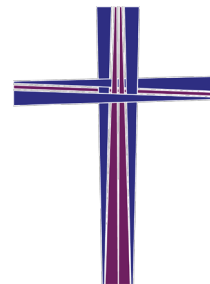




# Bethany Lutheran & Partners in Faith

*welcome you to worship!*



*Second Sunday of Christmas*

January 3, 2021

8:00 a.m.

## Order of Worship

### **We Gather**

#### **Prelude**

Susan Barta

#### **Welcome**

#### **Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who was in the beginning, who makes a dwelling among us, who covers us with justice and mercy.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of goodness and loving kindness, **we confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbors. We have turned away from your invitation to new life. We have turned away from the lowly and downtrodden. In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins, those we know and those known only to you, for the sake of the one who came to live among us, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Hear the good news of peace and salvation! God forgives us all our sins, not through our own work, but through + Jesus Christ, made known to all people. With all who come to the manger, rejoice in this amazing gift of grace.

**Amen.**

#### **Gathering Hymn**

*“Angels We Have Heard on High”*

Bulletin Page 4

#### **Apostolic Greeting**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

#### **Prayer of the Day**

Almighty God, **you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

#### **Special Music**

*“There’s a New Kid In Town”*

Brooklynne Jenkinson

## We Hear God's Word

### Reading

**Ephesians 1:3-14**

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup>just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. <sup>5</sup>He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup>In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup>that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup>he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup>as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup>In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, <sup>12</sup>so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup>In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup>this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

### Gospel Acclamation

*"Bethlehem Highway"*

Bulletin Page 5: Ref, Vs. 2, Ref

### Gospel Reading

**John 1:[1-9] 10-18**

[<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.]

<sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup>(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup>From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

### Message

Pastor Chris Sesvold

**Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.\* On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Prayers of Intercession**

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

**Sharing of Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

**We Celebrate the Lord's Supper**

**Offering**

Bethany Text Giving Available: 715-303-3484

**Offering Song**

*"Breath of Heaven"*

Anakah Denison

**Offering Prayer**

**The Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**Thanksgiving at the Table**

**Lord's Prayer**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

**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.**

**Invitation to Communion**

**Communion Song**

*"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"*

Lainie Tomesh

**Prayer after Communion**

**We Are Sent**

**Announcements**

**Blessing**

**Sending Hymn**

*"The Bells of Christmas"*

Bulletin Page 7: Vs. 1-4

**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus. **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

Amy Brekke

## Angels We Have Heard on High



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

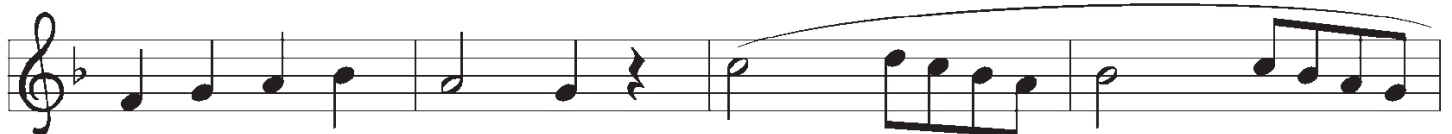


and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

*Refrain*



Glo - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo -



- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864  
Music: GLORIA, French carol

Gospel Acclamation: Refrain, Verse 2, Refrain

# BETHLEHEM HIGHWAY

David Lee Brown  
James Hersch

There is hope on Beth - le - hem high - way for the  
ones who will jour - ney there. And the hope is the  
child in a man - ger bring - ing us love be - yond com - pare. *Fine* It's a  
Let the  
life - line for the need - y. It's — sight — to those who can't  
an - gels go be - fore us. Let the dark - ness be - come —  
see. It's a free - dom for the faith - ful in a  
light. Now the Sav - ior lives a - mong us. Now  
Child of proph - e - cy. There is  
truth has come to life.

