



THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 15, 2019

Welcome to Bethel Lutheran Church



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.

WE GATHER TOGETHER

Prelude

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah, arr. Anne Krentz Organ

Welcome

Call to Worship, *Inspired by Psalm 146*

**Praise God with your whole being!
We will praise God as long as we live!**

Don't trust the plans of humanity.
Only God's expansive love is eternal.
Praise God!

**We praise the creator, the God of Jacob.
The one who straightens the bent,
who loves the hungry and poor.
Praise God!**

We are here to praise our God,
who protects the immigrant,
who helps the orphan and widow.
Praise God!

**Praise the creator whose love flows from
generation to generation until all is
as God dreams it can be.
Praise God!**

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.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Hymn

All Earth is Hopeful, verse 1, 2 and 3



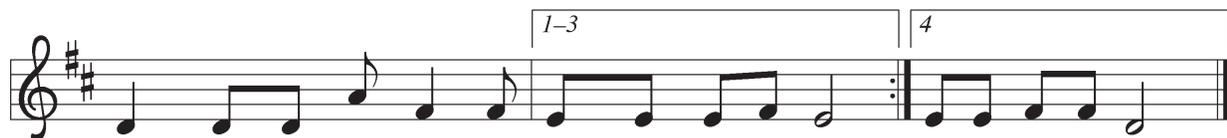
To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra al Sal - va - dor
1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!
2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:
3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;
4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



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.

Today, we light the candle of Hope as we pray:

**Come, O Holy One,
breaker of chains and renewer of life!
Open our eyes to your presence in all the earth.
Stir us to proclaim gladly the signs of your love:
the liberation of those oppressed,
the healing of those frail and broken,
springs of water in all the parched places,
and Jesus Christ risen and alive, through whom we pray. Amen**

Opening Hymn

Prepare the Royal Highway



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

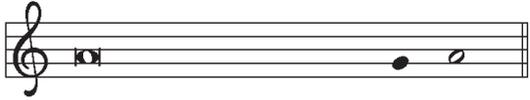
Greeting

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

And also with you.



Kyrie



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



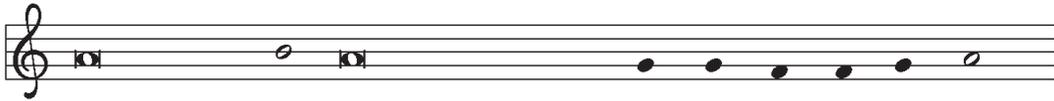
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - - men.

Assisting minister



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

Salutation

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

First Reading

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.
No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

P: Hear the Word of God.

C: Thanks be to God.

Special Music:

O Holy Night, Adolph Adam —sung by Cate Milburn

Second Reading

James 5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

P: Hear the Word of God.

C: Thanks be to God.



Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 11th chapter.

The people respond: **Glory to you, O God.**

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'

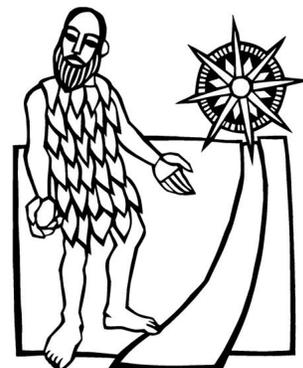
Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The people respond: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Message

Sermon



Hymn of the Day

Light Dawns on a Weary World



1 Light dawns on a wea - ry world when eyes be - gin to
2 Love grows in a wea - ry world when hun - gry hearts find
3 Hope blooms in a wea - ry world when crea-tures, once for -



see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty. Light dawns on a
bread and chil - dren's dreams are fed. Love grows in a
lorn, find wil - der - ness re - born. Hope blooms in a



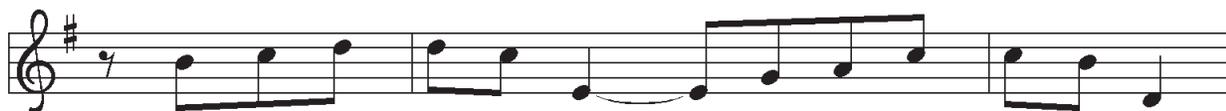
wea - ry world: the prom-ised day of jus - tice comes.
wea - ry world: the prom-ised feast of plen - ty comes.
wea - ry world: the prom-ised green of E - den comes.



The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;



the hills and moun-tains shall break forth with sing - ing!



We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,



as all the world in won-der ech - oes sha - lom.

Prayers of the People

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you all.
And also with you

WE CELEBRATE THE MEAL

Offering *Do You Hear What I Hear?*, arr. Harry Simeone — sung by the Bethel Choir

Offertory Hymn

In the Bleak Midwinter, verses 1 and 3



1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor . . . earth sus - tain;
3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;
If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;



snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed
if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;



in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus - Christ.
yet what I can I give him— give my heart.



