
BETHEL NOTES

Third Sunday of Advent

Serving This Sunday

Accompanist: Mary Seim

Children's Accompanist: Lynn Ryan

Lay Assistant: John Blank

Usher(s): LOGOS children

Projectionist: Lisa Carlson

Counters: Tim Lightbourne & Matt Crampton

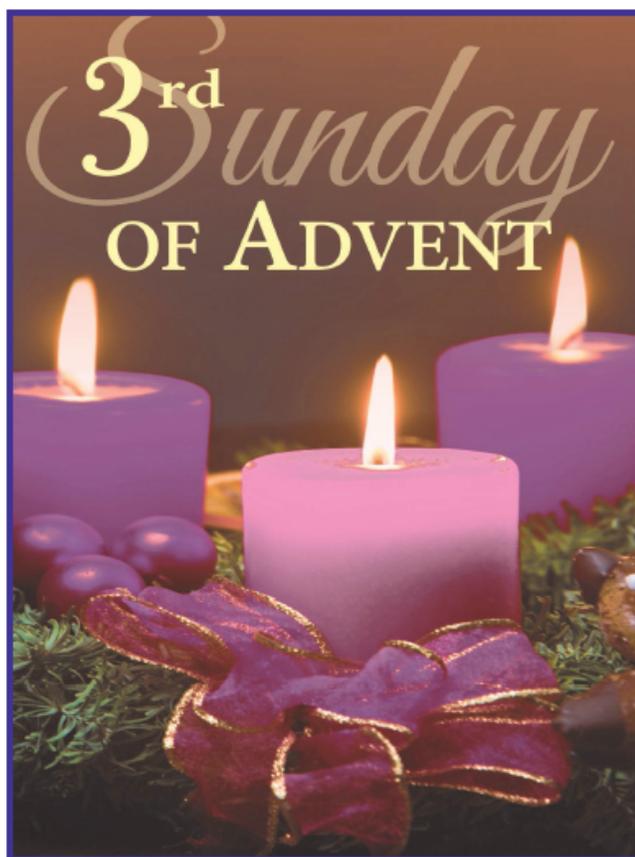
Nursery: Kaleb Stringer & Lillian Erickson

Readings:

LOGOS Children's Program "The Twases of Christmas"

Happening This Sunday.

- Adult forum in the Fellowship Hall immediately following worship.



This Sunday is our annual LOGOS children's program. This year they will be performing "The Twases of Christmas", a twist on the classic "Twas the Night Before Christmas" that tells the story of Christ's birth.

2017 Advent Devotionals are here. Check the Track Rack for your free copy.

2018 Daily Texts are here. See entry table in the Narthex.

This Week's Events

Sunday 12/17 - Sunday 12/24:

- Bethel's week to host FamilyPromise.

Monday 12/18:

- Boy Scout Troop 1028 meeting at 6:30pm in the Gathering Place.

Tuesday 12/19:

- Men's Breakfast at 6:00am in the Fellowship Hall.
- Bible Study at Electric City Coffee at 6:30am.
- Christmas Eve Jubilate Choir rehearsal at 6:30pm at the Rosenbaum's; 1140 19th Ave SW.

Upcoming Events

Thursday 12/21:

Blue Christmas Service, will be held at Christ United Methodist/First Congregational United Church of Christ 2900 9th Ave. S. at 7pm. Sponsored and led by the Great Falls Ministerial Association.

Sunday 12/24:

- Worship Services at 9:30am, 4pm and 6pm.

Monday 12/25:

- The office will be closed for Christmas.

Wednesday 12/27:

- No LOGOS; will resume on Wednesday, Jan 10th with Family dinner and worship beginning at 6pm.

December 15, 2017



A Blue Christmas Service supports those for whom the holidays are not joyful; they are lonely, filled with grief and feelings of being alienated from celebrations. This service is designed for people who may be experiencing depression and sadness and yet are often compelled to "put on a happy face" for others, denying their true feelings. The service is composed of music, scripture and a candle lighting ritual to help acknowledge feelings and connect with the light that shines in the darkness during a difficult time in life. This service will be held at Christ United Methodist Church/First Congregational United Church of Christ, [2900 9th Ave S](#) on Thursday, December 21 at 7 PM. Please share this with those who may be struggling this Christmas. Or consider inviting someone to come with you. That may be the best gift you can offer- acknowledgment of their feelings.

A Word of Thanks



Thank You

A huge thank you to Pastor Steve Nelson and Warren Johnson for their carpentry work on our furnace rooms.

Christmas Eve Worship



Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship

9:30m in the Gathering Place

Christmas Eve Candlelight and Holy Communion Worship

4pm in the Gathering Place with Jubilate Choir

6pm in the Gathering Place

Please note that ushers are still needed for these services. Please sign up in the book in the Narthex.

