



WEEKLY CONNECTION

DECEMBER 1, 2024

SUNDAY'S WORSHIP: FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – MARY'S SONG

1 Samuel 2:1-10, 1 Corinthians 1:18-25, Luke 1:39-56

The Lord Jesus Comes in Humility to Redeem Us

One of the things we're doing this month in our Advent and Christmas services is looking at a number of texts from Luke's "**Infancy Narrative**," that is, the first two chapters of Luke's gospel, which concern events related to the birth of Jesus Christ. And one of the distinctive features of Luke chapters 1 and 2 is the inclusion of four poetic, song-like pieces—in other words, the four canticles of Luke. And those four canticles are as follows: Mary's Song, the **Magnificat**; Zechariah's Song, the **Benedictus**; the Angels' Song, the **Gloria in Excelsis**; and Simeon's Song, the **Nunc Dimittis**.

SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK:

***"My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior."***

Luke 1:45

SERVING THIS SUNDAY –

Preacher –	Pastor Korte
Officiant –	Pastor Korte
Lay Reader -	10:30 am Michael Weiss
Acolytes-	9 am Trystyn Mason, Valerie Englehardt 10:30 am Logan Mercer, Liam Grossman
Elder in Charge –	9 am Mike Denno, Kurt Engelhardt 10:30 am Larry Griffin
Greeters –	9 am Shaun & Darin Griffore 10:30 am Kathy Forsyth, Renne & Mick Leach
Tech Team –	9 am Adam & Ryan Birchmeier 10:30 am Becky Webster, Steve Martin, Jim Vance
Music Team	9 am Izzy McDowell, Ken Kerouac
Music Leaders –	9 am Alex Holcomb 10:30 George Frank

SERVING THANKSGIVING – 6:30 pm Wednesday & 10 am Thursday

Preacher – Pastor Korte
Officiant – Pastor Korte
Lay Reader - 6:30 pm Howard Ritter
10 am Ed York
Acolytes- 6:30 pm Madelyn Stevens, Dakota Katzenberger
10 am Trystyn Mason, Raiden Boggs
Elder in Charge – 6:30 pm Gary Grauf & Steve Harvey
10 am Ryan Mulder, Bill Wuerfel, Larry Griffin
Greeters – 6:30 pm Nancy & Barry Wittig
10 am Sharon & Walt Wehner
Tech Team - 6:30 pm
10 am Christian, Jackson, & Owen White
Special Music - 10 am Senior Choir
Music Leaders – 6:30 pm Annelise Holcomb
10 am George Frank

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE (For more Information see blurbs below.)

November 27 – Thanksgiving Eve Service 6:30 pm

November 28 – Thanksgiving Day Service 10 am

November 29 – **OFFICE CLOSED**

November 29 – Funeral Marion Reimer 10 – 1 Visitation; 1 pm Funeral

December 1 - Worship @ 9:00 am & 10:30 am with Lord's Supper

December 1 – Sunday School Preschool – 4th 9:15 am

December 1 - Bible Study Lower Level 9:15 am

December 2 – Braille Workers 5:45 pm

December 3 – Braille Workers 8:30 am

December 3 – Bible Study David Room 9:30 am

December 3 – Bethlehem Knitters 11 am David Room

December 3 – Bethlehem Stars at Saginaw Career Complex 12 noon

December 4 – Preschool/Kindergarten Chapel 8:15 am

December 4 – Advent Service with School 1 pm

December 4 – Drive Up Communion 4 to 5 pm

December 4 – Advent Service 6:30 pm

December 4 - Worship Arts Team Rehearsal 7:30 pm

December 5 – Braille Workers 8:30 am

December 5 – Senior Choir Rehearsal 7 pm

December 6 - Men's Bible Study via Zoom @ 6:15 am

December 7 – Funeral Jim Gould 10 – 12 Visitation, 12 noon Funeral

December 8 - Worship @ 9:00 am & 10:30 am

December 8 – Sunday School Preschool – 4th 9:15 am

December 8 – Bible Study Lower Level 9:15 am

MIDWEEK WEDNESDAY ADVENT SERVICES

December 4 - 1 pm & 6:30 pm

December 11 – 1 pm & 6:30 pm

December 18 – 6:00 pm Grade 1-8 Christmas Program

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

December 24 – 4:30 Family Service

December 24 – 7:00 pm Lessons & Carols

December 25 – 10:00 am Holy Communion

ONE CHURCH SUNDAY – December 29th @ 10:00 am

NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE – December 31 @ 4:30 pm

DIVINE CALL ISSUED: With great joy and excitement, a Divine Call was unanimously issued for Rev. Jacob Heine to be the next Pastor at Bethlehem. Please keep Pastor Heine, his wife Theresa, and their daughters in your prayers. We ask the that Holy Spirit be with them in their decision and with the congregation he currently serves, Faith Topeka, KS.

