

## THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

### GAUDETE – “REJOICE”

Sunday, December 11, 2022

**“Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. <sup>6</sup>And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”** Matthew 11:4-6



#### BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

6351 N. 200<sup>TH</sup> St. (Church address)

6409 N. 200<sup>TH</sup> St. (Parish Hall & Office address)

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: [bethlehemaltamont@gmail.com](mailto:bethlehemaltamont@gmail.com)

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



**“Let us go to Bethlehem...” Luke 2:15**

Bethlehem is Hebrew for “House of Bread,” the city of David, King of Israel, and the birthplace of the Lord Jesus. This land was originally planned to be a town called Bethlehem, and eventually our congregation adopted it as its name. You are invited to believe that Jesus is present here, at Bethlehem today according to His Word and to confess the very Bread of Life Jesus feeds us with in the Sacrament.

**Prayers**

**In our prayers we remember:**

Those in need of healing & comfort: Howard “Butch” Bahrns, Pam Berg-Kepley, Jim Brasel, Mike Gaede, Bernice Graumenz, Arlin Grobengieser, Lillian Grobengieser, Luella Rubin, Steve Voelker, Gene Wharton, and Marcella Wolf.

Those celebrating Birthdays: (12/11-12/17) – 12/11- Orville Heiden; 12/14 – Kelly Voelker; 12/15 – Keisha Beccue

**Church News**

**Trustee’s Report:**

Offering collected for Home Purpose General Fund on December 4: \$5,751

Weekly amount needed for Bethlehem’s tuition students to ALIS.....	\$3,238.46
Weekly budgeted for salary and home purpose in addition to tuition.....	\$2,733.54
Weekly total.....	\$5,972.00

Missions as of 11/30/2022 - \$8,760 of \$8,000 annual commitment.

Issues, Etc. collected on 12/04: \$90 (\$585 of \$1,000 annual commitment.)

(Please note, per the Voters’ Assembly approval on 12/04/2022, offerings on Christmas Day will go to fulfill all our 2022 mission commitments.)

Special gift donation: \$1,000

Reimbursement from St. Paul, Columbus, IN, pulpit supply on 12/31 & 01/01: \$388.<sup>08</sup>

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

Sunday School offering has been designated for our Radio Ministry.

Attendance: 12/04 Sunday Advent 2, 9:30 am: 99

**Today in Bible Class Bible Class – THIS IS MY SON: ABSALOM**

- What can we learn from David's parenting of wayward Absalom?
- What can we learn from Absalom's pursuit of a "successful life"?
- What can we learn from David and Jesus' lamenting of their children?



**Matins every Tuesday at 9:30am at Bethlehem** - Whether you were unable to make it to church on Sunday, have the day off, or need to pray about something. Every service is themed around a part of the Small Catechism. Join us!

Date	Hymn	Catechism/Theme	Bible	
Dec. 13	411	St. Lucia	Psalm 119:95-96	Matt. 13:44-52
Dec. 20	900	2 <sup>nd</sup> Commandment	Psalm 9	Matt. 1:18-25
Dec. 27	<i>No Matins</i>			



**Children's Christmas Eve Service practice TODAY.**

Parents may pick up their children at church at noon.

**Mid-week Advent 3 - Vespers Service at Bethlehem on Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.**

**Christmas Cookies** – Ladies' Aid/LWML group will be packing and delivering Christmas Cookies to our senior members on Mon., Dec. 12 at 1:00 p.m. Donation of Christmas cookies would be much appreciated. Thank you.

**Annual Christmas Caroling** – All children, adults, and members are invited to carol our shut-ins on Friday, Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>. If your child is interested and needs transportation from school and between caroling locations please speak with Pastor Manley. Please meet at Tim & Jane Laatsch's residence for departure at 3:30pm. A Christmas dinner party is also planned following the caroling. Ham will be provided, please bring your favorite side dish or Christmas treats to share. RSVP to Dean Manuel (call or text: 618-267-7914), Pastor Manley, or call the church office.

**Old Church Windows** – The old church windows are still available to members, please contact Dennis Guffey, 618-267-5595, by the end of the year.

**✪✪✪ District & Synod News, Regional Items & Acknowledgments ✪✪✪**

**Issues, Etc.** *Bethlehem has donated \$585 of our \$1,000 annual 2022 commitment. For your convenience, we have specially marked Issues, Etc. donation envelopes located in the narthex. Thank you for your support!*

**Salem Lutheran to Offer Christmas Cantata:** *The Adult Choir and Children's Choir of Salem Lutheran Church have been practicing hard for their upcoming Christmas cantata entitled "Christmas Changes Everything." There will be two performances. The first will be on Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. The second one will take place the following morning, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:15. The public is cordially invited and encouraged to attend this very special presentation that will feature both traditional selections and contemporary ones that are sure to become among your favorites.*

*"As sure as Christmas will come again on December 25, our Lord will come again. As we look forward to the Last Day, let's dress for the occasion, putting on godliness and repentance. Let's celebrate everything He did the first time He came to assure us of our home of righteousness. Let's be spiritually awake and alert for His coming again, knowing that we will enjoy God's perfect paradise, our eternal home." Rev. Peter Sulzle, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)*



Altamont Ministerial Alliance **Food Pantry** provides local families in need with grocery items and various living expense vouchers (for utilities, fuel, temp. housing, etc.) – Bethlehem Church will be collecting non-perishable items for the Food Pantry. Donation box is located in the narthex. Monetary donations and checks, payable to Altamont Ministerial Alliance Food Pantry, are also accepted, please place in the “Church Inbox”. On Tuesday, December 6th, the food pantry had a total of 20 participants.

*Items in need at the Food Pantry: canned spam, canned chicken, pudding cups, jello cups, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste*

### **This Week at Bethlehem:**

#### **Monday, December 12**

– 1:00 p.m. – Christmas Cookie Day

#### **Tuesday, December 13**

– 9:30 a.m. – **Matins Service – St. Lucia**

#### **Wednesday, December 14**

– 5:30 p.m. – Youth Meeting

– 7:00 p.m. – **Mid-week Advent 3 Vespers Worship Service @ BLC**

#### **Thursday, December 15**

– 4:30 p.m. – Kinderchor practice

– 7:00 p.m. – Choir practice

#### **Friday, December 16**

– 3:30 p.m. – Bethlehem Christmas Caroling

#### **Sunday, December 18 – Advent 4 – Rorate Coeli “Let the heavens”**

– 9:30 a.m. – Divine Service with Holy Communion

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

– Children’s Christmas Eve Service Rehearsal

– 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)

**TO THE GLORY OF GOD**  
&  
**THE SALVATION OF MAN**