

"Preaching of St John the Baptist", fresco by Domenico Ghirlandaio, 1486-1490

The Third Sunday in Advent

Divine Service 3

December 17, 2023 8:30am

Scripture of the Day

Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11 1 Thessalonians 5:16–24 John 1:6–8, 19–28

A Prayer before Worship

O Lord, my creator, redeemer, and comforter, as I come to worship You in spirit and in truth, I humbly pray that You would open my heart to the preaching of Your Word so that I may repent of my sins, believe in Jesus Christ as my only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear me for the sake of His name. Amen.

LSB 349

Prelude: CHESTERFIELD ("Hark the Glad Sound"), B. Culli

Please stand and face the Processional Cross.

Processional Hymn: Hark the Glad Sound 1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav The Sav - ior ior comes. 2 He comes the pris -'ners re - lease. In Sa tan's to -3 He comes the bro ken heart bind, The bleed - ing to 4 Our glad ho - san Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come nas, prom - ised long; Let 'ry heart pare ev pre а held. of fore Him bond age The gates brass be soul to cure, And with the trea sures of His shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e ter _ nal arch es And voice throne ev 'ry а song. burst. The ron fet yield. i ters To en - rich ble grace the hum poor. With Thy be lov ed ring _ name. Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-51 Tune: Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820 Text and tune: Public domain

Confession and Absolution

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

- P In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
- С

Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]

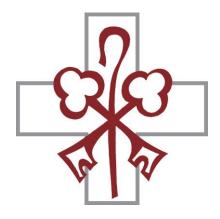
Psalm 124:8

Psalm 32:5

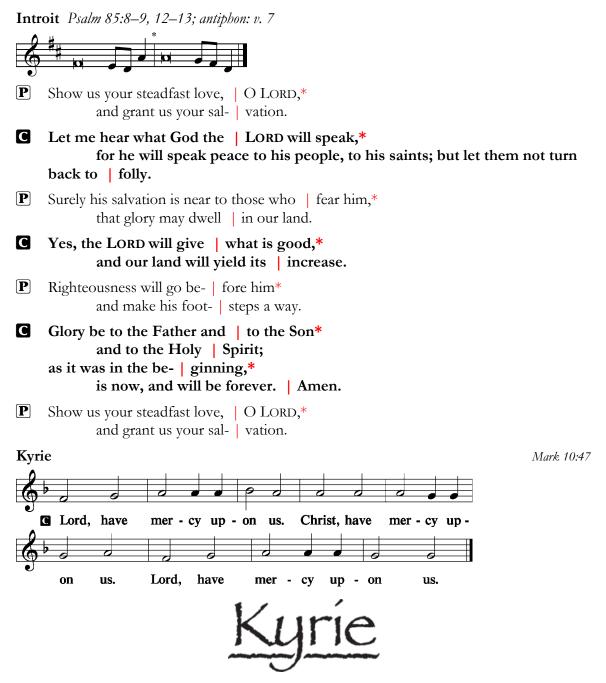
- P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. [Hebrews 10:22]
- **P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- С who made heaven and earth.
 - P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
 - С and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

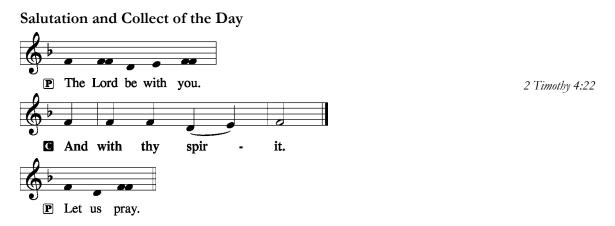
Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- P O almighty God, merciful Father,
- С I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.
- P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. [John 20:19-23]
- C Amen.



+ Service of the Word +





▶ Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Sit

The Old Testament Reading Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

¹The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; ²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified. ⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations....

⁸For I the LORD love justice; I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. ⁹Their offspring shall be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed. ¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her

jewels. ¹¹For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

The Epistle Reading 1 Thessalonians 5:16–24

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise prophecies, ²¹but test everything; hold fast what is good. ²²Abstain from every form of evil.

²³Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

A This is the Word of the Lord.C Thanks be to God.

Stand



The Holy Gospel John 1:6-8, 19-28

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.



⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light....

