

## **Bendersville Lutheran Parish**

St. James,  
Wenksville  
8:25 am

Christ,  
Aspers  
9:45 am

Bethlehem,  
Bendersville  
11:00 am

### **1st Sunday of Advent—*Holy Communion***

David Hoth is our visiting preacher

November 29, 2020



#### **Parish Office:**

126 Church St. P.O. Box 449  
Bendersville, PA 17306-0449  
Office Phone: 717-677-9880  
Email: 3churches@centurylink.net

#### **Vicar Taylor Berdahl:**

Phone: (512) 773-9565  
Email: tberdahl@uls.edu

#### **Pastor Ben Siebert — Pastoral Emergencies**

Phone: 419-953-8158  
pastorbensiebert@gmail.com

**[www.bendersvillelutheranparish.com](http://www.bendersvillelutheranparish.com)**

### **A Prayer for Putting on a Face Mask**

Creator God, as I prepare to go into the world,  
help me to see the sacramental nature of wearing this cloth.  
Let it be a tangible and visible way of living love for my  
neighbors, as I love myself.

Christ Jesus, since my lips will be covered, uncover my heart,  
that people would see my smile in the crinkles around my  
eyes.

Since my voice may be muffled, help me to speak clearly,  
not only with my words, but with my actions.

Holy Spirit, as the elastic touches my ears,  
remind me to listen carefully and caringly to all those I meet.

May this simple piece of cloth be shield and banner,  
and may each breath that it holds be filled with your love.

In your name and in that love, I pray. Amen.

-written by Rev. Richard Bott

## REMINDER OF PARISH RULES

The Covid-19 task force (Bettina McBeth, Chris Cuttitta, Julie Haller, and Vicar Taylor Berdahl) have approved the following guidelines for safe worship practice. Thank you for showing love to your neighbors by following these rules.

1. **MASKS ARE REQUIRED.** Please wear your own mask.
2. **SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIRED.** Leave empty pews between people, and sit checkerboard fashion. No one should sit directly behind or in front of anyone else. There will be no greeters.
3. **NO SINGING.** Singing causes us to expel the air in our lungs with force, it raises the risk of infection, masks or not.
4. **NO PASSING OF THE PEACE.** Just pretend it is an extended flu season.
5. **NO PHYSICAL PASSING OF ANYTHING.** Collection plates and bulletins are placed at the entrances/exits so there is no physical passing from one person to another.
6. **We will have bulletins to use for the services so hymnals will not be required.** Please touch as little as possible when in your pews.
7. **We will have communion with sealed, pre-packaged individual communion servings.** Directions for distribution will be shared at that time in the service. There will be trash receptacles at the exits for disposal.
8. **Attendance will be taken at each church each Sunday.** Should an outbreak occur, the congregation can be notified. If anyone receives a positive test for COVID, please report it to the task force immediately.
9. **Midweek usage of buildings.** When entering a building, please use posted sign in sheets. If entering with someone who isn't a member, please have them add their contact info. **Always clean frequently touched surfaces after use.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*\*Please stand as you are able*

*(This worship service may be recorded by audio or video for distribution online. Please contact Vicar Taylor or a member of church council ASAP if you have privacy needs that need to be protected.)*

## PRELUDE

### BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

V: In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

V: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

V: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*(Silence for self-examination)*

Most merciful God,

**C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

V: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

V: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

V: Let us pray. . .

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

## **FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 64:1-9**

<sup>1</sup>O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—<sup>2</sup>as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil— to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

<sup>3</sup>When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. <sup>4</sup>From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. <sup>5</sup>You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. <sup>6</sup>We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. <sup>7</sup>There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. <sup>8</sup>Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. <sup>9</sup>Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM: Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18**

L: Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

**C: In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.**

L: Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

**C: O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?**

L: You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

**C: You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

L: Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

**C: Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.**

L: And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name.

**C: Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

## **SECOND LESSON: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9**

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup>I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup>for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—<sup>6</sup>just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—<sup>7</sup>so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup>He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (VERSE 1 ONLY) *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (ELW 257)** *As a reminder there will be no singing aloud allowed. You are invited to enjoy the instrumental music as a time of prayer and reflection on the Word.*

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

*(The Advent wreath will be lit while the acclamation is sung)*

**\*GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-37**

V: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the thirteenth chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

V: [Jesus said:] <sup>24</sup>“In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, <sup>25</sup>and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. <sup>26</sup>Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup>Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. <sup>28</sup>“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. <sup>29</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. <sup>30</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. <sup>31</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. <sup>32</sup>“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup>Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup>It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. <sup>35</sup>Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, <sup>36</sup>or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. <sup>37</sup>And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

V: The Gospel of the Lord.  
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

*(Please be seated.)*

## SERMON



**SERMON HYMN *Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying* (LBW 31)** *As a reminder there will be no singing aloud allowed. You are invited to enjoy the instrumental music as a time of prayer and reflection on the Word.*

1 Wake, awake, for night is flying, the watchmen on the heights are crying; awake, Jerusalem, at last. Midnight hears the welcome voices, and at the thrilling cry rejoices: "Come forth, you maidens! Night is past. The bridegroom comes! Awake; your lamps with gladness take!" Alleluia! Prepare yourselves to meet the Lord, whose light has stirred the waiting guard.

2 Zion hears the watchmen singing, and in her heart new joy is springing. She wakes, she rises from her gloom, for her Lord comes down all-glorious, the strong in grace, in truth victorious. Her star is ris'n; her light is come. Oh, come, you Blessed One, Lord Jesus, God's own Son. Sing hosanna! We go until the halls we view where you have bid us dine with you.

3 Now let all the heav'ns adore you, and saints and angels sing before you. The harps and cymbals all unite. Of one pearl each shining portal, where, dwelling with the choir immortal, we gather round your dazzling light. No eye has seen, no ear has yet been trained to hear, what joy is ours! Crescendos rise; your halls resound; hosannas blend in cosmic sound.

**\*APOSTLES CREED (Unison)**

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.\***

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again 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**

*\*Or, He descended to the dead.*

**\*THE PRAYERS**

**L:** God of power and might, tear open the heavens and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

We pray for the ministry we share in Christ's name. Open our hearts to your call for justice, peace, and healing. Attune us to the needs of the world as you draw near. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

**L:** We pray for this planet in need of restoration: for devastated habitats, polluted waters, thawing ice, blazing fires, swelling floods, and long-lasting droughts. Renew the face of the earth and our relationship to it. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

**L:** We pray for all people who care for others in our community and around the world. Fill them with compassion and the power to respond with justice for those who are oppressed, with welcome for those who are excluded, and with relief for those who suffer. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

L: We pray for people who are in crisis as the seasons change: for those without homes facing severe weather, for those who are unemployed or underemployed, and for those in poverty or facing food insecurity. (*Local feeding or housing ministries may be named*). Relieve their burdens, sustain their bodies, and ease their minds. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

L: We pray for the people in our families and congregation who live with depression, anxiety, chronic pain, addiction, and other invisible illnesses (*especially*). Ease their suffering and support them when they struggle. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

L: We give thanks for the lives and witness of those who died while waiting for justice, peace, or healing, those whose names we know and those whose names are known only to you (*especially Dottie Hoffman*). Sustain all who still yearn for the completion of your redeeming work. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

L: Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

*(Please be seated.)*

**OFFERING HYMN *People, Look East* (WOV 626)** *As a reminder there will be no singing aloud allowed. You are invited to enjoy the instrumental music as a time of prayer and reflection on the Word.*

1 People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table.  
People, look east, and sing today-- Love, the Guest, is on the way.

2 Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there.  
Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flow'r may flourish.  
People, look east, and sing today-- Love, the Rose, is on the way.

3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the bowl shall  
brim, shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.  
People, look east, and sing today-- Love, the Star, is on the way.

4 Angels announce with shouts of mirth him who brings new life to earth.  
Set ev'ry peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.  
People, look east, and sing today-- Love, the Lord, is on the way.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

V: Let us pray...  
Merciful Father,

**C: 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**

## \*LORD'S PRAYER

*Lord, remember us in Your Kingdom and teach us to pray...*

**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.**

## \*BLESSING

V: 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: Amen**

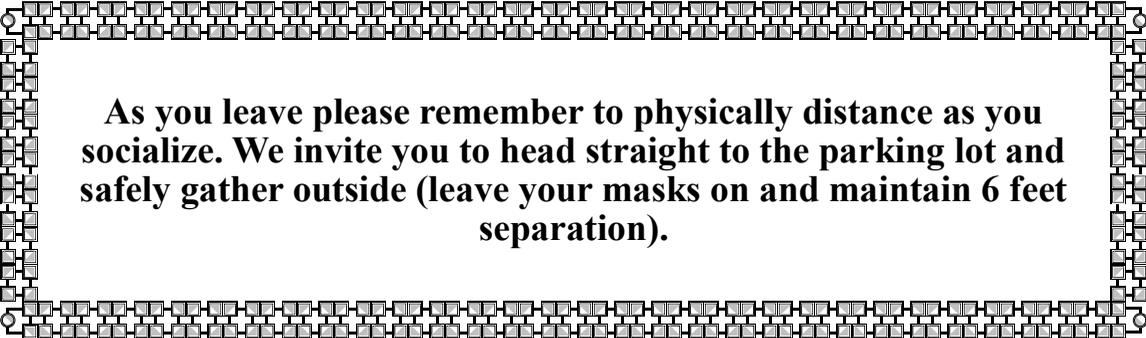
**\*DISMISSAL**

V: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God, and we will.**

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**As you leave please remember to physically distance as you socialize. We invite you to head straight to the parking lot and safely gather outside (leave your masks on and maintain 6 feet separation).**

✂

Check out the back page of the bulletin!

