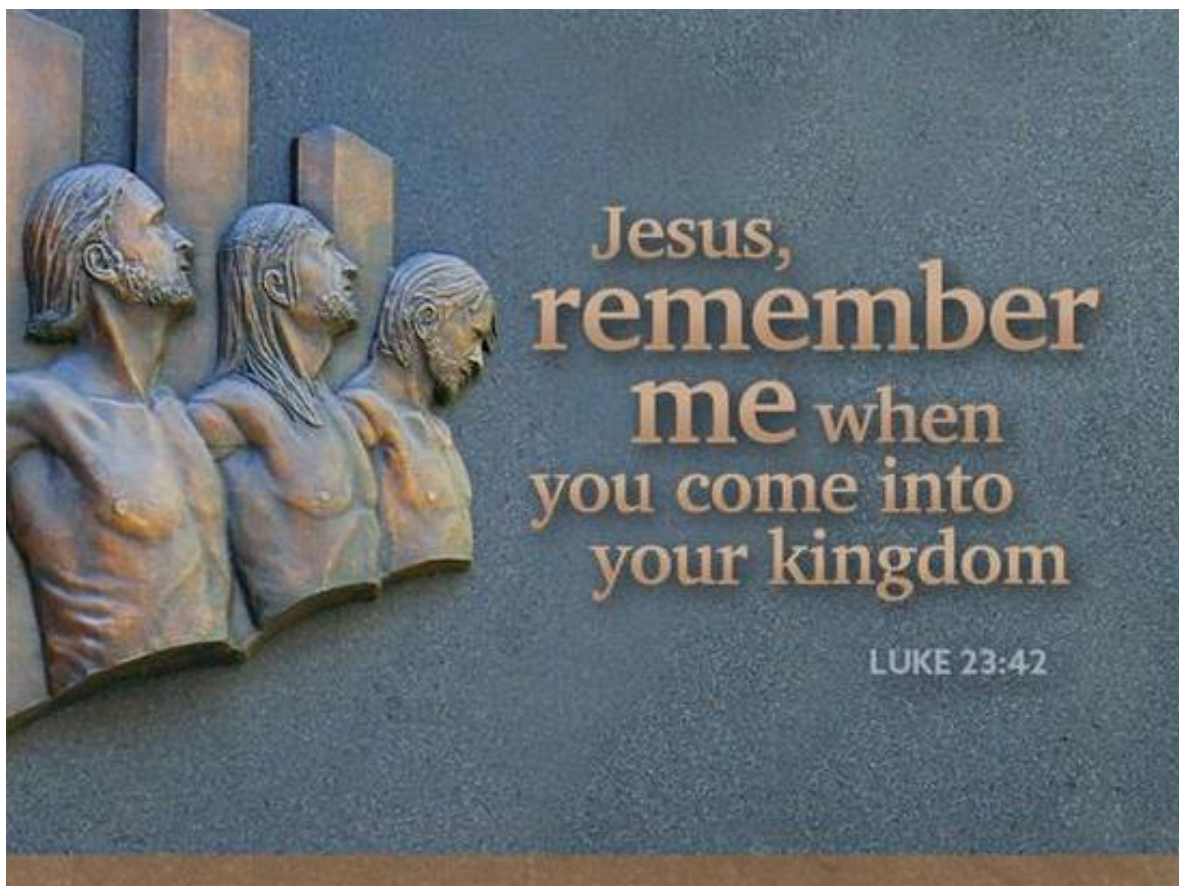




Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church
A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Serving God, Community, and Individuals



www.bethanyishpeming.org
715 Mather Avenue
Ishpeming, Michigan 49849
906-486-4351

Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church is a congregation and community affiliated with the **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)** and part of the Body of Christ expressed through the **Northern Great Lakes Synod**. We affirm a world experiencing the difference God's grace and love in Christ make for all people and creation through the activation of each of us so more people know the way of Jesus and discover community, justice and love (ELCA vision and purpose).

