

# the Bethel Beacon

Vol. 84 No. 1

Publication of Bethel Lutheran Church

December 2017

## Events in December:

Wed. 6	Soup Supper 6:15-6:55 Holden Vespers 7:00-7:30
Sat. 9	Christmas Tree Fetching 9am Church Decorating afterwards
Sunday 10	Community Breakfast 9am Worship 10am Advent Family Dinner 4-6pm
Tue. 12	Council 7pm
Wed. 13	Soup Supper 6:15-6:55 Holden Vespers 7:00-7:30
Sunday 17	Community Breakfast 9am Worship 10am Christmas Play and Communion
Sunday 24	Community Breakfast 9am Worship 10am Christmas Eve Services 5pm and 10pm
Sat. 30	Neighborhood Hygiene Program 9-noon
Sunday 31	Community Breakfast 9am Worship 10am



### December Birthdays

- 2 JulieAnn Edman**
- 14 Andrew Van Dyke**
- 15 Lily Burdick**
- 19 Donald Worthington**

Su	M	T	W	Th	Fri	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

December 2017

*The Bethel Beacon* is published by Bethel Lutheran Church. You can find our members and friends scattered throughout North Portland, the metro area, and beyond. As a community, we worship God together, proclaim the Good News of grace, and show hospitality to all people.  
Join us as we live out Christ's command to love each other.

## *From the Pasture*

### Advent 2017: What If This Year Jesus Really Showed Up?

The advent of our God shall be our theme for prayer;  
Come, let us meet him on the road and place for him prepare. (LBW #22)

*O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you aright?  
Your people long to greet you, My hope, my heart's delight! (LBW #23)*

The watchers on the mountain proclaim the bridegroom near; go forth as he approaches with  
alleluias clear. (LBW #25)

Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near! (LBW #26)

Most hymns of the Advent Season speak of someone coming: God, Lord, Bridegroom, Kings of kings (as well as Precious Ransom, Savior, David's Son, Wondrous Child, Fruit of Mary's Womb, God's Word, Blessed One, Branch of Jesse, Dayspring, Son of God, Prince of Peace, Morning Star).

What if this year Jesus really showed up? Not just in hymns and Nativity Crèches, but really showed up. How would Jesus react to what is going on in the world? Our Nation? Our communities? Our church?

What would this One have to say about homeless neighbors, children without healthcare, addiction in our families, sexual abuse and harassment, promises broken for DACA young people, current discussions of guns in worship spaces, or violence against persons because of race, skin color, faith, disability, orientation or social status?

The One who is coming--the One who might just show up--brings justice, healing, connections, peace, joy, forgiveness, reconciliation and life. But can we be confident that this one actually is coming?

Christ Jesus does show up. Jesus shows up in those random acts of kindness; in the giving of ourselves to one another; in the time we take to be present with the other, the stranger, and the one different than us. As Christ's body in the world, as God's hands, eyes, and hearts, we show up and we are surprised that Christ is already there. It does not require us to show up for Christ to be there, but with us God's presence is multiplied. This Advent and Christmas Seasons figure out how you and your family will show up. Whose life will you touch this season beyond your own family?

Christ Jesus does show up—the real question is ... Will we?

*Pastor Michael Keys*



Dear Friends –

I read the gospel stories of Christmas in Matthew and Luke every year throughout Advent. The birth stories found there fill me with awe and wonder. Together with the ethereal story of Jesus's incarnation found in the Gospel of John, these stories strengthen my faith and I am closer to God. There are no words to describe the reverence I feel when I ponder the miracle of that tiny baby brought to this world out of pure and limitless love.

But I want to also share that my favorite Christmas story (besides the one that takes place in a Bethlehem stable) is *The Polar Express* by Chris Van Allsburg. The book, written just over 30 years ago, is the story of a doubting young boy who takes an extraordinary train ride to the North Pole on Christmas Eve. He's headed out on an adventure to meet Santa Claus! And what unfolds is a journey of self-discovery that shows him that the wonder of life never fades for those who believe.

I also read *The Polar Express* each year. In a different, yet just as important way, the kindness, compassion and care found in this story of the giving of oneself tells the story of Christmas as well. And the story gains so much meaning when we discover that the gift of wonderment found by the hero of the story is never lost. It is part of the reason that when this letter to Santa was shared with me, I was so touched that the lesson of giving of oneself had been learned so well. With the parents' permission, I am sharing the words of the letter with you.

