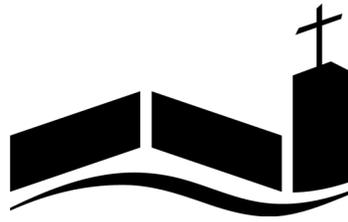


**BUFFALO
UNITED METHODIST**



So All May Know Joy

December 1, 2019



Today's Sermon:

Joy in the Darkness

Jeremiah and Habakkuk spoke God's truth to the Kings of Israel just prior to their exile in Babylon. It was a time of judgment and heartbreak, a time when God's promises to make a nation out of Abraham's descendants seemed in doubt. But even in the darkness of the exile, God promised a future with joy.

We're glad you're here!

Questions? Ask anyone with a red nametag for information about our church.

Welcome Flyers for new worshipers are found on the entryway wall.

Please fill out the "Thanks for Being Here" card in the pew rack. Time will be given to write any prayer requests and/or comments on your worship experience on the back of the card, then place it in the offering plate.

A staffed nursery is available in the education wing for children 5 & under.

Children's activity bags for worship are available on the rack in the entryway. There are also "scribble sheets" for kids on the wall!

Copies of the sermon manuscript are available before the service from any usher, and can also be found posted on our church website.

Words will be projected for all songs. Some songs are also found in the red hymnal, black hymnal or gray songbook found in your pew and page numbers are listed accordingly in your bulletin.

Coffee is served between the worship services each week in the Fellowship Hall from 9:20-10:20.

Devotional resources are available on the wall rack in the entryway.

Hearing assist devices are available, please ask an usher or soundboard operator.

8:15 am • Joyful Praise Worship

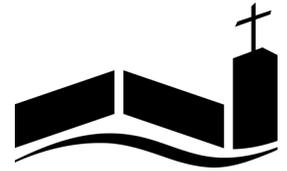
Coffee Fellowship & Education • 9:20-10:20 am

10:30 am • Celebration Worship



Joyful Praise Worship • 8:15 am

First Sunday of Advent



Gathering Music

Welcome & Announcements

Invocation & Sharing Christ's Joy

Reading

Because of Bethlehem

by Max Lucado

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Song

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

#211 vss. 1, 6, 7 red hymnal

Old Testament Reading

Tears of Joy

Jeremiah 31:8-9b NLT

Song

*While Shepherds Watched Their
Flocks*

#236 vss. 1&2 red hymnal

Old Testament Reading

Sorrow into Rejoicing

Jeremiah 31:10-13 NLT

Message

Joy in the Darkness

Time of Reflection

Spend this time in meditation or to write a comment or prayer on your response card

Invitation to Holy Communion

The Lord's Prayer

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. Amen.

Music during Communion

King of Kings

sung by Kellie Strub

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Commitment to Seek Joy

Song of Sending Forth

The Table

words projected

Blessing

Music for Departure

Celebration Worship • 10:30 am

First Sunday of Advent



Gathering Music

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

Mariénne Kreitlow

Invocation & Sharing Christ's Joy

Reading

Because of Bethlehem

by Max Lucado

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Hymn of Praise

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

#211 vss 1,2,5 red hymnal

Old Testament Reading

Joseph the Steward

Genesis 39:1-6a NLT

Advent Affirmation of Faith

Old Testament Reading

Tears of Joy

Jeremiah 31:8-9b NLT

Hymn of Preparation

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

#196 red hymnal

Old Testament Reading

Sorrow into Rejoicing

Jeremiah 31:10-13 NLT

Message

Joy in the Darkness

Time of Reflection

Spend this time in meditation or to write a comment or prayer on your response card

Invitation to Holy Communion

Prayer of Confession

Remembering the Light

In the Bleak Midwinter

#221 vss 1-3, 1 red hymnal

The Lord's Prayer

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. Amen.

Music During Communion

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Commitment to Seek Joy

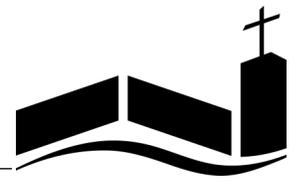
Hymn Sending Forth

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

#213 vss 1-3 red hymnal

Blessing

Postlude



Happening Today

Holy Communion will be received during worship today. In The United Methodist Church, all are welcome at the table, as we understand Communion to be the gift of Jesus Christ to anyone of any age who desires a closer relationship with Him. Please wear a nametag today so that all may be known by name at the Lord's Table. Ushers will direct the congregation forward down the center aisle. Bring your offerings and attendance cards with you when you come forward.

Church Conference Today

There will be a Church Conference to vote on

the 2020 budget, pastor's compensation, membership report, ministry team members, and other church business. All members of Buffalo UMC are welcome to come and vote. Constituents are welcome to participate with voice but not vote.