We, at Bethany, have chosen to **express our unique gifts from God through dedicating our Call through “serving God, Community and Individuals”**. We express the unique gift that we each, and you are with us, as local representatives of a world-wide expression of grace and God's invitation to love through our support of the Lutheran World Federation and its ministries, both nationally (like Lutheran Social Services, Lutheran Disaster Response, and Global Refuge) and internationally (like Lutheran World Relief and ELCA Good Gifts).

You are welcome here. We welcome you here. We affirm God's love for you here.

We welcome you to participate in these, and the celebration of God's presence in and with us throughout our worship, today and all days we gather. This bulletin is a guide for you to be fully present with us as we explore God's call to us, God's gift of grace through Jesus Christ, and God's expansive love through heritage, questions, and openness while you're with us. We have **Assisted-Listening Devices available** for folks that might appreciate some help in hearing what goes on during the service. We have several spare units available if you'd care to try one. Just speak to someone at the sound desk, at the back of the Sanctuary, prior to the service. We can put your name on one if you'd like to use one regularly.

Regardless of your choices and call from God, we're glad to spend time with you today.

We pause to acknowledge that we gather, live, and move on the ancestral lands of the Anishinaabeg — specifically the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi peoples — who have stewarded this region since time immemorial. Marquette County, including Ishpeming, lies within *Anishinaabe Akiing* — the land of the Anishinaabeg.

We honor their deep relationship with the land, waters, forests, and skies. The Anishinaabeg have long understood that every river, tree, stone, creature, and breath is intertwined and sacred. Their heritage invites us to learn and honor responsibility, reciprocity, humility, and care as we share this very earth.

As **we spend time here**, benefiting from the beauty, resources, and bounty of this place, we commit ourselves to walking gently, protecting the soil and waterways, preserving habitat, and uplifting the voices and rights of Indigenous peoples.

We honor the enduring presence of the Anishinaabeg, their ancestors, and all Indigenous communities who continue to live, grow, teach, and heal here. May we live in gratitude, care, and justice for all creation. We recognize that this statement and honoring is a call to action and active partnership with our first peoples neighbors, and we endeavor to make grow into active participation of creation with these and all our neighbors, honoring a God that invites us to love all, and serve all.

Welcome

Prelude

An Advent Acclamation
by Thornhill and Nordmeyer

Gathering Words

This is our Advent, the time when we remember
God is urgently waiting to finally arrive.

God, we have been waiting for you, too.

**Yet you often arrive before we notice: in the place we did not expect,
in the word we did not hear.**

Right before you change a life, your angels always say, “Do not be afraid.”

You, o God, are here + to change this place. We are not afraid.



Hymn

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn (ELW 241)



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for
man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is
all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

Invocation

Peace to you and welcome, from the God of surprising grace,
the Savior who forgave from the cross, the Spirit of unlikely alliances. **Amen**

Sharing the Peace

Peace is space for creation to grow.

We come together sinners forgiven, hearts open to heal.

Peace is a space for creation to move.

We come together sinners waiting, hearts open to reach out.

Peace is a space for creation to work as God intended.

We come together sinners ready, hearts open to walk together uplifting our neighbors.

Share that peace with one another!

HOLY COMMUNION

Great Thanksgiving

Holy Jesus, be our guest.

For you are already here.

God is with you.

And also with you.

People of God, lift up your hearts in praise.

We lift them to our God.

Let us give thanks to the God of our salvation.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

