

# Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church

6514 E 750 N Ossian, IN 46777

*A congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod*



*The First Sunday after Christmas*

*Divine Service – Setting Three*

*December 31, 2023*

*Vol. 126-05*

Invocation (Please stand)

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**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.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** **who made heaven and earth.**

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C** **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

**P** O almighty God, merciful Father,

**C** **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.

**C** Amen.

## Service of the Word pg. 184

Introit (sung responsively)



Your decrees are very | trustworthy;\*

holiness befits your house, O LORD, for- | evermore.

**Your throne is established | from of old;\***

**you are from ever- | lasting.**

The LORD reigns; he is robed in | majesty;\*

the LORD is robed; he has put on strength | as his belt.

**Yes, the world is es- | tablished;\***


**it shall nev- | er be moved.**

The floods have lifted up, O LORD, the floods have lifted | up their voice;\*

the floods lift up their | roaring.

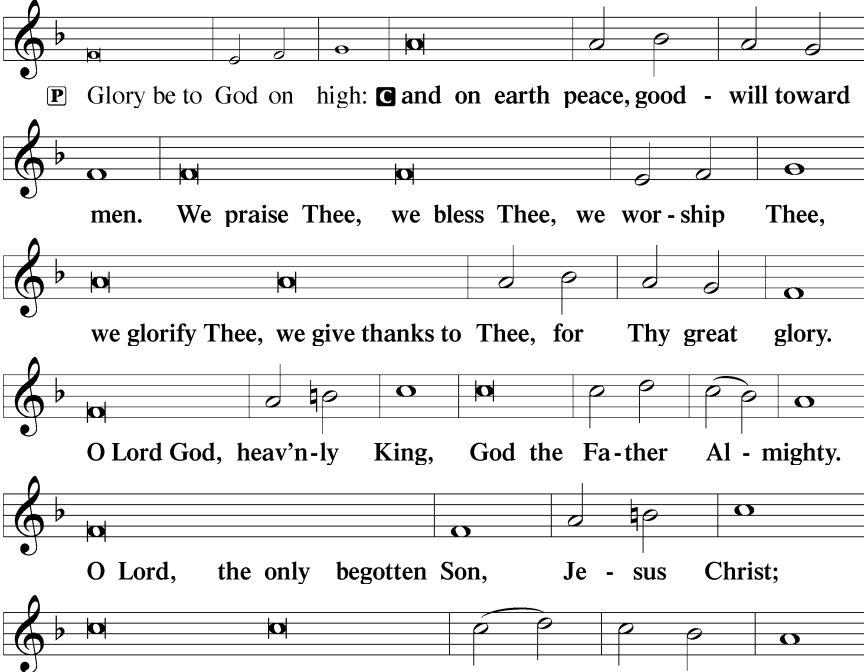
**Mightier than the thunders of many waters, mightier than the waves | of the sea,\***  
**the LORD on high is | mighty!**  
*Glory be to the Father and / to the Son\**  
*and to the Holy / Spirit;*  
*as it was in the be- / ginning,\**  
*is now, and will be forever. / Amen.*  
 Your decrees are very | trustworthy;\*  
 holiness befits your house, O LORD, for- | evermore.  
**Your throne is established | from of old;\***  
**you are from ever- | lasting.**

## Kyrie



**Q** Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -  
 on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

## Gloria in Excelsis



**P** Glory be to God on high: **Q** and on earth peace, good - will toward  
 men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,  
 we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.  
 O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.  
 O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;  
 O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.

Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-

on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on-ly art the Lord.

Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho-ly Ghost,

art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

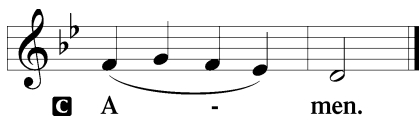
### Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**G** And with thy spir - it.

