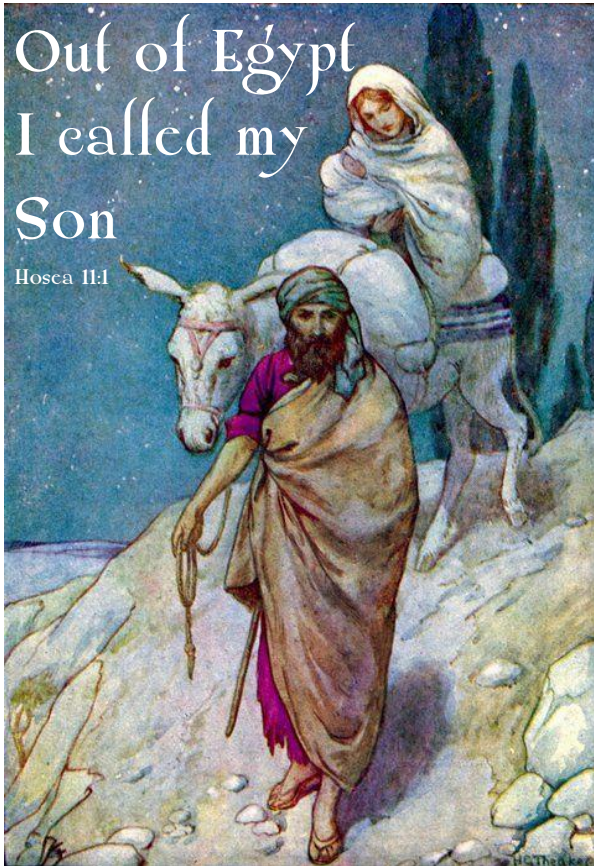


# Second Sunday after Christmas

Sunday, January 3, 2021

And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son." Matthew 2:14-15



## **BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

*1861-2021 - Zum Kripplein Christi - 160 years*

**6351 N. 200<sup>TH</sup> St.  
Altamont, IL 62411**

**Rev. Marcus Manley, Pastor**



Pastor Manley's Phone: 712-880-2452

Pastor's email: [bzaltamontpastor@gmail.com](mailto:bzaltamontpastor@gmail.com)

Church Office Phone: 618-483-6756

Church e-mail: [bethlehem@altamont.net](mailto:bethlehem@altamont.net)

Church website: [www.bethlehemaltamont.org](http://www.bethlehemaltamont.org)

## Prayers

**Prayer before worship** *Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen*

### **In our prayers we remember:**

Those in need of healing & comfort: *Sherry Dahnke, Tiffany Dunaway, Bernice Graumenz, Zoe Hoehler, Brian Mueller, Susie Rush, Steve Voelker, Clete Westendorf), Gary Winter, and Craig Wolff.*

Those celebrating **Birthdays** this week: *01/04 – Luke Mottashed; 01/07 – Jennifer Alwardt; 01/08 – Deb Guffey; 01/09 – Allen Schultz*

*Prayers for the family of Lloyd Mueller, who was called to his heavenly home on December 22, 2020.*

## Church News

➔ Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council will continue to monitor the Covid-19 situation in our area, considering the guidelines to make a good faith effort to ensure a safe and healthy environment for our worship service. Thank you.

Church Admin. Office is open Mon. – Thur. 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. - with additional hours throughout the week.

### **Bethlehem Lutheran Church - Worship Services this week:**

- *“The Epiphany of Our Lord” - Wednesday, January 6 at 6:00 p.m.*
- *BLC Tuesday Morning Chapel Services will resume on Jan. 17 at 9:15 a.m.*

*Any change or cancellation of services will be announced on our church website ([www.bethlehemaltamont.org](http://www.bethlehemaltamont.org)) and Facebook page.*

### **Adult Bible Class:**

Join us for Adult Bible Class following the worship service.



### **Trustee's Report:**

- Offering collected for the Home Purpose General Fund on Dec. 23, 24, 25 & 27: \$10,476 (*Our anticipated 2021 weekly amount needed is \$5,972.*)

*All loose change in the offering plate has been designated for the LWML Mites.*

- Building Fund collected: \$50

- Church Window Project Fund total: \$10,700 (Total amount needed: \$55,000)

- Missions – As of 12/20/20 - \$7,000 collected for CID for missions.

Please pick up your 2021 Offering Envelope Boxes which are located in your bulletin box and on the desk in the narthex.

A Congregation Offering survey is also included in the bulletin boxes this week, when completed, please fold in half and return to church offering plate or church inbox anonymously. Thank you.