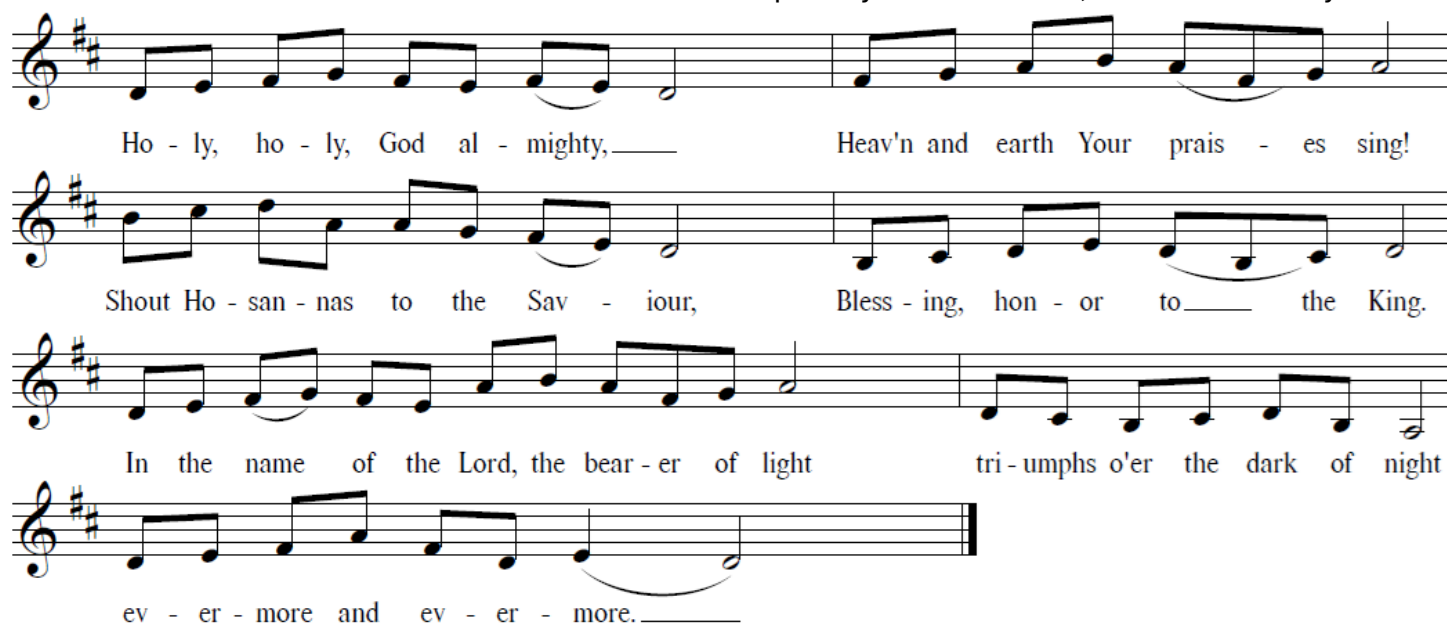
Holy God, once you made humankind...

Yet still we sing with wonder when you appear out of the blue.

Sanctus

For Advent

text adapted by Donna DiBella, Tune: Divinum Mysterium



Ho - ly, ho - ly, God al - mighty, _____ Heav'n and earth Your prais - es sing!

Shout Ho - san - nas to the Sav - iour, Bless - ing, hon - or to _____ the King.

In the name of the Lord, the bear - er of light tri - umphs o'er the dark of night

ev - er - more and ev - er - more. _____

Memory of That Night Around the Table

One night, long ago, the enemies of Jesus

...

for the long-awaited banquet of God's grace.

Words of Institution

That night, the night in which he was betrayed...

Again, after supper, he took the cup...

So we say the same prayer Jesus taught his friends...



A Version of The Lord's Prayer

Source: New Zealand Prayer Book

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:**

**The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and testing, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.**

**For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and for ever. Amen.**

Beckoning the Presence of the Holy Spirit

Holy Spirit, we may not feel
the fire of your presence,
but pour yourself out upon this bread
and this cup.

And spread over those gathered here with your holiness
**so we may be crumbs of your mercy
and drops of your goodness.**

Make us your people,
who can never separate from you again.

Invitation to the Table

People of God, you are Christ's people:
tied to Jesus in his death and made new in his resurrection.

So listen to the promise prepared for you in this moment...
Come and take your place at the feast that never ends.

Advent Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world, have mer - cy on
us, have mer - cy on us. world, grant us peace, grant us peace.

Hymn During Distribution

Now the Heavens start to Whisper (ACS 901)



- 1 Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veil is grow-ing thin.
- 2 Heav - y clouds that block the moon-light now be - gin to drift a - way.
- 3 Christ, e - ter - nal Sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of wis-dom's seed,



Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten to the stir - ring, faint with-in:
Dia - mond bril-liance through the dark-ness shines the hope of com-ing day.
come to bless with fire and fra-grance hours of yearn-ing, hurt, and need.



seed of prom-ise, deep-ly plant-ed, child to spring from Jes - se's stem!
Christ, the morn-ing star of splen-dor, gleams with-in a world grown dim.
In the lone - ly, in the strang - er, in the out - cast, hid from view;



Like the soil be - neath the frost-line, hearts grow soft to wel-come him.
Heav-en's em - ber fans to full-ness; hearts grow warm to wel-come him.
Child who comes to grace the man-ger, teach our hearts to wel-come you.