**P** Let us pray.

**P** 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.



## Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 11:1–5*

<sup>1</sup>There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

<sup>2</sup>And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,  
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and might,  
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

<sup>3</sup>And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,

<sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

<sup>5</sup>Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Gradual

**You are the most handsome of the | sons of men;\***

**grace is poured up- | on your lips.**

**I address my verses | to the king;\***

**my tongue is like the pen of a | ready scribe.**

## Epistle

*Galatians 4:1–7*

<sup>1</sup>I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, <sup>2</sup>but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. <sup>3</sup>In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. <sup>4</sup>But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup>And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” <sup>7</sup>So 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.

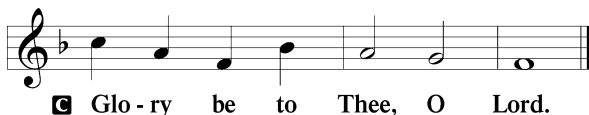
## Alleluia



## Holy Gospel

*Luke 2:22–40*

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



<sup>22</sup>When 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 <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) <sup>24</sup>and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” <sup>25</sup>Now 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. <sup>26</sup>And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. <sup>27</sup>And 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, <sup>28</sup>he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, <sup>29</sup>“Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; <sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation <sup>31</sup>that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.” <sup>33</sup>And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. <sup>34</sup>And 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 <sup>35</sup>(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.” <sup>36</sup>And 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, <sup>37</sup>and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup>And 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. <sup>39</sup>And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>And 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

**C** I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life  $\text{✝}$  of the world to come. Amen.**

## Hymn of the Day

## #389 Let All Together Praise Our God

# Sermon

## Offertory





## Offering

### Prayer of the Church

**We remember all those in need of continued strength and healing:**

*Patsy Gallmeyer (knee surgery)*  
*Margaret Whitesel, Joellen Meyer, Norwin Bauermeister,*  
*Ellie Anderson (friend of Sarena Wirgau)*  
*Joyce Krumma (aunt of Rick Krumma)*  
*Donita Yates (Cousin of Clara Conrad)*  
*Tom Black (father of Ed Black)*  
*Sandra Flum (Susan Graft's sister)*  
*Barbara Murphy (Melissa Price's grandmother)*  
*Brandon Tomlinson (son in-law of the Brinkleys)*

**We pray for our expectant mothers:** *Betsy Dodgers, Kristin Gresley, Mariel Kleppinger,*  
*Jessica Schumm, Abigail (Springer) Mayer, Margaret Moore, Reese Springer,*  
*Lauren Stoppenbagen, Shelby Todd*

**We pray for protection:** *Pastor and Mrs. Moebring's son Stephen in Israel.*

**We pray for our members shut-in:**

*Jackie Werling, Ruth Witte (Ossian Healthcare)*  
*Imogene Bultemeier- in Hospice, Marilyn Meyer (Woodcrest)*  
*Marilyn Franke (Christian Care)*  
*Gloria Siela (home), Charlotte Bultemeier (StoryPoint West)*  
*Rev. Donald Lutz (Lutheran Life Village)*

