



BETHEL EVANGELICAL Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
501 Main Street, Round Lake, MN 56167
www.Bethel-Online.org

Pastor Benjamin Rucker

Church Office: 507-945-8102
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Pastor's Office Hours:

Monday – Friday mornings 8 a.m. to noon
Monday – Thursday afternoons 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Elders:

Dennis Bucholz – 945-8416
Randy Wilson- 945-8460
Jason Ling – 507-329-0820

Parish Nurse Vicki Place

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Our Response to God's Gracious Work:

Dec 2nd, 2012 Divine Service Attendance:
Dec 2nd, 2012 Offering: \$.00
Missions to Date: \$1394.42

Serving Today Dec 9th, 2012 @ 9:00 a.m.

Elder for December: Randy Wilson
Organist:
Greeters: Dennis and Marlene Bucholz

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

“Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord”

December 9th, 2012

ENTRANCE HYMN "The Advent of Our King" *LSB* 331

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." *John 8:12*

People: We light these candles anticipating the coming light of Christ.

Pastor: And I will lead the blind in the way that they do not know, in paths that they have not known I will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things I do, and do not forsake them.

Isaiah 42:16

People: Come, Lord Jesus, our Light and Life.

Pastor: Until that day, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

People: Lord, who is worthy to come into Your presence even to ask for Your forgiveness? We do not have clean hands or pure hearts. Yet You invite us to come into Your presence to

receive our deliverance. Lift up our heads so we may see You, the King of glory, strong and mighty. Help us to be humbled by Your glory and then help us to see that You alone are strong to save.

Pastor: Brothers and sisters in Christ, our Lord invites us to come and see what He has done---He has created the world and then redeemed His creatures after we fall into sin. Now He is restoring what had been torn from His powerful hand, because He truly is strong to save! Therefore as a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Our sins are forgiven because God's Son, Jesus Christ, made atonement for our sins, once and for all!

People: Thanks be to God! Amen.

KYRIE

Pastor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the peace of the whole world, for the wellbeing of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

+ WORD +

OLD TESTAMENT Malachi 3:1-7b (*The prophet foretells the mission of the messenger.*)

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE Philippians 1:2-11 (*The apostle gives thanks for the partnership in the Gospel he shares with this congregation*)

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL Luke 3:1-14 (*John the Baptist prepares the way for the coming of the Messiah*)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the third chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

(The Gospel is read.)

Pastor: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" *LSB* 344

SERMON: "Be Ye Prepared." Luke 3:1-14

CATECHISM (*Third Article of the Apostles' Creed*)

People: I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.

In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth. And keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.

On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs. Pastor: Let us pray that the whole Church would become increasingly dedicated to proclaiming and teaching God's Holy Scriptures without compromise. May the Church remain immovable and steadfast against the influences of the devil, the world, and our own sinful flesh around and within us; Lord, in Your mercy . . .

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Let us pray for the nations of the world, that all who profess faith in Jesus, the Messiah, may know the truth and be set free by that very truth. Lord, in Your mercy . . .

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Let us pray for those who do not yet know or love the Lord, that they may come to acknowledge the truth revealed to us only through the Gospel of Christ Jesus; Lord, in Your mercy...

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Let all who rejoice in Christ confess that from Him comes all things that are blessed, good, gracious, and righteous. Lord, in Your mercy...

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Let us mourn with those who mourn, that they may be consoled with the sure promise that they will be reunited with all the saints in the heavenly realm of Christ; Lord, in Your mercy...

People: Come and save Your people.

Pastor: And let us pray for those with special needs (*including...*), that they may receive Your wholeness in body, mind, and spirit; Lord, in Your mercy...

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Blessing, honor, glory, power, and might be to our God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OFFERING

LORD'S PRAYER (*Matthew 6:9-13*)

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The LORD bless you and keep you.

The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The LORD look on you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

People: Amen!

HYMN "Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People" LSB 347

Serving Next Week, December 16th

Elder for December: Dennis Bucholz

Organist: Brenda Matasousky

Greeters:

PRAYERS and INTERCESSIONS

- **Our shut-ins:** *Leona Onken, Eulalia Manitz, Elvera Koster and Iva Habeck*
- **For those serving our country in the full or part-time military:** Andy Connell, Michelle and Michael Kling, Nathan Barker, Roger Koopman.
- Please remember **Mike Bah, Ruth Spessard, Benjamin Cunningham Clarice Hart, Henry Funk, Bud Meier, Bob Crist, Bill Wintz, Arnie and Evie Froderman, Albert and Irene Helmers, Lorraine Huehn, and Ronn and Ruth Rucker.**
- **Grieving families of:** Declan Spessard, Shelly Hansen and Mina Mohns
- **Florence Koster** as she recuperates from a broken hip at her apartment *here in Round Lake!*
- **All Week:** *Lord, let the message I hear this morning stay in my mind throughout the week. Let the joy of the music we sing be in my heart all week long. May those people and things we pray for on Sunday morning be on my lips every day. Amen*