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Hymn of the Day **Light Dawns on a Weary World**



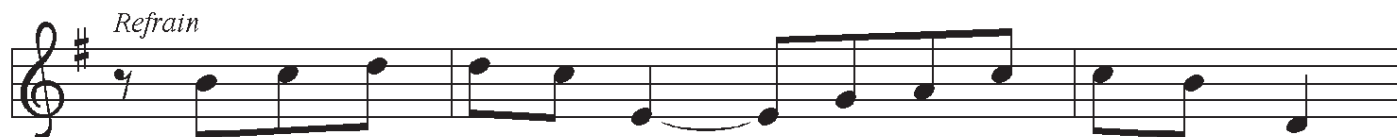
1 Light dawns on a wea - ry world when eyes be - gin to  
2 Love grows in a wea - ry world when hun - gry hearts find  
3 Hope blooms in a wea - ry world when crea-tures, once for -



see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty. Light dawns on a  
bread and chil - dren's dreams are fed. Love grows in a  
lorn, find wil - der - ness re - born. Hope blooms in a



wea - ry world: the prom-ised day of jus - tice comes.  
wea - ry world: the prom-ised feast of plen - ty comes.  
wea - ry world: the prom-ised green of E - den comes.



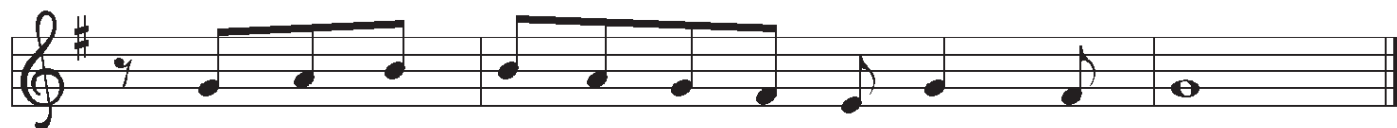
The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;



the hills and moun-tains shall break forth with sing - ing!



We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,



as all the world in won-der ech - oes sha - lom.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953  
Music: TEMPLE OF PEACE, William P. Rowan, b. 1951  
Text © 2002 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.  
All rights reserved. Used by permission.  
Music © 2000 William P. Rowan, admin. GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.  
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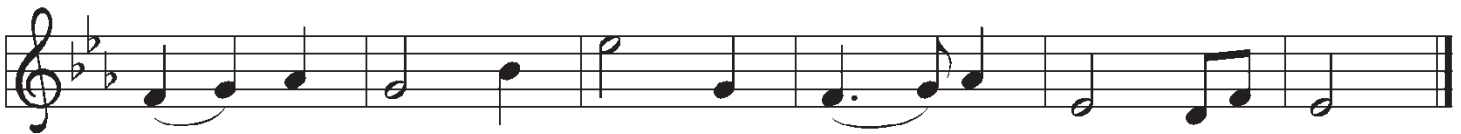
## The Bells of Christmas



*Det ki - mer nu til ju - le - fest, det ki - mer*  
1 The bells of Christ - mas chime once more; the heav'n - ly  
2 This world, though wide and far out - spread, could scarce - ly  
3 Now let us go with qui - et mind, the swad - dled  
4 Oh, join with me, in glad - ness sing, to keep our



*for den høj - e gæst, som steg til la - ve*  
guest is at the door. He comes to earth - ly  
find for you a bed. Your cra - dle was a  
babe with shep - herds find, to gaze on him who  
Christ - mas with our king, un - til our song, from



*hyt - ter ned med nyt - års - ga - ver: fryd og fred.*  
dwell - ings still with new year gifts of peace, good will.  
man - ger stall, no pearl nor silk nor king - ly hall.  
glad - dens them, the love - liest flow'r of Jes - se's stem.  
lov - ing souls, like rush - ing might - y wa - ter rolls!

5 O patriarchs' Joy, O prophets' Song,  
O Dayspring bright, awaited long,  
O Son of Man, incarnate Word,  
great David's Son, great David's Lord:

6 Come, Jesus, glorious heav'nly guest,  
and keep your Christmas in our breast;  
then David's harpstrings, hushed so long,  
shall swell our jubilee of song.

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. Charles Porterfield Krauth, 1823–1883, alt.

