



# Welcome the Darkness

## Seeing in the Darkness

November 18, 2018

### Welcome to Bethel Lutheran Church

#### YOUR PASTORS

**Pastor Christine Core**  
email: ccore@comcast.net  
phone/text: 503-805-3653

**Pastor Terry Moe**  
email: tmoex1@gmail.com  
phone/text: 503-702-5453

We are glad you are here and we pray God will be real to you as you worship. Bethel is a Reconciling in Christ congregation. Knowing God loves all creation and holds us all, we welcome you who walk through our doors and you who are outside those doors. We welcome everyone and honor the rich diversity and giftedness that age, sexual orientation, race, belief, emotional and physical health, gender identity, marital status and station in life bring to the Bethel family and our relationships.

---

## Prelude

# We Gather Together

## Welcome

### For the Darkness Litany (Adapted from an Anglican Litany, 1986)

For the darkness of waiting  
Of not knowing what is to come  
Of staying ready and quiet and attentive,  
We praise you, O God.

**For the darkness and the light are both alike to you.**

For the darkness of staying silent  
For the terror of having nothing to say  
And for the greater terror  
Of needing to say nothing,  
We praise you, O God.

**For the darkness and the light are both alike to you.**

For the darkness of loving  
In which it is safe to surrender  
To let go of our self-protection  
And to stop holding back our desire,  
We praise you, O God.

**For the darkness and the light are both alike to you.**

For the darkness of choosing  
When you give us the moment  
To speak, and act, and change,  
And we cannot know what we have set in  
motion, but we still have to take the risk,  
We praise you, O God.

**For the darkness and the light are both alike to you.**

For the darkness of hoping  
In a world which longs for you,  
For the wrestling and laboring of all creation  
For wholeness and justice and freedom,  
We praise you, O God.

**For the darkness and the light are both alike to you.**

Restrooms are located in the basement on the east side of the building. A gender neutral restroom located behind the worship space next to the church office. Please ask the Usher or Greeter for assistance. There is also a rocking chair in the rear of the Sanctuary. Please use it as you wish.

## Gathering Song O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

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

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

- 7 O come, O King of nations, come,  
O Cornerstone that binds in one:  
refresh the hearts that long for you;  
Restore the broken, make us new.

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

## Greeting

The grace of our Redeemer, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**



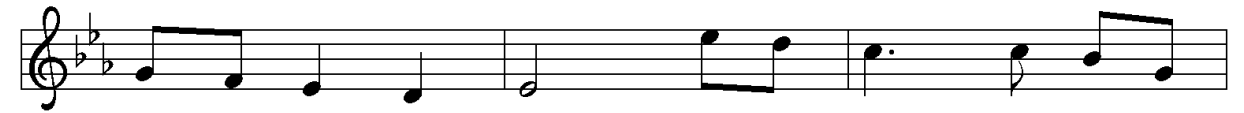
## Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory



- 1 Joy - ous light of heav'n-ly glo - ry, lov-ing glow of God's own  
2 In the stars that grace the dark - ness, in the blaz - ing sun of  
3 You who made the heav-en's splen - dor, ev-'ry danc - ing star of



- face, you who sing cre - a - tion's sto - ry, shine on  
dawn, in the light of peace and wis - dom, we can  
night, make us shine with gen - tle jus - tice, let us



- ev - 'ry land and race. Now as eve - ning falls a -  
hear your qui - et song. Love that fills the night with  
each re - flect your light. Might - y God of all cre -



- round us, we shall raise our songs to you. God of day - break,  
won - der, love that warms the wea - ry soul, love that bursts all  
a - tion, gen - tle Christ who lights our way, lov - ing Spir - it



- God of shad - ows, come and light our hearts a - new.  
chains a - sun - der, set us free and make us whole.  
of sal - va - tion, lead us on to end - less day.

