

FIRST READING: ZEPHANIAH 3:14-20 (Cont'd.)

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! ¹⁵The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. ¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. ¹⁷The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing ¹⁸as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. ¹⁹I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. ²⁰At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

PSALM: ISAIAH 12:2-6 Please Read Responsively

In your midst is the Holy One of Israel. (Is. 12:6)

²Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation.

³**With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.**

⁴And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on God's name; make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations; proclaim that this name is exalted.

⁵**Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.**

⁶Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

SECOND READING: PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7

Despite being in prison, Paul is remarkably upbeat as he writes this letter. Here, he urges his friends in Philippi to trust God with all their worries and concerns, with the hope they will experience God's joy and peace.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Here ends the reading. Please stand for the Alleluia response.

***RESPONSE:** LBW Pg. 62 Alleluia. Lord, to whom she we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

***GOSPEL ANNOUNCED and RESPONSE:** Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: LUKE 3:7-18

John the Baptist heralds the mighty one "who is coming." John teaches that preparation for God's reign is not a matter of identity but of bearing fruits of merciful justice, radical generosity, and vocational integrity.

⁷John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"

⁸Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." ¹⁰And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" ¹¹In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." ¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" ¹³He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." ¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." ¹⁸So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

***GOSPEL RESPONSE: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE
SERMON**

***HYMN OF THE DAY:** LBW #29, "Comfort, Comfort Now My People"

***NICENE CREED:** LBW Pg. 64

***THE PRAYERS—**respond with "Hear Our Prayer"

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

Please be seated while the offering is received

***OFFERING/OFFERTORY:** Pg. 66 **Let the Vineyards be Fruitful...**

***OFFERTORY PRAYER:** Pg. 67 Merciful Father,
we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us -our
selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love.
Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ
our Lord. Amen

***The GREAT THANKSGIVING:** Pg. 68

***WORDS OF INSTITUTION:** Pg. 69

***LORD'S PRAYER:** Pg. 71

***HOLY COMMUNION:** Pg. 72 **Lamb of God...**
Hymns during Distribution: LBW #212, LBW #30, LBW #33

***POST COMMUNION:** Pg. 72 **Thank the Lord and sing his praise...**

***BLESSING AND BENEDICTION:** Pg. 74 **Amen.**

***SENDING HYMN:** LBW #35, "*Hark, The Glad Sound*"

***DISMISSAL:** P: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!
C: **Thanks be to God.**

ORGAN POSTLUDE

JOIN US THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON



December 19 7:00 pm Live Shadow Drama, at Bethany

December 24 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Services, Holy Communion at Bethany

December 24 10:30 pm Christmas Eve Services, Holy Communion, at Bethany

December 25 10:00 am Christmas Day Services, Holy Communion, at Lost Island

Grow in Faith and in Our Community Join Some Bible Studies:

Ruth Circle meets on Dec. 20th, at 2:00 pm at Wilma Nielsen's Home. Bring a Christmas Reading

Sarah Circle met on Dec. 12th at 6:30 pm at Elaine Nauss' home for a Potluck!

Tabitha Circle met on Dec. 12th at 6:50 pm at Alaire Nielsen's home.

Men's Bible Study meets every Wednesday at Bethany, 12 Noon

Journey Bible Study (Adults), 1st/3rd/5th Wed. at 5:30pm in Overflow Room.

There is always room for a few more!

Reader: Every week in Advent, we light another candle. Each candle that we light reminds us that the Light of the World will soon come to us in the human form of the baby Jesus, the Messiah who will show us the way back to God.

Congregation: The Messiah is on the way to us. As we prepare for his coming, may we repent of our sins. May we remember our baptisms with water. May we be ready to be baptized with God's Holy Spirit and fire. May we be ready to help our Lord proclaim the good news of God's love to all people, so that the world will be filled with joy. Amen

SONG "We Light the Advent Candles" Text: © 1994 Gracia Grindal

Used by permission To the Tune of LBW #59 "*When Christmas Morn is Dawning*"

We light the Advent candles,	Three candles now are gleaming
Against the winter night.	And show us the true way.
To welcome our Lord Jesus,	Rejoice, the Baptist cries out:
Who is the world's true Light.	Your Lord has come today!
To welcome our Lord Jesus,	Rejoice, the Baptist cries out:
Who is the world's true light.	Your Lord has come today.

