



3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 12, 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.”

Prelude

Bereite dich, Zion, J. S. Bach, Christmas Oratorio, BWV 248

Translation:

Bereite dich, Zion, mit zärtlichen Trieben,
Make yourself ready, Zion, with tender desires
Den Schönsten, den Liebsten bald bei dir zu sehn!
to see your lovely one, your beloved, near you soon!!
Deine Wangen
Your cheeks
Müssen heut viel schöner prangen,
must now glow far more beautifully,
Eile, den Bräutigam sehnlichst zu lieben!
hurry, to love your bridegroom with the greatest longing!

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 three candles)*

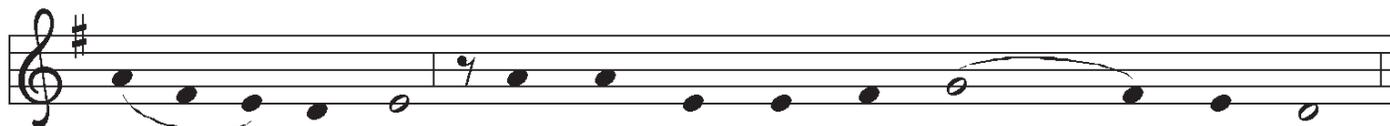


Hymn

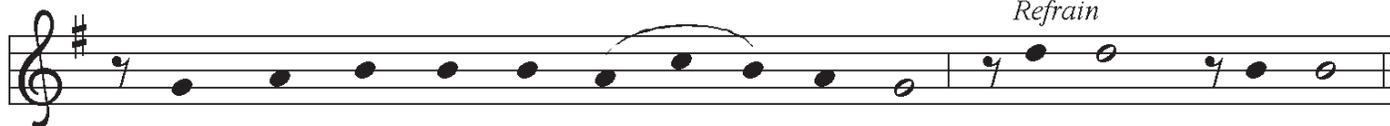
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, verse 3



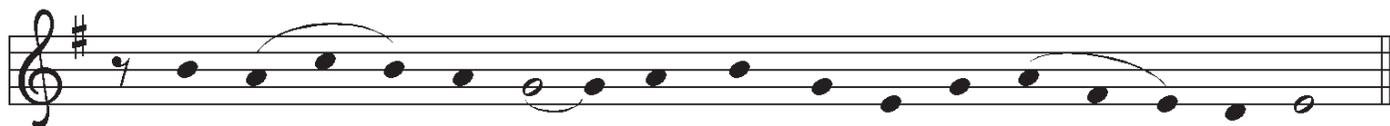
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



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-joice! Re-joice!
 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.

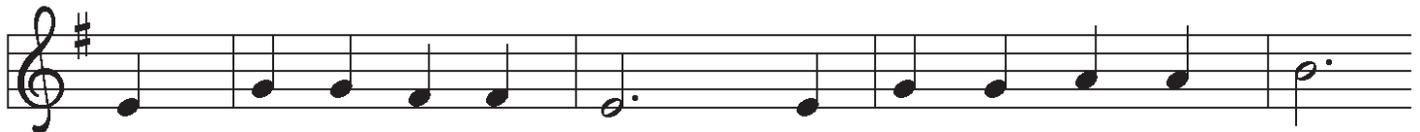
The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it!

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.

Kyrie

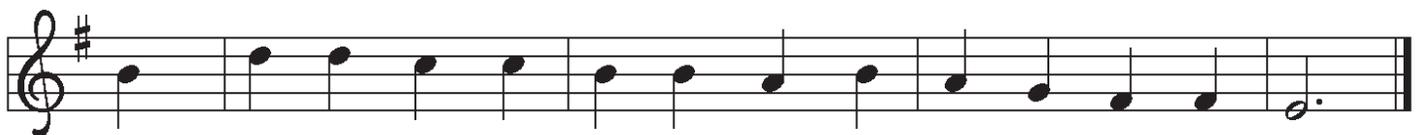
Have Mercy on Us, Lord



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 the wills of your faithful people, O God, and open our eyes to the preaching of your servant John the Baptizer, and all of your prophets; that, rejoicing in your saving Word, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance and right relationships; through Jesus Christ our Savior, the Lover of our souls, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

Reading

Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Word of God, Word of Life.