## Salutation

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

*Today's Prayer of the Day is inspired by the imaginings and wonderings of Bethel and Bethlehem Lutheran's "Confirmation" age young women who are meeting monthly with Pastor Christine.*

**Holy One, Creator of all that is, it is easy to be reassured that you are present in the bright light of the day for we have been taught you are the God who walks in light. But we also know that there is darkness in our world where loneliness and fear could take over if we received no reassurance of your presence. We live in the loneliness, fear and uncertainty that sometimes comes with darkness. Without that darkness, light would have no meaning. And so, we thank you for your wisdom that comes only in the shadows – places where we can find peace, where our thoughts are louder and more clear, where we learn to be more grateful and how we do not have to be afraid for you are indeed our friend, our teacher and our guide our entire lives long. Amen**

# We Hear God's Word

## First Reading

**Daniel 12:1-3**

'At that time Michael, the great prince, the protector of your people, shall arise. There shall be a time of anguish, such as has never occurred since nations first came into existence. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book. Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.

P: Hear the Word of God.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading

**To Bless the Space Between Us**

By John O'Donohue

### A Vespers Meditation

As light departs to let the earth be one with night,  
Silence deepens in the mind, and thoughts grow slow;  
The basket of twilight brims over with colors  
Gathered from within the secret meadows of the day  
And offered like blessings to the gathering Tenebrae.

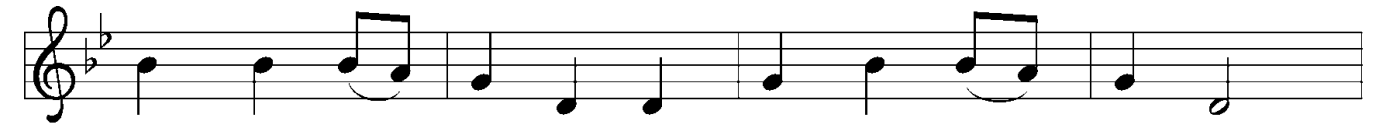
After the day's frenzy, may the heart grow still,  
Gracious in thought for all the day brought,  
Surprises that dawn could never have dreamed:  
The blue silence that came to still the mind,  
The quiver of mystery at the edge of a glimpse,  
The golden echoes of worlds behind voices.

Tense faces unable to hide what gripped the heart,  
The abrupt cut of a glance or a word that hurt,  
The flame of longing that distance darkened,  
Bouquets of memory gathered on the heart's altar,  
The thorns of absence in the rose of dream.

And the whole while the unknown underworld  
Of the mind, turning slowly, in its secret orbit.  
May the blessing of sleep bring refreshment and release  
And the Angel of the moon call the rivers of dream  
To soften the hardened earth of the outside life,  
Disentangle from the trapped nets the hurt and sorrow,  
And awaken the young soul for the new tomorrow.



## Gospel Acclamation



*O - so - sŏ o - so - sŏ, pyong - hwa - ũi - im - gŭm*  
1 Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one bod - y.



*u - ri - ga han - mom i - ru - ge ha - so - sŏ.*  
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.

## The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the thirteenth chapter.

As he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, 'Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!' Then Jesus asked him, 'Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.'

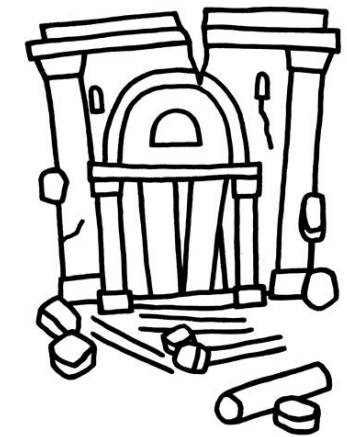
When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, 'Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?' Then Jesus began to say to them, 'Beware that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name and say, "I am he!" and they will lead many astray. When you hear of wars and rumours of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

P: This is the Gospel of Christ.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

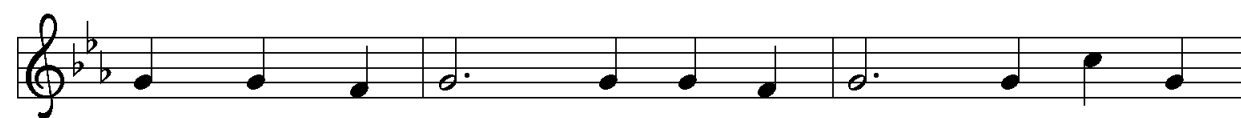
## Children's Message

## Adult Message



## Hymn of the Day

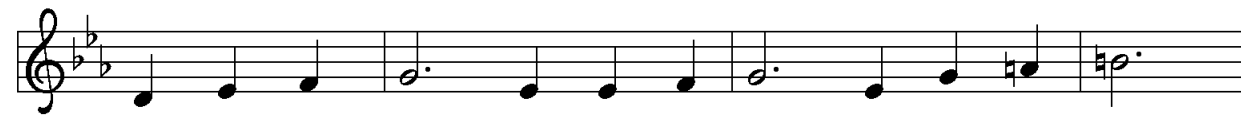
## In Deepest Night



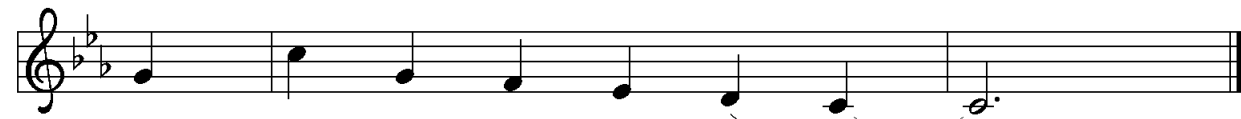
1 In deep - est night, in dark - est days, when harps are  
 2 When friend was lost, when love de - ceived, dear Je - sus  
 3 When through the wa - ters winds our path, a - round us



hung, no songs we raise, when si - lence must  
 wept, God was be - reaved; so with us in  
 pain, a - round us death: deep calls to deep,



suf - fice as praise, yet sound - ing in us qui - et - ly  
 our grief God grieves, and round a - bout us mourn - ful - ly  
 a sav - ing breath, and found be - side us faith - ful - ly



there is the song of God.  
 there are the tears of God.  
 there is the love of God.

## Prayers of the People (We respond after each petition.)

God of darkness and light, **hear our prayer.**



## BAPTISM OF LILIANA MARGOT SMEULDERS

### PRESENTATION

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

#### Sponsors:

**We present Liliana Margot Smeulders for baptism using the words of the Priestly Blessing: The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.**

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have **Liliana Margot** baptized into Christ?

**Response: I do.**

As you bring **Liliana Margot** to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with her among God's faithful people,  
 bring her to the word of God and the holy supper,  
 teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,  
 place in her hands the holy scriptures,  
 and nurture her in faith and prayer,  
 so that she may learn to trust God,  
 proclaim Christ through word and deed,  
 care for others and the world God made,  
 and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help **Liliana Margot** grow in the Christian faith and life?

**Response: I do.**

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture **Liliana Margot** in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help them live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

**Response: I do.**

People of God, do you promise to support **Liliana Margot** and pray for her in her new life in Christ?

**Response: We do.**

### PROFESSION OF FAITH

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

**I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?  
**I renounce them.**

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
 born of the virgin Mary,  
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
 was crucified, died, and was buried;  
 he descended to the dead.\*  
 On the third day he rose again;  
 he ascended into heaven,  
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
 and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

### THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring, you are the fire of rebirth.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Honor to you for cloud and rain, for dew and snow. Your waters are below us, around us, above us: our life is born in you. You are the fountain of resurrection.

Praise to you for your saving waters: Noah and the animals survive the flood, Hagar discovers your well. The Israelites escape through the sea, and they drink from your gushing rock. Naaman washes his leprosy away, and the Samaritan woman will never be thirsty again.

At this font, holy God, we pray: Praise to you for the water of baptism and for your Word that saves us in this water. Breathe your Spirit into all who are gathered here and into all creation. Illuminate our days. Enliven our bones. Dry our tears. Wash away the sin within us and drown the evil around us. Satisfy all our thirst with your living water, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## BAPTISM

**Liliana Margot Smeulders.** I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

Blessed be God, the source of all life, the word of salvation, the spirit of mercy. Alleluia!

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Sustain **Liliana Margot** with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**Liliana Margot**, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.  
 Amen.

## WELCOME

Jesus said, I am the light of the world.

Whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share:  
 join us in giving thanks and praise to God  
 and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**



## Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## WE CELEBRATE THE MEAL

### Offering

### Offertory Prayer

**God of life, you give us these gifts of the earth, these resources of our life and our labor. Take them, offered in great thanksgiving, and use them to set a table that will heal the whole creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Light. Amen**

### Advent Eucharistic Prayer

May God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to God.**

Let us give thanks to our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is our duty and delight to offer our thanks and praise in this Advent season of lengthening nights and increasing darkness reminding us that there is nowhere you are not, that darkness is as light to you.

**We praise you, God of day and God of darkness.**

God of day and God of darkness, you offer us the gifts of darkness hidden from our eyes.

**We praise you for the gifts of night.**

God of chaos and God of creation, in the beginning your Spirit brooded over the darkness bringing all that is into being.

**Brood over our present darkness with your power.**

God of stars and God of candles, Abraham and Sarah lay in the barren sand pondering the stars of heaven to hear the promise: so numerous shall your descendants be.

**We praise you for the gifts of promise hidden in the stars.**

God of sleep and God of dreams, Jacob lay his head upon a rock at Bethel and dreamed of angels ascending and descending on a ladder to heaven.

**Surely God is in this place and we did not know it!**

God of night and God of liberation, our Hebrew ancestors fled Egypt in the dark led by a pillar of fire and a cloud. Through the dark sea, you led your people on foot while walls of water stood on either side.

**We praise you for your Passover from death to life.**

God of night and God of liberation, our Hebrew ancestors fled Egypt in the dark led by a pillar of fire and a cloud. Through the dark sea, you led your people on foot while walls of water stood on either side.

**We praise you for your Passover from death to life.**

God of night and God of liberation, our Hebrew ancestors fled Egypt in the dark led by a pillar of fire and a cloud. Through the dark sea, you led your people on foot while walls of water stood on either side.

**We praise you for your Passover from death to life.**

We praise and thank you, God of day and God of darkness for your gifts in this season:

*(All sing from "Slowly, Slowly the Evening Falls")*

**Praise the God of the evening, Mother of the fertile dark.**

**Praise the God of the silence in the void between the stars.**

**Send your Holy Shadows, cover us O God of might.**

**Make us whole and keep us in the womb of the night.**

In the darkest of time you sent bright angels to shepherds watching their flocks by night announcing good news of great joy.

**We praise you for the advent of your son, Jesus.**

He shared our days and our darkness. He brought sight to the blind and life to the listless. He preached good news to the poor. He brought the empire of the heavens near. He planted the seeds of our presence in the dark soil of history.

**We praise you for the mystery of life germinating in our midst.**

In the night in which he was betrayed it was dark. Our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his friends saying, "Take and eat. This is my body given for you. Do this to remember me."

**Come, Lord Jesus. Feed us with this bread of heaven.**

In the same way he took a cup, gave thanks and gave it to them saying, "Take and drink. This is my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin and the healing of the world. Do this to remember me."

**Come, Lord Jesus. Nourish us with this cup of salvation.**

We praise you for raising Jesus from the dark tomb bringing life and light to our world.

**Our souls awaken in our tombs at your coming.**

Send your Holy Shadow. Cover us, O God of night.

**Come, Holy Spirit, make us whole and keep us in the womb of your love.**

Join our prayers with all who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

We join our voices in the prayer Jesus taught us:

### **The Lord's Prayer** (alternative version by Parker J. Palmer, 1991)

Heavenly Father, heavenly Mother,  
Holy and blessed is your true name.  
We pray for your reign of peace to come,  
We pray that your good will be done,  
Let heaven and earth become one.  
Give us this day the bread we need,  
Give it to those who have none.  
Let forgiveness flow like a river between us,  
From each one to each one.  
Lead us to holy innocence  
Beyond the evil of our days  
Come swiftly Mother, Father, come.  
For yours is the power and the glory and the mercy:  
Forever your name is All in One.



Our welcome extends to the Communion Table. We recognize that this is Christ's Table and Christ's invitation. Please come forward as you are invited. If you prefer not to receive Communion at this time, you are welcome to come forward for a blessing – just fold your arms across your chest so that we know you prefer a blessing. Wine is served from the first chalice; grape juice is served from the second. We also offer gluten-free bread and individual cups of wine.

## **Invitation to Communion**

Speak to us, O God, in the breaking of the bread and make us one with you.