¹⁹This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you

the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." ²²So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said." ²⁴(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) ²⁵They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" ²⁶John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." ²⁸These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C** Praise be Thee. 0 Christ. to

VOICE O

Nicene Creed

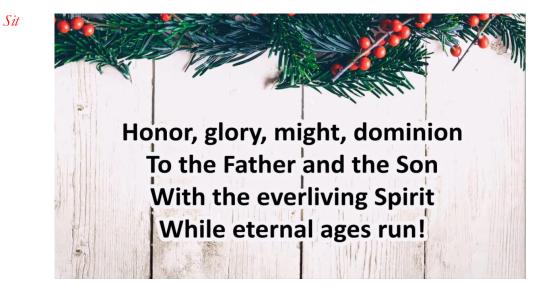
Theene offera	
C I believe in one God,	Deuteronomy 6:4, Isaiah 44:6
the Father Almighty,	Matthew 6:9; Exodus 6:3
maker of heaven and earth	Genesis 1:1; John 1:1
and of all things visible and invisible.	Colossians 1:16
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,	Romans 10:9
the only-begotten Son of God,	John 3:16; Matthew 16:16
begotten of His Father before all worlds,	John 1:2
God of God, Light of Light	John 17:22; John 8:12; John 1:1
very God of very God,	Colossians 2:9
begotten, not made,	John 1:2
being of one substance with the Father,	John 10:30
by whom all things were made;	Hebrews 1:2; John 1:3
Who for us men and for our salvation	Matthew 20:28; Galatians 4:4-5
came down from heaven	John 3:13, John 6:38
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary	Luke 1:34-35
and was made man;	John 1:14
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.	Mark 15:25; John 19:16-18
He suffered and was buried.	John 19:1-3; Luke 23:53
And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures	1 Corinthians 15:4; Luke 24:6
and ascended into heaven	Acts 1:9
and sits at the right hand of the Father.	Acts 7:55
And He will come again with glory	Matthew 26:64
to judge both the living and the dead,	Acts 10:42; Matthew 3:12
Whose kingdom will have no end.	2 Peter 1:11
And I believe in the Holy Spirit,	John 14:26; Genesis 1:2; Acts 2:38
the Lord and giver of life,	Titus 3:5; 1 Corinthians 12:3
Who proceeds from the Father and the Son,	John 15:26
Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and	glorified, Mt. 3:16-17; Lk. 2:14
Who spoke by the prophets.	Ezekiel 11:5; 2 Peter 1:20-21
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,	1 Peter 2:5; Ephesians 2:19-22
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,	Ephesians 4:5, Acts 2:38
And I look for the resurrection of the dead 1 Corinthian	ns 15:35-49; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
and the life $+$ of the world to come.	Isaiah 65:17-19; Revelation 21:1-4
Amen.	Psalm 106:48

Please remain standing for the Hymn of the Day.

Hymn of the Day: Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding



Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt. Tune: William H. Monk, 1823–89 Text and tune: Public domain



Sermon Rev. Seth Clemmer

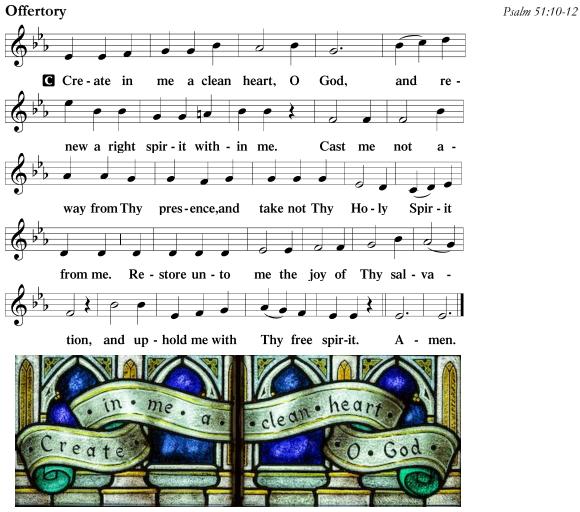
Stand

Prayer of the Church

P Lord, in your mercy.

C Hear our prayer.