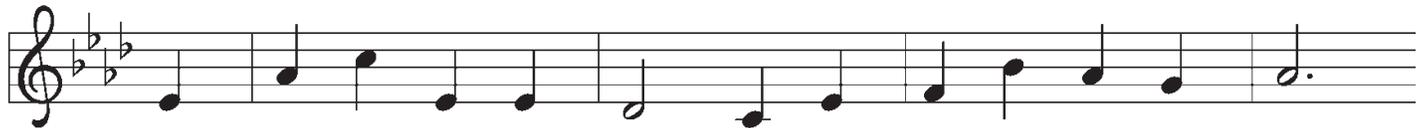
Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers, verse 4



1 Re - joice, re - joice, 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 3:7-18

The Holy Gospel according to Luke
Glory to you, O Lord!

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon



Hymn

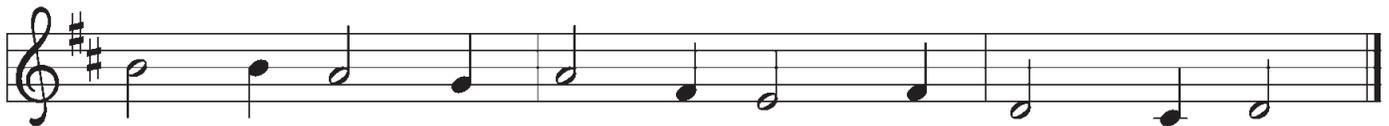
On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
way for God with - in, and let us all our
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

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 many 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

Panis Angelicus, Cesar Franck



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 -

Announcements

Blessing (from Philippians 4:4-7, today's reading)

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.
 Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.
 Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication
 with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.
 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,
 will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ (+) Jesus.
Amen.

Postlude

Prepare Ye the Way, Michael W. Smith

Sent to Share the Peace

Go in peace. Christ is near.
Thanks be to God.