Music: DET KIMER NU TIL JULEFEST, Carl C. N. Balle, 1806–1855

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# The Bethany WeekAhead • January 3 - 9, 2021

Sunday

**3**

8:00 AM Worship/Streamed Online & Radio

Monday

**4**

Tuesday

**5**

9:00 AM Staff Meeting/Zoom  
12:00 PM Lunch Box/Parking Lot

Wednesday **Epiphany**

**6**

10:00 AM Word and words/Zoom

6:00 PM Worship/Online

Thursday

**7**

1:00 PM Naomi Circle  
7:00 PM AA/3F

Friday

**8**

Saturday

**9**

*Main Level: CR-Conference Room GR-Gathering Room LI-Library NA-Narthex SA-Sanctuary NS-Nursery  
Lower Level: LL-Luther Lecture FH-Fellowship Hall QR-Quilting Room YR-Youth Room Upper Level: 3F-3rd Floor*

**Bethany Text Giving Available: 715-303-3484**

**Stock Contributors** ~ Please notify the church office if you donated stock to Bethany in 2020 and haven't already told us. When we receive stock in the mail, the donor is anonymous so we can't give proper credit on contribution statements.

**Year End Contributions** ~ Bethany will close its books for receiving 2020 contributions on December 31. Contributions postmarked no later than December 31 will be credited as 2020 contributions.

**Pledge Information as of December 22, 2020**

**Pledge Commitments Received for 2021:** General - \$450,091 Building - \$61,270

*We have received pledges from 189 families.*

Last year at this time, we had received pledges from 199 families: General - \$491,148 Building - \$57,962

*Thank you for your participation in & support of the life & mission of Bethany Lutheran!*

**If you have not returned your 2021 pledge card, please do so at your earliest convenience.**

**Liturgical Acknowledgments:** From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright © 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS006893.

Interim Pastor Peter Muschinske Cell: 314-703-1496  
Pastor Luci Sesvold Cell: 715-225-0979



**Upcoming Worship Opportunities:** Join us for worship on Sundays at 8:00 a.m.! Sunday worship is livestreamed on Bethany's website and Facebook page as well as broadcast live on WJMC FM96.1 & AM1240.

There will also be an Epiphany worship on Wednesday, January 6, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. The worship will stream live online!

**Annual Meeting:** Bethany's Annual Meeting is Sunday, January 31, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom. You can join via the Zoom app or telephone. If neither of these options works for you, please contact the office for more information on alternative attendance options.

**Devotionals Available:** The *Portals of Prayer* and *Christ in Our Home* devotionals for January-March are available in the tote under the carport at Bethany. Please pick up at your convenience!

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**Do you use Automatic Giving?** Using Automatic Electronic Giving is handy! Your donations make it to Bethany, even if you can't make it to church. Did you know that even if you give automatically, your pledge is not automatic? If you are an automatic giver, please return your completed 2021 pledge card. You can even complete the pledge card online!

**Word or words: zoomversations on our life of faith:** To be a part of conversations (zoomversations!) on the first and third Wednesday mornings of the month at 10:00 a.m., please email Pastor Peter at [pastorpeter@bethanyricelake.org](mailto:pastorpeter@bethanyricelake.org) so he can provide links for essential background/pre-session preparation. Post-session applications will be up to all of us as Disciples of Jesus Christ! The next conversation is Wednesday, January 6, 2021!

**Bethany Christmas Special:** A *Bethany Christmas Special* is in the archives on Bethany's website. A *Bethany Christmas Special* is a collection of past and present recordings by Bethany musicians. It is our gift to you. This Christmas Special will be available on Bethany's

website for 90 days. Enjoy it. Share it. Come and see what God is doing.

**Building an Inclusive Church Task Force:** The Building an Inclusive Church Taskforce (BIC) is pleased to report that the Council at their November meeting, voted to recommend the congregation support the motion to become a recognized Reconciling in Christ congregation. This motion will be presented at the annual meeting by the BIC and Welcome Committee. More details on this will be shared in the January Good NewsBreak.

We encourage your attendance and vote to approve this motion at the Bethany Annual Meeting on January 31, 2021.

**Online Worship Archives:** Bethany archives previous worship services on their website and Facebook for 90 days. After that, the videos are removed, but there are hard copies in the office. If needed, you can contact Leah Hullinger at [lhullinger@bethanyricelake.org](mailto:lhullinger@bethanyricelake.org) for more information on older worship services.

**COVID-19 Update:** Barron County COVID-19 data continues to place us in the category of uncontrolled spread with recommendations for limits on indoor gatherings at a maximum of 10 people. The good news is that the number of cases and the percentage of positive tests are decreasing in Barron County. Local hospitals are no longer at or over capacity.