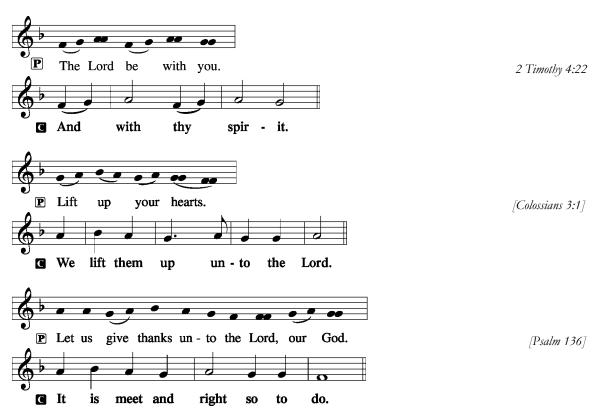
Thank you for continuing to support the Lord's Work here at Bethany. Offering plates are available at the back of the sanctuary, or consider giving through the Vanco Mobile app or online at www.bethanylcs.org.



+ Service of the Sacrament +

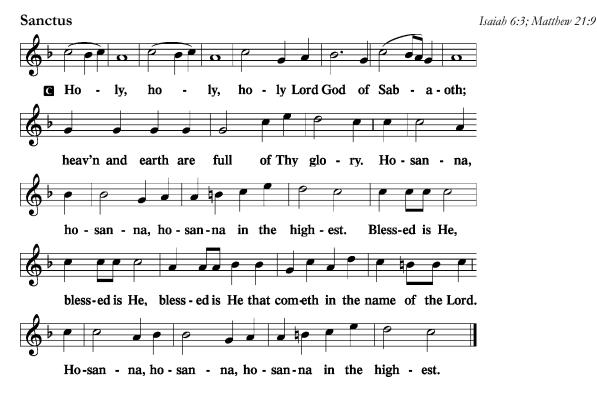
About Receiving the Lord's Supper at Bethany

As we receive the Lord's Holy Supper according to His institution, we receive the salvation, forgiveness, and life eternal won for us on the cross. Also, we believe that when a person communes at an altar, one confesses unity with the teachings of that church. Therefore, if you are not in fellowship with the teaching of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, we ask that you refrain from communion until you have had opportunity to speak with one of the pastors about Christ's bodily presence and the forgiveness of sins given in this meal. However, all are welcome to receive a blessing, for the forgiveness of Jesus is still yours. Please indicate this as your intention by crossing your arms over your chest when the pastor comes by.



Preface

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary ... evermore praising You and saying:



Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

C 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.



The Words of Our Lord *Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

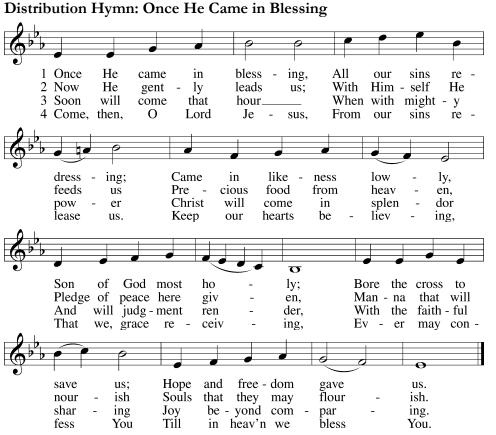
John 20:19



A Prayer for Right Reception of the Lord's Supper

Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

LSB 333



Text: Johann Horn, c. 1490–1547; (sts. 1, 4): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.; (sts. 2–3): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006 Tune: Michael Weisse, c. 1480–1534

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Distribution Hymn: Arise, O Christian People



Text: Valentin Thilo, 1607–62; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–74, alt. Tune: New Catechismus Gesangbüchlein, 1598, Hamburg, alt. Text and tune: Public domain

Stand



Thanksgiving after Receiving the Sacrament

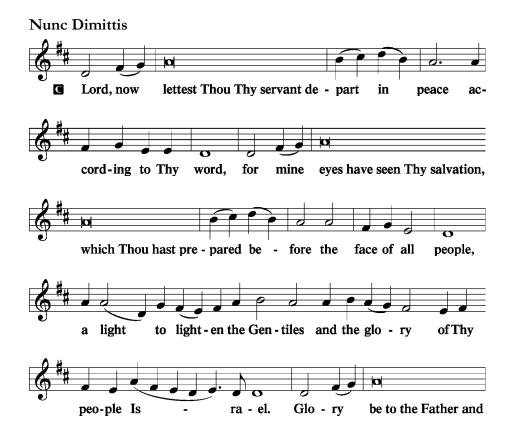
Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the holy Sacrament, I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

Dismissal

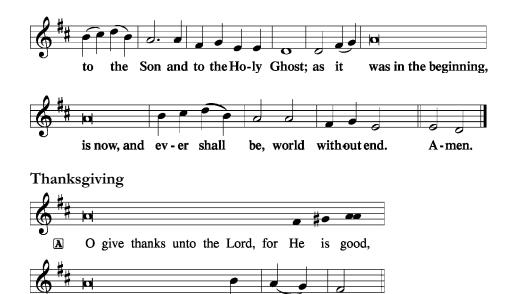
The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart + in peace.