Prayer after Communion

Please pray with me.

Jesus, the world looks different from your table. Here, there are no strangers, and grace is never a surprise. Life always thrives in the desert, and a promise never shades with doubt. As we rise from this table, our memories of the goodness experienced here will fade. Bring us back every day to your promises: astonish us again. Amen.

WORD

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

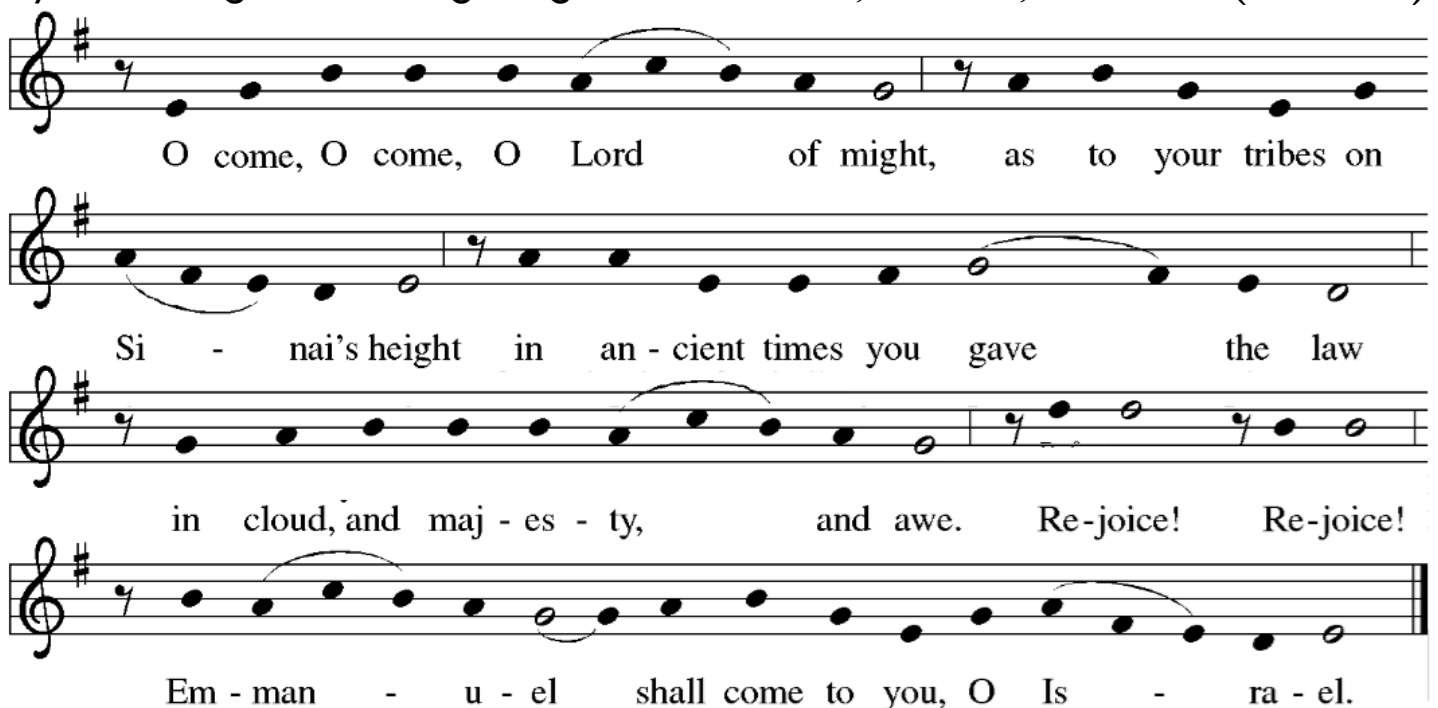
If one small flame flourishes in deep blue darkness, then another blossoms beside it; **we observe a world transformed from our expectations.**

This candle on our Advent wreath represents the astonishment we experience when the unforeseen gives way to:
unexpected alliances, unheard opportunity, or undeserved grace.

