

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

GAUDETE – “REJOICE”

Sunday, December 12, 2021

*Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way before you.*



He must increase, but I must decrease” John 3:30

BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

1861-2021 - Zum Krippelein Christi - 160 years

**6351 N. 200TH St.
Altamont, IL 62411**

Rev. Marcus Manley, Pastor

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Welcome to Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church, we are happy you are here today. It is customary when you enter the church nave to observe silence for meditation during your silent prayer, the ringing of the bells, and the prelude, in order to prepare you for the beginning of the worship service.

Thank you for joining us today and God's Blessings.

Prayers

Prayer before worship: Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

In our prayers we remember:

Those in need of healing & comfort: *Vanessa Adams, Ella and Kaly Benning, Linda Crain, Tiffany Dunaway, Bernice Graumenz, Zoe Hoehler, Tim Mueller, Luella Rubin, Karen Stuemke, Steve Voelker, Gene Wharton, Lynn Winter, Gary Wendling, and Lilly Wright.*

Those celebrating **Birthdays:** (12/12-12/18) – 12/14 – Kelly Voelker;
12/15 – Keisha Beccue; 12/16 – Mitchell Wolff

Church News

Communion Note – diluted wine is available, please request prior to worship service.

Adult Bible Study: Special Presentation in Bible Class

Shalom! Kyle Britton (Grandson of Dave Stuemke) recently returned from Tel Aviv, Israel where he served as a volunteer at Immanuel Lutheran Church for 10 months. He will be joining us for Bethlehem Bible Study today, to share about what he did, the Church community and history, the land, everyday life, current events, and anything else **you** have questions about.

Trustee's Report:

Offering collected for the Home Purpose General Fund on December 5: \$6,216
(Our anticipated 2021 weekly amount needed is \$5,972.)

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

Church Window Project Fund total: \$13,987 (Total amount needed: \$55,000)

THE ROAD TO BETHLEHEM – A Journey to the Newborn King

Bethlehem seemed an unlikely destination for the fulfillment of God's promise to send a Messiah. Bethlehem? Why would anyone – especially the Creator of the universe – choose that little remote village? Nothing good came from there! But as Scripture records, the road to Bethlehem was the road that ultimately led to God!



In celebration of the 160th Anniversary of the founding of Bethlehem Ev. Church the Bethlehem Choir will present

“The Road to Bethlehem” – a musical Cantata
Sunday, December 12 at 7:00 pm.

Following the Cantata, please join us for Refreshments and Fellowship in the Parish Hall. You are also welcome to bring and share any special Christmas baked goods.

★ **Children's Christmas Program – Practice will be held every Sunday from 11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. until Christmas Eve. Thank you. ★**

Wednesday Advent Worship: *An Advent through Malachi*

(Advent devotional booklets available in the narthex)

Wednesday, December 15 – Vespers Service @ Bethlehem – 7:00 p.m.

Ladies' Aid will be gifting trays of Christmas Cookies this Thursday during caroling. Donations of Christmas Cookies would be greatly appreciated. They will be preparing the cookie trays for delivery on Wednesday at 1:00 p.m.

Join us for our annual Christmas Caroling on Thursday, December 16. All are invited, meeting at the church at 4:00 p.m. Fellowship and potluck dinner at the Laatsch household following the caroling. Contact Dean Manuel for additional details.

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

Thank you to everyone at Bethlehem for the kindness shown to us throughout Dad's illness and again as we mourned his passing. "All glory to the Son, Who comes to set us free, with Father, Spirit, ever one through all eternity." Thanks be to God!—The family of Carl Becker

German Christmas Service at Immanuel Ev. Lutheran, Terre Haute, IN – December 19 at 4:00 p.m. EST.

Information about our Lutheran School ALIS – Brandon West

Mr. West teaches 7th Grade World Geography, a class in which we began the year learning the basics of geography. Understanding the social, cultural, physical aspects of the world around us. Once that is completed we begin a journey around the world, learning about different areas and cultures around the world. While doing so we work on projects that are presented to the class and build our knowledge of the world while working on public speaking and research skills. 7th grade also has Life Skills with Mr. West. In this class, we explore topics like Bullying, Acceptance of others regardless of who they are, and tolerance of others. Other topics include being a good friend, being a good neighbor, and being a good child of God. We will also begin to explore health and relationships as well as proper study habits, and time management. All these will help prepare for the transition to 8th grade and soon enough the outside world.



Chicago March For Life - Registration information for the Jan. 8th MFL is in the Narthex. Pastor Manley is planning on attending and would be happy to turn in your reservation for you. Please attach payment to the registration form and put in the offering plate by Dec. 12th. If we get 25 registrants the bus could stop in Altamont for pick-up and drop-off.

★The Altamont Area Lutherans For Life decided to fund all students going to the March for Life in Chicago on January 8, 2022. We are also providing the students money for food.

★Also, If you are not riding the bus, you must register online.

1861 + Zum Kripplein Christi + 2021

The Early History of Bethlehem Ev. Lutheran #9

By 1842, there was a strong sentiment for emigration. Many members wanted to leave Prussia because their property had been seized by the state authorities after they refused to pay the mandatory annual fees to the Union Church pastors. There was a case of a pastor arrested by the police in January 1842 and imprisoned for holding secret assemblies. He was released after promising not to hold secret meetings again. Later he was imprisoned again for conducting too public a meeting. He was charged with preaching too loudly by an open window which overlooked the sidewalk. The Lutheran Separatists had become increasingly emigration-minded in the past years of harassment and intimidation. The persecution directly affected their children and it was acknowledged that because that, there would be no future for them in Prussia. They were generally agreed that now was the time to leave.

This Week at Bethlehem:

Today, Sunday, December 12

- 4:45 p.m. -- Cantata practice
- 5:30 p.m. -- Catechesis Class
- 7:00 p.m. -- "Road to Bethlehem" Cantata

Tuesday, December 14 – No Matins Service

Wednesday, December 15

- 8:20 a.m. – ALIS Chapel
- 7:00 p.m. -- Wednesday Advent Vespers Service @ BLC
- Choir practice – following the worship service

Thursday, December 16

- 3:15 p.m. – Kinderchor
- 4:00 p.m. -- BLC Christmas Caroling

Sunday, Dec. 19 – Advent 4 – 9:30 a.m. - Divine Service w/ Holy Communion

- 10:45 – 11:30 a.m. -- Adult Bible Class and Youth Sunday School
- TBD -- Catechesis Class
- 8:00 a.m. -- Pastor Manley's Radio program on KJ Country/102.3FM
(Also available on the BLC website home page)
- 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