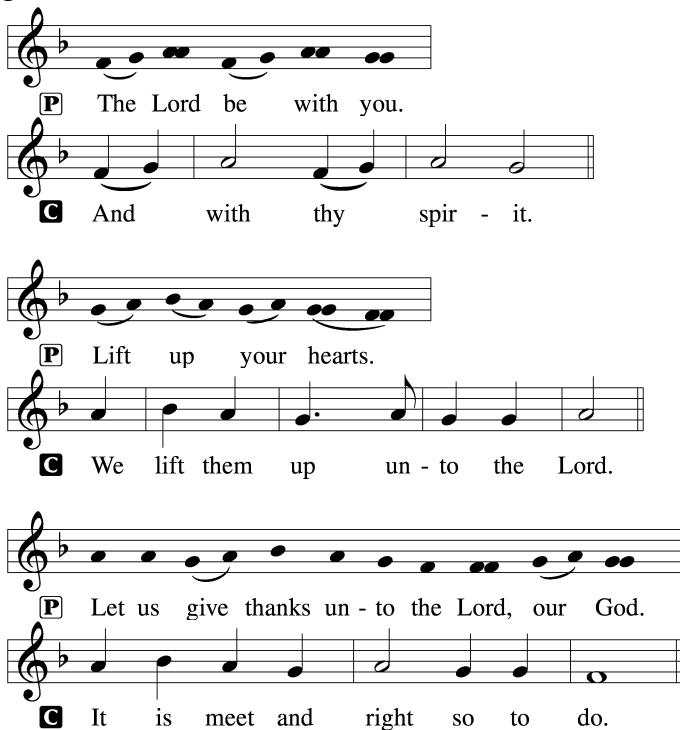
**We pray for our schools**

**We pray for our Church and all her workers**



## Service of the Sacrament pg. 194

### Preface



**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And with thy spir - it.

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** We lift them up un - to the Lord.


**P** Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.

**C** It is meet and right so to do.

### Proper Preface (Abbreviated)

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

### Sanctus



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;

heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,

ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,



bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est.

## Lord's Prayer

**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

**P** 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



**P** The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



**A** - men.

## Agnus Dei



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the

world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that  
 tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.  
 O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the  
 world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

## Distribution

**Today we celebrate the Lord's Supper** in our worship. Bethlehem Lutheran Church administers this Holy Supper in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions. It is celebrated in the confidence that we receive, along with the Bread and Wine, the very Body and Blood of Jesus through which we receive the forgiveness of sins. Furthermore, the communicants as a body of believers make a confession of the unity of their faith. Those desiring to receive the Sacrament with us, who are not communicant members of Bethlehem or of a sister congregation of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, are asked to please speak with the Pastor before the service.