In time God's purposes will feel so familiar, so obvious,
we will wonder how we could ever have felt surprised.
But not yet, not fully.

Hymn during Candle Lighting

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (ELW 247)



O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on

Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law

in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe. Re-joice! Re-joice!

Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Sunday School

Youth wishing to engage a separate learning space around faith and our lives in Christ may depart the sanctuary for a tailored experience now.

First Reading

Jeremiah 23:1-6

¹ Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD.

² Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. ³ Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. ⁴ I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall no longer fear or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD.

⁵ The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶ In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: “The LORD is our righteousness.”

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

Colossians 1:11-20

¹¹ May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³ He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, ¹⁶ for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him.

¹⁷ He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel

Luke 23:33-43

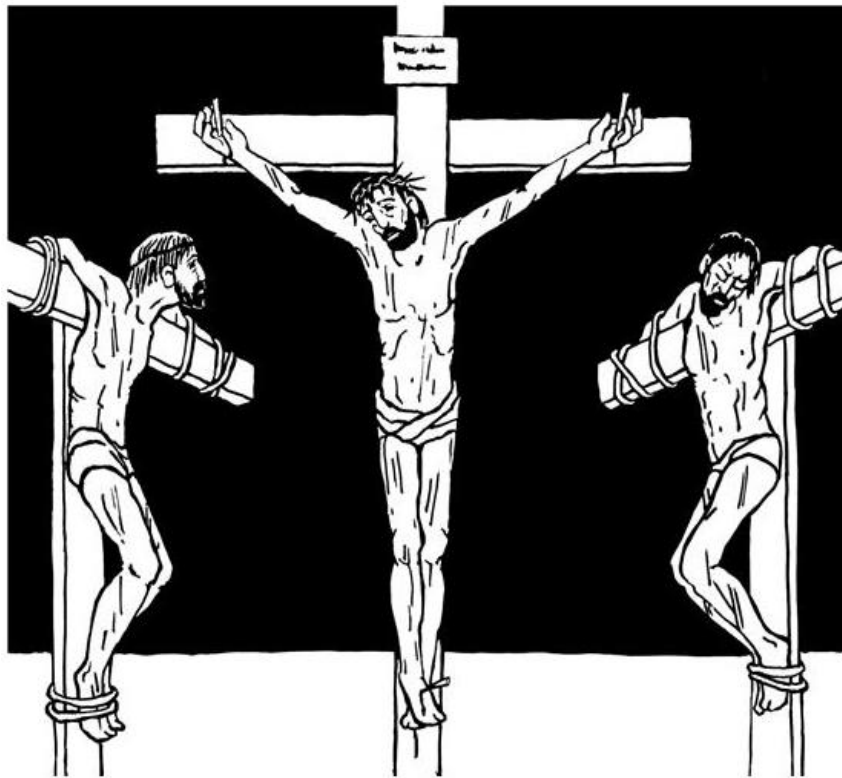
The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³³ When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴ [[Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”]] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵ And the people stood by watching, but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!” ³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷ and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” ³⁸ There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”

³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, “Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” ⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹ And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴² Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom.” ⁴³ He replied, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

The is the gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, o Christ.**

Sermon



Hymn of the Day

You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shepherd (ACS 954)



1 You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shep - herd.
 2 Clothed in light up - on the moun - tain,
 3 You, who walk each day the be - side us,
 4 Wor - thy is our earth - ly Je - sus!



You, Lord, are both prince and slave.
 stripped of might up - on the cross,
 sit in pow - er at God's side.
 Wor - thy is our cos - mic Christ!



You, peace - mak - er and sword - bring - er
 shin - ing in e - ter - nal glo - ry,
 You, who preach a way that's nar - row,
 Wor - thy your de - feat and vic - t'ry;



of the way you took and gave.
 beg - gared by a sol - dier's toss,
 have a love that reach - es wide.
 wor - thy still your peace and strife.



