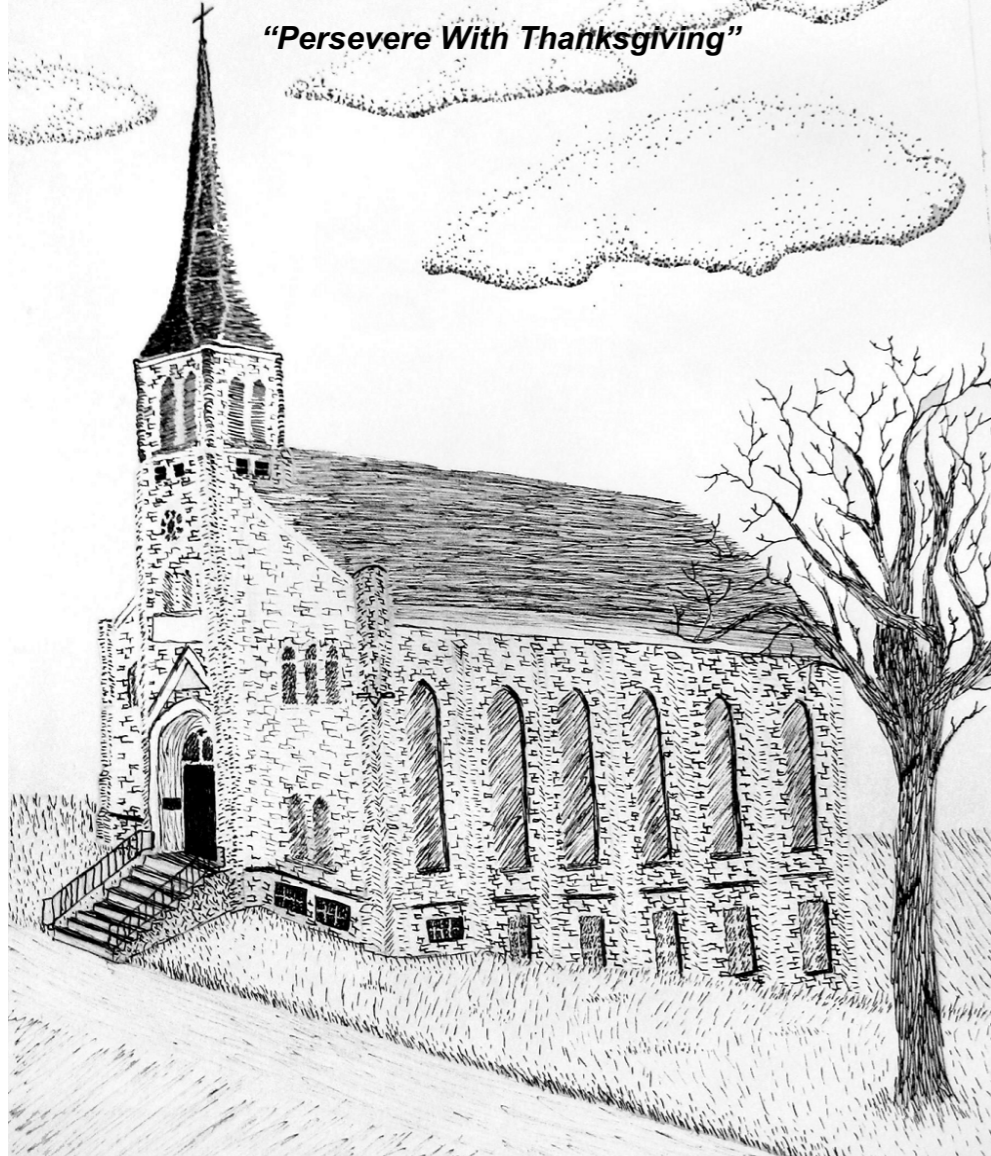


THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 21-22, 2024

“Changing Lives through Worship, Compassion, and Christian Education.”



Jill Hess - November 2008 - BBCHS Art 2 Class

**Music of Preparation,
Welcome, Announcements, Greeting**

Our Ministry: We are a people of God who are: ***“Changing Lives through Worship, Compassion, and Christian Education.”***

Welcome! Welcome to worship. Like Mary and Elizabeth, we share the anticipation of what God is birthing — through Jesus, and in all our lives always.

Devotions & Publications Available are found in the main entryway. Please leave donation envelopes in the offering plate.

..... **WORSHIP NOTES**

Note About Attendance Cards...Remember that the only way we may know you are worshiping with us is by seeing your name on an attendance card. These cards may be completed as you enter for worship and will be collected after the offering. Use one card for each family that is gathered. **Please list the name of each person in worship.** (Parents, please take responsibility for signing in your children) There is a "Member" side as well as a "Guest" side. Please fill out the appropriate side and pass them to the center aisle during the gathering of the offerings. The cards are gathered after the offering has been collected.

To Our Visitors...Our school has a few nooks and crannies, so don't be afraid to ask an usher where things are. Our pastor and any member here today would also be glad to meet and assist you. A guest information packet is available near the guest register in the main (west) entryway.

