

"The Presentation in the Temple" by Alvaro Pirez, c. 1430

The First Sunday after Christmas

Divine Service 3

December 31, 2023

Scripture of the Day

Isaiah 61:10—62:3 Galatians 4:4–7 Luke 2:22–40

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 386

Prelude: IN DULCI JUBILO ("Now Sing We, Now Rejoice"), J. M. Bach

Please stand and face the Processional Cross.

Processional Hymn: Now Sing We, Now Rejoice we, now re - joice, Now raise to heav'n our 1 Now sing voice: 2 Come from on high to T can - not rise Thee. me; to 3 Now through His Son doth shine The Fa-ther's grace di - vine. 4 Oh. where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'n-ly ground? from whom joy Poor He stream - eth in man-ger lies; а wea-ried spir - it, Cheer my 0 pure and ho - ly Child: Death was reign-ing o'er us Through sin and van - i - ty Where the an - gels sing - ing With all His saints u - nite, so bright - ly Not beam - eth The in yon - der skies. sun Through Thy grace and mer - it, Blest Je - sus, Lord most mild, bright e - ter - ni - ty. He o - pened for Till us А Sweet - est prais - es bring - ing In heav'n-ly joy and light. Thou my Sav - ior Thou Sav - ior art! my art! Draw me un - to Thee! Draw me un - to Thee! May we praise Him there! May we praise Him there! that we were there! Oh. that we were there! Oh,

Text: Latin and German, 14th cent.; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–74, alt.

Tune: German, 14th cent.

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]

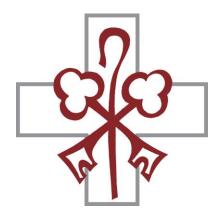
Psalm 124:8

Psalm 32:5

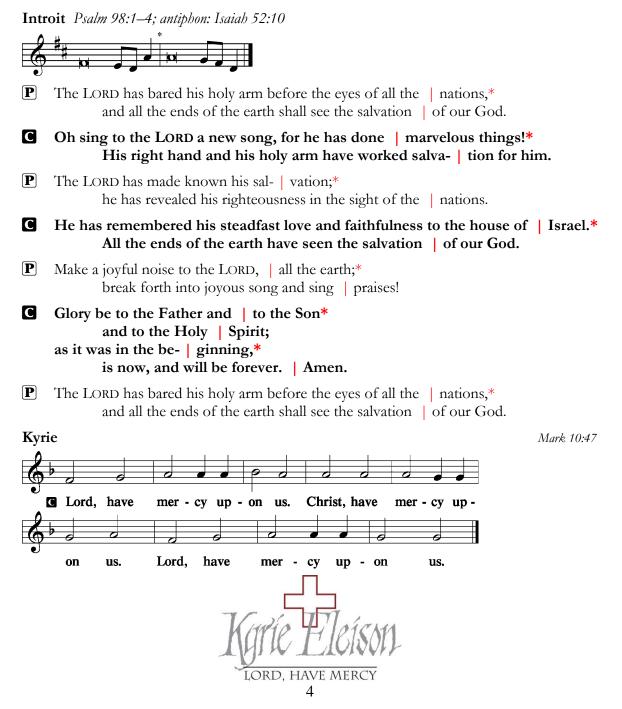
- P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. [Hebrews 10:22]
- **P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- С who made heaven and earth.
 - P I said, I will confess my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

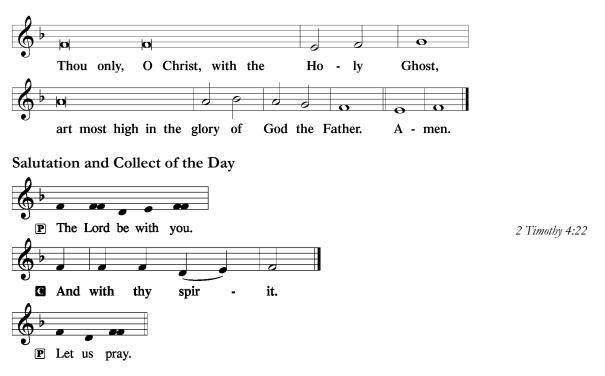


+ Service of the Word +



Gloria in Excelsis





▶ O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Sit

The Old Testament Reading Isaiah 61:10—62:3

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. ¹For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a burning torch. ²The nations shall see your righteousness, and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. ³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