You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
 you, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
 You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
 You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;



you, whom we both scorn and crave.
 you, who are both gift and cost.
 you, who are our pil - grim and guide.
 you, who are our death and life.



Creed

We join together in speaking these words, inviting the beginning of an understanding of our faith; across time and space, we join the saints of our past, and Siblings of our present, in these words that have offered comfort, confusion, curiosity and wonder through many centuries.

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

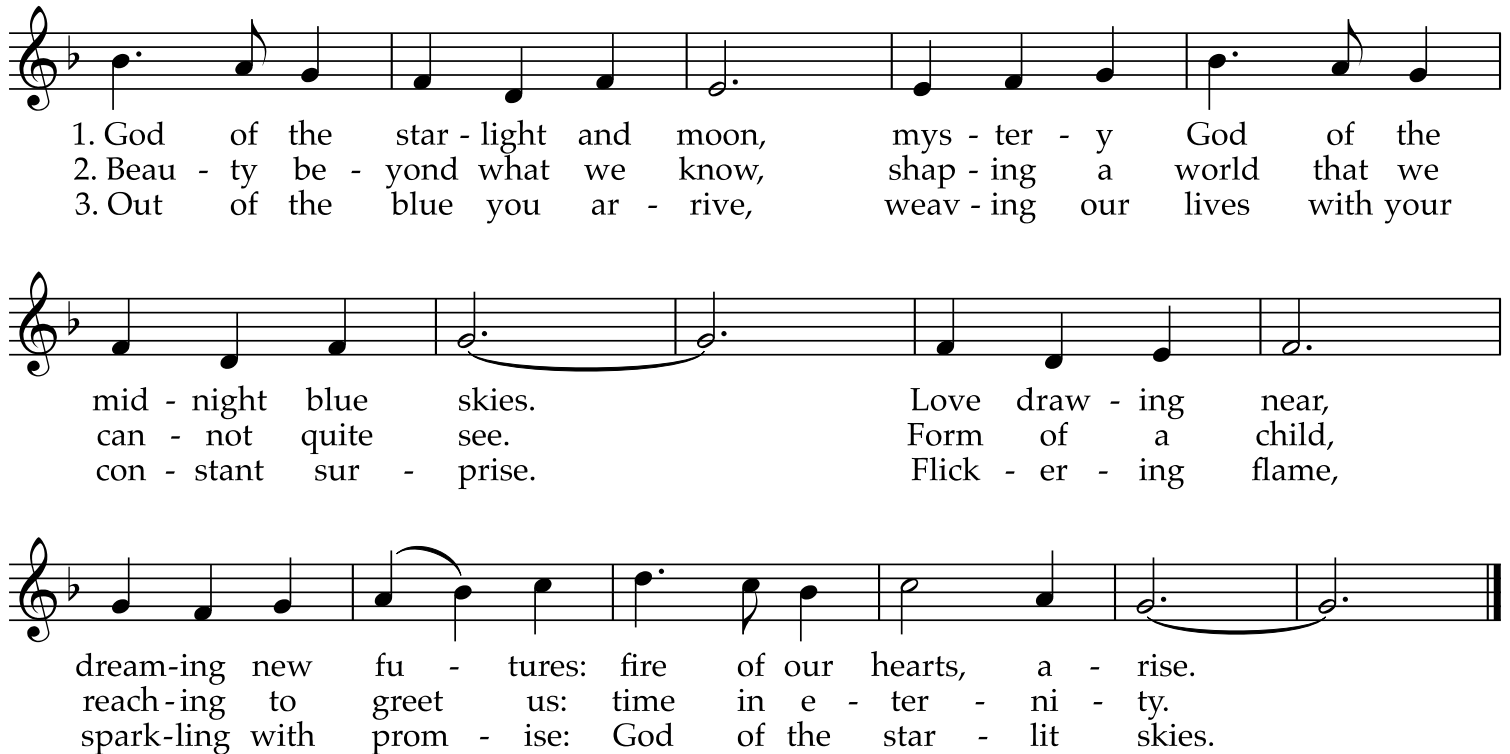
**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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.**

Offering Hymn

God of Starlight and Moon **ABOUT THIS HYMN**

“God of the Starlight and Moon” is intended for use as part of the rite for lighting the Advent candles, but it may also be used as a seasonal Advent hymn. The music follows a melodic contour sweeping from high to low to high and includes a few harmonic surprises. Gentle dissonances lead singers deeper into the mysteries of Advent. The text approaches the Advent season with wonder and praise, embracing the beauty of Advent darkness as bright candles are lit. “God of the Starlight and Moon” describes a God who beguiles us and invites us to follow, even as God surprises us with new directions.



