



2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 5, 2021

Welcome to Bethel Lutheran Church



We are glad you are here with us via Zoom 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. 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.

Communion

We will celebrate Holy Communion together via zoom -- a temporary practice during this time of forced social distancing. Please have bread/cracker(s) and a cup of wine/grape juice ready, if you and those with you would like to participate. If you do not have access to wine/grape juice, you may receive Communion without the cup – Christ is present in the bread, as Jesus said, “I am the bread of Life.”

GATHERING

Prelude

Greensleeves

Children's Time

In an upstairs storage room, Bethel has a beautiful set of materials, made of wood and cloth, to tell children the stories of scripture, called Godly Play. We will begin each service from now until Christmas with the Godly Play materials for Advent. Basically, they unfold the Christmas story portion by portion so that children can grasp the story by repetition.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath *(light two candles)*



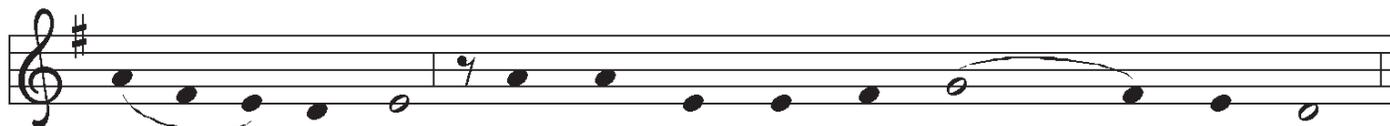
Restrooms are located in the basement on the east side of the building. A gender neutral restroom located behind the worship space next to the church office. Please ask the Usher or Greeter for assistance. There is also a rocking chair in the rear of the Sanctuary. Please use it as you wish.

Hymn

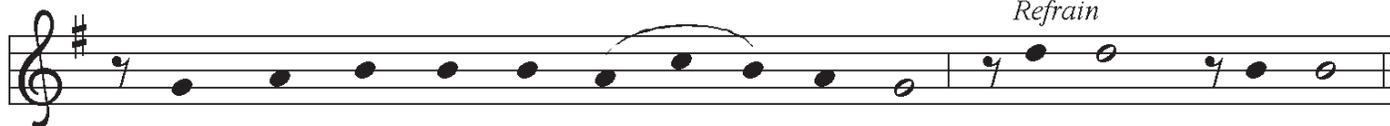
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, verse 2



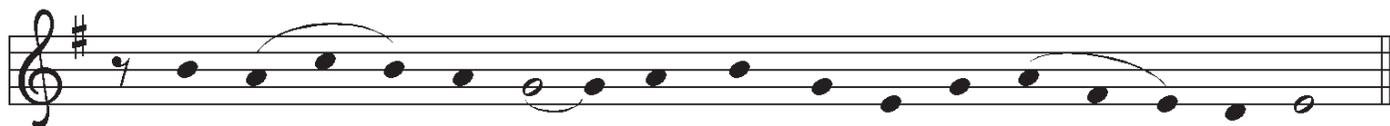
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Greeting and Call to Worship for Advent (based on Luke 1 & John 1)

By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us,

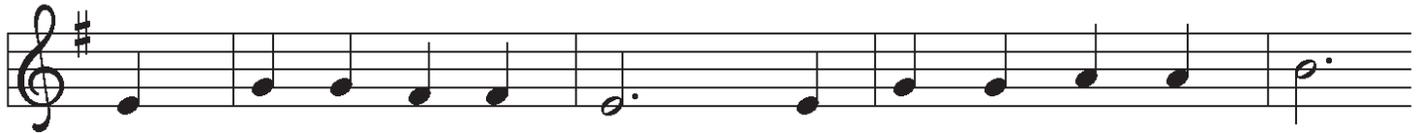
To give light to those who sit in darkness and to guide our feet in the way of peace.

The True Light, which enlightens everyone, is coming into the world.

The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it!

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

And also with you.



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
 Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
 Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray together:

Stir our hearts, O God, to prepare the way for Christ. By Christ's coming give to all people the knowledge and experience of your saving love; through Jesus Christ, the Savior of the World and Lover of our Souls, who lives and governs with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

Reading

Malachi 3:1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!



1 Re - joi - ce, re - joi - ce, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'nings bore,
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
 go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
 shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
 a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
 A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.
 in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!



Gospel Reading

Luke 3:1-6

The Holy Gospel according to Luke

Glory to you, O Lord!

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled,

and every mountain and hill shall be made low,

and the crooked shall be made straight,

and the rough ways made smooth;

and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’ ”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon - Pastoral Candidate Leon LaCross



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.

