

JOIN US FOR THE
Christmas
Season



DECEMBER 6TH

6PM Holiday Parade

DECEMBER 8TH

10:30AM Bethany Youth Service

DECEMBER 8TH

5PM Hospice Memorial Service

DECEMBER 11TH

7PM Older Youth Led Service

DECEMBER 15TH

2PM Glenn Henriksen Concert

CHRISTMAS EVE

5pm Service w/ Communion

10:30pm Service w/ Communion

CHRISTMAS DAY

10am Service w/ Communion at Lost
Island



BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
703 BROADWAY ST
EMMETSBURG, IOWA
PHONE: (712)852-4450

LOST ISLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH
3797 310th ST
RUTHVEN, IOWA
PHONE: (712)852-4450

12/22/2024

WELCOME

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and Mary’s magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ’s advent is for “the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.” It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in holy communion—with high delight—“we proclaim the Lord’s death.”

SUNDAY SERVICES

8:45am at Lost Island/10:30am at Bethany

**Please stand if you are able*

*INVOCATION

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

Reader: Today is the fourth Sunday of Advent. Advent is a time of waiting. We wait for God to send divine love and light into our dark world.

Reader: How does this happen?

Reader: God’s light comes through Jesus, who became a human being just like you and me, so that he could show us the way back to God’s divine love and light.

Congregation: “Purify us, O God, by your daily visitation, so that when your Son Jesus Christ comes, he will find in us a mansion prepared for himself. We thank you for this time of waiting. We thank you that our time of waiting for Jesus is almost over. May we await the Light of the World with joyful anticipation, through Christ our Lord. Amen”

Reader: A reading from the prophet Micah: “The Lord will choose one of our people to rule the nation—someone whose family goes back to ancient times. The LORD will abandon Israel only until this ruler is born, and the rest of his family returns to Israel.

Reader: Like a shepherd taking care of his sheep, this ruler will lead and care for his people by the power and glorious name of the LORD his God. His people will live securely, and the whole earth will know his true greatness, because he will bring peace.

VOLUNTEER DUTIES:

LOST ISLAND
PASTOR F. PETER MORLOCK

READER:
JEFF GEIGER(TODAY)
ALAIRE NIELSEN (DEC 25)
TROY LEININGER (DEC 29)

ACOLYTE:
ZAC SORENSON (TODAY)
ZAC SORENSON (DEC 25)
LILY ROHAN (DEC 29)

ALTAR GUILD
ALAIRE NIELSEN, SUSAN GEIGER

COMM ASSIST. (DEC 25)
TROY LEININGER

BETHANY
PASTOR F. PETER MORLOCK

LECTOR:
SYDNEY MARTINI (TODAY)
LAURE MILLER (DEC 24 @ 5 PM)
DIANE STEGER (DEC 24 @ 10:30 PM)
LAURE MILLER (DEC 29)

USHERS:
LONNIE NAIG, JOEL SAXTON (TODAY)
KENT DAVIDSON, MARK SAXTON (DEC 24 5PM)
KYLE HAGEN, ?? (DEC 24 10:30 PM)
MARK EVANS, ??? (DEC 29)

GREETERS:
BOB & DIANE STEGER(TODAY)
2 VOLUNTEERS (DEC 24 5 PM)
DAVE & JUDY COLE (DEC 24 10:30 PM)
LORRY FOREY, DIANNE HOUGH (DEC 29)

ALTAR GUILD KATHY MEHAN

COMM ASSIST. (DEC 24)
LAURE MILLER & 3 VOLUNTEERS (5 PM)
DIANE STEGER, 3 VOLUNTEERS (10:30 PM)

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK of 12/23/24—12/29/24

MONDAY—DEC 23RD

NO QUILTING

TUESDAY—DEC 24TH CHRISTMAS EVE

OFFICE OPEN

5 PM CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES WITH COMMUNION

10:30 PM CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES WITH COMMUNION

WED—DEC 25TH CHRISTMAS DAY

10 AM WORSHIP SERVICES W/COMMUNION AT LOST ISLAND

SUNDAY—DEC 29TH

8:45 AM LESSONS & CAROLS AT LOST ISLAND

10:30 AM LESSONS & CAROLS AT BETHANY

CUTOFF FOR ALL FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS FOR THE CHURCH (Bethany)

***THE LORD'S PRAYER AND BENEDICTION.....ELW PG 208**

***SENDING HYMN.....ELW 439 "Soon and Very Soon"**

POSTLUDE



Thank you to those that have shared their beautiful Christmas Poinsettias with us. They are:
Elaine & Dave Sidles in memory of her parents:
Lyle Schipull, Evelyn and Wayne Warnbier.
Dave & Elaine Sidles in memory of his parents:
Lawrence & Helen Sidles.
Laure Miller in memory of her parents:
John & Carol Miller.
Mike Schipull in memory of his wife:
Leanna Schipull
Jacki Ellingrod in memory of her husband,
Bill, and family.
Kim & Jim Kacmarynski in memory of
loved ones & friends
Bob & Diane Clasing-Steger in memory of
their loved ones.

