



BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

405 E. Ninth Avenue—Brodhead WI 53520

608-897-2341—office@bethlehembrodhead.org

www.bethlehembrodhead.org

Facebook: facebook.com/blcbrodhead Twitter: @blcbrodhead

Rev. Peder J. Johanson, Pastor

December 2020

³A voice cries out:

*“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.*

⁴*Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.*

⁵*Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”*

Isaiah 40:3-5

Advent is a season of waiting and transcendent hope.

What I mean by “transcendent hope” is that our hope transcends the time and location in which we live, as it joins with the hope of ages past and future.

We wait with Mary and Joseph and their community for the birth of the savior.

We wait with the exiles in Babylon for their liberation.

We wait with all of God’s people who have endured suffering and dared to hope in God’s promise: that love and mercy restore, heal, and bless the world.

We are counting the days until this coming Christmas, but we are also waiting for a day when we can sing and pray together without worry for the health and wellbeing of one another, our neighbors, and those who care for the sick. We are waiting for a day when our world resembles the peace and justice announced by the gospel. We are waiting for the sick and broken to be made well, for the exhausted to be refreshed, for the desperate and despairing to be comforted, and, as the prophet says, for *“the glory of the LORD to be revealed.”*

We are waiting for a day when *“the glory of the LORD is revealed and all people shall see it together.”*

This is one of my favorite lines from my favorite prophet, and one of my favorite descriptions for reign of God.



*The glory of the LORD shall be revealed
and all people shall see it together.*

This promise of the prophet sustains my faith. It is the promise I just cannot let go of, the hope that keeps me trusting in God and in the mission of the gospel.

*The glory of the LORD shall be revealed
and all people shall see it together.*

These words were first spoken to God’s people during the Babylonian Exile, to give hope to the hopeless, announcing God’s promise to lead them home and restore their lives. The prophecy tells of a future made whole by God’s love and mercy breaking in to change the world for their sake, and through them, the sake of all the living. And it came to be. They made it home, their hope realized.

*The glory of the LORD shall be revealed
and all people shall see it together.*

As we wait this Advent in all of our needs and the needs of a weary world, we are blessed with this knowledge of our faith that God’s love has already done great things for the healing of creation, for the hope of God’s people, and the life of all. We are blessed with the timeless promise of the prophet Isaiah, that echoes through the proclamation of John the baptizer and the witness of the gospels. We are blessed by this transcendent hope that has sustained and unites the faithful of every place and time.

God’s love and mercy will come and set us free. Have hope. Share hope, in the name of God’s love among us, Emmanuel.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Peder

*Pastor’s article continues on page 3 with information
regarding the Family Promise Ministry*

Two Ways to Worship

As we gather in our homes during this period of social distancing, there are two options for worship. One is by **video, prepared and posted to our Facebook page** each Sunday morning. The other is a **live feed on Zoom at 9:00am on Sunday mornings**. Our Zoom Meeting ID is 321-764-3018. To access Zoom from your phone, dial **1-312-626-6799** (this is a Chicago number) and when prompted, enter the Zoom Meeting ID given above, followed by the # key. The password is our zip code, 53520. You do not need to enter a user ID – if asked, simply press #. To access via the app on your smartphone or computer, select “join” and enter our Zoom Meeting ID and password, or use this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/3217643018?pwd=WkJOUDBueERCQlI4dWQySDhabkZWZzO9>

In Christian Sympathy

Russel Pinnow

November 6, 2020

Alvin Strahm

(Twin brother of Calvin Strahm)

November 19, 2020

United in Marriage

Danny McKay & Maren Siu

October 18, 2020

Notes of Appreciation

Thank you for all the church services we've enjoyed via facebook. Also for the baptism of our great-granddaughter, Olivia Jo Trace.

Thank you! Darrell & Carol Carpenter

Thank you for your donation of \$200.00 to Family Promise of Green County.

DECEMBER FAITH NIGHT

Join Donna and Bailey for our December Faith Night on Wednesday, December 16 at 6:00 pm. We will be meeting live via Zoom (see the log in information below). We will be talking about the season of Christmas! Make sure to have your Faith Night bags with you for our meeting. If you still need a material bag, please contact Donna and we will arrange a delivery to you. We are so excited to see everyone!! If you have any questions, please call or text Donna at 608-314-5834.

Our Zoom Meeting ID is 830 0905 2972 and passcode is 369953. To access Zoom from your phone, dial 1-312-626-6799 (this is a Chicago number) and when prompted, enter the Zoom Meeting ID given above, followed by the # key. You do not need to enter a user ID – if asked, simply press #. To access via the app on your smartphone or computer, select “join” and enter our Zoom Meeting ID and password, or use this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83009052972?pwd=R05VOW5BbGhXUStHZnh4eWV3RjBndzO9>

A message from Pastor Peder...