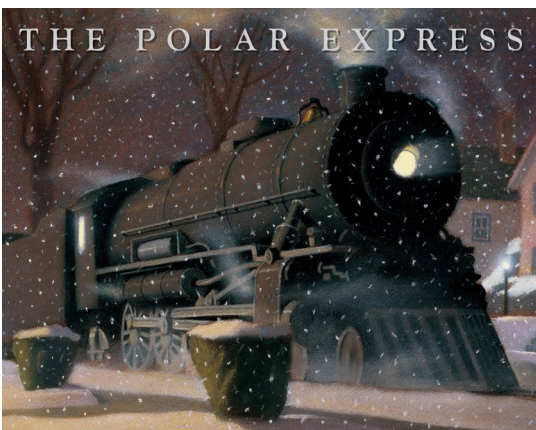
"Dear Santa Clause,

How are you? I know you are busy but all I want is art supplies. I don't want anything huge, but what I really want is my teeth to fall out. I know you cant do that but I don't want them to get pulled.

You do so much for us so it is time I give back. What do you and Mrs. Clause want for Christmas?"

Believe!

Pastor C.



# Refugees

While the story of Christmas is one of triumph — of angels and wise men celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ — it's also about Mary and Joseph's dangerous journey, some 90 miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem, to register for a census. In a town too full to house them. With a baby who didn't exactly have his paperwork in order. There's plenty to debate about whether Jesus, Mary and Joseph were *actual* refugees — but history shows that they certainly followed an arduous path, under government rule, to a place where their child would not be welcome. In that context, pray on the following poem by Brian Bilston.

## Refugees

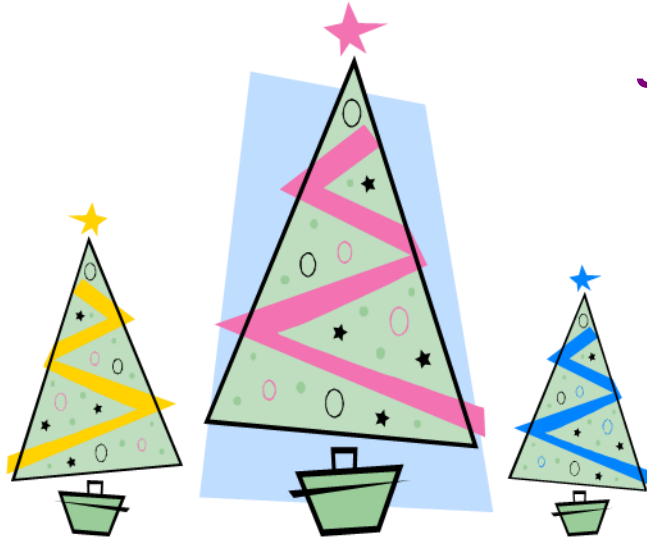
They have no need of our help  
 So do not tell me  
 Theses haggard faces could belong to you or me  
 Should life have dealt a different hand  
 We need to see them for who they really are  
 Chancers and scroungers  
 Layabouts and loungers  
 With bombs up their sleeves  
 Cut-throats and thieves  
 They are not  
 Welcome here  
 We should make them  
 Go back to where they came from  
 They cannot  
 Share our food  
 Share our homes  
 Share our countries  
 Instead let us  
 Build a wall to keep them out  
 It is not okay to say  
 These are people just like us  
 A place should only belong to those who are born there  
 Do not be so stupid to think that  
 The world can be looked at another way

*(Now read from bottom to top)*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Join us for Bethel's Annual Tree Fetching & Decorating Event



**When: Saturday, December 9**

**Time: 9:00 A.M.**

**Where: Furrow Farms 25877 NW  
West Union Rd, Hillsboro, OR 97124**

Join us at the sanctuary immediately following fetching for decoration of the tree. Refreshments will be provided. Questions, contact Stephanie 503-327-5144 or Tana 503-740-4918.

### Advent Midweek Service

Wednesday Evening December 6 & 13 (and maybe 20)  
Soup Supper 6:15-6:55    Holden Vespers 7:00-7:30.



Looking for Soup Makers.