Luke 2:29-32

C Amen.



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Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.

С

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

er.



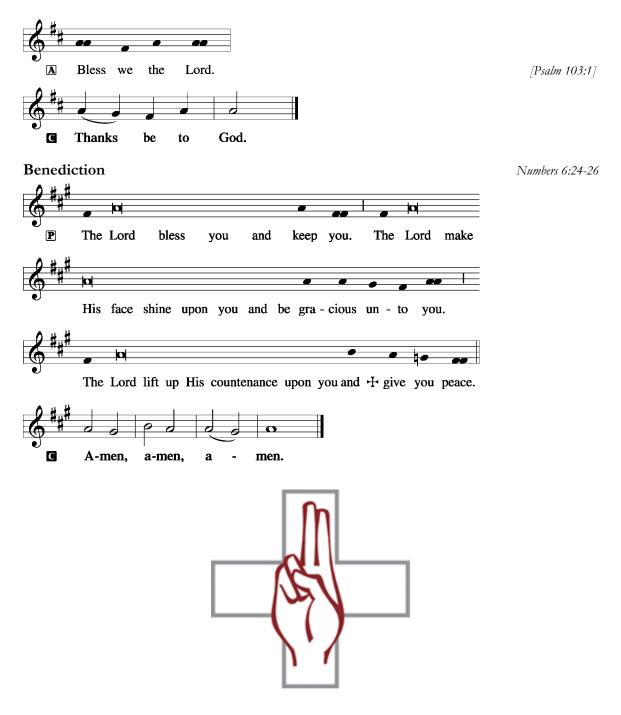
and His mercy endureth for

Salutation and Benedicamus

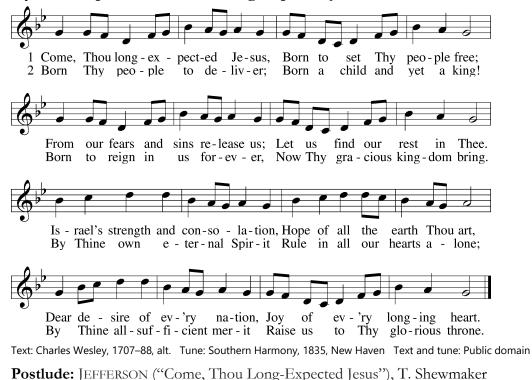


2 Timothy 4:22

Psalm 107:1



Hymn to Depart: Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus





A Prayer after Worship

Almighty and merciful God, I have again worshiped in Your presence and received both forgiveness for my many sins and the assurance of Your love in Jesus Christ. I thank You for this undeserved grace and ask You to keep me in faith until, with all Your saints, I inherit eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

Those Serving You Today

Preacher and Celebrant: Rev. Seth Clemmer Assisting Pastors: Rev. Stephen Schumacher, Rev. Emmett Bartens Organist: Kari Janetzke Live Stream Tech: James Blasius Acolytes: Michael Curfs, Nekko Singer Sacristans: David Brouch, Tim Gavin, Keith Luhrs, Mark Wolfgram Ushers: James Franken, Jay Schafer, Rich Tatara, Rich Witkowski Communion Care: Gertrude Bartha

The flowers adorning our Lord's altar today are placed to the glory of our Triune God by Ryan and Lori Ulferts in honor of their 10th wedding anniversary.





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The Advent of Christ

As you may remember, the word Advent means "coming." During the season of Advent, we prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. But that is not the only coming of Jesus that we hear about in the Advent story.

What is the rest of the Advent story?

The Advent of Christ has three parts. God's Word tells us that Jesus not only came to earth as a man at Christmas, but that He comes to be with His church through His Word and Sacraments. Finally, God's Word reminds us that He will return in judgement on the Last Day. If you think about it, there sure are a lot of great things to remember and look forward to during the season of Advent!



Parents:

When Holy Communion is offered, allow your children to attend the altar with you. Remind them that Jesus is truly present here in the Sacrament, and that we will see Him face to face on the Last Day!