If you would like pastoral conversation via phone and/or zoom, Pastor Peder is still available during this time of separation. You may contact Pastor to schedule an appointment at 608-346-2676 or you may email him at:

pastor@bethlehembrodhead.org.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

**To vote on 2021 Spending Plan
Sunday, December 6, 2020
10:30 a.m. via Zoom**

You should have received a letter by email or USPS with instructions on how to access the Zoom meeting room for the meeting (it is the same as for worship). We need a quorum of 25 to approve the Spending Plan. Please plan to attend. If you need help contact Pastor Peder or a council member.

Pastor's article continued....

In this season of hope, we want to give our thanks and appreciation for your continued financial support of our church and ministries we share. One of those ministries is **Family Promise of Green County**. During the pandemic, they have been able to continue serving families despite churches being closed. Two families are living at the day center while other families are receiving preventative services, supported by donations from the community and member congregations. Bethlehem is "hosting" this week by sponsoring the groceries for resident families.

If you would like to make a direct contribution to this important work, you can give online at: <https://familypromisegreencounty.com/donate> or send a check to Family Promise of Green County at P.O. Box 378, Monroe, WI 53566. Thank you!

Thank you for your continued financial support during the COVID-19 pandemic. Offering envelopes can be mailed to the church, placed in the mail slot at the church, or electronic gifts can be made via our website or the give+app.

We appreciate your continued support during these challenging times.

December At-a-Glance

- December 6 9:00 a.m. Worship via Zoom
- December 7 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting
(Meeting via Zoom)
- December 13 9:00 a.m. Worship via Zoom
- December 16 6:00 p.m. Faith Night on Zoom
- December 20 9:00 a.m. Worship via Zoom
- December 24 4:30 p.m. Online worship with
Christmas Eve possible outdoor service
Details TBD
- December 27 9:00 a.m. Worship via Zoom

The White Gift Food Pantry is open the third Saturday of each month from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The pantry is located behind the Senior Center and is open to all residents in the Brodhead School District. If you or someone you know has any questions or need food before the 3rd Saturday of the month, please contact Vickie Krattiger at 897-6466 or Lisa Regenold at 897-2496.

Note: If you would like to support the White Gift Food Pantry, you may send cash donations to: Brodhead White Gift Food Pantry, N2346 Tenny Rd, Brodhead WI 53520. Please write White Gift donation on the memo line of your check. Thank you.

END OF YEAR GIVING

Thank you for your financial support for Bethlehem Church in 2020, especially during this challenging time. Any donations you would like credited to your 2020 giving statement should be in by December 27th.

Christmas gifts for Skaalen Residents

Skaalen will be shopping for Christmas gifts for residents this year due to the covid pandemic. WELCA is sending a donation to Skaalen to help defray the cost of purchasing gifts. If you would like to help with a donation please send to Skaalen, c/o Dawn Z., 400 N Morris St, Stoughton WI 53589. Indicate for "resident Christmas gifts" on the memo line of your check. Thank you.

Members & Friends of Bethlehem Church,

After nearly 18 years as secretary of Bethlehem Church, I have decided to retire at the end of December. My time at Bethlehem has been a joy and has provided many wonderful memories. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your secretary and for making me feel welcome and loved. Thank you also to Pastor Peder for his support and patience during the 10 years we worked together.

May God continue to bless Bethlehem Church.

Pam Kessler

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

405 E 9th Avenue
Brodhead WI 53520

Phone: 608-897-2341

Email: office@bethlehembrodhead.org
pastor@bethlehembrodhead.org

Web: www.bethlehembrodhead.org



www.facebook.com/blcbrodhead



@blcbrodhead

Worship: Sundays at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom or FaceBook

Family Faith Night: Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.
September through April

Office Hours: M—Th 8am—1pm (remotely)

Bethlehem Lutheran Church welcomes everyone because Jesus welcomes everyone, and loves them unconditionally. Liberated by the good news that nourishes us through scripture and at the communion table, we are free to extend God's radical welcome to all people. You are welcome here, whatever your age, ability, social and economic class, race, culture, language, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or whatever other distinctions make you who you are. We embrace you as a whole person, wonderfully and beautifully made by God. We embrace your questions, your complexities, and your gifts. Gathered and sustained by God's love, we will strive to live as a reconciling people, in our life together and in our witness to the world.



December 2020

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Join us for Worship!

Sunday mornings at 9:00 via Zoom

Services are also posted on Facebook

Faith Night is Wednesday, December 16

6:00 p.m. via Zoom

4:30 p.m. Christmas Eve online worship

possible outdoor worship—Details TBD

PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS