

BETHEL NOTES

The Nativity of our Lord

Serving Christmas Eve

Accompanists:

9:30am - Lynn Ryan

4pm - Louise Bean

6pm - Arne Buhmann

Lay Assistant:

9:30am - Sue Hesse

4pm - Stephanie Cummings

6pm - Sandy Pepos

Usher(s):

9:30am - Kupfner Family

4pm - Alex Bostic and Jenny Will

6pm - Terree and Udo Wozny

Projectionist:

9:30am - Dina Davis

4pm - Ava Fossen

6pm - Dina Davis

Counters: 4pm - Pam Dougherty



On a long winter evening we gather to proclaim the coming of the light. Isaiah announces that the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Paul reminds us that the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. In the familiar account of Christ's birth, the evening sky is bright with the heavenly host singing, "Glory to God in the highest." Amid our broken world we proclaim that the prince of peace is born among us. God comes to us in human flesh—in Christ's body and blood—so that we may be bearers of divine light to all the world.

Source: Sunday's and Seasons, Augsburg Fortress, 2017 Year

Christmas Worship Schedule

9:30am in the Gathering Place Fourth Sunday of Advent Candlelight and Holy Communion Worship

4pm in the Gathering Place - Christmas Eve Candlelight and Holy Communion worship - Jubilate Choir

If you would like to sing with the choir, please arrive by 3pm to rehearse.

6pm in the Gathering Place -Christmas Eve Candlelight and Holy Communion worship - Karolina Pepos

December 31st, 9:30am in the Sanctuary- First Sunday of Christmas and Sacrament of Holy Baptism for Kaleb and Maya Stringer

Upcoming Events

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.

Monday 1/1/18:

- Office Closed - Happy New Year!

Sunday 1/7/18:

- Budget Forum immediately after worship - presentation of the 2018 Proposed Annual Congregational Budget



Prayers for **Marj Vander Aarde** 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 and Ashley Shell** (friend of Dean Wagner-Fossen) both in hospice care. Also prayers for Dena's sister, **Trina**.

Prayers for **Thelma Seyfert** for the loss of her sister-in-law and also her niece within the last month.

Prayers for **Shelly Murphy**.



A Word From Bishop Jessica



The angel has it right. Jesus is THE GOOD NEWS. Period. Born homeless. Driven into hiding as a refugee in a strange land. Brought up in humble surroundings. Had a short-lived career. Resisted the devil. Healed the sick. Associated with outcasts. Fed the hungry. Defied the empire. Spent a night on death row, after which he was executed. And through all that, he overcame death, redeemed suffering, and reaffirmed new life for all.

On Christmas we celebrate the beginning, the birth of Jesus. All kinds of other things have been added to that celebration—extravagant giving of gifts, parties and feasts, unrealistic expectations. These are not what the Incarnation is about. Yes, it is lovely to give and receive gifts. Yes, it is delightful to party and feast. Yes, it is wonderful to reconnect with scattered friends and family. But you don't have to be Christian to engage in any of those things.

There are Christians who frown on the celebration of Christmas, precisely because of the incorporation of pagan traditions (such as evergreens and mistletoe, etc.) as well as the bloated over-commercialization that equates "a good Christmas" with one in which sales are high. As Lutheran Christians we do not frown on celebration. And we welcome the incorporation of traditions into the celebration of Christmas — whether northern European or native Hawaiian, American Indian, or African.

Jesus is good news for the angels, and good news for the shepherds. Jesus is good news for the people of Palestine, his neighbors and co-religionists, and good news for the gentiles. Jesus is good news for northern Europeans, and native Hawaiians, for American Indians and for people in Africa.

Jesus is good news for the homeless, and for those who are refugees. Jesus is good news for those in humble surroundings, and for those who are unemployed. Jesus is good news for those who are faced with evil, and for those who are sick and hungry. Jesus is good news for those who resist oppression. Jesus is good news for the imprisoned, even those on death row. Jesus is good news for the children, and for the elderly.

Jesus is good news for you, and Jesus is good news for me. Period. Amen.

Jessica Crist, Bishop

May Christ, who by his incarnation has filled us with grace and truth, give you peace this Christmas and always.

Pastor Steve, Sarah, Bonnie, Tami, Ed & Jeff