## Distribution Hymns

**#627 Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior**

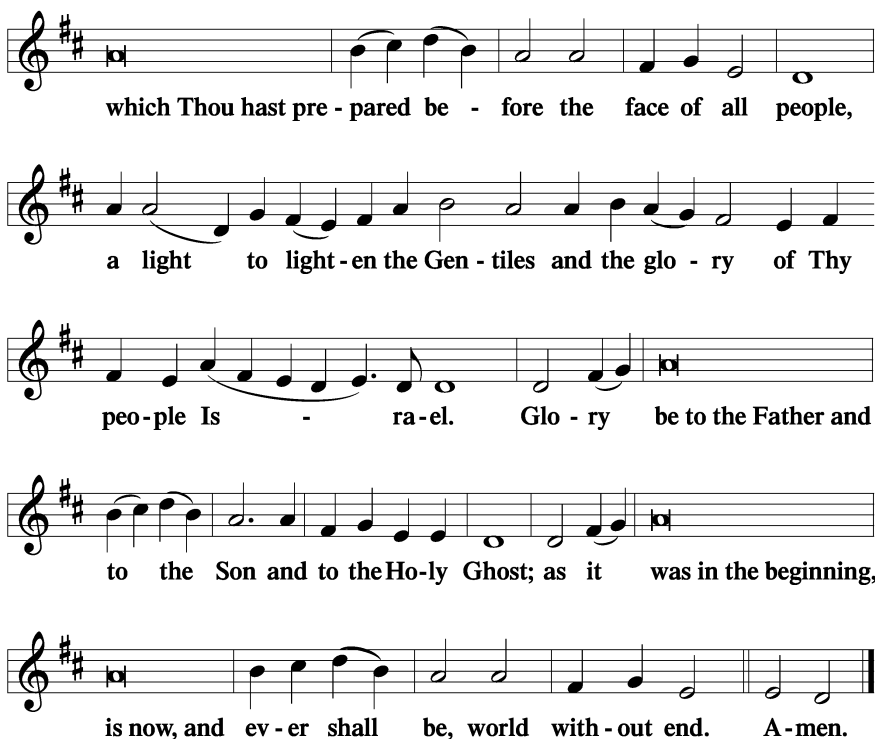
**#385 From East to West**

**#367 Angels from the Realms of Glory**

**#381 Let Our Gladness Have No End**

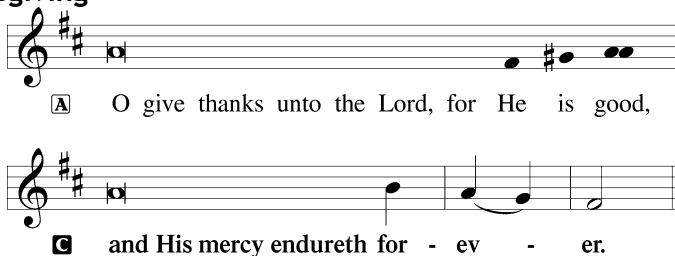
## Nunc Dimittis (Please stand)

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -  
 cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,



which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,  
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy  
peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and  
to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

## Thanksgiving



**A** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,  
**C** and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

## 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.  
**Amen**

## Salutation



**P** The Lord be with you.



**G** And with thy spir - it.

## Benedicamus

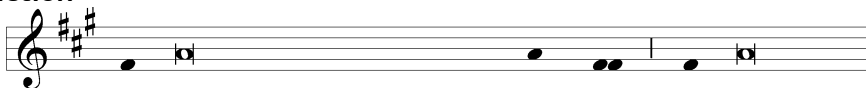


**A** Bless we the Lord.

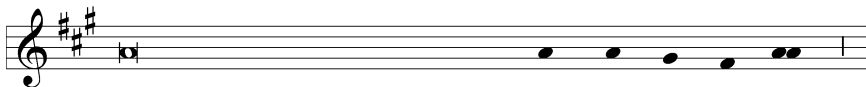


**G** Thanks be to God.

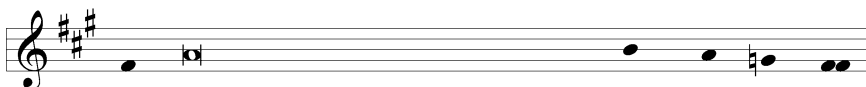
## Benediction



**P** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



**G** A-men, a-men, a - men.

## Closing Hymn

## #384 Of the Father's Love Begotten

## IN HIS SERVICE

**Preaching/Celebrant**

Rev. Samuel Wirgau

**Deacon**

Rev. Martin Moehring

**Fieldworkers**

Sem. Morgan Phillips and Sem. William Bales

**Deaconess**

Wendy Boehm

**Head Elder**

Glen Werling

**Elders on Duty**

Glen Werling and Bruce Werling

**Kantor**

Richard Brinkley

**Acolyte**

Volunteers

**Altar Guild Chairman**

Tisha Laley and Cheryl Louison

**Ushers**

Rory Geiger, Lane Harkless, Isaac Harkless

Darren Patrick, Mark Patrick, Cole Patrick

Pastor: Rev. Samuel Wirgau

260-273-7595

([Samuel.wirgau@gmail.com](mailto:Samuel.wirgau@gmail.com))

Assoc. Pastor, Headmaster: Rev. Anthony Dodgers

616-648-6489

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Office

260-597-7121

Bethlehem Lutheran School Office

260-597-7366

Kantor: Mr. Richard Brinkley

260-705-4105

Deaconess: Wendy Boehm

260-415-8526

*Website for Church and School: [www.BethlehemOssian.org](http://www.BethlehemOssian.org)*

**TODAY**

**9:00 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion**

NO

Adult Bible Class and Sunday School

11:30 a.m. Voice of Bethlehem (WZBD 92.7)

**7:00 p.m. New Year's Eve Divine Service**

**WEDNESDAY**

5:30 p.m. Catechesis Class

**7:00 p.m. Spoken Divine Service**

**SUNDAY**

**9:00 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion**

10:15 a.m. Adult Bible Class and Sunday School

11:30 a.m. Voice of Bethlehem (WZBD 92.7)

*Announcements can be emailed to the church secretary at [bethlehemossiansec@gmail.com](mailto:bethlehemossiansec@gmail.com) or by calling the church office at 597-7121.*

**WE WELCOME ALL OUR VISITORS this morning** to our church and worship service in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We ask that you please complete a green visitor's card from the pew and place it in the offering plate. Also, please be sure to introduce yourself to the Pastor and to others in attendance and feel free to worship with us again.

