

Old Testament

Malachi 3:1-7b

¹"Behold, I send my messenger and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. ³He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

⁵"Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

⁶"For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. ⁷From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them.

Epistle

Philippians 1:2-11

²Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, ⁵because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel.

⁸For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

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Holy Gospel

Luke 3:1-20

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius

Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness.

³And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁵Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, ⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

⁷He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. ⁹Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

¹⁰And the crowds asked him, "What then shall we do?" ¹¹And he answered them, "Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise." ¹²Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" ¹³And he said to them, "Collect no more than you are authorized to do." ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages."

¹⁵As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, ¹⁶John answered them all, saying, "I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

¹⁸So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people. ¹⁹But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reproved by him for Herodias, his brother's wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done, ²⁰added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison.

Prepare the way of the Lord

Luke 3:4



About the Cover: John is a trailblazer with his cry to "prepare the way of the Lord." But Jesus alone is the one who can walk that path. This is not the path less traveled; it's the path never before traveled. This is the perfect path of righteousness that leads to the cross on Calvary and that the Lord of all has walked for us.

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 9, 2018

Sharing, Believing, Living, Caring

St. Bartholomew Lutheran Church
105 Horn St., Brillion, WI
(920) 756-3031
www.stbartbrillion.org

Rev. Mark L. Krueger, Pastor
Devin Zahringer, Organist
Pastor Email: sblcpastor@gmail.com
Secretary Email: sblcbrillion@gmail.com

Hymns: 354, 344, 955, 347

Sermon: "Excellence: Doing What Matters Most"
Philippians 1:2-11

THE MEASURE OF OUR LOVE

Attendance 11/28 (Wed.): 47	Comm.: 45	Offering: \$820.00
Attendance 12/2 (Sun.): 75	Comm.: 53	Offering: \$1,884.00
S.S. - 23	Staff - 8	B.C. - 4
Budget Needs: \$3,397.00		Scrip Profit: 12/2: \$94.65

KINGDOM WORK THIS WEEK

SUN (12/9) 6:30 p.m. Farm & Home 4H
WED (12/12) 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. Confirmation
5:45 - 6:45 p.m. Advent Supper
6:00 p.m. Choir
7:00 p.m. Advent Worship
THUR (12/13) 12:00 p.m. Ladies Aid Christmas Party
3:45 p.m. Trustees
SUN (12/16) 8:00 a.m. - Sunday School/No Bible Class
9:00 a.m. - Children's Christmas Service
10:00 a.m. Elders

IN OUR PRAYERS we remember Karen Loose who is recovering from surgery for a cancerous tumor.

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to God's glory by Bonnie Smith and Ruth Carstens in memory of their parents Reuben and Elaine Prah.

TODAY'S BULLETINS are sponsored by Rick & Terri Riemer in honor of their 25th anniversary.

CHRISTMAS CARDS are available in the card room.

ADVENT MEALS will be served on Wednesdays, Dec. 12 & 19. Sign up on the bulletin board if you plan on attending.

ADOPT-A-FAMILY: Our Adopt-A-Family "ornaments" are on the tree in the coatroom. We have 2 families. Items are noted on the ornament - please attach the ornament to the **unwrapped** gift. If you prefer to donate a gift card, they are also welcomed. The deadline is December 19. We will be wrapping gifts on Dec. 12 & 19 in between the Advent Supper & church.

2019 FLOWER CHART & BULLETIN SPONSORSHIP - If you would like to donate flowers or sponsor bulletins for next year, please sign up on the bulletin board.

CHRISTMAS TREE SELLERS NEEDED to help sell trees this year. Pick your time(s) and sign up on the bulletin board! Proceeds will go to "Food for the Poor" to build a house in the Caribbean or Latin America.

2019 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES may be picked up from the table in the coat room. Please do not start using them until January 1, 2019.

REMINDER: Annual Report items are due January 1, 2019. You may drop them off at the church office or email them to sblcbrillion@gmail.com. *Thank you!*

LADIES AID CHRISTMAS PARTY is on Thursday December 13 at 12 p.m. All ladies of the congregation are invited. Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. Please sign-up by Dec. 9 so Ladies Aid can plan ahead for the meal.

USHERING SCHEDULE SIGN-UP for 2019 is posted on the bulletin board. Sign up is by month for either Wednesdays or Sundays. You can also sign up for any of the holiday services.

UPCOMING SPECIAL SERVICES

12/16	9:00 a.m.	Children's Christmas Service
12/24	4:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.	Candlelight Service
12/25	9:00 a.m.	Christmas Day Worship with Communion
12/31	5:30 p.m.	New Year's Eve Worship with Communion