



# Welcome the Darkness Celebrating in the Darkness

December 23, 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.

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## Prelude

# We Gather Together

## Welcome

## For the Darkness Litany

(Based on theme from German theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer)

Look how long the weary world waited, locked in its lonely cell, guilty as a prisoner.

**As you can imagine, it sang and whistled in the dark. It hoped. It paced and pattered about, tidying its little piles of inconsequence.**

It wept from the weight of ennui, draped like shackles on its wrists. It raged and wailed against the walls of its own plight.

**But there was nothing the world could do to find its own freedom. The door was shut tight.**

It could only be opened from the outside.

**Who could believe the latch would be turned by a pink flower — the tiny hand of a newborn baby?**

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.

- 2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,  
Embracing all things far and nigh:  
In strength and beauty come and stay;  
Teach us your will and guide our way.

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.**



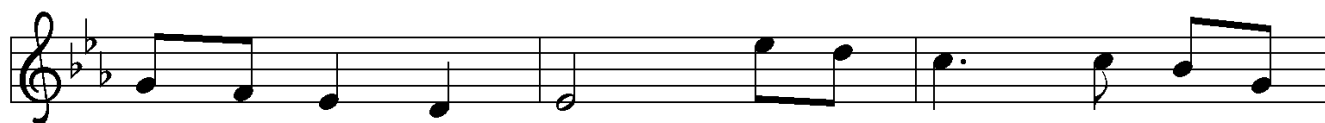
## Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory



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

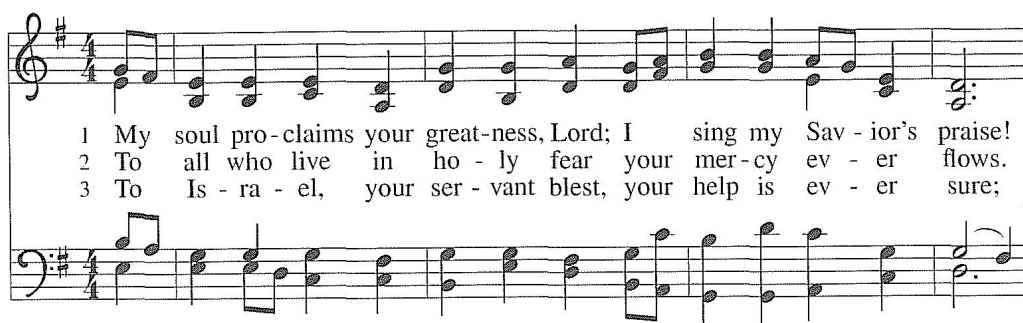
Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