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:** LBW Pg. 56

Please stand if you are able to

***GATHERING HYMN:** WOV #718, "*Here In This Place*"

***GREETING AND KYRIE:** LBW Pg. 57 (Green Hymnal)

***HYMN OF PRAISE:** Pg. 60 **This is the feast....**

***SALUTATION:** P: The Lord be with you C: **And also with you.**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY:** Let us pray together
Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING: ZEPHANIAH 3:14-20

The prophet Zephaniah's message is mostly one of judgment for sin. This reading, however, which comes from the conclusion of the book, prophesies joy for Judah and Jerusalem. Judgment has led to repentance, and God's salvation is at hand.

We welcome you to worship today

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

The presence of the Lord "in your midst" in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the Lord in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one "more powerful" than John, even with his winnowing fork in his hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

ORGAN PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS/ SIGNING OF FRIENDSHIP SHEETS

We invite everyone to please sign the attendance sheets in the black notebook located at the end of pew. If you are a visitor, we would like to get to know you better, please include your address and phone number. We welcome you to come again.

ORDER OF SERVICE— LBW HOLY COMMUNION SETTING ONE

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

Reader: Today is the third Sunday of Advent. Advent is a time of waiting. We wait for God to send divine love and light into our dark world.

Reader: How does this happen?

Reader: God's light comes through Jesus, who became a human being just like you and me, so that he could show us the way back to God's divine love and light.

Congregation: "Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us. Let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us, through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Reader: A reading from the prophet Zephaniah: "Jerusalem, the time is coming, when it will be said to you: 'Don't be discouraged or grow weak from fear! The LORD your God wins victory after victory and is always with you. He celebrates and sings because of you, and he will refresh your life with his love.'"

Reader: We continue to wait for the coming of Jesus. Last Sunday, we began in the dark, and then we lit two candles. Today, on the third Sunday of Advent, we light three candles.

First, second and third candles are lit.

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

Altar Guild for December:

Punky Kropf & Alaire Nielsen

Music: Tim Nielsen, **Lector:** Charles Henningsen, **Comm. Asst.:** Steve Pitt
Acolytes: Corrine Cooke

NEXT SUNDAY December 23, 2018

December Altar Guild: Punky Kropf, Alaire Nielsen

Music: Tim Nielsen **Reader:** Troy Leininger **Acolyte:** Zachary Sorenson

PRAYER REQUESTS

Bill Ortman, Kevin Schentzel, Pastor Chris Lange, Pastor Tom Summerfield, Pastor Trudy Peterson, Shirley Knutson, Teresa Jensen, Dorothy Moore, RoxAnn Hanson, Phyllis Schroeder, Janis Campbell, Debra Zafes, Jim Anderson, Richard & Irene Omundson, Fern Schmidt, Garwin Anderson, Lois Quam, Rod Snavey, Bill & Nancy Ziegler, Bob Mortenson, Lucille Anderson and those we name in our hearts.

*Our missionary: Courtney Davis in Papua New Guinea

*Our companion synods: The Southern Diocese of the Evangelical

Lutheran Church in Tanzania-Yakobi Parish, companion with Lost Island and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chile.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday Dec 16

1-3 pm NH Worship Services
REPORTS DUE FOR ANNUAL MEETING-Bethany
1:30—3 pm Bethany Caroling starting at the Church
6:00 pm Quilters

Monday, Dec 17

Tuesday, Dec 18

7:00 pm Bethany Council Meets

Wednesday Dec 19

11:30 Mary Martha Circle meets
12 Noon Men's Bible Group

1:30 pm Bethany Youth Caroling Starting at the Church
7:00 pm Live Shadow Drama provided by the Youth of Bethany

Thursday, Dec 20

9-3 pm WIC Clinic in Basement at Bethany
12:00 pm Ruth Circle Potluck @ Wilma Nielsen's home

Friday, Dec 21

ARTICLES DUE FOR JANUARY NEWSLETTER



We invite all who are baptized to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion with us. We ask that you believe that Christ is present in the bread and wine and that you desire the benefits He offers. If you would like to come forward for a blessing and not receive Holy Communion, please indicate by crossing your arms. If you are not able to come forward, please indicate to the usher and we will serve you at the pew. Grape juice is present in the center of the tray. Gluten free wafers are also available.

