

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**

## WEEKLY SERVICES & MEETINGS

### MONDAY, DEC 8TH

9 am Quilting  
5 pm Quilting

### TUESDAY, DEC 9TH

6 PM Sarah Circle meets

### WEDNESDAY, DEC 10TH

12 Noon Men's Bible Study  
3:30 pm SACK  
5:30 pm Board of Youth Mtg  
at Pizza Ranch  
5-7:30 pm Tip Night at  
Pizza Ranch (Youth Trip)

### WEDNESDAY (cont'd.)

3:30 pm SACK  
6:30 pm Connect  
7:30 pm LIFE

### SUNDAY, DEC 14th

8:45 AM Lost Island Worship  
9:30 AM Bethany SS Meets  
9:45 am Coffee Connect  
10:30 AM SS Program  
2 pm Glenn Henriksen Concert  
6:30 pm Cub Scouts

### VOLUNTEER DUTIES TODAY, DECEMBER 7

#### LOST ISLAND

ORGANIST/PIANIST: Tim Nielsen.....Tim Nielsen  
ALTAR GUILD: Alaire Nielsen/Sue Geiger.....Kathy Mehan  
READER: *Hanging of the Greens*  
USHERS:.....Lonnie Naig, Chuck Noble  
ACOLYTE.....Brett Saxton  
GREETERS:.....Joe & Jen Boevers  
COMM ASSIST. Kadin Norris.....Angie Hetrick, Marit Veltri  
Pat Vician, Diane Clasing-Steger

#### BETHANY

### NEXT WEEK, DEC 14

#### LOST ISLAND

ORGANIST/PIANIST: Tim Nielsen.....Holly Sidles  
ALTAR GUILD: Alaire Nielsen Sue Geiger.....Kathy Mehan  
READER: Troy Leininger.....Sunday School Program  
USHERS:.....Joel Saxton, Mark Saxton  
ACOLYTE:.....Youth  
GREETERS:.....Youth

#### BETHANY

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

*First Sunday of Advent*



Lost Island Lutheran Church  
3797-310th St. - Ruthven, IA  
Worship 8:45 AM  
Sunday School 10:15 AM

December 7, 2025

## HANGING OF THE GREENS w/COMMUNION

*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**.....#224 ELW *"Rejoice, Rejoice Believers"*

### 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, ever green.**

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

#### THE ADVENT WREATH

**ISAIAH 60:2-3**

*(See Insert)*

#### THE CHRISTMAS TREE

**JOHN 1:1-5, 9-14**

*(Decorate the tree)*

**#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

**\*NICENE CREED.....ELW PG 104**

**\*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE..... RESPOND "HEAR OUR PRAYER"**

**\*SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**\*OFFERING/OFFERTORY.....#184 ELW** *"Let the vineyards..."*

**OFFERTORY PRAYER:** Merciful Father, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—ourselves, 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

#### COMMUNION LITURGY—SPOKEN

*Let us pray together*

Merciful God we do not presume to come to your table trusting in our own righteousness but in your abundant Mercy. Grant us therefore, Gracious Lord, so to eat and drink the body and blood of your dear Son Jesus Christ that we may live in Him and He in us now and forever AMEN.

The Lord be with you

**And also with you**

Lift up your hearts

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise**

It is indeed right and salutary...

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of Power and might. Heaven and Earth are full of your Glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the Highest!

**Words of Institution and Lord's Prayer .....ELW PG 145**

**AGNUS DEI**

Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world

**Have Mercy on us**

Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world

**Have Mercy on us**

Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world

**Grant us your peace**

#### RECEIVING OF HOLY COMMUNION

**#471 ELW** *"Let Us Break Bread Together"* (Lost Island)

Either Sing Along or Meditate to *"He Shall Reign Forevermore"* (B)

**BLESSING:** P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ

strengthen you and keep you in His grace. **C: AMEN**

**POST COMMUNION:..... #207 ELW** *"Thank the Lord...."*

#### 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.

**One purple candle is lit as “We Light the Advent Candles” vs. 1-3 are sung**

**HYMN:** “We Light the Advent Candles” Text: © 1994 Gracia Grindal Used by permission To the Tune of LBW #59 “When Christmas Morn is Dawning”

<sup>1</sup>We light the Advent candles,  
Against the winter night.  
To welcome our Lord Jesus,  
Who is the world’s true Light.  
To welcome our Lord Jesus,  
Who is the world’s true Light.

<sup>2</sup>The first one will remind us,  
That Christ will soon return.  
We light it in the darkness,  
And watch it gleam and burn.  
We light it in the darkness  
And watch it gleam and burn.

<sup>3</sup>We light the second candle,  
And hear God’s holy word,  
It tells us, cling to Jesus  
Prepare to meet your Lord,  
It tells us, cling to Jesus,  
Prepare to meet your Lord.

### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

Mike Schipull, Wendy Warmbier, Paul Bedard, Shellee Wright, Doug Ort, Korbin Johnson, Nolyn Johnson, Bridget Johnson, David Stephens, Kylee Hill, the Omundson Family, Jim & Carol Krause, Lon Twait, Rick Rienhardt, Robert Mortenson, Jr., and those we name in our hearts.

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.

We remember Thomas Crocoll who is in the military.

Poinsettias to decorate the Church are always welcome. If you would like to share one, please put your name on it so that it can be returned to you. Please let the Church office (852-4450) know if you are sharing your plant as a memorial of a loved one so we can acknowledge it in the bulletin. We are requesting that the flowers not be brought to the Church until after the 21st of December. Thank You



Don’t forget our “Prayer Tree” at Bethany. This tree is located in the elevator room. If you would like to, you can tie a ribbon to one of the branches of the tree. The Youth will be praying over the tree during this Christmas Season.

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**TIP NIGHT**

**December 13th**

**5-7:30pm**

**Youth Mission Trip**



**December 14<sup>th</sup> @ 10:30am**  
703 Broadway, Emmetsburg



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BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

**GLENN HENRIKSEN**  
*Concert*

**DECEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup> AT 2PM**  
Goodies to Follow  
Freewill Offering



*End of the Year*  
**GIVING**

AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE: Any financial matters from offerings, donations, and memorials to expenses need to be into the church office by December 28th to allow adequate amount of time for the financial secretary to get records recorded.

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**Take N Bake Pizza Fundraiser**

Order from a Sunday School Kid

November 23<sup>rd</sup>- December 7<sup>th</sup> Noon

Checks payable to "Bethany Lutheran Church"



Funds go to help bring Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camps to Bethany for VBS and support Sunday School!

Pickup-December 10th at Pizza Ranch Party  
Room from 5-6pm



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