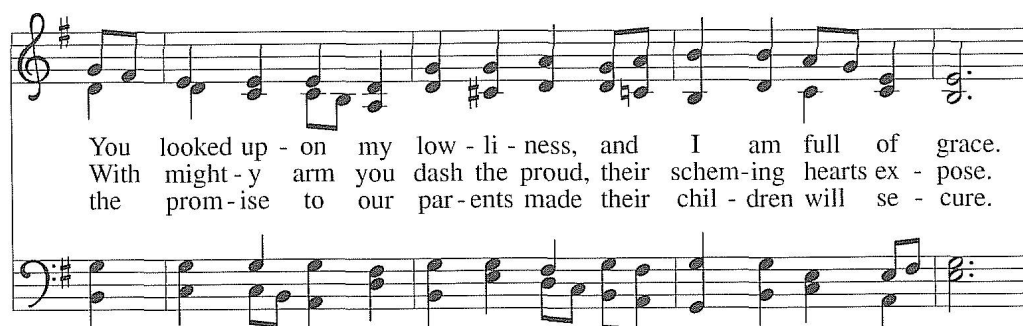
## Meditation by PJ Bentley

### Hymn of the Day

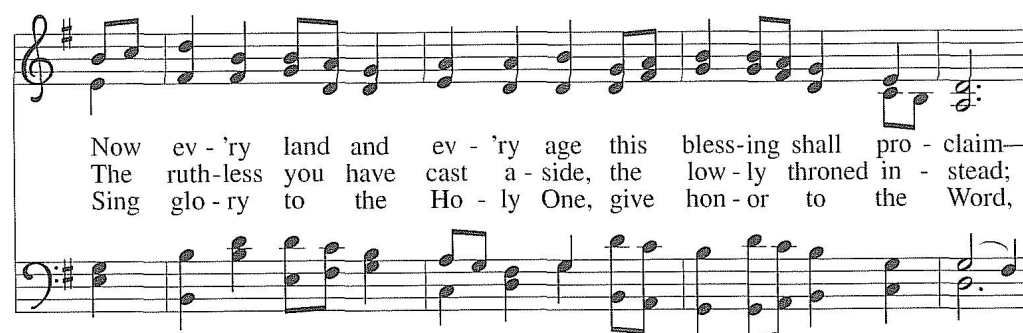
### *My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness*



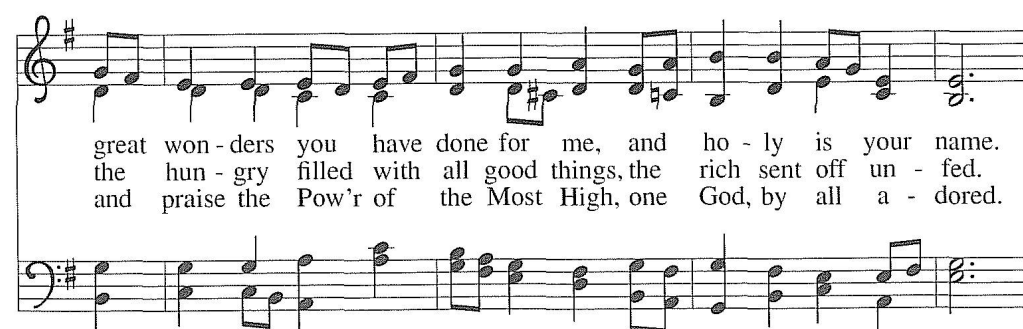
1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior's praise!  
2 To all who live in ho - ly fear your mer-cy ev - er flows.  
3 To Is - ra - el, your ser - vant blest, your help is ev - er sure;



You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.  
With might-y arm you dash the proud, their schem-ing hearts ex - pose.  
the prom-ise to our par-ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.



Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless-ing shall pro - claim—  
The ruth-less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;  
Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,



great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.  
the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.  
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

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

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

# WE CELEBRATE THE MEAL

## Offering

## Offering Music

*Ave Maria, F. Schubert*

Cate Milburn, Soloist

## Offering 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.**

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.**

## **Invitation to Communion**

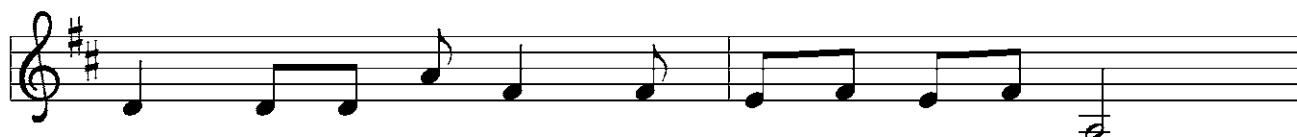
Speak to us, O God, in the breaking of the bread and make us one with you.

# Communion Distribution

All are welcome to come to the feast.

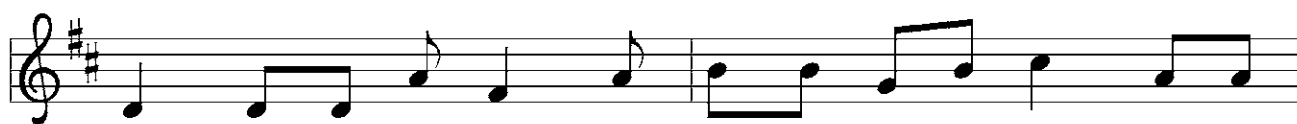
## Communion Hymn

## All Earth Is Hopeful



To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra al Sal - va - dor

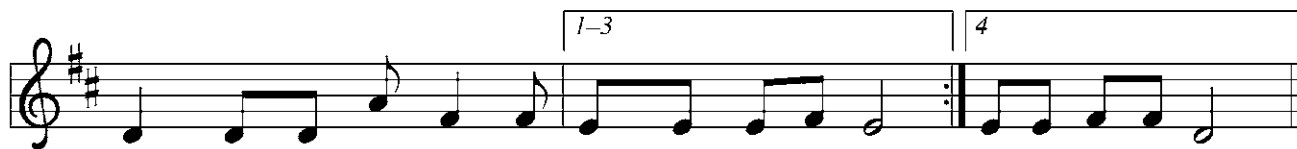
- 1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!
- 2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:
- 3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;
- 4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



y el sur - co a - bier - to, la ob - ra del Se - ñor; es el  
Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task: this, the  
"A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -  
new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most  
This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our



mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad, re -  
la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how  
ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -  
here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All  
world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our



cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad. dar - nos li - ber - tad.  
God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.  
stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.  
clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!  
Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

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.

## **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. Amen**

## **The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the first chapter**

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said,  
"My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.  
His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.  
He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.  
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;  
he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.  
He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**





# The Fumbly Bumbly Angels

A Musical for Children



## CAST

**Archangel** — Vivian Rustvold  
**Chance** — Collin Burdick  
**Daphne** — Josephine Rustvold  
**Patrick** — Gabriel Moody Burghard  
**George** — Brady Burdick  
**Travelers** — Clare Alvey  
**Shepherds** — Annika Michaels, Simone Michaels  
**Sheep** — Anika Kaplan  
**Innkeeper** — Mary Bentley  
**Kings** — Eleanor Dryden, Bennett Dryden  
**Mary** — Miriam Moody Burghard  
**Joseph** — Wesley Rustvold  
**The Stable's Bird** — Lily Burdick  
**Angel Choir** — The Children

## CREW

**Direction/Wrangling**  
P.J. Bentley & Pastor Christine Core  
  
**Music** LeAnn Michaels  
**Costumes**  
The Moms  
  
**Scenery**  
Moms, Dads and Kids

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## *Go Tell It on the Mountain*

Angel Choir



## *Angels We Have Heard on High*

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song?  
Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

## ***O Little Town of Bethlehem***

O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by;  
yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.

How silently, how silently  
the wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of his heav'n.  
No ear may hear his coming;  
but, in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still  
the dear Christ enters in.

## ***The First Noel***

The first Noel the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!  
Born is the King of Israel.

## ***We Three Kings***

We three Kings of Orient are;  
Bearing gifts we traverse afar  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain  
Following yonder star.

**Chorus:** O star of wonder, star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light.

Glorious now behold him arise  
King and God and sacrifice,  
"Alleluia, Alleluia!"  
Earth to the heav'ns replies. **Chorus**



## ***What Child is This?***

What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the king,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the babe, the son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
come, peasant, king, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high,  
the virgin sings her lullaby;  
joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
the babe, the son of Mary!

## ***Joy to the World***

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;  
let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

## **Blessing**

May the God of the angels, who heralded Christ's birth,  
Bring joy to your hearts this day and always. **Amen**

May the God of love, who gave his only Son to be born for you,  
Fill your life with love and peace. **Amen**

May Emmanuel, God with us,  
Be with you in all your doings and all your celebrations,  
Until he brings you into God's eternal realm. **Amen**

And may almighty God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer,  
Bless you now and forever. **Amen**

<b>Prayer Requested For:</b>	<b>Prayer Concern:</b>	<b>Prayer Contact:</b>
For all people who walk in the darkness, searching for meaning and treasures of the spirit.	Prayers of peace and comfort.	The People of Bethel
Jan Kimble	Prayers for healing and effective treatment for breast cancer.	Tammy Gover
Richard VanDyke	Prayers for healing and peace.	Jim VanDyke
Pepe Rochon	Prayers for healing and comfort.	Faith St. John
Barbara Lynch	Prayers for healing and peace while. Barbara continues recovery at the home of her daughter and you may send your get well greetings to her at 803B NE 166th Ave., Vancouver, WA 08684	Pastor Christine
Barbara Horne	Prayers of healing and comfort.	Tammy Gover
June Hassebroek	Prayers of healing and comfort.	Pastor Christine
Carl Olson, Ryan Olson's father	Prayers of healing and comfort as Carl recovers from surgery.	Pastor Christine
John Houdeshell	Prayers of comfort for John Houdeshell and his family	Pastor Christine
Our prayers continue for many among us: for Bertha Anderson, 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, Lori Fields.		