Help? Call Pastor Mike Keys at Bethel 503-285-4919



## Advent Family Dinner with our Bethel Community!

Join your Bethel neighbors for a *potluck dinner* on  
**Sunday December 10th, 4-6pm.**

There will be 2 simultaneous locations for dinner in NE & SW Portland:  
 6027 NE 32<sup>nd</sup> Place, Portland (hosted by JulieAnn)  
 4400 SW Arnold, Portland (hosted by Tana & Scott)



Sign up by emailing Sharon @ [sharonclarejaffe@gmail.com](mailto:sharonclarejaffe@gmail.com) or calling 224-361-9290. Please join us even if you didn't sign up!

## Angel Project

If new needs arise are you willing to help out? If so, please contact pastor Christine (ccore@comcast.net) to let her know your willingness and availability. Thanks!



## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

**10am - Worship Service**

**5pm - Family Friendly Service with Holy Communion**

**10 pm with a Musical Prelude of Carols at 9:30**



# Thank you Bethel and Friends

*...for your continued support for our ministries.*

## Revenue & Expense Comparison – Thru November 2017

Bethel Lutheran Church	2017 budget	2017 ytd	2016 ytd	Difference 2017-2016
Envelope/Loose	106,333	99,592	104,402	4,810
Total Revenue	158,129	143,282	149,075	5,793
Expenses	159,958	151,911	154,474	2,563
Total Deficit	<1,829>	<8,629>	<5,399>	<3,230>

### Notes:

~ We are running a **deficit** in 2017 and as we are putting together the budget for 2018 the deficit is growing.

~We have under spent expenses compared to the approved 2017 budget and compared to 2016 actual year-to-date.                 \$2,563

~We have received fewer contributions in 2017 than 2016                                 \$4,810

~At the Annual Meeting, the Congregation approved \$9,000 in fundraising revenue for the 2017 budget. Council has approved using Play Ticket money for this purpose. (Remaining balance in the Ticket Money Account will be \$21,285 less outstanding expenses.)

## Annual Meeting January 28th

The Annual Report is in the process of gathering information from groups, committees, and liaisons. Please send into to [bethellutheran@bethelpdx.org](mailto:bethellutheran@bethelpdx.org)



## Pictures, Pictures, Pictures!

→ Please send all the pictures you have taken from the last year to [bethellutheran@bethelpdx.org](mailto:bethellutheran@bethelpdx.org)  
These will contribute to the website, the annual report, and the phone directory!

→ If you have a picture of you/your family you would like to have used in the phone directory please send it in as well. If not, Jared Burdick will be available to take pictures the next two Sundays (the 10th and the 17th) at church.



<u>Prayer Requested for:</u>	<u>Prayer Concern:</u>	<u>Prayer Contact:</u>
Bertha Anderson	Prayers for healing	Karen Anderson
For all victims of hate speech and prejudice	Peace and healing	Bethel Staff
Baby Dot Keener	Prayers for healing and guidance for the family and doctors	Joann Noll
Prayers for strength and courage for all those who work for immigration justice and in support of immigration communities	Prayers that they are motivated to be the hands and feet of those who stand uncertainly on the sidelines	Bethel Sanctuary Justice Team
Ken and Melissa Moholt Siebert	Prayers of peace and comfort after they have lost everything in the California fires	The Beck Family
Skip Getman	Prayers of peace and comfort as he battles cancer	Bethel Players and Congregation
Betty Hahn, Mary Rix's Mother	Prayers for strength and healing in Rehab	Mary Rix
Judy Merchant and family in Iowa	Prayers for peace and comfort as Judy prepares to go home to her Lord	Mary Rix
Vance Burghard	Prayers for support and healing as he works through medical issues	The Burghard/Moody family
Steve Greenfelt	Prayers for peace and comfort as her battles brain cancer	Pr. Mike
Dennis Mitchell	Prayers of healing and comfort as his throat cancer has returned	Stephanie Burdick
Margie Eisal and Family	Prayers of peace and comfort upon the death of Keith	Mary Rix
Family and Friends of Deb Cornils (Karen Anderson's favorite college roommate)	Prayers for peace and comfort upon the death of Deb	Karen Anderson

Ongoing prayers for healing for the following:



Paul Beezhold  
Dorothy Hansen  
David Lingnau  
Phyllicia McGowan  
Mary Rix

Patricia Conner  
Bob and Nancy Leon  
Steve Garrick  
Christine Downing  
Kathy Buss

Skye  
Wayne and June Hasebroek







First Class Mail

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