Every week we will offer a free shopping list to cut out and use for our Blessing Boxes! Things we need include:

Mac 'n cheese, soups, canned pasta meals (aka chef Boyardee), instant potatoes, canned veggies, canned meat, canned fruit/fruit cups, instant rice, pasta, spaghetti sauce, beans (dried or canned), fruit gummies, sugary cereal, peanut butter, applesauce, instant cereal/oatmeal, toiletries (TP, paper towels, menstrual care, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, hand sanitizer)

\*Be aware of glass items that might freeze\*

Thank you to all who donate!

We will be holding **Remote Worship Services** on Wednesday evenings in Advent from the comfort of each of our homes. For those without internet, live audio participation will be possible through a landline or cellular phone. For those with internet, live audio & video participation will be possible through Zoom links.

**New Instructions! Joining By Phone:**

First, call 1(301) 715-8592. Enter meeting ID 864 8777 9947 when prompted.

If it asks for a participant ID, press # to skip through.

To mute or unmute your speaker, press \*6.



THANKS and APPRECIATION to Sara Shank  
for providing our music this morning.

Bethlehem will again be participating in the *Adopt A Family for Christmas program through the Adams Rescue Mission*. We have pledged to sponsor 10 children. Each child will receive 8-10 gifts (costing around \$150) from a list provided by the family. We are to receive the information on the children before Thanksgiving. If you would like to sponsor a child or donate toward the gifts please contact Vicki Cuttitta at [viccutt35@aol.com](mailto:viccutt35@aol.com), 717.486.4845 (home) or 717.448.0366 (cell, ok to text). Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

## Worship Assistants

### Lector

**J** Bettina McBeth

**C** Cindy Baugher

**B** Vicki Cuttitta

### Ushers

—

—

Bruce & Jeanette Schachle

### Altar Guild

Harold & Kathy Stoner

Deb & Dave Copenhaver

Kathy Singley

### Altar Flowers:

**J:** *To the Glory of God*

**C:** *To the Glory of God*

**B:** *To the Glory of God*

### THIS WEEK:

### Parish Meetings:

*All meetings begin at 7 p.m. unless otherwise stated.*

**Internship Project Meeting**

**St. James Meeting**

**Internship Committee Mtg**

**Internship Project Meeting**

**Internship Project Meeting**

**Christ Council Mtg**

**December 6 @ St. James 8:45 am**

**December 7, 2020**

**December 8, 2020**

**December 13 @ Christ 9am**

**December 13 @ Bethlehem 12pm**

**December 15, 2020**

### *Until further notice Sunday services will continue as:*

8:25 am St. James, Wenksville—Worship with Holy Communion

8:30 am Christ, Aspers—Sunday School

9:45 am Christ, Aspers—Worship with Holy Communion

11:00 am Bethlehem, Bendersville—Worship with Holy Communion

No combined services are currently planned.

## Christ, Aspers BLESSING BOX: BOOK DRIVE

We'd like to expand our Blessing Box ministry to include books as well as food! We will be collecting books (new or lightly used) for all ages and reading levels in the Sunday School room at Christ, Aspers. Please bring books that have enriched you or children in your life that you would share with your friends and family (save the books you're simply ready to get rid of for the recycling bin, please!) Thank you for your participation in expanding this ministry.



### **Listen, God is calling!**



Might you be able to share your time with the church? Please prayerfully consider stewarding your time by filling one of these openings:

**UACT (Upper Adams Christians Together) delegate** for Bendersville

Lutheran Parish (2 spots)

1 year commitment, quarterly meetings

**Bethlehem Council** (2 spots)

3 year commitment, monthly meetings

Please contact Vicar Taylor with interest and/or questions



## Prayer List

### Parish Members:

Dixie Atha c  
Mike Atha c  
Shawn Atha c  
Ruth Bretzman b  
Adam Clapsadl j  
Bob Cooley c  
Chris Cooley c

Chris Cuttitta b  
Lee Dugan b  
Shelvey Dugan b  
Francene Gantz c  
Harold Garretson b  
Whanettah Harvey c  
Fay Heller j

Betty Henry c  
James Hollabaugh b  
Pat Junkins b  
Jim McGraw c  
Paula McGraw c  
Jayne Weaver j  
Mike Wolfe c

### Friends of Parish:

Jean Behney  
Barbara Bosak  
Bev Bretzman  
Ivan Bretzman  
George Carey  
Jeanne Cuttitta  
Ed Fletcher

Sue Garretson  
Mija Gibboney Serrano  
Jay Hall  
Harold Heller  
Linda Heller  
Nick Heller & Family  
Donna Kime  
Jeannette Kime

Chris McBeth  
Barb Mahoney  
Pastor Bob McElroy  
Zach Pelc  
Richard Price  
Sara Shank & Family  
Ken Slaybaugh

*With Deepest Sympathy*

*We extend our sympathy to the families of those who have died in the faith  
and who are now at rest with their eternal Father. Dottie Hoffman*