The other piece of good news is that Barron County did not experience the post-Thanksgiving surge that much of the country did. Therefore, we have optimism that if we can avoid a Christmas surge and with the advent of a vaccine, we can foresee a transition to Phase 2 of re-opening on the horizon. If you have questions, contact Pam Crouse, chair, at [pamelacrouse@hotmail.com](mailto:pamelacrouse@hotmail.com).

For the latest information from the Safely Regathering Task Force, please visit Bethany's COVID-19 Updates page. On the page you will find the bi-weekly update video, information about which phase of regathering Bethany is in and resource links for more information.

**Did You Know:** Our congregation has a much higher percent than average of members that believe that their faith is central to their lives. This group also reports a higher than average engagement in life-long learning that prepares for service in the world. Are you looking for a way to learn and study alone or with a group? Do you need to fit it into a very busy life? We have something for you.

35 W. Messenger Street • Rice Lake, WI 54868 • Church Office: 715-234-9028

**Email:** bethany@bethanyricelake.org

**Website:** www.bethanyricelake.org

**Facebook:** Bethany Lutheran - Rice Lake, WI

**Live Radio Broadcast:** Sundays 8:00 a.m.

WJMC 96.1 FM & 1240 AM

**Worship:** Sundays 8:00 a.m.

**Live Streaming:** Sundays 8:00 a.m. on Bethany's website and Facebook page

**Cable Broadcast:** Channels 992 (Charter) & 993 (Mosaic)  
Sundays 11:00 AM & 7:00 PM; Thursdays 7:00 PM

## **Prayer Ministry**

### **New Prayers for Members:**

**Ongoing Prayers for Members:** Sandie Anderson • Red Axtell • Jaquan Bever • Laif Bever • Irene Christianson • Bonnie Dahl • Ron Debner • Jonathan Fritz • Gene Gilbertson • Jim Hagen • Kevin Jacobson • Doug Karis • Carolyn Kochel • Alyssa McCullough • Dick Moe • Regina Mueller • Randy Read • Shirley Stokes • Virginia Tronstad • Ray Vaughn

### **New Prayers for Family & Friends of Members:**

**Ongoing Prayers for Family & Friends of Members:** Kathy Berkseth • Bob Carter • Chuck Dahl • Mary Glaubitz • John Jaros • Clara Kern • Paul Klancher • Pr. Chad Kohlmeyer & Family • Bob & Marianne Koser • Charlie Lawton • Mark Loehlein • Gloria Mattakat • Colin McCann • Bruce Olson • Kaye Olson • Nolan Passint • Mary Simma • Holly Thompson • Kelly White (Anderson) • Paul Wilker

**Active Military Duty:** Tanner Ely • Samuel Krebs • Alex Kusilek • Jonathan Marsh • Ethan Nieman • Alain Pierre • Jason Randall • Abby Ring

You may make requests for the Prayer Ministry by calling the church office at 715-234-9028. You can also email bethany@bethanyricelake.org or fill out a request form on Bethany's website.

## **Prayers for Our Home Members**

Sandie Anderson • Edie Berg • June Brunette • Foster Dunwiddie • Pauline Eidahl • Donna Gagner • Gene Gilbertson • Elaine Gonske • Betty Granum • Nancy Herbert • Esther Honetor • Alice Johnson • Sid Johnson • Dick Moe • Lois Nefstead • Howard Pitts • Randy Read • Nadyne Reiten • Janie Riggs • Jaci Willhite

## **Congregational Leaders & Staff**

**Ministers:** All Members • **Ministry Team:** Peter Muschinske, *Interim Pastor*; Luci Sesvold, *Associate Pastor* • **Director of Education, Youth & Congregational Ministries:** Angie Buchli • **Director of Business:** Dawn Paul • **Communications & Publications Specialist:** Leah Hullinger • **Cleaner:** Amanda Baker •

**Council President:** Bill Evans • **Council Members:** Mal Bailey, Paul Baribeau, Tami Bowman, Pam Crouse, Andy Denison, Mike Diercks, Rachel Engel, Alexa Giddings, Mike Husak, Jennifer Nelson, Ed Skaw, Brad Wiedmann