1. God of the star - light and moon, mys - ter - y God of the
2. Beau - ty be - yond what we know, shap - ing a world that we
3. Out of the blue you ar - rive, weav - ing our lives with your

mid - night blue skies. Love draw - ing near,
can - not quite see. Form of a child,
con - stant sur - prise. Flick - er - ing flame,

dream - ing new fu - tures: fire of our hearts, a - rise.
reach - ing to greet us: time in e - ter - ni - ty.
spark - ling with prom - ise: God of the star - lit skies.

Offering

Ways to support the ministry here at Bethany and in Ishpeming:

- Certainly, you are welcome to take part in our “noisy offering” collection, by placing your gifts **in the containers passed** by our Usher Team, each Sunday during this time.
- You are invited to set up a one-time or recurring donation by **texting ASSIST to 844-920-4105**; be sure to have your preferred method of sharing ready.
- Use this **QR Code** (to the right). Open your camera app on your phone, place the QR code in the center of your camera’s view-field, and select the Vanco link that appears!



We give thanks for your sharing of gifts and generosity!

Our Noisy Offering, this month, is supporting Pajama Palooza.

Offering Prayer

Please pray with me.

God, we cherished what we thought belonged only to us: our money and our time and our families and our freedom. Yet in a moment, we recognize that every truly good thing was a treasure we had taken from your open hand. We thought such treasures were ours to earn and to own. You grow what we give away. So we give you these gifts as a sign of your love and faithfulness. Amen

SENDING

Announcements

Going Forth, in Preparation

As you leave from this place, adjust your expectations to God's promises.

There is friendship after loneliness, **there is hope after every last breath.**

There is already life in the desert.

There is even delight in decline. For we tell the story of new life from the grave.

In the world drained of color, **God arrives** ✝ **out of the blue.**



Sending Hymn

Crown Him with many Crowns (ELW 855)



- 1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;
- 2 Crown him the vir - gin's Son, the God in - car - nate born,
- 3 Crown him the Lord of love— be - hold his hands and side,
- 4 Crown him the Lord of life, who tri - umphed o'er the grave
- 5 Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time,



hark, how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own.
whose arm those crim-son tro - phies won which now his brow a - dorn;
rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied.
and rose vic - to - rious in the strife for those he came to save.
cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fab - ly sub - lime.



A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
fruit of the mys - tic rose, yet of that rose the stem,
No an - gels in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,
His glo - ries now we sing, who died and rose on high,
All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;



and hail him as thy match-less king through all e - ter - ni - ty.
the root whence mer - cy ev - er flows, the babe of Beth - le - hem.
but down - ward bend their burn - ing eyes at mys - ter - ies so bright.
who died, e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
thy praise and glo - ry shall not fail through-out e - ter - ni - ty.

Transition to Community Service

Let us go to prepare the gifts of God, to share with our neighbors!

We prepare with joy and thanksgiving!

Postlude

The Advent of Our God

by Edward Broughton

Community Announcements



ADVENT 2025

ADVENT I (NOV 9) Valente Staff Care	ADVENT II (NOV 16) Great Lakes Recovery Centers
ADVENT III (NOV 23) Jacobetti Staff Care	ADVENT IV (NOV 30) Ishpeming Carnegie Library
ADVENT V (DEC 7) Teal Lake Staff Care	ADVENT VI (DEC 14) Birchview Elementary School
ADVENT VII (DEC 21) Eastwood Staff Care	



4ISH MIDWEEK ADVENT VESPERS

6:30pm, Wednesdays @Bethel Lutheran Church
414 Ridge St. Ishpeming
November 12, 19; December 3, 10, 17

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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CHORAL CHRISTMAS EVE

WHAT
CAN'T
WAIT

Those wishing to participate, sing, and prepare for the Christmas Season are invited to join Bethany immediately following fellowship on Sunday afternoons (12:30-ish), in November and December.