**A SPECIAL THANK YOU** to Kantor Brinkley and all the Bethlehem Choirs for their loving devotion to provide our church with beautiful music over the holiday. We are truly blessed with your musical ability, and we want you to know how much we appreciate your time and talent. You have helped make our church a very special place of worship.

**SPECIAL VOTER'S ASSEMBLY MEETING – Sunday January 21, 2024 at 11:15 am**

**2024 ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE and FLOWER CHART** is now posted on the bulletin board. Please consider signing up to prepare the altar for church services or donate flowers to be placed on the altar or hymn board table. A special announcement should be given to the church office. Thank you

**2024 Offering Envelopes** are now available. Please plan to pick up your box from the tables in the north hallway. Boxes should be in alphabetical order. Please contact the church office if you have any questions. Thank you

### **Donations for New Library Bookshelves - Library Improvement Phase II**

Once again, thank you to everyone who contributed to Phase I of our room swap for the Library and Kindergarten. It was a great success! We are now beginning to raise money for Phase II, which will improve our library with new bookshelves. These will be wooden bookshelves, handmade by a member of our church. This project will also create more space for books, with shelves for all three walls of the new library, which will add room for our collection to grow. Please consider making a donation to this beautiful and useful project. Make checks out to Bethlehem Lutheran School and include a memo: Library Phase II.

**The Siberian Lutheran Mission Society is hosting a Dinner and Square Dance** with Bill Werling and the Breakaway Band on Saturday, January 13, 2024 at the Mirage Banquet Hall (1640 Winchester Street; Decatur, IN 46733). Doors open at 5 p.m. with Dinner, Drinks (cash bar), and square dance lessons for beginners. Dancing begins at 6 p.m. after brief comments from Rev. Dr. Alexey Streltsov, President of the Lutheran Seminary in Novosibirsk Siberia. Cost is \$20 per person, 12 and under is \$10. Sponsored by the Siberian Lutheran Mission Society. 260-580-0812

# RECITATION & PRAYER FOR CLASSROOM AND HOME

*The sign of the cross may be made in remembrance of Baptism.*

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*A hymn may be sung.*

*Recite Together:*

*The Ten Commandments*

You shall have no other gods.

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

Remember the Sabbath Day by keeping it Holy.

Honor your father and your mother.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false testimony against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

*The Apostle's Creed*

I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*Additional Memory Work for the week may be recited.*

*Scripture Reading and/or Devotion Lesson*

*Prayers and Intercessions*

*The Lord's Prayer*

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.



**Learn-by-heart all or some of the provided text as age and ability of your household allows.**

*What is John 1:14-18*

- 1. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**
- 2. (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'")**
- 3. And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.**
- 4. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.**
- 5. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.**

**Offering Dec. 24, 2023**

<u>Average weekly need \$13,818</u>	
Home Fund Env.	\$10,544.73
Synod	41.83
Loose	542.30
Scholarship Fund	
Improvement Fund	45.85
Endowment Fund	200.00
Music Fund	10.00
Sunday School	
Lutheran Witness	25.00
Copy Machine Usage	22.00
Childrens Service	<u>1,139.25</u>
Total	\$12,570.96

**Financial Report**

<b>Home Fund Balance \$171.50</b>
Next week bills due: \$12,000
Bills due two weeks: \$6,000
<b>Savings Account Balance \$43,020.48</b>
Borrowed from Savings: Paid
Operating Loan Debt: (\$18,750.00)

**Church/Communion Attendance**

Children's Service	242
Christmas Eve Morning	180/135
Christmas Eve Evening	145
Christmas Day	142/94
Wednesday Evening	12/8

***WOB Church Bathroom Project \$7,987.13***