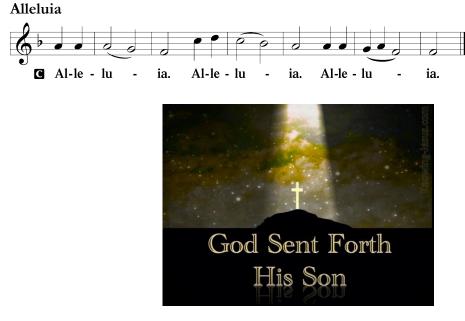
A This is the Word of the Lord.C Thanks be to God.

The Epistle Reading Galatians 4:4–7

⁴When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

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

Stand



The Holy Gospel Luke 2:22-40

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.



²²When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") ²⁴and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." ²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

²⁹"Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation ³¹that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel."

³³And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed ³⁵(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

³⁶And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, ³⁷and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem. ³⁹And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

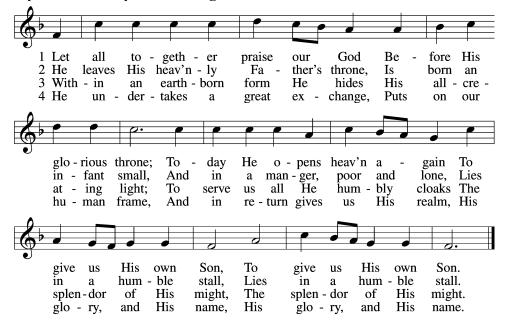


Nicene Creed

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: Let All Together Praise Our God



- 5 He is a servant, I a lord: How great a mystery! How strong the tender Christ Child's love! No truer friend than He, No truer friend than He.
- 6 He is the key and He the door, to blessed paradise;The angel bars the way no more. To God our praises rise,

To God our praises rise.

 △7 Your grace in lowliness revealed, Lord Jesus, we adore And praise to God the Father yield And Spirit evermore; We praise You evermore.

Text (sts. 1, 3–7): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001; (st. 2): tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt. Text and tune: Nicolaus Herman, c. 1480–1561 Text (sts. 1, 3–7): © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001376 Text (st. 2) and tune: Public domain

Sit

Sermon Rev. Emmett Bartens

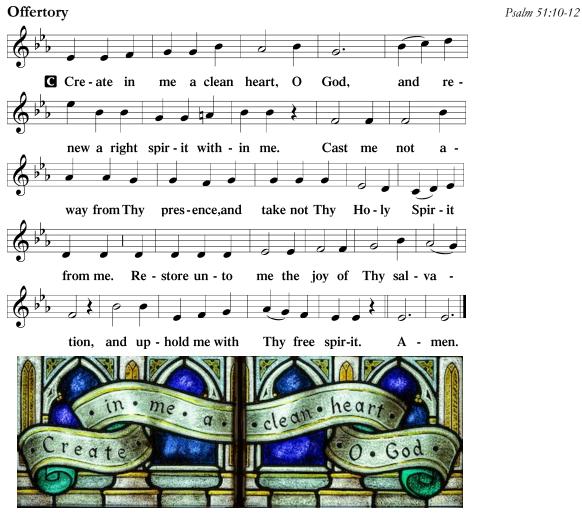
Stand

Prayer of the Church

P Lord, in your mercy.

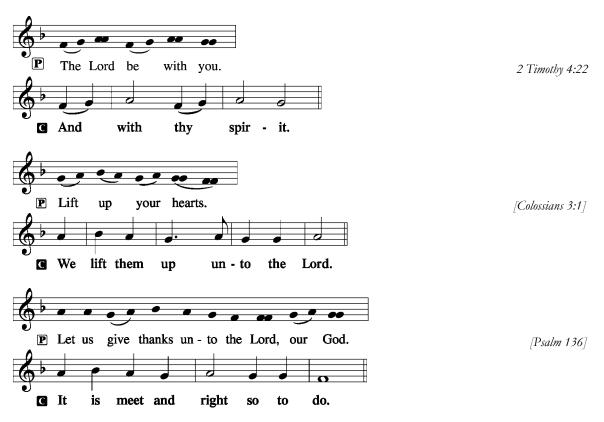
C Hear our prayer.