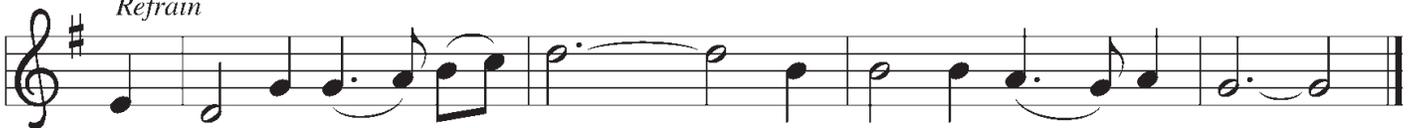


Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



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!

Prayers of Intercession

The response to each prayer will be: God, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

COMMUNION

Offering and Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

**God of our waiting and watching,
we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives
to the service of all your creation.
In your generosity, you give us plenty to share,
and then you meet us at this table,
through Jesus Christ, our pathway and our peace.
Amen.**

You may use one of our options for giving online at: <http://bethelpdx.org/donate> or by text using Give Plus: (855) 944-1171. Additionally you may donate by mail or, if worshipping in-person, use the offering plate in the back of the sanctuary. Thank you for supporting the many ministries of Bethel!

Great Thanksgiving for Advent

The presiding minister will guide you when to take bread and cup to eat and drink.

The Living God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to our God.

Let us give thanks to the Living God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The presiding minister continues with the Prayer at the Table . . .

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup . . . We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long . . . Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

The Lord's Prayer

Lord, teach us to pray:

**Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,**

on earth as it is heaven.

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Communion Music

Lo How a Rose

Song (Canticle) after Communion

Prepare the Way (Taizé chant)

Pre - pare the way of the Lord, pre -
 pare the way of the Lord, and all peo - ple will
 see the sal - va - tion of our God. Pre -

SENDING

Announcements

Blessing (adapted from Philippians 1:3-11, today's second reading)

May your love overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight,
 to help you determine what is best,
 so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless,
 having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus (+) Christ
 for the glory and praise of God.

Amen.

Postlude

Joy to the World

Sent to Share the Peace

Go in peace. Christ is near.

Thanks be to God.

You may remain on zoom to share the Peace and visit with your Bethel Family.

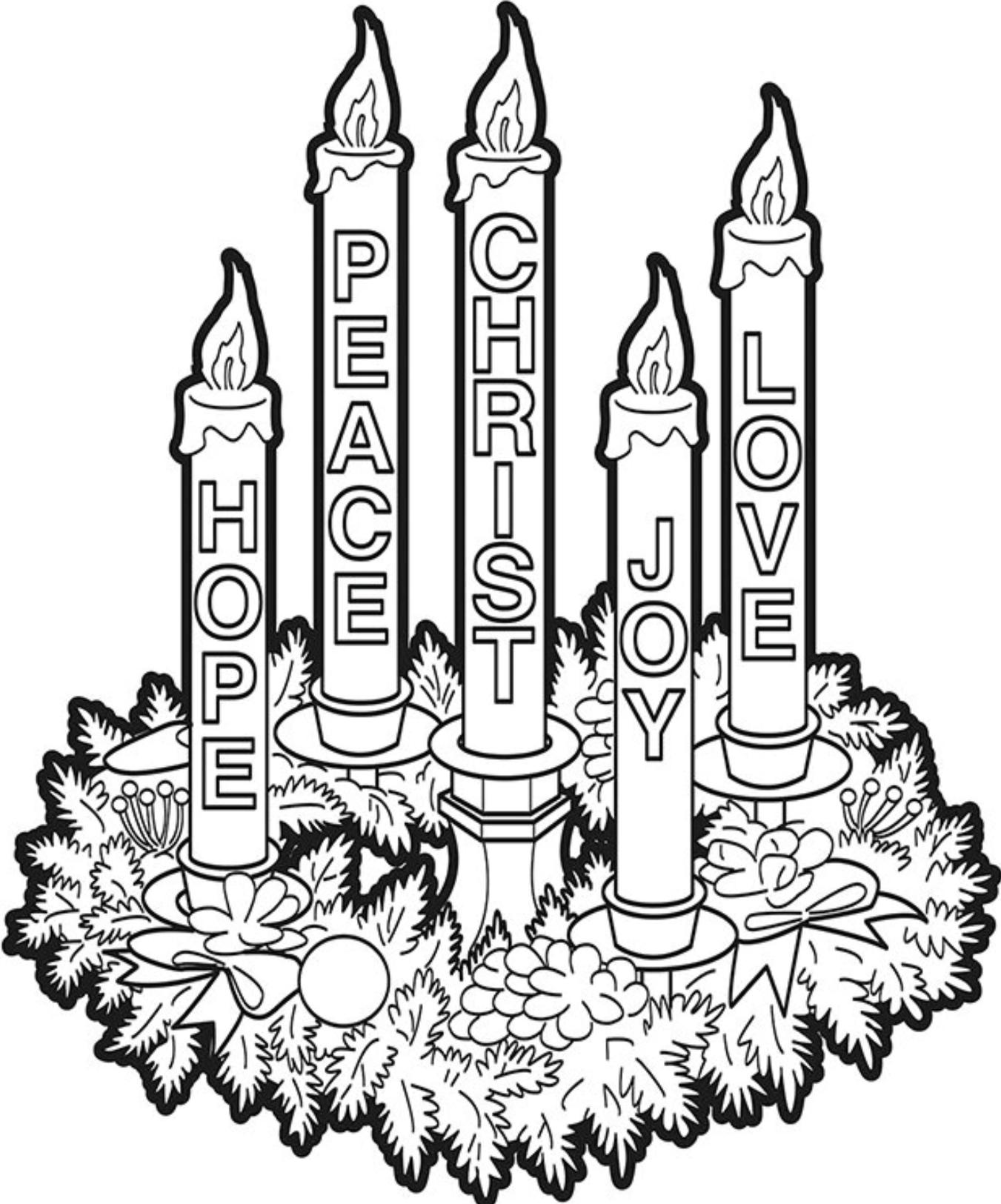
Visit with Pastoral Candidate Leon LaCross After the Service.

