

Old Testament

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 of 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.

Epistle

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.

Holy Gospel

John 1:6–8, 19–28

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.



*He came as a witness,
to bear witness about the light*

JOHN 1:7



About the Cover: John was not the light, but his prophetic preaching testified to the light. Christ alone is the light that cannot be overcome by any darkness in this world—not even the darkness of death on the cross. Likewise, John's preaching still enlightens today because Christ is its source. God's Word casts out the works of darkness to bring us into the light of Christ so that we become the children of God.

3rd SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 17, 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: 349, 345, 805, 346, 515, 849

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 12/6 (Wed): 43	Comm.: 30	Offering: \$762.68
Attendance 12/10 (Sun): 84	Comm.: 70	Offering: \$1,952.13
Budget Needs: \$3,098.21		Scrip Profit 12/10: \$37.25
S.S. – 2	Staff – 4	B.C. – 8

KINGDOM WORK THIS WEEK

MON (12/18) January Newsletter Items Due
TUES (12/19) 9:30 a.m. – Circuit Pastor's Conf., Hilbert
WED (12/20) 5:30 p.m. – Advent meal
No Confirmation
6:00 p.m. – Choir
7:00 p.m. – Advent Worship
THUR (12/21) 6:30 a.m. – Men's Bible Study
4:30 p.m. – Council
7:00 p.m. – Women's Bible Study
SUN (12/24) No morning worship service
4:00 & 6:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

IN OUR PRAYERS we remember Chris and Emma Levash upon the birth of a baby boy; 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 Clausning (infection), Carol Clausning, Sandy Haberland, Elaine Zeamer, and Lori Krueger.

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

2024 FLOWER CHART & BULLETIN SPONSORSHIP – If you would like to donate flowers or sponsor bulletins for next year, please sign up on the bulletin board.

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

THANK YOU to everyone who so generously baked and donated cookies for our Christmas Cookie Sale. Your help was greatly appreciated, and we couldn't have done it without you. *Ladies Aid*

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

CHRISTMAS CARDS are available in the card room.

ADVENT MEAL will be served on Wed. Dec 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!*

UPCOMING SERVICE SCHEDULE

12/20	7:00 p.m. Advent Service
12/24	4:00 & 6:00 p.m. Candlelight Service
12/25	9:00 a.m. Christmas Day Worship w/Communion
12/27	No Worship Service