

VOLUNTEER DUTIES

TODAY, DEC 1

LOST ISLAND

BETHANY

MUSICIAN: Tim Nielsen.....Holly Sidles
ALTAR GUILD: Alaire Nielsen, Sue Geiger.....Kathy Mehan
READER: *Hanging of the Greens*
ACOLYTE: Lily Rohan.....Brett Saxton
USHERS:.....Terry Rouse, Joel Saxton
GREETERS.....Diane Steger, Elaine Nauss
No Communion

NEXT WEEK, DEC 8

LOST ISLAND

BETHANY

MUSICIAN: Tim Nielsen
ALTAR GUILD: Alaire Nielsen, Sue Geiger.....Kathy Mehan
READER: Kyle Norris.....Sunday School Progam
ACOLYTES: Hannah GeigerJayce Ayers
USHERS:Joe Neary, Kyle Hagen

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ACTIVITIES

Today—December 1

Hanging of the Greens

Monday—December 2

9 am & 6 pm Quilting

Wednesday—December 5

12 Noon—Men's Bible Study

1– 3 pm Scandinavian

Bake Sale

3:30—5 pm SACK

7– 8 pm Connect

7:30—9 pm LIFE

Sunday, December 8

8:45 am Church at Lost Island

9:00 am SS at Bethany

10 am Coffee Connect

10:30 am Bethany's

SS Christmas Service

11:30 am Nominating Comm Meets

5 pm Hospice Service at Bethany

5-8 pm Outreach at IOLBC

Bethany Lutheran Church
703 Broadway- Emmetsburg, IA
Sunday School 9:30 AM
Worship 10:30 AM



Lost Island Lutheran Church
3797-310th St. - Ruthven,
Worship 8:45 AM

December 1, 2024

HANGING OF THE GREENS

Adaptation by Jeanyne Slettom

Pastor: *The Hanging of the Greens is a service for the first Sunday in Advent. It is based on the English tradition of decorating the home with wreaths, garlands, a Christmas tree, and evergreens for Advent and Christmas. In a church setting, it readies the sanctuary (and church members) for the season.*

ORGAN PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

** Those who are able, please stand*

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the Lord of Israel who comes to set us free, the mighty Savior who comes to show mercy, the Dawn from on high who guides us into peace. **Amen.**
Let us come before God in confession.

Silence is kept for reflection.

ALL: **To you, O God, we lift up our souls. You know us through and through; we confess our sins to you. Remember not our sins; remember us with your steadfast love. Show us your ways; teach us your paths; and lead us in justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Sisters and brothers, come with joy and draw water from the well of salvation. Remember the gift of baptism: your sin is washed away in the name of + Jesus; you belong to Christ; you are anointed to serve. Stand up and raise your heads! The reign of God is near. Amen.

***GATHERING HYMN.....#244 ELW "Rejoice, Rejoice Believers"**

Reader: CALL TO WORSHIP – (Responsive)

How shall we prepare this house for the birth of Jesus?

With branches of cedar, the tree of excellence and strength.

How shall we prepare this house for the eternal Christ? With garlands of pine and fir, whose leaves are ever living, evergreen.

How shall we prepare this house for the prophet of Galilee? With wreaths of holly and ivy, telling of his passion, death and resurrection.

How shall we prepare our hearts for this revelation of God? By hearing again the words of the prophets and the promises of God.

For in the story of Jesus we see revealed the transforming power of God. We are reminded anew of God's vision of wholeness, justice, and peace for all of creation. **Thanks be to God.**

Pastor: Let us pray; Our Father, we long for the simple beauty of Christmas – for all the old melodies, words, and symbols that remind us of when your Son, Jesus, came one night as a babe in a manger. We bring you our thanks for every sign, small and large, of your love; for all the ways that you have blessed us. May all that we do and say bring honor to your name, and may the joy and spirit of Christmas remain with us now and always. In the name of Jesus, who came to save His people from their sins, we pray. Amen

PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS

#257 ELW “O, Come, O, Come, Emmanuel” vs 1 & 2

EVERGREENS

ISAIAH 9:2, 6-7

#257 ELW “O, Come, O, Come, Emmanuel” vs 3 & 4

THE CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA

#257 ELW “O, Come, O, Come, Emmanuel” vs 5 & 6

GOD WILL SEND A LIGHT TO THE NATIONS

ISAIAH 60:2-3

THE ADVENT WREATH *One purple candle is lit as*

“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”

HYMN:#240 ELW “Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”
(vs 1 sung twice)

“Light one candle to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness
He shall bring salvation to Israel, God fulfills the promise.”

THE CHRISTMAS TREE

JOHN 1:1-5, 9-14

CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATING

#271 ELW “I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve”

BLESSING OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE—in Unison

Loving God, we come with joy to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, whose path of justice and inclusivity lights a path for all who follow him. May this tree, arrayed in splendor, remind us of the life-giving cross of Christ, that we may always rejoice in the new life that shines in our hearts. In Jesus' name. Amen.

HOMILY

PASTOR PETER MORLOCK

*APOSTLE'S CREED..... ELW PG. 105

*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE RESPOND “RECEIVE OUR PRAYER”

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OFFERING/OFFERTORY.....#186 ELW

THE NATIVITY

ISAIAH 7:14

277 ELW “Away In The Manger”

SENDING

Pastor: Let us pray. Heavenly Father, bless the coming Christmas. Keep each heart from fear and distress, loneliness and pain season with peace and joy. Grant that each visitor to this place may be grateful for your goodness, leaving only serenity of knowing that you truly love each of us and all of your creation. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Go in His grace and in His peace, and tell everyone the good news of Jesus!

*BENEDICTION

*CLOSING HYMN#239 ELW “Hark, The Glad Sound!”

*DISMISSAL Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

PRAYER REQUESTS

Aspen Walker, Nolyn Johnson, Pam Rouse, Kylee Hill, Carol Walker, the Omundson family, Mike Hermansen, Shirley Knutson, Eric & Lana Kropf, Jessie McCune, Jim & Carol Krause, Jon Sorenson, David Stephens, Rick Rienhardt, Dave Smith, Lon Twait, Bridget Johnson, Robert Mortenson, Jr., and those we name in our hearts.

We remember: Thomas Crocoll who is in the Marines
and Logan Murray is in the Air Force.

*Our companion synods: The Southern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania-Yakobi Parish companion with Lost Island and the Evangelical Lutheran Church Laz-Paz Parish in Chile, companion with Bethany.