



Welcome to Worship!

Sunday, December 14, 2025 ~ 8:30 AM
Third Sunday in Advent

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

1620 Milwaukee Ave NE, Aberdeen, SD

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GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

PRELUDE

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring - Johann Sebastian Bach

WELCOME & INVITATIONS

CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY

Candle of Joy

In a world full of fear, where do you see glimmers of joy?

We see glimmers of joy in birthday candles and homemade cards. We see joy in the laughter of children and the delight of grandparents. We see joy in meals around the table and in the singing of Christmas songs.

You are right. Even in a fearful world, joy is all around us.

Today we light the candle of joy as a reminder of this good news. May this flicker of light help us remember that even in a fearful world, joy is here. Joy is real. We only have to look for it.

Thanks be to God for that good news! Amen.

CANDLE LIGHTING HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

**O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
O Sun of Justice, now draw near
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadow put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel.**

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Often in life, when we make mistakes, we want to keep those mistakes to ourselves. We don't want to advertise our blunders. We don't want to highlight our failings. We can be tempted to brush those things under the rug and move on.

But when it comes to God, there is nothing we need to brush under the rug. God welcomes and loves our full, honest, messy selves - blunders and all. So let us go before God in prayer, trusting that there is nothing we need to hide from our Creator. Let us pray.

Courageous God,
You invite us to live into our call.
You invite us to act, to serve, and to trust.
Instead of responding with a resounding "yes,"
We often hide our face.
We dig our heels in.
We look for someone else to volunteer.
Spark courage in us.
Remind us that every person is capable of making a difference.
Remind us that even when we're scared, we are not alone.
You invite us forward.
With baby steps we hope,
We pray,
Amen.

Family of faith,
No matter where your path has led you in the past, today is a new day. So join me in declaring this good news:
We are known. We are forgiven! We are sent to serve.
May we step forward in faith, always moving closer to God's call. Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

O Come, Take Heart

Words by Anna Strickland, 2025

Plainsong adapted by Thomas Helmore, 1854



O come, O come though tim - id and un - sure And
O come, O come though you feel un - pre - pared When
O come and join God's kin - dom work And

trust that God de - clares your worth Re - mem -
cour - age fails you, do it scared Don't let
be God's hands and feet on earth You're called

ber when you're feel - ing small That ev - ery child of
the fear of ma - king mis - takes Im - pede you from the
ex - act - ly as you are To love the world with

God is called
path you're called to take Take heart, take heart! The One
ev - ery bro - ken part

who calls to you Will give you strength and see you through

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Glory to God

**Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,**

You take away the sin of the world;

Have mercy on us;

You are seated at the right hand of the Father:

Receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,

You alone are the Lord,

You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,

In the glory of God the Father. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

CHILDREN'S GOOD NEWS TIME

SCRIPTURE ACCLAMATION

Alleluia

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia. Alleluia.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:26-39

Red: page 831, **Brown:** page 1127-1128; **Gray:** page 1103

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

The Magnificat

**My soul proclaims your greatness, O God,
and my spirit rejoices in you.
You have looked with love on your servant here,
and blessed me all my life through.**

**Great and mighty are you, O Holy One,
strong is your kindness evermore.
How you favor the weak and lowly one,
humbling the proud of heart!**

**You have cast the mighty down from their thrones,
and uplifted the humble of heart.
You have filled the hungry with wondrous things,
and left the wealthy no part.**

**Great and mighty are you, O Faithful One,
strong is your justice, strong your love,
as you promised to Sarah and Abraham,
kindness forevermore.**

**My soul proclaims your greatness, O God,
and my spirit rejoices in you.
You have looked with love on your servant here,
and blessed me all my life through.**

HOLY BAPTISM

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism.

By water and the Word, God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ.

We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

As a congregation, God calls us to be partners with this family to pass on the faith. As Brecken grows in years, will you place in his hands the Holy Scriptures and help to provide for his instruction in the Christian faith? **We will, with God's help.**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize. Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises? **I do.**

Do you believe in the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life. Sustain Brecken with the gift of your Holy Spirit; **the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. Amen.**

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: **join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(Use QR code to access prayer list.)

Congregation Response: God of grace, **hear our prayer.**



THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

OFFERING

OFFERING MUSIC

Love Divine, All Love Excelling - Setting by Paul Bunjes

OFFERTORY

Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with your free Spirit.**

OFFERING PRAYER

Generous God, we give you thanks with joy in our hearts for all the good things you have blessed us with. Use what we are offering today, and all that we have, to bring joy to others. Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

BENEDICTION

In a fearful world,

Let us know that God is with us.