DECEMBER NOISY OFFERING FUNDS: "It's All about the Cross Ministry" shares the hope found in Jesus with those in the Saginaw County Jail. Bethlehem member Andy Cox leads this effort to reach those with a great need for hope and peace.

PRAYER FOCUS:

SPECIAL PRAYERS: Paul Tomaszewski, Gordon Henry, Milda Persons, Yvonne Dennison, Barbara Ruhlig, Bob Egerer, Dave Vanderlip, Zachery, Quincy

HOSPITALIZED: Sally Efu

OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to the family of **Marion Reimer**. Marion was the mother of Diane, David and Donna. Her Christian funeral was on Friday, November 29 at 1 pm May God comfort with the hope of the resurrection all who mourn her passing.

OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to the family of **Jim Gould**. Jim was the husband of Ann and the father of Julianna. His Christian funeral will be on Saturday, December 7 at 12 noon. May God comfort with the hope of the resurrection all who mourn his passing.

PRAYER FOR PASTOR CALL: Lord God, heavenly Father, you have given us pastors to proclaim Your word. We pray for Bethlehem's Pastoral search committee and **Pastor Jacob Heine** as he considers Your calling on his ministry. Grant wisdom and guidance to all and if it be Your will reveal to us who will be our next pastor to join us in the ministry at Bethlehem. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer. AMEN

CHURCH ATTENDANCE:

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT Luke 19:31 – “If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ you shall say this: ‘The Lord has need of it.’” Consider the faithfulness of that man who owned the donkey and colt. All he needed to hear was, “The Lord has need of it,” and he willingly gave. The Lord has given each of us various callings in life (in our homes, in the church and in the communities we live in). In each calling we have good work to do, which comes from the Lord’s hand. The Lord has need of us in each calling. How is He calling you to generous giving in each of your vocations?

CARING FOR OTHERS

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS Habitat for Humanity is looking for volunteers to help finish their new builds. If you are interested in helping build new homes in the Covenant Neighborhood, please contact Lindsay Olgine at 989-753-5200 x225 or lindsayolgin@sshfh.org. Individuals or groups, half day or full day, experiences of all kinds are available. You are also encouraged to sign up at sshfh.galaxydigital.com.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS The food pantry is well-stocked with everything at present. Thank you for your donations.

BETHLEHEM BRAILLE MINISTRY IS SEEKING NEW MEMBERS! If you are able to attend Braille ministry sessions at Bethlehem on Mondays from 5:45-7:45 PM or Thursdays from 8:30-11 AM, please contact Becky Bullard at 989-280-5130. No experience is necessary! Braille ministry does not meet in the summer.

ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN is in need of men’s clothing! If you are able to donate, please drop off items at the church office, or in the Orphan Grain Train bin in the narthex.

SCHOOL NEWS

160 YEARS OF INSTRUCTION, A YEAR OF THANKSGIVING. Because of the spirit of generosity here at Bethlehem, pledges toward the School Tuition Fund of the Bethlehem Lutheran Perpetual Trust Fund totaled \$44,946.49. If you are still giving towards your pledge, or if you desire to give to the School Tuition Fund, please make out your check to “Bethlehem Lutheran Perpetual Trust Fund,” write “School Tuition Fund” on the Memo line, and place it in the Joash Box in the Narthex or mail it to the Church before the end of the year. And thank you for your support of Bethlehem Lutheran School!

AROUND BETHLEHEM

ANGEL GIVING TREE We are sponsoring HealthSource of Saginaw this year. We will be providing gifts for the residents and patients. We hope to brighten their Christmas season with our generosity. Some of these residents and patients have no family to visit them or give them gifts. Please provide a gift bag with tissue paper and attach the angel to the handle of the gift bag. HealthSource is asking that we DO NOT wrap the gifts. Please place your gifts under the Angel Tree by Sunday, December 8.

Thank you for your generosity!
The Board of Christian Life

LENDING LIBRARY NEWS For those readers who enjoy Amish fiction, you'll want to check out a new three book series entitled "The Bishop's Family" by Suzanne Woods Fisher. The book titles include "The Imposter", "The Quieting", and "The Devoted". These are wonderfully written tales of life, love, and faith.