Stewardship of Service	This Week - Dec 5	Next Week - Dec 12
Ministers	All Baptized Members of Bethel	All Baptized Members of Bethel
Pastor	Presiding-Pastor Joan Beck Preaching -Pastor Leon LaCross	Pastor Joan Beck
Music Director	David Tafone	David Tafone
Musician	Kathleen Hollingsworth	Kathleen Hollingsworth
Zoom Host	Summer Kaplan	Joann Noll

Prayer Requested For:	Prayer Concern:	Prayer Contact:
For the world	Prayers for assurance of God's love and healing as we work together during this global pandemic.	Staff
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 all educators, students, families, and supporters!	Pray for health, stamina, well-being, and passion for learning for all educators, students, families, and supporters!	Ronda Bard
Faith St. John	Healing & support as she undergoes cancer treatment.	Staff
David Gyles	Continued prayers for David & Sandy as David continues to struggle with his lung problems	Bethel Care Team
The Griffin Family	Prayer for Harry as he continues physical therapy & chemo, but is in good spirits.	Staff
Katie Reitel and her Family	Prayers for peace and comfort as Katie is in hospice care with a long battle with brain cancer. She is at home with her husband Matt, her 7-year-old son Teddy, and her mom Liz. Please keep her and family in your prayers during this difficult time.	The Bentleys
Jim Van Dyke	Prayers for Jim after his surgery while he undergoes further treatment for cancer.	Karen Anderson
Cheyenne and Kent Marx, Pastor Glenn's niece & husband	Prayers for Cheyenne and Kent Marx as they live through the consequences of the accident that killed Glenn's nephew Colton.	Karen Anderson
Mitch Fletcher & Family	Prayers for Mitch Fletcher and his family.	Karen Anderson
The Bethel Call Committee	Prayers for clear thinking, compassion, and stamina for the Call Committee!	Rhonda Bard
Mary Hollingsworth (Kathleen's mom)	Prayers of healing for Mary Hollingsworth, recovering from a broken leg	Holly Redfern
Rose Marie (Ray Bard's niece)	We can give thanks that Rose Marie's house survived the Caldor Fire and remember those who lost everything to this year's wildfires.	Ronda Bard
Leo Lawrence	Prayers for Leo Lawrence, being treated for kidney cancer.	Karen Anderson
The Hassebroek Family	Prayer for the family of Wayne Hassebroek following his death on November 18.	Pastor Joan Beck
David Tafone	Prayers for our new music director David Tafone diagnosed with Covid despite vaccination.	Holly Redfern
Our prayers continue for many among us: for Timothy Collins, Elizabeth, Rob, Jacob Bard, Miles Bard, Patricia Connor.		

[Bethel News: https://us18.campaign-archive.com/home/?u=de62ac-9195b867478ad8a19cd&id=b3b3a27814](https://us18.campaign-archive.com/home/?u=de62ac-9195b867478ad8a19cd&id=b3b3a27814)

Color Your Own Advent Wreath



NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Full news online [bethelpdx.org/weekly news](http://bethelpdx.org/weekly_news)

Meet Pastoral Candidate, Leon LaCross!