In a fearful world,

Let us choose courage whenever we can.

In a fearful world,

Let us remember that in all things, good news is louder than fear.

In the name of the one who calls,

The one who sends,

And the one who journeys with-

Let us go in peace and

Be not afraid. Amen.

SENDING HYMN

All Earth is Hopeful



To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra, al Sal - va - dor
 1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!
 2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell;
 3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;
 4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib,



y, el sur - co, a - bier - to, la ob - ra del Se - ñor; es el
 Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task; this, the
 "A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -
 new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most
 This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our



mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad, re -
 la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how
 ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -
 here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All
 world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our



cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad, dar - nos li - ber - tad.
 God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.
 stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.
 clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!
 Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

SENDING WORDS

Go with joy to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Joy to the World - Setting by Charles W. Ore

Today's Ministers

Preaching.....	Pastor Matt Spoden
Presiding	Pastor Jeff Whillock
Assisting Minister	Charlie Hemke
Musicians	Darlyne Johnson & Bob Severson
Visual Communications Tech	Sue Helling
Livestream Camera Tech	Brian Johnson
Sound Techs.....	Hugh Dahme & Gabe Harmel
Advent Wreath Lighting	Spencer & Jill Cody Family

The Sanctuary & Chapel have a Hearing Loop to assist those with hearing loss. Activate the T-coil feature on your hearing aid or use a Loop Listening device (available from the usher). If you have questions, we'll be happy to connect you with another Hearing Loop user.

Radio Broadcast - Our Sunday 8:30 a.m. service is **broadcast** each Sunday morning at **10:45 on KGIM 1420 AM.**

The Globe Offering will go to the family of Chet Moss. Chet Moss passed away on October 14, 2025. The globe offering will assist the family with funeral expenses.

Splashed with the promise of baptism at 8:30 is Brecken Alex Haase, son of Brant & Briana Haase. Brecken's sponsors are Peyton & Jacob Wegleitner.

Giving to Bethlehem

Scan the QR code for our simple, online giving portal. It's the easiest and most convenient way to consistently support the ministries of Bethlehem. As always, thank you for your generosity.

Questions about your giving?
Contact Jeannie, Director of
Administration at
jhaaland@bethlehemaberdeen.org.



SCAN ME

VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE CHRISTMAS DOOR in the BLC STAFF DOOR DECORATING CONTEST

In the Narthex, you can view a picture of each of the doors and write down the number of your favorite one.

Drop that slip of paper in the wooden box with your vote.

Merry Christmas!

The bulletin is sponsored *in memory of* Dr. Bill Taylor on his 99th birthday on December 13 by his family.



CURIOUS ABOUT BETHLEHEM



CURIOUS is a time to meet with a member of the Welcome Team who will assist with answering questions about BLC & give a tour of the church

SUN., Dec. 14th

**9:30 a.m. &
11:00 a.m.
at Welcome Desk**

WED., Dec. 17th

**After the
6:15 pm service
at the
Welcome Desk**

Christmas Card Sale

The Bethlehem Card Makers will have Christmas Cards for sale at the Welcome Center or Church Office during business hours.



*Cards are 12 cards for
\$5 OR \$0.50 each.*

COMMUNION SERVERS

Sign up
TODAY
in Narthex

Christmas Eve

NEEDED FOR ALL SERVICES

Wednesday, Dec. 24th

1:00 PM 2:30 PM 4:00 PM 5:30 PM 9:00 PM





Christmas Eve Services

- 1:00 p.m. - Band-led (Livestream)
- 2:30 p.m. - Band-led
- 4:00 p.m. - Organ-led
- 5:30 p.m. - Organ-led
- 9:00 p.m. - "Unplugged"

New Year's Eve

Sabbath in the Center
BLC Offices Closed
 (No Wednesday Night Supper/
 No Worship Service)

2025 *All Christmas Eve Services have Communion & Candlelight*



**Registration is OPEN on for
2026-2027 Pre-K School Year**

We offer Pre-K only or Pre-K with Out of School Time (full time daycare) for children age 4 and 5 by September 1, 2026.




For more information or to register visit
www.bethlehemaberdeen.org/teach/pre-k



SABBATH IN THE CENTER

There will be no Wednesday Night Supper, Worship service or Christian Education on **Wednesday, December 31** and the building and offices will be closed.