Offering Prayer

Giver of every good thing, we set before you the gifts that you have already given to sustain our lives and to share with others.

Help us to be good steward of the earth and all that is in it, and let our lives be a testimony to the abundant feast you prepare for all who hunger.

Amen

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary that we should ... join their unending hymn:

Hymn

Holy, Holy, Holy



San - to, san - to, san - to, mi co - ra - zón te_a - do - ra.
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you.



Mi co - ra - zón te sa - be de-cir: San - to_e-res Se - ñor.
My heart is glad to say the words: You are ho - ly, God.

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, which art in heaven,

Hallowed be thy Name.

Thy Kingdom come.

Thy will be done in earth,

As it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

As we forgive them that trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,

But deliver us from evil.

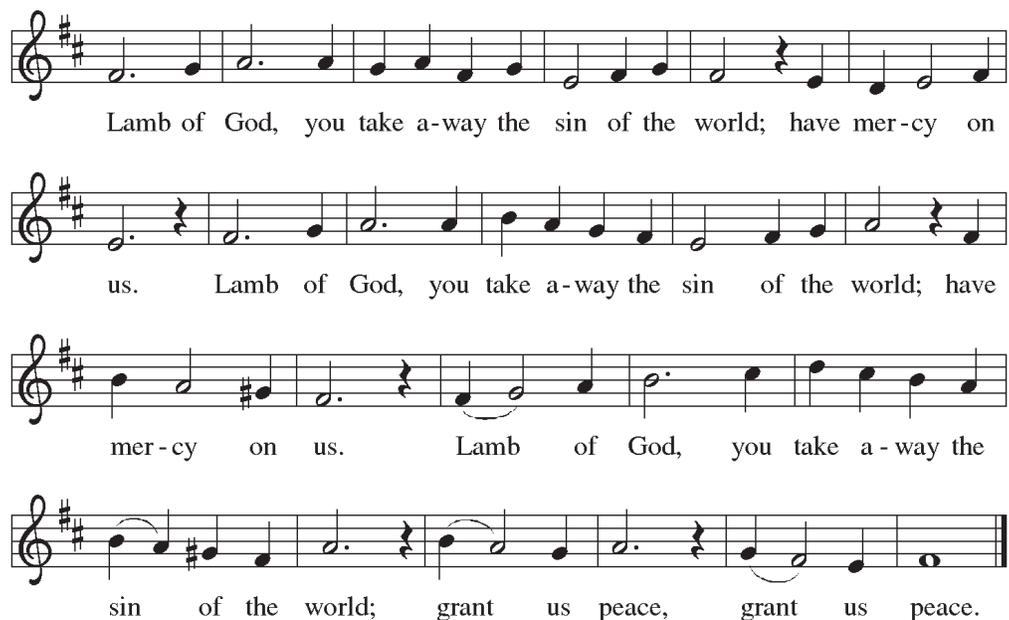
For thine is the kingdom,

The power, and the glory,

For ever and ever.

Amen.

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.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Invitation to Communion

God keeps adding places to the table. Come to the banquet that has no end!

Communion Distribution

Communion Hymn

For the Bread Which You Have Broken



- 1 For the bread which you have bro - ken, for the wine which you have poured,
- 2 By this prom - ise that you love us, by your gift of peace re - stored,
- 3 With the saints who now a - dore you, seat-ed at the heav'n - ly board,
- 4 In your ser - vice, Lord, de - fend us; in our hearts keep watch and ward;



for the words which you have spo - ken, now we give you thanks, O Lord.
by your call to heav'n a - bove us, hal - low all our lives, O Lord.
may the church still wait - ing for you keep love's tie un - bro - ken, Lord.
in the world to which you send us let your king - dom come, O Lord.

Prayer After Communion

God of abundance, we give you thanks that in this holy meal, you have invited us to feast with you and one another. May the taste of your love remain with us, and may our words and our work in you name invited others into your bountiful grace. Send us from your table to proclaim your presence, even as we await the glorious coming of Christ our Savior.

WE ARE SENT IN JESUS' LOVE

Announcements

Blessing

May God, who gathers us in love, lead you in pathways of righteousness and justice.

May God, who knows us more deeply than we know ourselves, lead you in pathways of forgiveness and freedom.

May God, who fills us with good things, lead you in pathways of equity and abundance.

The blessings of the Holy Trinity, † one God, be upon you and remain with you forever.

