

Old Testament

Isaiah 40:1–11

¹Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. ³A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." ⁶A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" ¹⁰Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

Epistle

2 Peter 3:8–14

⁸But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the

heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

¹¹Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! ¹³But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

¹⁴Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

Holy Gospel

Mark 1:1–8

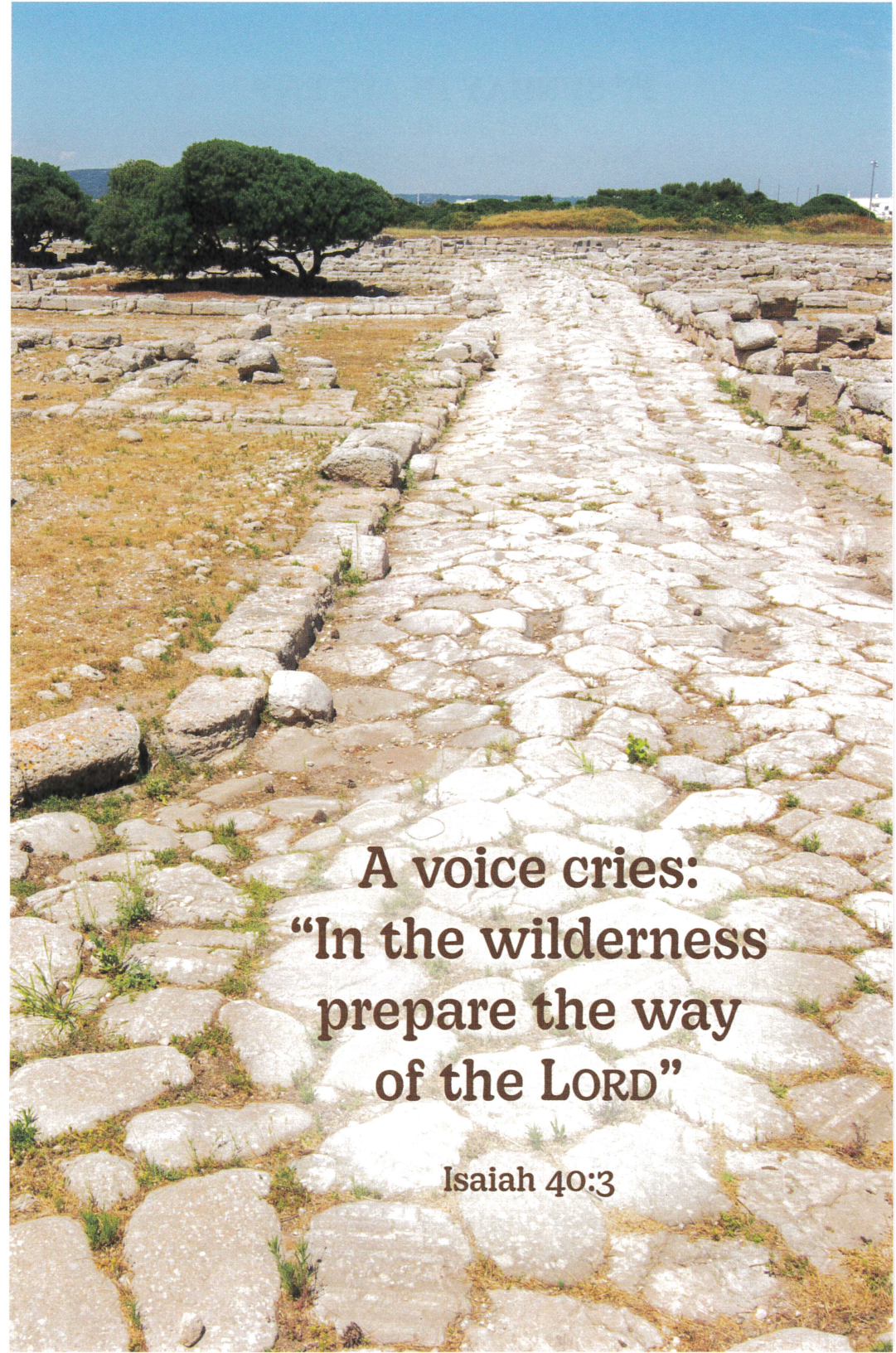
¹The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ²As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, ³the voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" ⁴John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

