

The Second Sunday after Christmas

Sunday, January 04, 2026

THE BOY JESUS IN THE TEMPLE



BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
6409 N. 200TH St. Altamont, IL 62411

Rev. Marcus Manley, Pastor

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“Let us go to Bethlehem...” Luke 2:15

Christmas is a joyous time to celebrate God's presence with us in Christ. We believe that Christ is truly present with His people and His Word and Sacraments are His promised signs that He dwells with us in worship. We follow His word in His house believing Christ's real presence in the Lord's Supper and St. Paul's words: "anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself." Therefore we practice closed communion and ask all visitors to speak with Pastor Manley before coming up to Communion.

Prayers

In our prayers we remember:

Those in need of healing & comfort:

| | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| Annette Altman | Bernice Graumenz | Brad Suckow – back |
| Lucille Beccue- LCC | Lillian Grobengieser | Steve Voelker |
| Karly Brummer - luekemia | Janice Heiden | Catherine Zumwalt – cancer |
| Heather Davis - cancer | Judy Stuemke – LCC | |

Birthdays (01/04-01/10): 01/07 – Jennifer Alwardt; 01/08 – Deb Guffey;
01/09 – Allen Schultz, Andy Dahnke; 01/10 – Lucy Kroening

Church News

Trustee's Report:

| | |
|--|---------|
| Weekly amount needed for unified budget 2026 (General Fund) | \$ 8730 |
| Offering collected for General Fund on 12/24, 12/25, & 12/28 | \$ 9720 |

Loose change in the offering plate is designated for LWML Mites for Missions



Attendance: Sun., 12/28, 9:30am – 101

Bible Study Today – Matthew 6:1-6 -- Righteousness Before God, Not Before Others



- After correcting Jewish teaching, now what does Jesus correct?
- T or F We are to do good works for others, even if they aren't thankful.
- No one can do a true good work unless they are _____?
- When are we to announce a good work?

2025 Church Annual Report - As stated in our Church Constitution, "*The Chairman of the Congregation shall prepare an annual written report of the church's affairs for the regularly scheduled January Voters' Assembly.*" The **2025 Church Annual Report** will be presented at the **Voters' Assembly on January 18, 2026**. All reports are due by **January 6** and should be submitted to **Church Chairman, Dean Manual**. Thank you for your cooperation and timely submissions.

Your **2026 offering statements** are printed and placed in your bulletin box. If you have any questions regarding the statements, contact Gary Winter.

Donated poinsettias may pick it up after the church service today. Thank you.

We will be **taking the Christmas tree and decorations down on Saturday,**

January 10th at 8am. Please come and help if possible.

Adult Instruction Class will **begin Monday, January 19th.** All are welcome. Talk with Pastor if you or anyone you know is interested.

District & Synod News, Community Items & Acknowledgments

The Young Adult Bible Study will begin a new study series on Friday, **January 9**, at St. John's in Effingham. This series will explore the differences among various Christian denominations. The group will continue to meet every other Friday at 6:30 p.m. Locations will vary depending on the pastor leading each session. All young adults ages 18–35 are warmly invited.

 **Issues, Etc.** STUDY GOD'S WORD IN 2026... The Word of the Lord Endures Forever is a daily 15-minute, verse-by-verse Bible study produced by Lutheran Public Radio and hosted by LCMS Pastor Will Weedon. You can listen by phone, (618) 262-0078. You can also listen at thewordendures.org, the LPR mobile app and a podcast provider.

CHRIST FOR YOU this week on KFUO AM850 & kfuo.org: A blessed New Year and Happy Epiphany! This week on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8 a.m. CT), we're launching into a new study of the book of Genesis. Tune in to Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11 a.m. CT) as we begin "The Magnificent 37", a new series on the miracles of Jesus! On the Coffee Hour this week (weekdays at 9 a.m. CT), we have some fun things to share, including a new series on the history of the Augsburg Confession with Dr. Cameron MacKenzie and an introduction to this year's Searching Scripture theme! Find your favorite programs on demand at kfuo.org or in the KFUO Radio app.



Donation box for non-perishable items for the Altamont Food Pantry is located in the narthex.

The Food Pantry had 65 participants this week.

Jesus said, I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me." (Mt. 25:35). The Altamont Ministerial Alliance does this by caring for the poor in our community. The Altamont Food pantry is open at First United Methodist Church every Tuesday, 1-3pm for citizens with an Altamont address. When available, other funds are given to the poor with an Altamont address to help with their needs. The Altamont Ministerial Alliance has checks and balances to properly steward all donations to those who are living in our community and follow Jesus' words to care for the poor.

This Week at Bethlehem:

Wednesday, January 7, 2026

3:30 pm – Kinderchor

7:00 pm – Choir

Thursday, January 8

7:00 pm – Ladies' Aid/LWML Meeting

Sunday, January 11 – Baptism of our Lord – Epiphany 1

9:30 a.m. – DSIII with Holy Communion

10:45 a.m. – Adult Bible Class and Youth Sunday School

– 8:00 a.m. – Pastor Manley's Radio program on KJ Country/102.3FM

– 5:00 p.m. – Sunday morning worship service TV broadcast Ch.81

(Recording of today's worship service is also available on our YouTube channel - link via our church website)