"Faithful" Advent Study on Joseph

A four-week study will take place Sunday mornings between services on December 1, 8, 15, & 22 in the conference room by Dexter and Sheryl Lehman. **The books are \$14 each and available at the book fair today.**

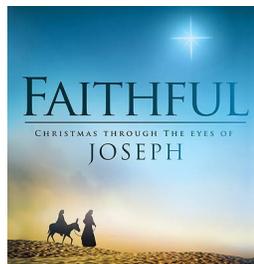
Coming Up

Community Thanksgiving Service

The Community Thanksgiving Service is this **Wednesday, November 27** at Zion Lutheran Church at 7:30 pm. It's a wonderful evening of praise and gratitude with mass choir and handbells, including our Chancel Chimes.

"Faithful" Advent Study on Joseph

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to raise a child that was not yours? Or even more, to raise the son of God? This Advent you have the opportunity to discuss the possible feelings of Joseph, earthly father of Jesus. The responsibility given to Joseph is explored in the book "Faithful -



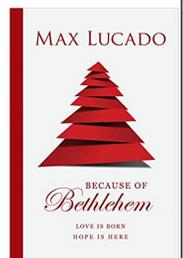
Christmas through the Eyes of Joseph" by Adam Hamilton. A four-week study will take place Sunday mornings between services on December 1, 8, 15, & 22 in the conference room by Dexter and Sheryl Lehman. The books are \$14 each and available at the book fair today.

Because of Bethlehem Advent Study

Because of Bethlehem, we no longer have marks on our record...just grace. We have the promise that God is always near us, always for us, always within us. Please plan to join Laurie Schroeder for a three session Advent study, *Because of*

Bethlehem, by Max Lucado on **Thursdays, December 5, 12, & 19 at noon.** (Due to a late Thanksgiving we can only fit in three sessions this year.)

There is a video with each session, so you can participate without preparing ahead of time. Bring your lunch with if you like! Sign up today in the entryway at church. Books are \$12.



Hanging of the Greens Next Sunday

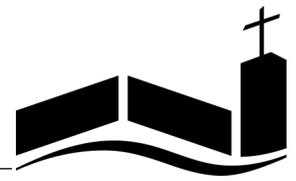
We'll have our Hanging of the Greens services next Sunday led by senior high youth. This is always a blessing and joy as we decorate the sanctuary.

December Game Gathering

The monthly "Game Gathering" is on **Thursday, December 5 from 1:00-4:00 pm.** Bring a snack to share if you wish. Coffee provided. A variety of board and card games are played. Come enjoy a fun afternoon.

Coffee Talk" for Sunday School Parents

Parents of Sunday School children will gather during class time today for the first "Coffee Talk" in room 109. Enjoy some treats and casual conversation. Coffee drinking NOT required!! Please take a moment and stop in on **December 8th at 9:30 am.**



Help Make the Christmas Dinner Happen

Last year we served 225 people at the Christmas Day Dinner. Our team has met to plan for how to manage things more smoothly this year, and we will need as many volunteers as possible! We have posted sign-up sheets with many ways for you to support this wonderful community outreach ministry – our 23rd annual dinner!!

- Donate food, supplies or cash. (Turkeys needed by Dec. 15; non perishable items by December 15; perishables by December 22. Salads and desserts may be brought on Christmas Eve.)
- Help decorate on **today at 11:30 am.**
- Help cook turkeys on **Saturday, December 21.**
- Help set up tables on **Sunday, December 22.**
- Volunteer to work one or more of the shifts on **Christmas Day.**

News! BUMC Will Host “Adopt a Family”

We are pleased that our church will be hosting the Buffalo Rotary’s Adopt-a-Family Christmas program this year. Gifts for families will be dropped off at the church on **Sunday, December 8 from 3-8 pm**, and then families will pick up their gifts on **Saturday, December 14.** We ask your gracious hospitality as we work with the Rotary to administer this program.

Blankets for Beds

Thank you to everyone who continues to bring in blankets and bedding to donate to the Food Shelf. The need is NEVER ending. Any and ALL new OR gently used blankets/linens are accepted--- please put them in the new “Blanket Basket” outside of the church office or call Dianne McLain (763-682-2260) if you need them to be picked up.



UMW Bake Sale December 15

The UMW hosts a Christmas Bake Sale for missions on **Sunday, December 15.** All who like to make Christmas cookies, breads and candy are invited to bring some to sell. Everyone is invited to take home some sweet treats and leave a free-will donation. Proceeds will to the Emma Norton and other mission projects of the

UMW.

Serve Communion to Homebound

If you would consider occasionally taking communion to our homebound and care center residents, see Pam Croft or Laurie for details.

2020 Promise Cards Still Welcome

If you were gone last Sunday or didn’t turn in your promise cards for 2020, both for financial estimate of giving and My Plan for Serving, please bring them in. We welcome them through the end of the year, but appreciate having them as soon as possible. Not only does it help the church in planning ministry, it also helps you find clarity and joy in your faith walk and spiritual growth.