**A voice cries:
"In the wilderness
prepare the way
of the LORD"**

Isaiah 40:3



About the Cover: As the King returns to His Holy City in victory, the voice in the wilderness calls out to clear the way. John's "baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins" (Mark 1:4; Luke 3:3) was a call to prepare every heart for Christ's coming. God's Law continues to call us to repentance so that His saving Gospel may reside in our hearts. Christ has conquered sin, death, and the power of the devil for us. Behold, He is coming again.



2nd SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 10, 2023

Sharing, Believing, Living, Caring

St. Bartholomew Lutheran Church
105 Horn St., Brillion, WI
(920) 756-3031 (Church Office)
(785) 307-1381 (Pastor Cell)
www.stbartbrillion.org

Rev. Joshua Brandmahl, Pastor
Devin Zahringer, Organist
Pastor Email: sblcpastor@gmail.com
Secretary Email: sblcoffice105@gmail.com

Hymns: 331, 344, 805, 343, 508, 347

Holy Communion: Members of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod are invited to receive the Lord's Supper. Non-members are requested to speak with Pastor before worship.

THE MEASURE OF OUR LOVE

Attendance 11/29 (Wed): 35	Comm.: 30	Offering: \$382.37
Attendance 12/3 (Sun): 85	Comm.: 66	Offering: \$3,615.07
Budget Needs: \$3,098.21		Scrip Profit 11/26: \$51.50
S.S. – 3	Staff – 4	B.C. – 12

KINGDOM WORK THIS WEEK

SUN (12/10) 6:00 p.m. – Farm and Home 4H

MON (12/11) 4:30 p.m. – Finance

Deadline for Adopt-A-Family gifts

WED (12/13) 5:30 p.m. – Advent meal

No Confirmation

6:00 p.m. – Choir

7:00 p.m. – Advent Worship

7:45 p.m. – Elders

THUR (12/14) 12:00 p.m. – Ladies Aid Christmas Party at
Cobblestone

SUN (12/17) 8:00 a.m. – Sunday School

9:00 a.m. – Worship

10:15 a.m. – Bible Class

IN OUR PRAYERS we remember Norma Drumm as she recovers knee surgery; Pr. John Wille of the South Wisconsin District of the LCMS Synod (cancer treatment); Fran (father of Brigitte Sonnabend); Vincent Sucivic (grandson of Duane & Karen Loose),

Wilfred Boldt, Julie Boldt, Kay Koffarnus, Jules Clausing (infection), Carol Clausing, Sandy Haberland, Elaine Zeamer, and Lori Krueger.

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

2024 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES may be picked up from the table in the narthex. Please do not start using them until January 1, 2024.

ADOPT-A-FAMILY – Ornaments are on the tree in the coat room. Items are noted on the ornaments. Please attach the ornament to the gift. Gifts need to be wrapped when you bring them in. Deadline is tomorrow (Dec. 11th.)

ADVENT DEVOTIONS – *What Child Is this?* – are available from Lutheran Hour Ministries. A few hard copies (regular & large print) are available on the table in the narthex by the contribution envelopes.

CHRISTMAS CARDS are available in the card room.

ATTENTION ALL THRIVENT MEMBERS – If you would like to use your Thrivent action card for the women's bathroom renovation, please contact the church office. *Thank you.*

ADVENT MEALS will be served on Wednesday December 13 & 20. Sign-up sheets on bulletin board for attending.

REMINDER: Annual Report items are due January 1, 2024. You may drop them off at the church office or email them to sblcoffice105@gmail.com. *Thank you!*

USHERS & GREETERS are being sought for 2024. Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board for both.

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS are on a table in the coat room. There is a free will offering for these items. You can place your donation in an envelope in the offering plate marked Christmas Décor Donation. *Thank you!*