Those unable to make that practice time, will not be left out! Anyone can sing with us – Bethany's Director of Music Ministry will provide music if you cannot attend rehearsals, and will even help them learn parts at a more convenient time if needed.

**WE CAN'T WAIT FOR THIS
SERVICE. ON WEDNESDAY,
DECEMBER 24TH. AT 6PM.**

AS WE WAIT, WHAT CAN'T?

DONATE TODAY!



From **Oct. 1 - Dec. 31**, the M.E. Davenport Foundation will match every monetary donation made to Room at the Inn!



Give Now:

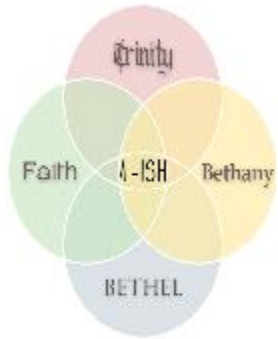
roomattheinn.org/donate/
OR givebutter.com/4Lju6r

Prayerful Yoga at Bethel



We are embodied people. Our bodies affect how we feel, how we connect with the world and God. Join us as we combine yoga, meditation, and prayer to bring peace and wholeness into our lives. Join us on **Sunday December 7 at 2pm at Bethel, Ishpeming.**

If you have a yoga mat/block/strap please bring, otherwise we will have extras provided. An option to do the yoga in a chair will also be offered. Pam Roose will be our yoga instructor. Her leadership is provided due to a Thrivent grant and we will collect a free will offering to help provide for the space. We will also welcome special guest Craig Kitchen on singing bowls.



Cookie Walk

Saturday, December 13

9:30am-12:00pm
\$8.00/pound



Stroll through tables filled with delicious homemade cookies, (breads, muffins, candy, etc.) and pick your favorites to take home.
Come for the cookies, stay for the Christmas cheer!

Bethel Lutheran Church
333 E. Ridge St., Ishpeming
Please use parking lot entrance.



The Sign-up sheets are on the kiosk. Please contact Peggy Schweinsberg, 989.280.8191 for additional information.

THE MINISTERS OF THE DAY

Presiding Minister: Pastor J. Michael Mills

Lector: Terra Frustaglio

Music Director: Donna Poirier

Organist: Linda Hurrell

Altar Guild: Judy Kitchen, Mary Ellen Peterson, Marcia Schiltz, Cheryl Sleeman

Flowers: In memory of Reno and Sue Norell by Kathy Kish

CALENDAR

Today 3rd **Sunday of Advent**

9:30A Choir
10:30A Worship/Online Worship with Pastor J. Michael Mills

Monday 5:30P Worship service at Bethel (All are welcome!)
5:30P Youth Food & Service event , Immanuel Lutheran -Negaunee

Tuesday 9:00A Quilters
11:00A Bible Study at Bethel
2:00P Teal Lake Senior Center Worship with Pastor J.
7:00P Community Thanksgiving service at Wesley UMC (Ishpeming)

Wednesday 9:30A Weight Watcher Support Group

Thursday Thanksgiving Day – Church office is closed Have a blessed Thanksgiving!

Friday Church office is closed

Sunday 4th **Sunday of Advent**

9:30A Choir
10:30A Worship/Online Worship with Pastor J.

Church office hours: Monday-10:00A – 4:00P Tuesday 10:00A – 3:00P

Wednesday 10:00A-11:45A, 1:45P – 4:00P

Please contact the office if you would like to make an appointment to see Pastor J.



POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

(PLEASE PRINT)

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

By _____

Number of plants ordered: _____ Total of Order: \$ _____

Each plant is **\$20.00**. Cash is welcome. Please make checks payable to Bethany Lutheran Church for the total amount of the order; please put "POINSETTIA" on the memo line.

Please include the order form with your cash or check in the envelope.

Deadline for ordering plants is no later than
Sunday, November 30, 2025.