Consider the Food Shelf

While you’re working with the Defying Gravity concepts of decluttering and organizing, why not clean out your cupboards? Then donate any spare food, or things you have doubles of (that are still not expired) to the food shelf, which can these foods to those who could use them. Or as you shop for Thanksgiving, consider buying some extras to donate. Please put items in the red wagon, across from the church office.”

Opportunities to Serve

- **Cookie Stocker**—here’s a simple job to consider! Simply keep the cookie and lemonade supplies for fellowship stocked by shopping periodically. See Laurie if willing.
- **Ministry Teams**—We are still looking to fill several positions on ministry teams including finance, property, staff parish and nominations. If you would consider one of those terms, please see Laurie ASAP.

Frozen Meals Available

Thanks to our kitchen crew, there is a fresh batch of frozen lasagna in the freezer for you to take to someone needing a meal or two. Who could you surprise with the blessing of a meal?

Confirmation Corner

This **Wednesday, December 4** will be a Faith Night. All confirmation students and Faith Partners are invited to share a meal together.

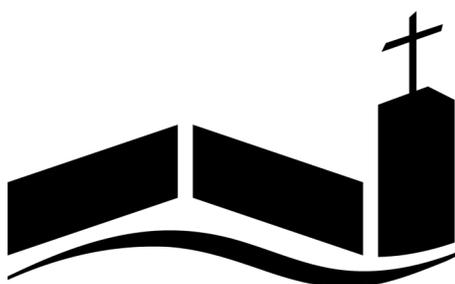
Next Sunday December 8

Joy in Our Relatives

You can't pick your relatives (at least not all of them). Like any family, the family of Jesus had some figures in its history that weren't so presentable. It's not in spite of, but through these questionable characters that God made a powerful promise of bringing joy to all people. Our youth will lead worship on this second Sunday of Advent as we finish decorating the sanctuary for Christmas.

Prayer Matters

- Please pray for the family of Elaine Varner, who passed away last week. A memorial service will be held at Peterson Chapel on Tuesday, December 3 at 11:00 am with Pastor Bill presiding.
- Continued prayers for Stephanie Mutterer's health to improve.
- Pray for the many who enter the holiday season with heavy hearts due to health concerns, broken relationships or missing loved ones. May hope and peace find a way to help heal.



**BUFFALO
UNITED METHODIST**

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Buffalo, MN 55313

763-682-3538

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www.BuffaloUMC.org

Serving Today

Musicians:	Joyful Praise Team (8:15) Marianne Kreitlow (10:30)
Tech:	Jim Norrix, Jeremy Carlson
Scripture Reader:	Trish Ewer (8:15), Traci Lay (10:30)
Ushers:	Dave & Pam Sieberg, Tim Schwietering (8:15); Ivan Erickson & Lester Hamann (10:30)
Coffee Servers:	Jim & Barbara Norrix

This Week in Ministry

Monday, December 2

9:00 am	Commodity Distribution
6:00 pm	Praise & Coffee @ Perkins

Tuesday, December 3

7:00 pm	Property Team Meeting
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Wednesday, December 4

2:00 pm	Guest Connections Team Meeting
6:00 pm	Senior High Youth—H.O.G. Rehearsal
6:00 pm	Confirmation—Faith Night
6:30 pm	Handbell Rehearsal
7:30 pm	Praise Team Rehearsal

Thursday, December 5

12:00 pm	Because of Bethlehem Advent Study
1:00 pm	Thursday Gathering
6:30 pm	Adult Bible Study @ Paulette's
7:00 pm	Disciple Fast Track Study

Saturday, December 7

7:30 am	Worship Design Team Meeting
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Sunday, December 8 *Hanging of the Greens—Jesus Rocks sings*

8:15 am	Joyful Praise Worship Service
9:20 am	Faithful Joseph Book Study
9:30 am	Coffee Talk
10:25 am	Jesus Rocks Rehearsal
10:30 am	Traditional Worship Service

Church Leadership & Staff

Pastor:	Rev. Bill Reinhart	PastorBill@
Lay Assoc. Minister:	Laurie Schroeder	Laurie@
Youth Coordinator:	Curtis R. Rieck	Curtis@
Children's Coordinator:	Debbie Bishop	Debbie@
Administrative Asst:	Michelle Jones	Office@
Lay Leader:	Peter Bedker	
Leadership Team:	Jim Norrix	
Staff Parish Team:	Gail Hurley	
Property Team:	Dave Sieberg	
Finance Team:	Martyn Dibben	
Treasurer:	Dexter Lehman	
Bookkeeper:	Patty Steer	Patty@
Custodian:	Ryan Highberg	