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.



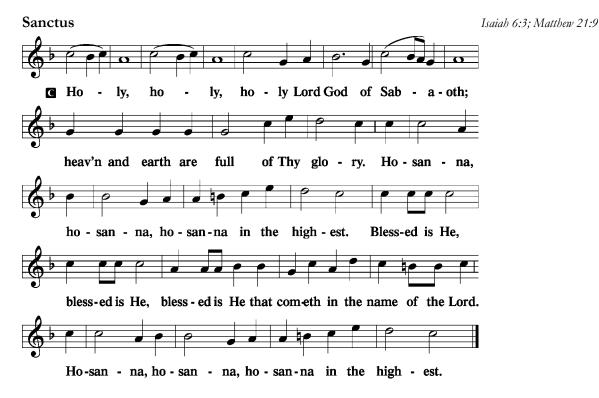
About Receiving the Lord's Supper at Bethany

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.

Distribution Hymn: O Sing of Christ

LSB 362



Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955 Tune: English; adapt. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958 Text: © 1996 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001376 Tune: Public domain



Distribution Hymn: All My Heart Again Rejoices



6 Come, then, banish all your sadness!
One and all, great and small,
Come with songs of gladness.
We shall live with Him forever
There on high, in that joy
Which will vanish never.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76, abr., adapt.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662 Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

Christ is

Thanksgiving after Receiving the Sacrament

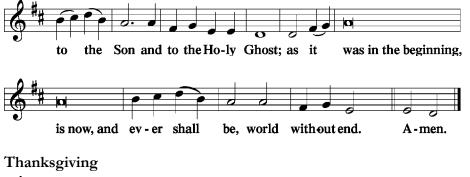
Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the holy Sacrament, I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity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

Dismissal

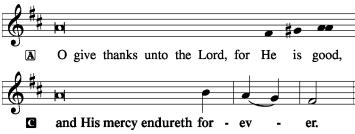
P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart + in peace.

C Amen.









Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.

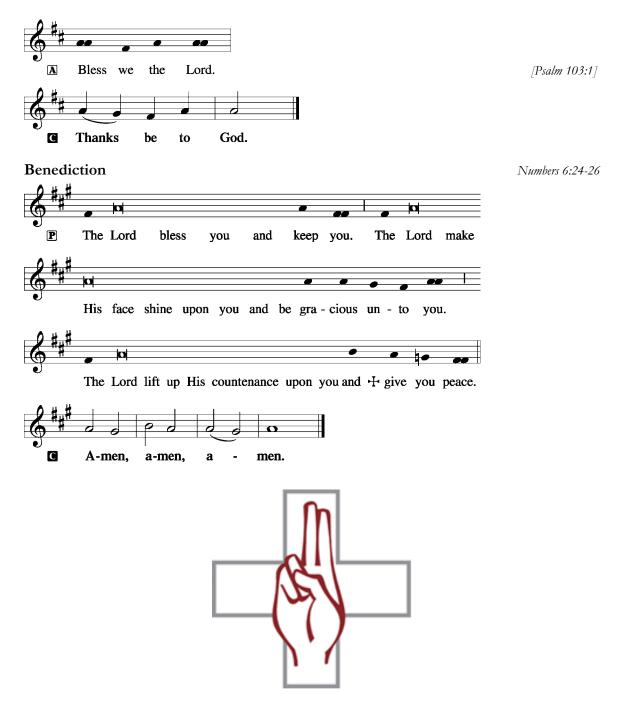
O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Salutation and Benedicamus



2 Timothy 4:22



Hymn to Depart: Gentle Mary Laid Her Child



Text. Joseph Simpson Cook, 1859–1933. Turie: Plae Cantiones Ecclesiasticae, 1562, Griefswald. Text and turie. Public dom

Postlude: IN DULCI JUBILO ("Now Sing We, Now Rejoice"), J. Blersch



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

8:30

Preacher and Celebrant: Rev. Emmett Bartens Assisting Pastor: Rev. Stephen Schumacher Organist: Tom Mueller Live Stream Tech: James Blasius Acolytes: Caleb Burnell, Alice Gavin Sacristans: Rich Fick, Exaud Koka, Ted Quilitz, JR Wilson Ushers: Frank Arford, Troy Darcy, Brent Hawley, Rich Tatara Communion Care: Kim Burnell

