! These gifts can make a real, life-changing difference and care for those around the world who live with hunger and poverty.



Donations must be received by Dec. 8th to be guaranteed that your dedication is listed in the Christmas bulletin.

Dedication

.....

Given by..... Amount given:



THANKSGIVING OFFERING FOR FOOD BANKS

In keeping with the spirit of Thanksgiving, members of Bethlehem are encouraged to bring contributions of canned goods and foodstuffs for North Hill Community Food Bank throughout the month of November. Non-perishable items may be placed on the plant stands on either side of the altar before the service. As we offer praise and thanksgiving for our many blessings, may we have an overflowing display of generosity for others in need during this Thanksgiving and holiday season. Suggested donations are: canned soups, canned fruits, canned vegetables, baked beans and canned potatoes along with juice and the standards like peanut butter, jelly, pastas & sauce, mac & cheese, cereals, paper products and even a few general supplies –like dish and bath soaps and shampoo/deodorants. A great opportunity to help a neighbor(s) in need!!!



Christmas Music Angels

Those who appreciate and support the instrumentalists and special music are invited again to make a contribution toward this expense, perhaps as a memorial to a loved one to be included in the Christmas bulletin. All amounts given are welcome and appreciated. Use the tear off below to make your donation/memorial and drop it in the offering box or in the church office. **Must be received by Dec, 8th to guarantee your dedication will be in the bulletin.**

Dedication- In Honor or Memory of: _____

Name – given by: _____

Amount _____



SNACKS WITH SANTA

December 14

10:30 am

Join us for the
Christmas story,
treats, and time
with Santa and
Mrs. Claus!



Bethlehem Christmas Pageant 2024



This year's Christmas Pageant is on **Sunday, December 15** at the 10:30 am worship service. All children and youth are invited to participate! We need everyone, our littlest ones to our junior and senior high youth! There will be a rehearsal on **December 14 at 9:30 am** to familiarize everyone with the pageant. Attendance at the rehearsal is encouraged but not required to participate in the pageant.

Please detach the section below if your child(ren) will participate in the pageant or let Pastor Ellen know (412) 486-0550 or e.lundie@belc.org.

Thanks for being involved in this special time at Bethlehem!
Join us after our rehearsal for Snacks with Santa at 10:30 am!

Name(s):

_____ Will participate in the pageant on December 15

_____ Will attend the pageant rehearsal on December