AS WE GATHER Dec 9th Richard, the Bishop of the English town of Chinchester, had no idea when he was writing a prayer in the 13th century that many of us would be quoting him today. This is his prayer:

*Thanks be to Thee, O Lord Jesus Christ,
For all the benefits Thou hast given me,
For all the pains and insults Thou hast borne for me:
O most merciful Redeemer, Friend, and Brother,
May I know Thee more clearly,
May I love Thee more dearly,
May I follow Thee more nearly, Day by day.*

Later, these words would be set to music and included in the Anglican Hymnal, later still they were recorded in the Broadway musical "Godspell." A recording of these words hit the *Billboard 100* song list in 1972. Another famous tune from "Godspell" featured the prophet John the Baptist screaming out "Prepare ye the way of the Lord" as the musical began. Many who have seen the musical can never forget John the Baptist jumping around the stage with his one line song! In many ways, the music from "Godspell", drawn as it was from a church hymnal, reflects the theme of this Sunday in the Christian Year - *Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord*; and Richard of Chinchester's prayer describes how we go about preparing.

Advent Services will continue this Thursday, Dec 13th, 7:00pm. We will have the service upstairs. A meal will be served downstairs at 5:30pm by the Ladies Aid.

Spreading the Christmas spirit in Round Lake! Please plan on joining us as we carol Fri evening at 6:30pm. (we might even drive cars!) If there is someone special in Round Lake you would like to have us sing to, please tell Randy, Dennis or Jason. We'll end the evening at the Sunset Grill. Please join us.

Please pray for the grieving family of **Clara Larson**, mother of Gary and Diane Larson.

Christmas Eve Service will be at 5:00 pm. Come and worship with us and bring your neighbor.

Life Sunday will be January 20th. We will be celebrating God's gift of life and praying for the lives that God touches through others at Lutherans for Life and Helping Hands Pregnancy Center. We also are taking an offering to be split between these two organizations.

Pastor's sermons and the Sunday Bulletins are available for you at the church's website at <http://www.bethel-online.org>

The Lutheran Hour can be heard on Windom's KDOM 94.3FM on Sun @ 10:00am and Fairmont's KJWR 90.9FM on Sun @ 6:00pm

FACTS OF THE LCMS ~DID YOU KNOW THAT ~ Rev. Edward L. Arndt, who had been a professor at Concordia College, St. Paul, resigned to promote mission work in China and in 1912 organized the Evangelical Lutheran Mission for China? ...He began work in China in 1913? ...In 1917 the work in China was taken over by the Synod, and in 1922 a seminary was established in Hankow? ...The seminary was closed in 1949 when the Chinese People's Republic forced the withdrawal of all Missouri Synod personnel?

“Life Quote” from Lutherans For Life, Dec 9th 9 “The Divine Weaver ... knit us together in our mother's womb, and, remarkably, in that very same way He personally came to us in His Son Jesus Christ, in human form, given birth by a human mother in a dirty stable. Born into poverty, into a nation of a people oppressed, He died the death of a lowly criminal. These are the lengths that God went to, in order to show us just how much He cares for all of us.” *Gaylan Mathiesen, Ph.D., Professor of Mission and Evangelism, Lutheran Brethren Seminary, Fergus Falls, Minnesota* – A “Life Quote” from Lutherans For Life • www.lutheransforlife.org

Stewardship Corner Dec 9th Many people don't make weekly worship a priority. Christmas and Easter are often the only times we see many of our friends and neighbors in church. That situation presents a challenge to us, the redeemed of Christ, for we preach sermons every day with our words and our actions. In fact, ours may be the only sermons many hear! We have been called to “declare the praises of Him Who called us out of darkness into His wonderful light” (1 Peter 2:9). Let us pray that we might embrace our calling and “preach sermons” that will help spread the Good News of salvation for all.

Welcome Visitors We are glad you are here today at Bethel. We hope you connect with Jesus through worshipping and

studying scripture this morning. We are not here to impress you or sell you anything. We are here as a community of Christians caring for and serving one another. Our one desire is that you experience the love of Christ everyday through a relationship with Him. **Notice** Activity bags are available for children under the table in the entryway. Downstairs, the bathrooms are to the left, a changing table is by the bathrooms, and an unstaffed nursery area with a television is available to watch the service.