11:00

Preacher and Celebrant: Rev. Emmett Bartens Organist: Tom Mueller Acolytes: Tye Fox, Keith Luhrs, Chris Koenig, Will Yocius Sacristans: Bill Cade, Andy Crouse, Dominic Salvino, JJ Stehle Ushers: Henry Fox, Amaya Gustis Communion Care: Pam Kolzow

The flowers adorning our Lord's altar today are placed to the glory of our Triune God by Alvin, Blake, and Landon Barnickel in memory of Jennifer Barnickel-Fitch who was called to glory one year ago on 12/30/22, and by Sue Dumford in honor of her husband Dave Dumford.







What is The Festival of the Nativity of our Lord?

The Festival of the Nativity of our Lord is the traditional way of saying Christmas Day. December 25 is one of the most important festival days in the Church Year. This is the day that we celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus!

Why do we do the things we do at Christmas?



Many of the things that we

do at Christmas have their beginnings with the Romans. Early Christians soon saw some of these things as outward reminders of Christmas and began to use them in their own celebrations. For example, when we give and receive presents, we can remember the greatest gift that has ever been given, our Lord Jesus! After all, today we celebrate Jesus' birthday, and He is the real reason for the season!



Parents: What a great way to spend Christmas! Thanks be to God that you have brought your children to hear the wonderful Good News of Jesus today! When you go home, be sure to remind your children that Jesus is the best present we could ever have. He gave up His life so that we might have eternal life. What a great message to share!

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Prayers

For comfort, health, and recovery:

- Austin Eisemon, recovery from knee replacement surgery
- Aiden Goldbeck, infant heart & neurological issues
- Betsy Goldbeck, recovering
- Paul Reimer, recovering from ulcer surgery
- Thamary Robert, ill health
- Mary Schiltz, breast cancer
- Stewart Simpson, healing
- John Baker, infant grandson to Dennis & Ina Johnson, double pneumonia
- Bennett, whose parents are friends to the Hawleys, born at 21 weeks
- Jeanne Crippin, friend to the Broggis, pancreatic cancer
- Linda Felton, friend to the Corderos, cancer & declining health
- Nancy Grudzien, sister-in-law to Shirley Grudzien, healing
- Joe LaMartina, husband to Maria LaMartina, back & Knee healing
- Andy Vickers, friend to the Koopmans, for remission to allow for bone marrow transplant
- Ingrid Wesa, grandmother to Mike Dragoo, health & comfort
- The family to Donna Journey, aunt to Erin Gavin, who passed away on 12/23

Those celebrating wedding anniversaries this month:

Jeffrey and Mercy Gustis, Mikey and Kelleigh Tito, 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)

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-in-law to Dwight and Pat Bowman), Brittany Linnemeyer (daughter-in-law to Donna Linnemeyer), Kelli Lynch (niece to Sue Sreniawski), Brooke Schmidt (niece to Becky McBroom)

This Week at Bethany

- December 31, 10:00am Bible Study, NO Sunday School or Confirmation Class
- January 2, 1:00pm LWML
- January 3, 9:00am Women's LifeLight
- January 3, 11:00am Midweek Divine Service
- January 3, 7:30pm NO Praises Ring! Rehearsal
- January 4, 9:00am Bethany Guild
- January 4, 7:00pm Evening LifeLight
- January 4, 7:00pm NO Proclaim Rehearsal
- January 5, 12:00pm Knitters and Crafts Group
- January 6, 8:00am Men's Bible Breakfast
- January 6, 6:30pm Epiphany Divine Service

Looking Further Ahead

- January 7, 8:30am and 11:00am Divine Service
- January 7, 10:00am Bible Study, Sunday School, and Confirmation Class
- January 8, 7:00pm Day School Policy Board
- January 9, 7:00pm Board of Finance
- January 13, 9:00am Sanctuary Christmas Undecorating

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.



Pastor Seth Clemmer Pastor Stephen Schumacher Pastor Emmett Bartens email: office@bethanylcs.org