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Prayers

For comfort, health, and recovery:

- Austin Eisemon, recovery from knee replacement surgery
- Aiden Goldbeck, infant heart and neurological issues
- Betsy Goldbeck, recovering
- Shirley Grudzien, for healing and strength
- Kathy Olsted, cancer, and her family
- Thamary Robert, ill health
- Mary Schiltz, breast cancer
- Beth Dhuse, sister to Steve Lindenmeyer, colon cancer
- Donna Journey, aunt to Erin Gavin, aggressive cancer
- Dan Kozlowski, friend to the Splitts, recovery from open heart surgery
- Daniel Krock, grandson to Rick and Jackie Krock, recovery from surgery for kidney issues
- Joe LaMartina, husband to Maria LaMartina, back and knee healing
- Doris Luhrs, mother to Keith Luhrs, nearing death
- Rochelle Shapland, friend to Maria LaMartina, breast cancer treatments
- Rob Skoda, friend to Maria LaMartina, health issues
- Mark Stortz, friend to the Splitts, recovery from heart and lung surgery
- Andy Vickers, friend to the Koopmans, preparing for bone marrow transplant
- The family to Dave Dumford who was called to glory on December 9
- The family to Donna Rentschler who was called to glory on December 9

Rejoicing in the birth of a baby girl, Sylvia Marie, to Kris and Nicole Kaim.

Those who are shut in or in need of ongoing care:

John Coniglio, Roger and Charlene Fiene, Richard and Marilyn Groth, Bruce Janken, Alberta Kobialka, Solomon and Thamary Robert, Muriel Skarin, Nancy Skibinski, Chuck and Monika Werner, David and Ann Zielke

Mothers with child:

Jaimie Bartens, Emily French, Susan Keller, Sarah Lieb, Amanda Bowman (daughter-inlaw to Dwight and Pat Bowman), Kelli Lynch (niece to Sue Sreniawski), Brooke Schmidt (niece to Becky McBroom) Those celebrating wedding anniversaries this month: Jeffrey and Mercy Gustis, Ryan and Lori Ulferts

Those who serve in the Armed Forces and their families:

Quinn Parlier, Jacob Wilson, Andrew Bear (nephew to Beth Hawley), Matthew and Michael Hinze (sons to Don Hinze), Peter Johnson (son to Dennis and Ina Johnson), Savanna Lugay (daughter to Joe and Bethany Lugay), Conor L. McGavern (nephew to Becky McBroom), Aaron Mock (nephew to Debbie Kokaska), Kyle G. Schmidt (nephew to Becky McBroom), Ryan Skarin (grandson to Muriel Skarin), Scott Slown (husband to Jennifer Slown), Nicholas Camm-Williams (friend to Nada Salvino)

A Note on the Prayers of the Church: On the 1st weekend of the month, we pray for those celebrating a wedding anniversary. On the 2nd, we pray for those we know in the Armed Forces (by name). On 3rd, we pray for those in long-term or ongoing care and our shut-ins (by name). On the 4th, we pray for mothers with child. If you have someone you would like to have remembered in the prayers, please leave the name with the church office or send an email to: office@bethanylcs.org. Names on the prayer list will be updated each week and removed after approximately four weeks, unless the office is otherwise notified. We will renew prayers when requested.



This Week at Bethany

- December 17, 11:00am Sunday School Christmas Service
- December 17, 3:00pm Christmas Caroling
- December 19, 1:00pm Bible Reading Group
- December 19, 3:40pm Schola Cantorum Rehearsal
- December 19, 7:00pm Proclaim Rehearsal
- December 19, 8:15pm Bethany Brass Rehearsal
- December 20, 11:00am Midweek Divine Service
- December 20, 6:30pm Advent Evening Prayer
- December 20, 7:15pm Praises Ring! Rehearsal
- December 20, 7:30pm 20something
- December 21, 7:00pm Day School Christmas Program
- December 21, 7:00pm Evening LifeLight
- December 22, 12:00pm Knitters and Crafts Group
- December 23, 9:30am Bethany Brass Rehearsal

Looking Further Ahead

- December 24, 9:30am ONE Divine Service
- December 24, 11:00am NO Bible Study, Sunday School, or Confirmation Class
- December 24, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 10:30pm Christmas Eve Divine Service
- December 25, 9:30am Christmas Day Divine Service

For information on activities and updates at Bethany, please subscribe to the "Week at a Glance" by emailing office@bethanylcs.org. If you prefer, some paper copies are available at the Welcome Center.