## **Communion Distribution**

All are welcome to come to the feast.

## **Communion Hymn**

## **Children of the Heavenly Father**

Tryg - ga - re kan ing - en va - ra än Guds lil - la bar - na - ska - ra,  
1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;  
2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour-ish.  
3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil - dren sev - er;  
4 Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth;

stjär - nan ej på him - la - fäs - tet, få - geln ej i kän - da näs - tet.  
nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.  
From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.  
un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.  
his the lov - ing pur - pose sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

## **Prayer After Communion** (from *Night Visions* by Jan L. Richardson)

Holy One, You meet us in our hungering with manna not of our making, and in our thirsting you surprise us with unexpected wine. You are the source of our desiring and the end of all our longing. O Giver of the feast, and ever-present guest, blessed be.

# We Go Out to Serve

## Announcements

## Blessing

## Sending Hymn

## Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for  
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -  
 3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when  
 4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for  
 man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is  
 all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so  
 dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.  
 qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;  
 qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.  
 crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -  
 mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -  
 Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in  
 Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and  
 kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to  
 won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and  
 sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.  
 shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.  
 weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.  
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

## Dismissal

Go in peace to dispel the darkness.

**Thanks be to God.**

Prayer Requested for:	Prayer Concern:	Prayer Contact:
For all people who are forced to stand at the margins of society	That their needs be satisfied, their human rights be restored and their dignity be established.	The People of Bethel
Vance	Prayers for healing.	Gabe Moody-Burghard
Jan Kimble	Prayers for healing and effective treatment for breast cancer.	Tammy Gover
Richard VanDyke	Prayers for healing and peace.	Jim VanDyke
Lori Fields	Prayers for courage and strength after stage 4 liver cancer diagnosis.	Karen Anderson
John McAllister	Thanksgiving for a good recovery.	Pastor Christine & the Kitchen Crew
John Hansen	Prayers for peace and comfort.	Pastor Christine
Steve Stoner	Prayers of peace and comfort	Pastor Christine
Marlo Edman	Prayers for continued healing for following surgery.	Pastor Christine
Pepe Rochon	Prayers for healing and comfort.	Faith St. John
Kyler Barret	Prayers for comfort. Kyler, Paul Govers nephew has Type 1 Diabetes	Paul Gover
Family and Friends of Brenda Cordway, Shirley Kolpin's Daughter	Prayers for comfort and peace following her death last Sunday.	Cate Milburn
The Delcambre Family	Prayers of peace and comfort as they await test results of an amniocentesis on Baby Delcambre	Pastor Christine
Our prayers continue for many among us: for Bertha Anderson, Dale Tersey, Timothy Collins, Elizabeth, Rob, Jacob Bard, Miles Bard, Annalu Lingnau, Ben Lingnau, Jr., Ben Lingnau III, David Lingnau, Mary Rix, Patricia Connor, Bob & Nancy Leon.		



Stewardship of Service	Today - Nov 18	Next Week - Nov 25
Ministers:	All Baptized Members of Bethel	All Baptized Members of Bethel
Pastor:	Pr. Christine Core	Pr. Christine Core
Pastor:	Pr. Terry Moe	Pr. Terry Moe
Musician:	LeAnn Michaels	LeAnn Michaels
Usher:	Meghan and Clare Cyr-Alvey	Ruth and Dorian Bentley
Reader:	Sharon Delcambre	Marlo Edman
Communion:	Brady Burdick	Mary and PJ Bentley
Preparation of the Altar:	Jackie Calder	

# Bethel News



## Coming Up:

**Nov 20** | Food Ministry Program Meeting, 6:30 pm

**Dec 1** | Bethel Hygiene Program

**Dec 1** | Super Service Saturday / Tree Fetching, details coming next week

## Other News

### Shop Amazon Smile and Raise Money for Bethel

Did you know your purchases can make a difference? AmazonSmile donates to Bethel Lutheran Church when you do your holiday shopping at [smile.amazon.com/ch/93-0509108](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/93-0509108). Go to <https://smile.amazon.com>, select Bethel Lutheran Church as your charity of choice and Amazon will donate a small percentage for every dollar spent.