Sending Hymn

People, Look East



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Dismissal

Go in peace, Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

People, Look East, arr. Anne Krentz Organ

Prayer Requested For:	Prayer Concern:	Prayer Contact:
For the People of Bethel Lutheran	May the wisdom and counsel of the Holy Spirit abide within the people of Bethel during this time of change and transition.	Staff
For the environment and all those working to bring about live-giving change	Grant us wisdom to care for earth and energy to act now for the good of future generations	Staff
Steve Stoner	Prayers of healing and comfort.	Staff
Katie Reitel & Family	Prayers for peace & assurance of God's love.	The Bentleys
Faith St. John	Healing and support as she undergoes treatment for cancer.	Pastor Core
Jennifer Nevills, former YDIC director	Struggling with heart disease.	Karen Anderson
Family and friends of Bob Haggard	Prayers of peace after Bob Haggard's death Tuesday morning. We pray God may wipe all tears from their eyes.	Becky McAllister
Willie Torrey and his family	Prayers of thanksgiving for a good turn of events in his life; prayers for his son and for peace in his family.	Willie Torrey
Christy Runyan	Prayers of healing following surgery and prayers of comfort as she prepares for another procedure.	Karen Anderson
David Gyles	Peace, assurance of God's presence and comfort; freedom from pain. Prayers of comfort for his companion Sandy Morris.	Pastor Core
Joan Barber	Peace and comfort and freedom from discomfort as she begins palliative care.	Pastor Core
Michael Barber	Prayers of thanksgiving for a good recovery.	Pastor Core
Tylar Jackson, Garvin, Brittany Jo Dougherty, Gabrielle Mancía-Marson	Creative original growth.	Miss Tracy Lynn Mancía
Pastor Chirstine Core	Prayers of healing and comfort as recovers from a bad foot/ankle sprain.	Summer Kaplan
June and Wayne Hasselbroke	Prayers healing and comfort as June recovers from surgery	Bethel Care Team
Our prayers continue for many among us: for Timothy Collins, Elizabeth, Rob, Jacob Bard, Miles Bard, Annalu Lingnau, Ben Lingnau III, David Lingnau, Patricia Connor.		



Stewardship of Service	Today - Dec 15	Next Week - Dec 22
Ministers:	All Baptized Members of Bethel	All Baptized Members of Bethel
Pastor:	Pr. Tom Hiller	Pr. Joan Beck
Music Director	Jamie Webster	Jamie Webster
Musician		
Usher:	Shirley Kolpin	
Reader:	Karen Anderson	
Communion:	Joann and Emily Noll	
Preparation of the Altar:		

BETHEL NEWS

TODAY

- 12/15 | **Pastor Tom Hiller**, *Third Sunday in Advent*
- 12/15 | **Angel Project Help**, *Deliveries to families*



COMING UP:

- **Dec 19 | Women's Spirituality Group, Thursday, 7 pm at the Edman's home**
- **Dec 21 | 3 - 5 pm St. Mark's Lutheran Church's Longest Night / National Homeless Persons' Memorial** at Vera Katz Eastbank Esplanade at SE Salmon
- **Jan 4 | Women's Spirituality Group**, Sat 8:30 am at the Edman's home



SERVICE SCHEDULE:

- 12/22 | **Pastor Joan Beck**, *Fourth Sunday in Advent*
- 12/24 | **Pastor Joan Beck, Christmas Eve Service 5 pm**
It will be a festive candlelight service with Holy Communion with lessons and carols.
- 12/29 | **Pastor Tom Hiller**, *First Sunday of Christmas*

OTHER NEWS

Women's Spirituality Group | 12/19, Thursday, 7 pm at the Edman's home

We will be exploring the new church year as we will be in the Advent season, the beginning of the new church year. There will be time to start at the beginning of "In Wisdom's Path", to share stories, and to pray for and with each other.

We will also discuss the possibility of changing the routine of alternating with Thursday evening as they have been poorly attended. Please share your opinions and desires about timing for our gatherings.

Blessings! JulieAnn Edman 503 984-7930 | jedman999@gmail.com

Upcoming Dates: 1/04 Sat 8:30 am

Upcoming Dates: 12/19 | Thurs 7 pm and 1/04 Sat 8:30 am

The Bethel Choir

Everyone is welcome to join in on the singing and celebrating.

Please continue to give Jamie your feedback about what piques your interest and is joyful for you to sing. If the music selections are challenging (either positively or negatively), she would like to hear that too.

Choir Practice is every week except when our music director, Jamie Webster, is out of town.

