

## WORSHIP BULLETIN – FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 24, 2017 – 10:00AM

*Please take this bulletin home with you ... as a reference for this week's calendar of events, a reminder of Bethany family and friends to keep in your prayers and other useful information.*

Prelude: *"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"* ELW 257, vv. 1-4  
(Congregation invited to sing along)

Gathering Hymns: Kyrie & Canticle of Praise: *"Gloria"* Setting 7, ELW pp. 175-176

First Reading 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Psalm: Luke 1:46b-55 Chanted (tone 8 with hand chimes)

Second Reading Romans 16:25-27

Gospel Luke 1:26-38

Sermon Pastor Jen Henry

Hymn of the Day: *"Savior of the Nations, Come"* ELW 263

Offering: *"Veni Emmanuel"*- Arr. Baker Handbells & Weeknight Music II

Communion Hymn: *"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"* ELW 490

Sending Hymn: *"Joy to the World"* ELW 267

Postlude: *"Joy to the World"* - Arr. Baker Handbells & Weeknight Music II

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### WORSHIP NOTES

Welcome everyone to worship at Bethany Lutheran Church! It is our hope that you experience the love of Christ this morning and His presence during our worship service. If you are visiting today, please sign the guest book in the narthex. Everyone please sign the fellowship pad in your pew. The pads have a space for our record of communion. Please be sure to mark this if you partake in Holy Communion. Thank you for completing this information. Please note, assistive hearing devices and large print bulletins are available if needed – ask an usher.

The liturgical color for Advent is blue. Because Royal Blue is the color of royalty to welcome the coming of a King, it is increasingly used for Advent to distinguish it from Lent. Royal Blue can also symbolize the night sky in which the star appeared to announce the birth of Jesus.

On this Sunday morning, we light all four candles of the Advent wreath. We hear the story from Luke of the angel Gabriel's visit to Mary – the birth of Jesus foretold. Jesus, God's gift to the world, is coming. O come, O come, Emmanuel – God with us!

This evening at our Christmas Eve services, our lighting of the Advent wreath will include the Christ candle. We will hear the story of Jesus' birth – born in a lowly stable and lying in a manger -- Jesus Christ, the Light of the World. We rejoice in the promise of God fulfilled!

Many thanks to our worship volunteers helping with services today:

**10:00:** Greet: Emily Baker; Read: Susan Rohan; Acolyte: Josh Quail;

Communion servers: Kirby & Sandi Schmidt, Susan Rohan;

Record: Sandi Schmidt; Project: Mary Ann Quail;

***Are you able to help as a worship volunteer?*** Readers, greeters, and Communion servers are needed. Please consider helping! The January/February sign-up forms are at the Welcome Center and on-line at: <http://signup.com/login/entry/10064285800109> . Look them over and sign up to help as you are able. Thank you for helping as a worship volunteer at Bethany!

## PRAYER CONCERNS

### Health Concerns:

Doris Andersen, Lane Frederick, Mary Grover, Ben Heien,

Jamie Huber, Elsie Mae Jones, Linda Kunzmann, Sandy Manwarren,

Bill McCune, Isabel Perez, Sally Peterson, Dave Storm;

Barbara Wood (*Betty Lee's sister*);

Darla Larsen (*Doug Bjorklund's sister*);

Evelyn Winterboer (*Denny Winterboer's mother*);

Elsie Anderson (*Val Van Ampting, Laurie Conlon & Mary Ann Quail's mother*)

Kevin Vaudt (*Steve & Rhonda Salts' son-in-law*);

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & CALENDAR

**Special worship services** Join us this evening for our Christmas Eve candlelight services at 4:30pm and 6pm and again on Christmas Day (Monday, December 25) at 10am. Please note: on Sunday, December 31 we have modified our regular Sunday worship schedule having only one worship service at 10am. It will be a special service filled with music as we “sing our faith” through favorite Christmas hymns and celebrate Holy Communion.

**Bethany education & music programs are in recess for Christmas & New Year.** Sunday School will not meet today (Sunday, December 24) nor on Sunday, December 31. Confirmation and BYG will not meet on Wednesday, December 27. Confirmation classes will resume on Wednesday, January 3. Weeknight Music, Praise Team, Bells and Choir will not meet for the remainder of December. Rehearsals will resume the week of January 7.