### Food Ministry Team | November 20, 6:30 to 8 pm in the Fireside room

But Jesus said to them, 'You give them something to eat. Luke 9:13a. If you're interested in strengthening our Food Ministry program and planning for the future, please come to the first meeting of the newly forming Food Ministry Team. Please RSVP to Cate Milburn ([catemilburn@yahoo.com](mailto:catemilburn@yahoo.com) or 971-269-9899)

### Bethel Choir | Rehearsing every Sunday at 9 am in the Bethel Sanctuary – JOIN US!

### Angel Project 2018

The Annual Bethel Angel Project is underway. Through the generosity of Bethel members and friends, we provide Christmas gifts for the children, something nice for Mom and/or Dad, and the fixings for a Christmas dinner for families who are in need.

We are adopting 12 families this year. These are families who have been identified either by the Pastors or by the Drop-In Center Director as possible recipients based on their economic situation.

In the past, an individual has adopted a family, a Bethel family or two have joined together to adopt a family, a group from your place of work might want to adopt a family, your extended family might want to adopt a family ... the possibilities are endless.

If adoption isn't up your alley, maybe you'd like to supply part of the Christmas Food Box. You can do this in a number of ways, **see the sign sheet on the easel at the back** of the Sanctuary: A donation one or more of the needed supplies; or a donation of \$\$ always works.

#### Other ways you can help:

- Organizing Food Baskets the on December 14, 15 and 16
- Donation of a \$25 Gift Card for Fred Meyer (each family will receive a card so that they can supplement their Christmas needs as is right for their family)
- Grocery Shopping for additional food items as needed
- Delivering Packages & Food Boxes to families the weekend of December 16.

### Pastor Christine is Out of Town | 11/21- 11/27.

Please contact P Moe if you require any assistance.



## Worship Notes

### Welcoming the Darkness | Advent, 2018

*I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, who call you by your name.— Isaiah 45:3*

#### Treasures in Darkness?

So much of our culture focuses on light, and so much of our thoughts about darkness are fearful and foreboding. But in our biblical and spiritual traditions, there are treasures to be discovered in darkness. Where best to be hide these treasures than in dark places where we often do not want to look? Advent is a time to welcome the darkness! We invite the Bethel Community to journey together to discover the gifts of darkness, to uncover the hidden treasures of night, to welcome the darkness!

Jan Richardson, **Night Visions: Searching the Shadows of Advent and Christmas**. She writes: "The season of Advent means there is something on the horizon the likes of which we have never seen before. It is not possible to keep it from coming, because it will. That's just how Advent works. What is possible, is not to see it, to miss it, to turn just as it brushes past you. So stay,. Sit. Linger. Tarry. Ponder. Wait. Behold. Wonder.

There will be time for enough for running. For rushing. For worrying. For pushing. For now, stay. Wait. Something is on the horizon."

Come, join the search and be enriched by the dark!

### A Word About today's Translation of the Lord's Prayer

Parker J. Palmer is a world-renowned writer, speaker and activist who focuses on issues in education, community, leadership, spirituality and social change. He has reached millions worldwide through his nine books, including *Let Your Life Speak*, *The Courage to Teach*, and *A Hidden Wholeness*. Parker Palmer holds a Ph.D. in sociology from the University of California at Berkeley, as well as eleven honorary doctorates and numerous other academic awards. He is a member of the Religious Society of Friends (Quaker).

### A bit of his spirituality can be found in a recent meditation published in *On Being*, March 6, 2018:

Today is a good time to remind ourselves that — in places around this country and around the world — people wake up empty and frightened every day because of the non-stop violence in their lives. Our hearts must go out to them.

As we grieve terrible events — and do what we can to make our families, neighborhoods, communities, nation, and planet a safe place for all beings — it is equally important to celebrate the beauty of life and express our gratitude for it.

So today, I am asking myself this question: This day, and every day, what might it mean for me to "kneel and kiss the ground"?

*Today, like every other day, we wake up empty and frightened. Don't open the door to the study and begin reading. Take down a musical instrument. Let the beauty we love be what we do. There are a hundred ways to kneel and kiss the ground.*  
— Rumi (Sufi mystic, 1207-1273)