The Choir sings during service once a month. The dates for performing and no choir practice are listed below:

November Treasurer Report, from Meghan Cyer, Treasurer

2019 General Budget Summary

Income Statement

General Budget

1/1/2019-11/30/2019	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	128,059	142,263	-14,204
Expenses	-138,194	-140,449	2,255
Net Difference	-10,136	1,814	-11,950

Overall there is an overall deficit of ~\$11,136 due to the following:

1. Income is less than budget by \$14,204 due to the following:

- Giving (Envelope and Loose) is less than budget by \$16,500 or 16%. We have lost 5-7 giving units/ families in the last six months.
- The budget includes planned rental income of \$10,000 for July- November from the parsonage rental but Bethel will not begin to receive rent until December.
- Additionally, the YDIC did not use the church building for their summer program so there was no rent received for July- November.
- The total donations received to date on the \$40,500 pledged amount for the parsonage is \$26,800. This is \$16,000 MORE than budget-to-date. The additional \$18K is due to the Players full pledge amount being transferred to the general budget to cover parsonage expenses in 2019 rather than over a three year pledge period. Year 2 and 3 of the pledge period will be under-budget.
- Finally, there \$2,500 less than budget transferred from Grants as the Synod grant for 2019 is only \$2,000 rather than \$5,000.

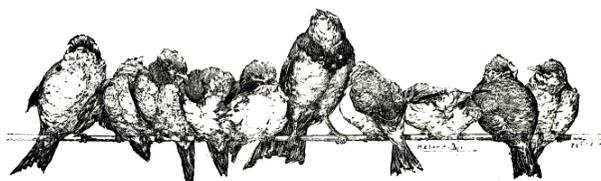
2. Expenses are less than budget by \$2,200 due to the following:

- The support payments to the YDIC were reduced monthly beginning in August as they have not continued the Drop In program this school year causing \$3,600 decrease from budget.
- Church maintenance is higher than budget due to unexpected maintenance items (gutter cleaning/repair, fire inspection, toilet clog, kitchen drain clog).
- The budget also includes the parsonage mortgage payment to date of \$4,500 which was expected to begin in July but principal payments didn't begin until November 1.
- Utility spending is higher to date by \$2,000 due to continued payments that Bethel is making until renters are in the parsonage.

Executive Council Change

The executive Council would like to share that Naso Michaels has resigned as the president of the Bethel Council. Cate Milburn, as the vice president, will step into the president position effective immediately and continue through 2020. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to any one of the executive council members at the following:

catemilburn@gmail.com | pjbentley@gmail.com | meghancyr@yahoo.com



St. Mark's Lutheran Church's Longest Night/National Homeless Persons' Memorial

Sat. 12/21, 3 to 5 pm | Vera Katz Eastbank Esplanade at SE Salmon

St. Mark's Lutheran Church is in the process of planning an event to honor Longest Night/National Homeless Persons' Memorial on Saturday, Dec. 21st, as a collaboration to create a space for mourning and a call to action.

Come:

- for a Las Posadas Procession*
- hear the lived stories of houseless folk
- name the 'nameless' who've died on the streets
- commit to building a just community, with space for everyone and no sweeps

**Las Posadas is a Mexican Christmas celebration which remembers that Joseph and Mary searched for a safe place to birth the infant Jesus. A growing group of people go from place to place, asking for shelter, only to be turned away – until everyone is welcomed into the space of celebration and remembrance.*

Volunteer Opportunities

Worship Assistants

We can always use help with worship assistance – check out open slots for Ushering, Preparation of the Altar, Communion Assistants, and Reading on the sign up sheet in the sanctuary.

Giving

Easy (and painless) Ways to Give

Did you know that you can help Bethel's bottom line without affecting yours?

- 1. Fred Meyer.** Are you and Freddie on a first name basis? Do you have a Rewards Card? If you link your card to Bethel, you still get all your reward, fuel and other points and Freddie donates a small percentage to Bethel programs.
- 2. Amazon.** If you shop Amazon (and admit it, who doesn't) use the Amazon Smile site rather than the regular Amazon.com. You link your Smile Account to Bethel and again, everybody smiles. Just be sure to remember Amazon Smile.
- 3. Thrivent.** Are you a Thrivent member? You can designate Bethel as recipient of Thrivent Choice donations. Just remember to log in occasionally and direct those bucks!

Some of you may work for companies that match employee contributions. Have you checked that out? They may not match church contributions, but might match gifts to the Drop In Center.

Every little bit counts!

Helpful Contacts:

Your Executive Council:

Cate Milburn, catemilburn@gmail.com

Meghan Cyr, meghancyr@yahoo.com

PJ Bentley, pjbentley@gmail.com

Bethel GivePlus No. text 855-944-1171

Food Ministry Contacts:

Jackie Calder, cleanriveroregon@gmail.com

Shirley Kolpin, shagiedogg@comcast.net

Dorian Bentley, dorian.bentley@gmail.com

Sign Up Genius Link for Food Ministry:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050a48a4ad2da46-bethel1>