**Choir Practice Resumes**, January 7 (note change to Thursdays), 7:00 p.m.


**Council Meeting** – Wednesday, January 20 at 7:00 p.m.

**Voters' Assembly Meeting** – Sunday, January 24 at 1:30 p.m.

 District & Synod News, Regional Items & Acknowledgments 

*Thank you to all who help decorate the church for Advent and Christmastide by donating Poinsettias and Wreaths: Bethlehem Ladies Aid, Dean & Karen Manuel, Gary & Joyce Winter, Mike & Diane Buzzard, Orville & Janice Heiden, Allen & Lorene Schultz, Arlin & Lillian Grobengieser, Betty Heiden, Marcella Wolf, Jeremy & Leigh Ann Ruffner, Jeff & Jennifer Alwardt, Hilma Berg, & Eric & Barb Grobengieser.*

**CID PTO (“Pass This On”) message:** Obedience – how does that word sound? It may ring hollow these days. Of course, children in every generation have had to learn obedience to their parents and others. For many of us this learning had its unpleasant, perhaps even painful aspects. Today’s society sets extraordinarily high store on self-expression, though. And in this setting, *obedience* might sound oppressive. People say, “I gotta be me!” Obedience to someone else – anyone else – can seem to get in the way. Yet the stubborn fact of God persists. For God is not just anyone. He is God. We are not. Remarkably, then, the One human being Who was and is also God – Jesus of Nazareth, Whose birth we celebrate at Christmas – obeyed. He is the eternal Son of the eternal Father. In a Bible passage to be read at our church service this week, Jesus sat in the temple in Jerusalem at age 12, listening to the teachers there and asking them questions. His mother Mary had been looking all over for Him. Jesus told her, literally, that it was necessary for Him to be in the things of His Father – that is, in His Father’s house, about His Father’s business (Luke 2:46, 49). This business would take Him all the way to the cross. In prophecy, the Messiah had said to God: “I have come to do your will.” Now, “by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all” (Hebrews 10:9-10). He obeyed for us, in our place. The 12-year-old Jesus went back to Nazareth and was submissive to Mary and Joseph. Here, too, He was obeying for us, as our Savior. For our obedience fails. He was also setting an example. It is never bad to obey the Lord and His representatives.

 **Issues, Etc.** Your generosity has made all of the following possible in 2020:

- **Issues, Etc.**, a syndicated radio talk show and podcast with a projected 5.5 million downloads in 2020
- The publishing of our first book, *Objections Overruled*
- The streaming of sacred music and talk stations to 38,000 mobile app subscribers
- The quarterly **Issues, Etc. Journal** with more than 26,000 subscribers
- Almost 1,000 viewers of the **2020 Virtual “Making the Case” Conference**
- A recording of 15 Epiphany hymns featuring the **Lutheran Public Radio Choir**
- 1,500 hours of daily listening to our 24/7 sacred talk station
- 1,400 hours of daily listening to our 24/7 sacred music station
- **The Word of the Lord Endures Forever**, a daily, 15-minute, verse-by-verse Bible study with almost 600,000 downloads in its first year
- Live, daily chapel services from Concordia Theological Seminary
- The marketing of LPR programming on secular podcasts i.e. *The Federalist Radio Hour*, *The Charlie Kirk Show*, *The Dana Show*, etc.
- Listeners in more than 100 countries

Thank you for your support!

BLC collected \$878 of our \$1,000 Issues, Etc. mission commitment goal for 2020.

**Holy Cross Lutheran Ladies Society Annual Soup/Chili Luncheon –**  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 17, 2021- SERVING FROM 11:30 A.M. - 1:00 P.M. (or until soup is gone) Serving HOMEMADE CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP & CHILI, CHICKEN SALAD or PEANUT BUTTER SANDWICHES, HOMEMADE CHOCOLATE CAKES OR SUGAR COOKIES. Enter the alley from Taylor St. (in front of the Fayette County Hospital from the EAST ONLY) Vandalia, IL

**This Week at Bethlehem:**

**Wednesday, January 6 – The Epiphany of Our Lord – 6:00 p.m.**

**Thursday, January 7 – Choir Practice – 7:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, January 10 – First Sunday after the Epiphany**

-- Matins service - 9:30 a.m.

-- Adult Bible Study & Youth Sunday School – 10:45-11:30 a.m.

-- Pastor Manley’s Radio program on KJ Country/102.3FM – 8:00 a.m.  
(Also available on the BLC website home page)

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

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

To The Glory of God & The Salvation of Man

Cover: Illustration by Harry George Theaker (1873 – 1954)