We remember those in special need of God's love and care including: For Nolyn Johnson, Pam Rouse, Kylee Hill, Mike Hermansen, Omundson Family, Shirley Knutson, Eric and Lana Kropf, Lon Twait, Jess McCune, Jim & Carol Krause, Jon Sorenson, David Stephens, Rick Rienhardt, Bridget Johnson, Robert Mortenson Jr., and those we name in our hearts.



We remember Thomas Crocoll and Logan Murray who are In the military.

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

Reader: We continue to wait for the coming of Jesus. Each Sunday during Advent, we have begun in the dark, then we have lit candles. Today, we light all four candles.

All four Advent candles are lit.

While this is being done, the following is read:

Reader: Each candle that we light reminds us that the Light of the World will soon come to us in the human form of Jesus. Now, at the end of Advent, all four candles burn bright with the hope of God who will come to us. When we celebrate the birth of our LORD, we will finally light the center candle that symbolizes the Christ Child.

Congregation: Our time of waiting is almost over. Blessed are we who, with Mary and Elizabeth, believe there will be a fulfillment of God's promise to us. May we prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of Jesus. When he comes to us, may we be ready to help him scatter the proud, bring down the powerful, lift up the lowly. May God fill the hungry with good things. May all of God's people know fullness, justice, peace and love when the Light shines its brightness over our world, when the Word becomes flesh and dwells among us. Amen

ADVENT SONG ...ELW #240 "We Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah"

(vs 4)

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS.....ELW PG 94**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P: Most merciful God,

we confess that we are in bondage 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 not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

***GATHERING HYMN:ELW #265 "The Angel Gabriel from Heave Came"**

***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.

KYRIE: SUNG TO TUNE OF "LORD JESUS, THINK ON ME"



1 Have mer-cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol-ern prayer.
 2 Have mer-cy on us, Christ, and wash a-way our sin.
 3 Have mer-cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de-part.



We come to hear your liv-ing word; it saves us from de-spair.
 Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be-gin.
 Re-new us with your sav-ing pow'r; cre-ate in us new hearts!

***CANTICLE OF PRAISE: SUNG TO TUNE OF "JOYFUL, JOYFUL, WE ADORE THEE"**



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
 2 Glo-ry be to Christ for-ev-er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
 3 Ho-ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a-lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre-a-tion, Fa-ther of sur-pass-ing worth;
 Son of God and gra-cious Sav-ior, you have come from heav'n a-bove;
 Ho-ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex-alt you, we a-dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
 on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
 Je-sus Christ, with God the Spir-it, in the Fa-ther's splen-dor bright.



Saints and an-gels bow be-fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
 Hear our prayer; re-store, for-give us; in your prom-ise firm we stand.
 For the peace that we in-her-it, glo-ry be to God on high!

***SALUTATION:** P: The Lord be with you. C: And also with you.

***THE PRAYER OF THE DAY:** Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

FIRST READING:MICAH 5:2-5a

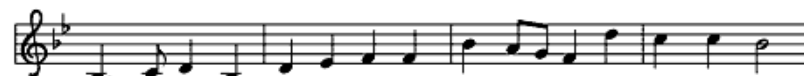
PSALMODY:LUKE 1:46b-55

SECOND READING:HEBREWS 10:5-10

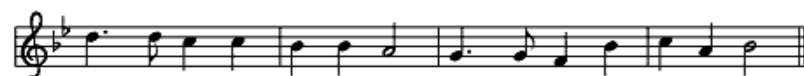
***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** SUNG TO "OPEN NOW THY GATES OF BEAUTY"



Al-le-lu-ia! Lord and Sav-ior: o-pen now your sav-ing word.



Let it burn like fire with-in us; speak un-til our hearts are stirred.



Al-le-lu-ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

***GOSPEL ANNOUNCED:** "Glory to you, O Lord" (spoken)

GOSPEL:LUKE 1:39-45[46-55]

***GOSPEL RESPONSE:**..... "Praise to you, O Christ." (spoken)

CHILDRENS MESSAGE

SERMON PASTOR PETER MORLOCK

***HYMN OF THE DAY:**ELW#254 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

***THE APOSTLE'S CREED:**ELW PG. 127

***THE PRAYERS:**.....respond with "RECEIVE OUR PRAYER"

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

Please be seated while the offering is received

***OFFERING/OFFERTORY:**.....WOV #732 "Create In Me A New Heart"

***OFFERTORY PRAYER:**

We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us-our selves our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our lord. Amen.