**Just a friendly reminder** – The church office will be closed on Tuesday, December 26 and Monday, January 1. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

**Volunteer opportunities abound...** If one of your “New Year” resolutions is to share your God-given time and talents in service, please consider volunteering at Bethany. Readers, greeters, and Communion servers are needed. Video recorder and projector operators are needed to run the system in our new sound booth. Office volunteers are needed for various dates and times in the weeks ahead. If you are able to serve in any of these areas, please see more information and sign-up at the Welcome Center!

**Thank you for your support!** Many thanks to you – the members of Bethany who have continued to be faithful in giving... supporting the general operations of the church, the missions of the church, the capital campaign and in the giving of your time and talents! All gifts received by December 31 will be recorded on your 2017 giving statements. For tax purposes gifts must be received by December 31 or by postmarked before year-end. Many thanks to those who turned in a 2018 pledge card. This data is helpful in budgeting for the coming year.

**Bethany’s “Annual Meeting of the Congregation”** Our annual meeting will be held on Sunday, January 21. We will have one worship service at 10:00am followed by the meeting. After the meeting everyone is invited to stay for a baked potato bar lunch with a freewill offering benefitting the Bethany Scholarship Fund. During the annual meeting children will be entertained in the parlor. We hope to have each family represented at the annual meeting. We will be voting to change the constitution, approving reports, and electing new leaders. Won’t you come enjoy the service, the meeting, and the meal? A reminder to Ministry Team chairs if you haven’t already done so, please email a digital

formattable copy (no .pdf files, please) of your board's report to: [bethany@bethluthspencer.com](mailto:bethany@bethluthspencer.com) as soon as possible. A reminder to everyone: this is your church– be involved– attend this meeting!

**Bethany Constitution Changing PLEASE NOTE:** An incorrect copy of the proposed new Bethany constitution was put out at the Welcome Center for your review. A new, corrected copy is now located at the Welcome Center. Please pick up one of these new copies and look it over, as it will be voted on at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation (Sunday, January 21). A question & answer presentation on the proposed constitution will be offered at two times --- between services on Sunday, January 7 and again on Sunday, January 14. Plan to attend!

**Snow/Weather Cancellations** Bethany has modified its snow and cancellations policy as follows: Regarding weekday activities or meetings, if the Spencer School system cancels classes, all events at the church will be cancelled for that day as well and the church office/building will be closed. Likewise, if the school system calls a late start, activities at the church will follow. Regarding weekend activities, if the weather becomes such that it may be unsafe to travel, activities may be cancelled. Cancellations will be announced on the KICD radio stations (AM 1240, FM 98.3, FM 104.9, FM 107.7), posted on Bethany's social media sites & the Bethany website: [www.bethluthspencer.com](http://www.bethluthspencer.com).

**ELCA GOOD GIFTS** have the potential to make a lasting impact in the lives of others. Bethany has adopted the "Good Gifts" mission as an Advent project for the past couple years and thanks to your generosity many have benefitted from ELCA Good Gifts. This year we received word from the ELCA about a special matching offer: all animal orders placed on December 20 would be matched one for one! So, we quickly pulled together the order to take advantage of this opportunity! Look for a summary in the January issue of "The Bethany Herald" for a listing of all of the "Good Gifts" that were so graciously given!!

## CALENDAR

### Monday, December 25

10:00 am Christmas Day Worship

### Tuesday, December 26

*Church Office Closed*

### Wednesday, December 27

10:00 am Bible Study & Prayer Group

### Saturday, December 30

7:30 am Men of Bethany Bible Study

### Sunday, December 31

10:00 am Worship

11:15 am Fellowship

### Monday, January 1

*Church/Church Office closed for New Year's Day*

### Wednesday, January 3

10:00 am Bible Study & Prayer Group

2:00 pm Staff Meeting

5:00 pm Caring Friends

7:00 pm Confirmation

7:45 pm Bethany Youth Group

### Thursday, January 4

9:30 am Spencer Ministerial Association

### Saturday, January 6

7:30 am Men of Bethany Bible Study

### Sunday, January 7

8:30 am Worship: Baptism Milestone

9:45 am Fellowship

9:45 am Sunday School Rally

9:45 am Question & Answer Session on Proposed Constitution

11:00 am Worship