OPPORTUNITIES

ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN

On **December 16th** at 1:30-3:00pm, Bethany Caroling.

Join us starting at the church and heading out from there.

On **December 19th** at 1:30-3:00pm, join the youth caroling .



Note to all Board Chairpersons—Our Annual Meeting at Bethany will be **1/20/19** and Lost Island's will be **1/27/19**. Please have all report in to Diane by the **16th of December** to put the Report together.

We will be voting on the **Bethany Endowment Fund** as well during this meeting.

This year, we have added a "Prayer Tree" at Bethany.

This tree is located in the elevator room. If you would like to, you can tie a ribbon to one of the branches of the tree.

The Youth will be praying over the tree during this Christmas Season.



Emerald Oaks would like to invite any Seniors in the area to their tenant's Tuesday Morning "Senior Coffee" which starts at 9 am.



On behalf of the Bethany Congregation, Family & Friends, we would like to congratulate Kristin Rienhardt, the Sunday School Youth and Teachers for a Wonderful Christmas Service led by the youth. We have a lot of Talent in our Youth. Keep up the GOOD WORK!

Poinsettias to decorate the Church are always welcome. If you would like to share one, please put your name on it so that it can be returned to you. Please let the Church office (852-4450) know if you are sharing your plant as a memorial of a loved one so we can acknowledge it in the bulletin. Thank You!



*In Memory of my parents *Helen & Lawrence Sidles* from David and Elaine Sidles

*In Memory of my father, *Lyle Schipull* and step father from Elaine and David Sidles

*In Memory of my husbands *Lyle Schipull and Wayne Warmbier* from Evelyn Warmbier

*In memory of all of our loved ones—*Danny & Linda Umbrell*

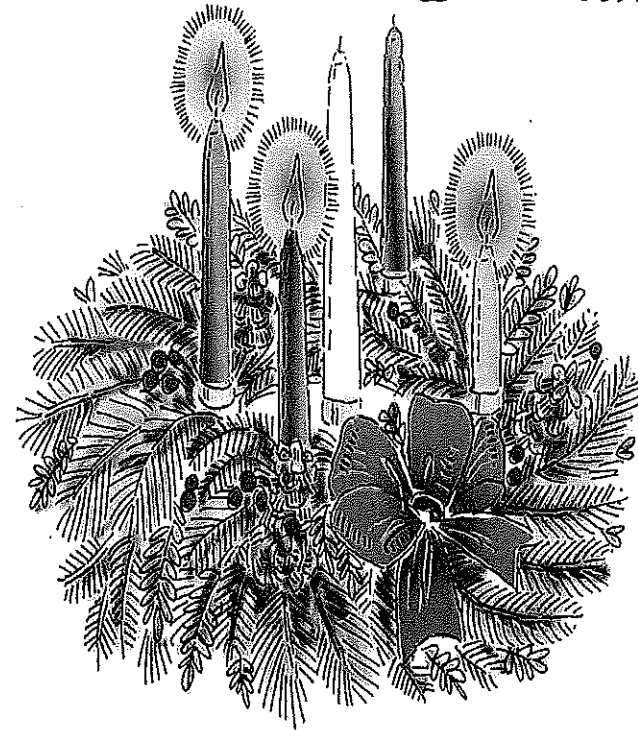
*In memory of our loved ones—*Diane & Robert Steger, Jr.*

*In memory of my mom and two brothers, *Marlys Steger, Mark Steger and Pete Steger*—*Robert & Diane Steger*

**Elaine Nauss* is sharing a Poinsettia with us.

Third Sunday of Advent

December 16, 2018



Bethany Lutheran Church
703 Broadway- Emmetsburg, IA

Worship 10:30 AM

Sunday School Resumes 1/6/2019

Lost Island Lutheran Church
3797-310th St. - Ruthven, IA

Worship 8:45 AM

Sun. School 10:15 am

Rev. F. Peter Morlock

COMMUNION IS ON THE FIRST AND THIRD SUNDAYS OF THE MONTH

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