The Lending Library is found at the top of the stairs and is always open. Just check out any book or DVD using the sign out pad on the counter.

SIGN UP FOR THE LUTHERAN WITNESS The Lutheran Witness is the official periodical of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. Published 11 times a year, it provides stories and information that compliment congregational life, foster personal growth in faith, and help interpret the contemporary world from a Lutheran Christian perspective.

It is time to subscribe to The Lutheran Witness to insure a discounted subscription price. Orders are due to Sue Brandt or the church office by December 12 to take advantage of the discounted rate of \$21.20. Late orders will be charged an additional \$2. Payments should be made out to the church. Please note: Michigan in Touch will not be included in the new subscription cycle starting March 2025. Plans for a standalone publication are forthcoming from The Michigan District. If you have questions please contact Sue Brandt at Brandt.john@sbcglobal.net or 989-860-6183.

BETHLEHEM STARS MEETING Bethlehem Stars Christmas lunch will be on December 3rd, 2024 at noon at the Saginaw Career Complex at 2102 Weiss. Dave Britton will be sharing a Christmas message. **Call Billie Mull by November 25th** to make a reservation at 989-792-5843.

SEEKING WORSHIP ARTS TEAM MEMBERS Do you sing or play an instrument? Or can you see yourself working lights, sound, or visuals in our tech booth? Then you should consider joining our Worship Arts team! We are in need of new Worship Arts team members to lend us their talents at both the 9 AM and 10:30 AM service times. If you are interested, please see Alex Holcomb, email aholcomb@bethlehemsaginaw.org, or call 989-755-1144 to let us know.

WEEKLY ADULT BIBLE STUDIES

- **Tuesdays, 9:30 am (Ladies)** in the David Room. Contact Mary Kay Hall for more information - (989) 497-8474.
- **Wednesdays, 8:00 am (Men)** Meeting at Immanuel Bible Church on Center Rd. in Saginaw. Men from Bethlehem, Holly Cross, Immanuel, and Peace will be in attendance. Currently in Romans. Bring your own coffee – donuts provided. Contact Bill Denno at 989-781-4851 or 989-295-8618 for more info. Bring your favorite Bible!
- **Fridays, 6:15 am (Men)** on Zoom. "The Book of Romans." For info: mp_denno@yahoo.com
- **Sundays, 9:15 am Beginning November 3rd: The Messiah in the Old Testament.** We will

use the study *The Messiah: Revealing Jesus in the Old Testament*. Jesus made Himself very clear that the Old Testament testifies of him. This study will walk us through that claim. And do you have Sunday School age children and would like to join the study? Children are welcome in our class until Sunday School begins at 9:30.

OTHER NEWS

FROM VALLEY LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL Valley Lutheran wishes you and your family a Blessed Thanksgiving! Psalm 28:7 “The Lord is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him.” We are thankful for your partnership in ministry, this time of year and always.

Valley Lutheran’s Music Department invites you to the Christmas Choral Concert on Sunday, December 8 at 3 pm. This year’s concert will be hosted at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 6100 Westside Saginaw Rd, Bay City.

A Limited amount of extra fruit has been ordered from our Booster Club's Fruit Sale. Please contact the school office if interested. Distribution day is Saturday, December 7th from 7:30am-2:00pm.

IMMANUEL LIVING NATIVITY Immanuel Lutheran Church of Frankentrost, 8220 E. Holland Rd. (M-46) in Saginaw, MI will host its 28th annual “Living Nativity – A Journey to Bethlehem” on Friday, December 6th – 7-9 PM; Saturday, December 7th – 6-8 PM; and Sunday, December 8th – 6-8 PM. Experience the sights and sounds of Bethlehem on that blessed night when Jesus Christ was born. This is a free 30-minute outdoor walk, so dress for the weather. Fellowship and refreshments will follow in the school. See church narthex announcements board for more information.

ESTATE PLANNING Gift planning can ensure that your charitable intent is honored in your overall estate plan. An estate plan addresses many concerns with intent of bringing the process of administering your estate into conformity with state law. There are many rabbit trails to follow during the estate planning process. If we aren’t careful, we may lose the opportunity to dig into how gifts to ministry can be important for the sharing of the Gospel into the future. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can help you keep your family and ministry in focus throughout the process. Contact...

Julie Burgess

Gift Planning Counselor

Church Extension Fund/MI District

Email: Julie.burgess@lfnd.org

Mobile: 713-822-5284