12/5 during and after worship, in-person & online

Pastoral Candidate, Leon LaCross is giving the sermon this Sunday. You are invited to stay after worship to visit with him, whether you attend in-person or online.

Meanwhile you can learn a little bit more about him in his own words...

Hello, My name is Leon LaCross. I grew up in Gaithersburg, Maryland where my parents and older brother still live. I grew up in the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS) and transferred into the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) when I started to discern my call to ministry. I got my undergraduate degrees from University of Maryland College Park which made me a third generation Terp (the school mascot). After graduating I spent a gap year in Melbourne, Australia. My first career was doing energy efficiency work at Lockheed Martin before starting seminary at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley, California. During seminary I won the Joel R Workin scholarship through Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries (ELM) and I'm part of the Proclaim community of LGBTQ+ pastors. I did my pastoral internship at St Paul's Lutheran Church in Santa Monica, California and stayed in the Los Angeles area for an additional year to do a chaplaincy residency at UCLA Medical Center during the COVID-19 pandemic. I moved to Portland in mid-October 2021 after being matched with the Oregon Synod for my first call. I'm currently working as a hospice chaplain based out of Longview, Washington. I've been wanting to move to Portland for nearly 10 years, so I'm elated to finally start growing roots here.

Aside from academic and professional pursuits I tend to be a bit of a homebody. My self care activities include watching Netflix on the couch, crochet, gardening and baking. I'm excited to be surrounded by such beautiful nature here in Portland so I look forward to hitting the trails when the weather gets better. I love to travel as well and hope to collect a few more stamps in my passport in the coming years.

Some other fun facts about me: I'm an introvert, I've been vegetarian for over 16 years, I won third place in the Montgomery County Fair for photography when I was in high school and in college I was part of a Rocky Horror Picture Show shadow cast for two years.

Special Congregational Meeting

12/12/21 after worship, in-person and online

There will be a special meeting immediately after service on 12/12/21 to vote on the Pastoral candidate, Leon La Cross. The single agenda is the vote for the candidate, and a separate vote on the compensation package.

Neither the Synod guidelines nor Bethel's constitution provide for proxy voting. However, electronic voting IS allowed, and will be monitored by a member of the Synod staff as well as Bethel's secretary, Joann Noll. Please plan to attend this important meeting, whether in person, or via Zoom, so your vote can be heard.

Welcome David Tafone our New Music Director, 12/19

David was set to start with us last week, however, he came down with COVID-19 despite of being fully vaccinated in May 2021 and actually having recovered from a bad case in January 2021. David looks forward to joining Bethel's worship on Dec. 19. We pray for his full recovery and return to strength.

Many thanks to Kathleen Hollingsworth, who will fill in for him the next couple of weeks!

DAVID TAFONE'S BIO

David grew up in Long Island, NY and studied at SUNY Purchase and the New England Conservatory of Music for both his Bachelors and Masters degrees respectively. At the New England Conservatory of Music he studied with the world renowned distinguished professor of voice Ms. Carole Haber who is also the first endowed chair of the voice faculty at the New England Conservatory of Music and has been teaching there for over 30 years. While at SUNY Purchase, he performed in three operas and studied with the head of the voice and opera department, internationally renowned tenor, Jacque Trussel as well as Baritone Thomas Goodheart who currently teaches voice at SUNY Binghamton.

He began his masters at the Jacobs school of music at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana. He studied there under the tutelage of internationally renowned pedagogue Dr. Dale Moore who during his career also served as a voice professor at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York and served as President of NATS between 1988-1991. At the New England Conservatory of Music David sang five operas in two years - all leading baritone roles. He is a classically trained pianist as well, having studied with New York pianist Virgil Barkauskas and is a self taught harpist. During his education he served as a musician at First Baptist Church in Newton, Massachusetts. His studies at both SUNY Purchase and the New England Conservatory of Music were on half scholarship for the duration of his years attended. Currently, David lives in the Portland suburb of Hillsboro, Oregon. He teaches music lessons privately for voice, piano and harp and he is a long time flight attendant for Alaska Airlines. David is excited to join Bethel Lutheran Church as the new music director!

Update on Bethel Angel Project 2021

December 3

We are still looking for family adoptions and contributions.

Some specific needs for families include:

- Vacuum cleaner
- Bedside table (used is fine)
- Lounge chair (used in decent condition is fine)
- Sofa (used in decent condition is fine)
- 4 chairs for kitchen table (used in decent condition is fine)
- Double or queen bed (two are needed)



December Birthdays

- 02** JulieAnn Edman
- 14** Andrew Van Dyke
- 15** Lily Burdick
- 19** Don Worthington