Pastor Steve's Message



“There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.” **John 1: 6 – 8, NRSV**

Amidst the holiday season there is a whole lot of music being played...sung... lifting hearts...spirits and bringing light into the darkness of our world. We all have our favorites and even some new ones to learn. I am a fan of a composer by the name of Jacques Berthier, a twentieth century French composer, who is known for the liturgical music used at an ecumenical monastic community in Burgundy France, called Taize. One of his compositions is titled, *De Noche Iremos*, the lyrics by a Spanish poet, Luis Rosales. A sung line/translation of this beautiful song:

‘By night, we hasten, in darkness, to seek for the living water, only our thirst lights us onward.’

As the nights grow longer and the days get darker, “...*we hasten, in darkness, for the living water.*” Darkness is so unavoidable and hard to ignore this time of year. We wake up to darkness. Many of us travel to and from home in darkness. It is no wonder that we light candles, wrap trees and homes up in lights and drive around neighborhoods to take in others lights. We thirst for light.

‘By night, we hasten, in darkness, to seek for the living water, only our thirst lights us onward.’

We thirst for...life's meaning, for security and civility, for peace and joy, for light to shine in our darkness.

In the season called Advent, we encounter a man named John. We just can't get past John the Baptist and his message on our journey to Christmas.

“There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. John 1: 6 - 8

John was not the light but he pointed to The Light ~ The Light which would come into the world and dispel the darkness. His witness created a thirst that demands to be quenched. This thirst, created and quenched by the Spirit, grows and lights our way in the darkness as we search for living water.

What is it that you're thirsting for this season ? Where might you long for God to be ? Turn towards that thirsting and longing and as you do, “...*the true light (Jesus Christ) which enlightens everyone..*” will light the way.



Prayers of comfort for the family of **Marty Johnson** as they grieve his passing.

Prayers for **Marj VanderAarde** as she recovers from surgery. Also for her sister, **Jann DeGroot**, who is battling cancer.

Prayers for healing for **Ryan Pottratz** (son of Ed and Myra Pottratz and grandson of Sue Hesse).

Prayers for healing for **Brenda Slater** as she continues her treatment for cancer.

Prayer for healing **Marlys Bair** who recovers from surgery.

Prayers for healing for **Frank Potter and family** (friend of Doug Sexe) as he battles cancer.

Prayers for **Ed Pottratz and family**.

Prayers for **Todd Whitted** (nephew of Bobbie Bowen).

Prayers for **Anne Trunkle**, (friend of Dean Wagner-Fossen) who is in hospice care. Also prayers for Dena's sister, **Trina**.

Prayers for **Shelly Murphy**.

LOGOS NEWS



Merry Christmas from everyone at LOGOS. Wednesday, we celebrated our last week before the holiday break by wearing pajamas and eating breakfast for dinner! Our 1st and 2nd graders, taught by Patty Braget, were also busy elves stuffing stockings for Family Promise families. LOGOS resumes on Wednesday, January 10 with our Family Meal & Worship night. All are invited to join us!



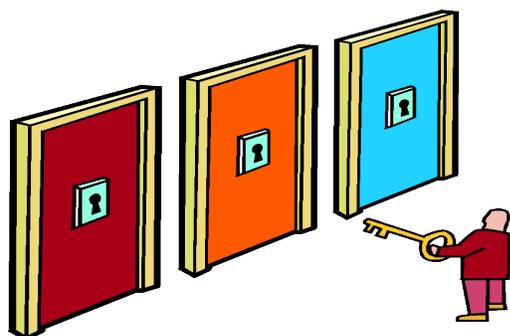
Three Orientation Opportunities

January 3, 2018 – 7:00 p.m. sponsored by Sun River Ward at the Sun River LDS Church

January 9, 2018 – 5:30 p.m. sponsored by 1st Congregational UCC/Christ United Methodist Church at 2900 9th Avenue South (“Dairy Queen” Church)

January 13, 2018 – 1:30 p.m. sponsored by the Seventh Day Adventist Church at 16 14th Street South

All are welcome at any and all sessions!



Season of Giving

This year at Bethel we have some great opportunities to help out our community and internationally with giving for the YWCA Mercy Home and through ELCA Good Gifts.

The YWCA Mercy Home is Cascade County's only shelter for battered women and children, providing around-the-clock security and a resident advocate to give practical and emotional support and connect residents to resources needed to become self-sufficient. At anytime they will host up to 24 people at the Mercy Home..

Giving
Tree



We would like to help give these women and children a fantastic holiday. If you would like to help, pick up a tag from the Giving Tree in the Narthex and purchase a gift card from any department or grocery store in Great Falls in any amount you wish. We will collect them here at the church by December 21st to get them to The Receiving Home before Christmas.

You are also invited to select an ornament from our World Hunger Good Gifts Christmas tree. Again this year, we will have ornaments for you to choose and then make a donation in the specified amount. For example, you might choose the ornament for "School Supplies for a Child" for \$10 or the "Goat" for \$50 or one of the others. The ornament is yours to hang on your tree or give to someone you wish to honor.

As you're making your Christmas gift list, you may decide to give one of these "Good Gifts" in honor of a friend or relative. It might be a nice way to remember someone who says he or she just doesn't need a thing, your child's teacher, or an elderly family member. You can pick up a card to give your honoree or you can print or email a message to your honoree.

Thank you for making some's holiday a little brighter.