For All Who Worship...If you are arriving after the service has started, please allow our ushers to assist you with seating. We ask that you avoid entering during the confession, prayers, or Bible readings as these are quiet and meditative moments.

For Parents with Small Children...We love and want children in our services as a part of God's family, to spend time with Jesus, and to learn how to worship. We also know that kids can be kids. If you need assistance, we have a nursery for children up to age 4 manned with people who love to share the love of Christ with little kids in the lower grade wing. The nursery is staffed during Sunday School and the 11:05 worship service. We want you and your children to experience our Lord's love and to have a great opportunity to worship the Lord along with all who are gathered here to praise our Savior's name.

DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING ONE

(The music for the liturgy may be found on page 151 in the Hymnal)

Notes for Worship: As you prepare for worship this day, we invite you to turn to the prayer section of the Hymnal (page 305). In addition to prayers for before and after worship, there are prayers for all aspects of the Christian Life (some of the prayers are also located on the inside front cover of the hymnal). May these prayers be useful in your worship.

Before worship prayer

Almighty God, grant that we, who have been redeemed from the old life of sin by our baptism into the death and resurrection of Your Son Jesus Christ, may be renewed by Your Holy Spirit to live in righteousness and true holiness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.

Special Music: “An Advent Alleluia”

Sanctuary Singers

We’re So Glad God Brought You Here Today!

Opening Hymn: “Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now”

LSB, hymn #902

Lord Jesus Christ, be present now;
Our hearts in true devotion bow.
Your Spirit send with light divine,
And let Your truth within us shine.

Unseal our lips to sing Your praise
In endless hymns through all our days.
Increase our faith and light our minds;
And set us free from doubt that blinds.

Then shall we join the hosts that cry,
“O holy, holy Lord Most High!”
And in the light of that blest place
We then shall see You face to face.

All glory to the Father, Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To You, O blessed Trinity,
Be praise throughout eternity!

INVOCATION, CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

- P: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen. *Matthew 28:19b*
- P: The Lord be with you!
C: And with thy spirit!
- P: We praise God, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!
C: We praise Him now and forever. Alleluia! *1888 Dedication Litany*
- P: This is the name by which our God reveals Himself.
C: This is the name He has given us in baptism.
- P: In this name, we have gathered for 165 years!
C: In this name, we have taught children for 160 years!
- P: In this name, we gather and rejoice in His goodness.
C: In this name, we gather today to celebrate His gracious acts.
- P: Dear brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, in our baptism, God has chosen us and made us His children. He has called us to a life of repentance. As His children, let us confess our sins to God our Father, asking Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C: who made heaven and earth.
- P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.
- P: Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean.
C: Restore us, O God of hosts; let Your face shine, that we may be saved!
- P: We have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed.
C: Restore us, O God of hosts; let Your face shine, that we may be saved!
- P: Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: Restore us, O God of hosts; let Your face shine, that we may be saved! O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to be born in our flesh, to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins.

C: Restore us, O God of hosts; let Your face shine, that we may be saved!

P: As a called and ordained servant of the Word and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and the Holy Spirit. To those who believe on His name He gives the power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. Those that believe and are baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, to us all.

C: Amen

HYMN OF PRAISE

Gloria in Excelsis ~Glory to God in the Highest

Luke 2:14, John 1:29

P: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

C: (Sung) 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

P: The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

C: (Sung) And also with you.

P: Let us pray . . . Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

(Please be Seated)

Anniversary Hymn: “Beneath This Cross Raised High” *Choir and Congregation*

(Choir and Congregation on odd stanzas, Choir only on even stanzas)

1) Beneath this cross raised high
This church of God has grown.
How richly God has blessed us here,
How much He loves His own.
We come to Him in praise
And raise our voices to the sky.
Today, tomorrow, and always,
Beneath this cross raised high.

2) **Choir** *Beneath this cross raised high The saints of God draw near.
Assembled in His holy name His Gospel Word to hear.
And in this Word they find A source that never will run dry.
Of faith, hope, peace, and saving love,
Beneath this cross raised high.*

3) Beneath this cross raised high
The Spirit's work is done.
He calls, enlightens, sanctifies,
And joins us with God's Son.
He offers body in the bread
And precious blood in wine.
He washes us through Baptism's power
Beneath this cross raised high.

4) **Choir** *Beneath this cross raised high God joins two souls as one.
And draws their children to Himself For daughters and for sons.
Baptized, confirmed and taught Christ's way on Him they will rely.
'Till life brings death and death brings life
Beneath this cross raised high.*

5) Beneath this cross raised high
The worship bells still call.
And send our members forth to bring
Christ's message unto all.
The Spirit reaches out through us
Christ's body grows thereby.
Renewing and reviving us
Beneath this cross raised high.

6) **Choir** Beneath this cross raised high Through trial, fire, and storm.
The Spirit's sword, God's Holy Word, Defends and leads us on.
By grace we're saved through faith, A gift from God which sanctifies.
Oh, keep us in that one true faith
Beneath this cross raised high.

7) Beneath this cross raised high
Christ led us through the past.
Our Savior's care has brought us here,
His steadfast love will last.
Our present times are in His hands,
We trust Him to supply.
Our future needs through His rich grace
Beneath this cross raised high.