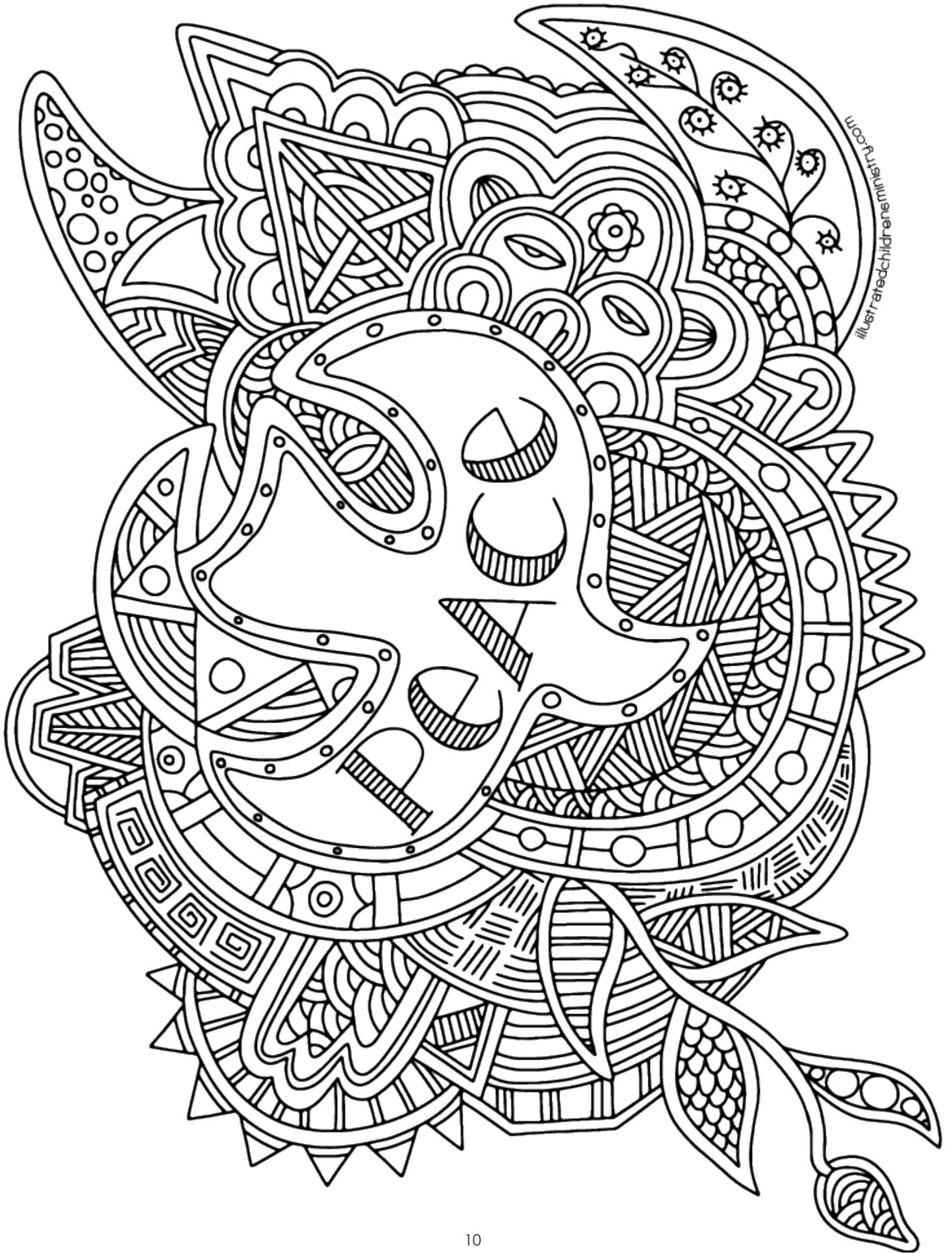
Remain for Congregational Vote

All voting members of Bethel are requested to remain in person and on Zoom for the special congregation meeting to take action on calling a pastor and deciding on a compensation package. After the meeting, people gathered at the church building are invited to eat some lunch that will be provided and stay to help decorate the tree.

Stewardship of Service	This Week - Dec 12	Next Week - Dec 19
Ministers	All Baptized Members of Bethel	All Baptized Members of Bethel
Pastor	Presiding-Pastor Joan Beck	Pastor Joan Beck
Music Director	David Tafone	David Tafone
Musician	Kathleen Hollingsworth & Reese Marshburn	
Zoom Host	Joann Noll	Summer Kaplan

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
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
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>



www.fun4kids.com
illustratedchildrensmagazine.com

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

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

Special Congregational Meeting

TODAY! 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 the Bethel Council Secretary, Joann Noll. Please plan to attend this important meeting, whether in person, or via Zoom, so your vote can be heard.

After the meeting, people gathered at the church building are invited to eat some lunch that will be provided and stay to help decorate the tree.

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!

Transitions Continue

12/10/21

Our dear Admin Assistant and Communication Coordinator, Summer Kaplan, tendered her resignation this week. She has been a faithful disciple during these nearly two years of COVID and chaos and we greatly appreciate her work on Bethel's behalf. Be sure to greet her if you see her on Zoom and let her know that just because she is no longer working for Bethel, doesn't mean that she leave us completely! We will hopefully continue to see Summer and her family on Zoom (or in-person) for services. From the bottom of the congregation's heart, thanks beyond measure for the work you have done!

From Summer

I appreciate the warm welcome, support and encouragement, I've received from the Bethel community over the past three and half years. At this time, as my daughter transitions to adulthood there is a tremendous demand on my time and energy. I have taken a virtual position with fewer hours that will better meet my family's needs. My last day will be on Christmas Eve.

I am excited for Bethel on the cusp of a calling a new pastor with a new music director starting next week. Having a fresh team is fitting for beginning the next chapter at Bethel.

*Warm wishes,
Summer Kaplan*

Update on Bethel Angel Project 2021, December 10

Bethel Angel Project is serving 12 families and individuals this year as well as distributing 100 gift bags for individuals who are houseless.

Items still needed for our families:

- Cash donations
- 6 jugs laundry detergent
- 6 containers dish soap
- paper towels
- toilet paper
- Kleenex
- Cleaning products
- Other hygiene items are welcome
- Turkey or ham

Jackie Calder is contacting the food bank for food boxes and other available items. We will fill in partly with food purchased with a gift card from Thrivent.

Contact Joann Noll with offers of help, questions, donations, etc. joann.noll@gmail.com, 314-680-1257



December Birthdays

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