<b>Stewardship of Service</b>	<b>Today - Dec 23</b>	<b>Next Week - Dec 30</b>
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	Jamie Vandenburg
Usher:	Joe Tancredi	
Reader:	Brady Burdick	
Communion:	Brady Burdick	Brady Burdick
Preparation of the Altar:	Jackie Calder	Brady Burdick

# Bethel News



## Coming Up:

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**Dec 24** | 5 pm, Family Christmas Service

**Dec 24** | 10 pm, Candlelight Service

**Dec 29** | Bethel Hygiene Program

## Other News

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### Looking Ahead into January

**Jan 13** | Congregation Informational Meeting on Budget, Parsonage and other questions before us as a congregation – immediately following worship

**Jan 20** | Congregational Council Meeting – following Worship

**Jan 27** | Congregation Annual Meeting – following Worship

### Angel Project 2018

All the deliveries to the Angel Project families have been made and families are very happy, if not overwhelmed, by the generosity of Bethel families and friends. We are grateful, once again, for your participation. Your kindness has made so many people smile through their tears of gratitude. "The best things to do with the best things in life is to give them away." Dorothy Day



**Bethel Choir** | 12/23 Choir Practice following worship, 12/30 No rehearsal; Regular Rehearsals resume 1/6/2019

### Volunteers Needed For Sandwich Making

Marjorie would like to increase the pool of volunteers she can call on for preparing sandwiches for our Sunday Community Breakfast guests. If you can fit in a fit or week or two of making sandwiches here or there, **please contact Marjorie Strieff, at 503-679-1083.**

### Pastor Schedule

Pastor Core is away from Bethel 12/26 to 1/5. P Moe will be available during this time for any need that arises.

### 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.



## Budget Update

As you consider your end of the year giving, please consider Bethel Lutheran's General Budget. Although we have been very careful with our expenditures, we are still experiencing a deficit. We appreciate very much the financial stewardship and oversight of our Treasurer, Meghan Cyr. Here is her summary report given to the Congregational Council this month.

As of November 2018, we are at a deficit of approximately \$6,100. Giving (Envelope and Loose) is less than budget by \$8,700 compared to \$7,000 in October. On a positive note, expenses are also less than budget by approximately \$20,000 due to less expense in Property & Management (\$2K), and Personnel (\$18.6K). Although we are still under budget in expenses, our Envelope and Loose income continues to be below expectations causing the shortfall of \$6,100.

For December's financials I will make a final entry to move money from the Fundraising Income line to cover the deficit balance. These will be funds allocated by the Bethel Players, as agreed upon in the annual meeting in January. It doesn't look like we will need to withdraw any money from the Endowment income line at this time.

## Direct Deposit Forms for Donation Available

You may download the Direct Deposit Form ([https://gallery.mailchimp.com/de62ac9195b867478ad8a19cd/files/3d10c026-35bb-4ce4-a8e5-6a9b369805cd/Bethel\\_Direct\\_Deposit\\_Form\\_Vanco.doc](https://gallery.mailchimp.com/de62ac9195b867478ad8a19cd/files/3d10c026-35bb-4ce4-a8e5-6a9b369805cd/Bethel_Direct_Deposit_Form_Vanco.doc)) and either scan and email the completed form to [treasurer@bethelpdx.org](mailto:treasurer@bethelpdx.org), mail to Bethel or drop off it. Additionally there are forms available in the back of the sanctuary. Thank you for your support.

## 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**

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

**Note:** Many of the prayers and images used in worship for this Advent Season are taken from the work of Jan L. Richardson's Night Visions: searching the shadows of advent and christmas. Many of the images reproduced on the walls of the nave are from Night Visions.