THE READING OF THE WORD

Old Testament Lesson: Micah 5:2-5a (The Coming King In Bethlehem)

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And he shall be their peace.

Stand (as you are able)

Alleluia and Verse - Common

John 6:68

C: (Sung) Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

C: (Sung) Glory to You, O Lord.

Gospel Lesson: Luke 1:39-56

(Mary Visits Elizabeth)

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord." And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever." And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: (Sung) Praise to You, O Christ.

(Please be Seated)

Sermon Hymn: "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"

LSB, hymn #356

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
With wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:
"All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

“For know a blessed mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honor thee;
Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
Most highly favored lady.” Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;
“To me be as it pleaseth God,” she said.
“My soul shall laud and magnify God’s holy name.”
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:
“Most highly favored lady.” Gloria!

Sermon: “Promises Fulfilled”

Luke 1:46-47, 54-55

Stand (as you are able)

P: Let us confess our faith, using the words of the Apostles’ Creed.

C: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

(Please be Seated)

Tithes and Offerings/Attendance Cards

5:00pm Special Music: “People Look East”

Sanctuary Singers

OFFERTORY - Create In Me

LSB, Divine Service 3, pg 192-193

C: (Sung) Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and uphold me with Thy free spirit.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

1 Timothy 2:1-4

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. . . . Heavenly Father: Your loving-kindness toward us is especially evident today. We thank and praise You for creating Your Church and for giving life to this congregation and our school through the power of Your Holy Spirit. Hear now our petitions for Jesus' sake as we come to You as Your people. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We give You thanks for the blessings You have given to our congregation during these 165 years and our school for 160 years. Work in our hearts that we may not be obstacles, but channels for the coming of Your kingdom to a lost and evil world. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: This year, O Lord, we remember Your hand at work in the life of our church school in the past. You have blessed us and guided us these many years. We thank You this day for the past, in which You have made known Your salvation time and time again. For Your past blessings, we give You thanks. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: O Lord, while we celebrate the past, we also do not forget that You are with us this very moment. For Your present blessings, we give You thanks. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: O God, even as we celebrate our past and rejoice in our present, we also look forward to the future in joy. We pray that You would continue to make Your saving acts known among us. Give us a zeal for mission. Help us to look beyond our walls to those who do not know You. Make this church and school a blessing to those around us, and embolden us to move forward with strength toward what lies ahead. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Gracious God, with Mary, we celebrate our King, who has come, promised to be born among the small clan of Judah in Bethlehem. He is the fulfiller of the old covenant promise, and brings the blessings of life and grace in which we now live. We await our King, who promises to return, to restore and renew what was broken, and to bring life everlasting. Be with us as we soon close this Advent season of anticipation and preparation, rejoicing in the everlasting King who has come and will come again. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Lord, heal the sick, injured, and recovering among us. We lift up before You those hospitalized this past week (*Epecially, . . .*). Also be with those who continue treatment and healing at home. We pray for them and all those that we name in our hearts . . . (*Silence*). Strengthen them with Your gracious hand and with Your unwavering presence. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

(Additional prayers of the congregation. Each petition concludes with. . .)

P: . . . Lord, In Your Mercy,

C: Hear Our Prayer.

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who has taught us to pray:

C: 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

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

C: (Sung) Amen

Doxology: “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” *Hymn # LSB805*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Closing Hymn: “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” *LSB, hymn #657*

A mighty fortress is our God, A sword and shield victorious;
He breaks the cruel oppressor’s rod And wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe Has sworn to work us woe.
With craft and dreadful might He arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.

No strength of ours can match his might. We would be lost, rejected.
But now a champion comes to fight, Whom God Himself elected.
You ask who this may be? The Lord of hosts is He,
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord, God’s only Son, adored.
He holds the field victorious.

Though hordes of devils fill the land All threat’ning to devour us,
We tremble not, unmoved we stand; They cannot overpower us.
Let this world’s tyrant rage; In battle we’ll engage.
His might is doomed to fail; God’s judgment must prevail!
One little word subdues him.

God’s Word forever shall abide, No thanks to foes, who fear it;
For God Himself fights by our side With weapons of the Spirit.
Were they to take our house, Goods, honor, child, or spouse,
Though life be wrenched away, They cannot win the day.
The Kingdom’s ours forever!

See You In Worship Next Week!

After worship prayer

Lord God, You have called Your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go but only that Your hand is leading us and Your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.

There is a Prayer Ministry Member(s) in each service that is wearing a prayer ministry tag around their neck. Please look for them if you want a prayer for someone else, a concern or situation you may have, or yourself.

Please join us for coffee and donut holes in the cafeteria after Sunday services.

Altar Flowers Altar flowers this weekend are given in loving memory of my parents, Clarence & Florence Minor and brother William Minor, by Tom & Judy Minor; also in memory of our fathers, William Rabe and Cecil Cushman, on their December birthdays, and in loving memory of our grandson, Dennis, on his fourth Christmas in heaven, by Nancy Rabe.



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Rev. Roger A. Drinnon Associate Pastor	Rev. Ross Engel Adopt-A-Chaplain
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