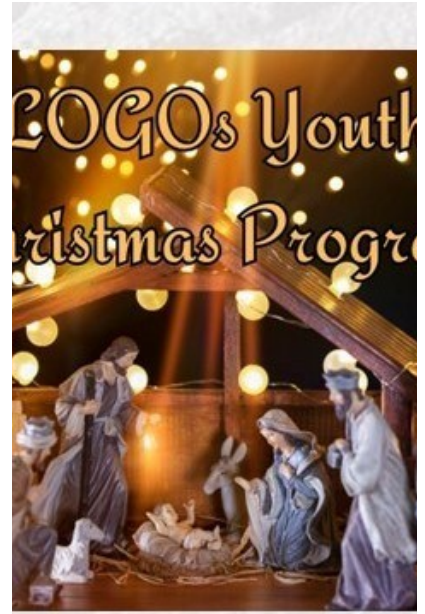


# Bethel Notes

**Sunday, December 10, 2023**

*Second Sunday of Advent*



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**INTRODUCTION**

*John calls people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing gets in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, "See, your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.*

*First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11*

*Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13*

*Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-15a*

*Gospel: Mark 1:1-8*



**Join us Sunday 9:30 AM  
in person or online at  
[bethelmt.org](http://bethelmt.org)**

**Serving This Sunday**

**Musicians:**

Lynn Ryan, piano

**Worship Assistants:**

LOGOs Youth Ministry

**Usher:**

LOGOs Youth Ministry

**Tech:**

Gabe Smith

**Children's Church:**

Taylah Jaques,

Hailey Marr,

Tyler Grosenick

**Counters:**

Tim Lightbourne

Sara Sexe

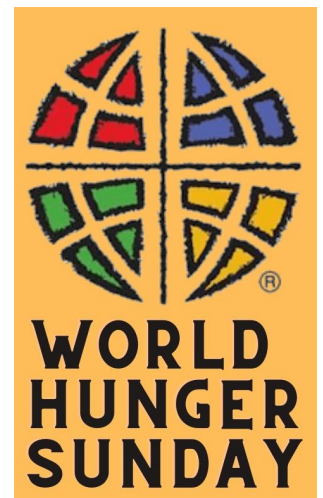
**THIS SUNDAY AT BETHEL...**

We celebrate **Second Sunday of Advent.**

**Thank you to our LOGOs Youth** for leading worship today and performing our Christmas Program. We are so very thankful for all of our families for sharing their children with us and looking forward to a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

A special thanks to **Sharon Mueller and the Bethel Youth Bell Choir** for performing today.

Stop in and check out our **Christmas Bazaar** after worship today, all proceeds go to fund our Vacation Bible School Day Camp next summer, July 22<sup>nd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>.





# Requesting Your Prayers

- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Bonnie Barnes**, *Debbie McCarty's mother*, recovering after a fall.
- ✝ Prayers of comfort for the **family and friends of Bertha Ferguson** as they mourn her passing. Her memorial services will be held this Saturday, December 9th at Hill Crest Lawn Memorial Chapel at 2:30 pm.
- ✝ Prayers of support and comfort for **Pat Berkeley**.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **AnneRose Rogers** as she recuperates at home after a recent hospitalization.
- ✝ Prayers of health for **Don Bisgard** as his living center is under quarantine for Covid infections.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **John Korpela** who is home managing his health.
- ✝ Prayers of strength and healing for **Tim Olson**, as he prepares for upcoming outpatient surgery in December.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Dick Seim** as he continues regaining his strength.
- ✝ Prayers of healing and answers for **Anna Boucher** as they determine a cause and treatment for seizures.
- ✝ Prayers of healing and support for **Diane Young**, *Sandy Pepos' aunt*, recovering at home after a stroke.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Georgia Miller**, *cousin of Amber Erickson's*, as she has been diagnosed with aggressive breast cancer.
- ✝ Prayers of continued healing for **Travis Cushman** as he continues to manage health issues.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Harper Spurzem**, 8 year old student at Ulm School, receiving chemotherapy treatment for Hodgkin's Lymphoma.
- ✝ Prayers of support and comfort for **Pastor Jessie and Jade** as they mourn the loss of their precious baby boy, **Kai Wilder Metzler**.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Kristin**, *Bobbie Bowen's daughter*, as she is manages a cancer diagnosis.
- ✝ Prayers of support for **Caleb Pottratz** who is struggling with depression.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Lynn Klaasen**, *sister of Jan Robitaille*, receiving treatment for cancer.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Lindy Coon**, *sister of former Bethel member Laura (Wandke) Overturf*, as she continues to slowly make progress as she recovers from a serious injury after a fall.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Alex Bostic** as he continues to manage his health.
- ✝ Prayers of strength in leadership for **Gustavo Driau**, Regional Representative of South America.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Ed Pottratz** as he continues cancer treatment.



*join us after worship*

**SUNDAY,  
DECEMBER 10TH** *for...*



# *A Christmas Bazaar*



**GOODIES AND CRAFTS GALORE!**

**ALL PROCEEDS GO TO OUR**

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL DAY CAMP,**

**JULY 23RD THROUGH 27TH, 2024**



## Merry Christmas from Hope Circle



Left to Right: Laurie Turner, Marilyn and Jim Carlson, LaRae Veitch, Judy and Warren Johnson, Patti and Don Godtel, Terry Korpela, Jeanne and John Price.

# Giving Tree 2023

Lack of access to safe water is one of the biggest challenges to overcoming poverty. It's also one of the most powerful opportunities to create change. **With a simple water well, spring box or other water point, as many as 500 families gain access to clean, safe water.** Communities are healthier. People spend less money on medical expenses and more on food and education. And instead of spending hours each day gathering water for the family, women and children have time for work and school. Talk about a future filled with hope!



At Bethel, donations for our Giving Tree will go toward the construction of a simple water well. Our goal is \$2500.00 to make this happen. When you donate any amount to this project, take an ornament from the Giving Tree to hang on your tree at home. These simple ornaments were made by our LOGOs Youth Ministry and read "Christmas 2023. This year I gave the gift of clean water."

There are other needs that can be met through the Good Gifts Program from ELCA World Hunger. If you would like to donate to Good Gifts for other items such as goats, chickens, bibles, etc. pick up a Good Gifts catalog located in the Narthex and you can donate directly to ELCA World Hunger Good Gifts.

If you have any questions about this project you may contact any member of the ELCA World Hunger Committee Colleen Walker-Nelson, Judy Johnson or Shirley Cayko.

For questions about donating to this Giving Tree Project, see Tami Grosenick in the Bethel Office.

Merry Christmas.

**WATER**

At an average cost of \$2,500, a spring box is one of many types of water projects supported by your gifts. Water wells can range from \$2,500 to \$10,000 or more, depending on the location and cost of materials.

**Simple water well**

One of the biggest challenges to overcoming poverty is lack of access to clean water. **With a simple well, or spring box, as many as 500 families gain access to clean, safe water.** Communities are healthier. People spend less money on medical expenses and more on food and education. And instead of spending hours each day gathering water for the family, women and children have time for work and school. Talk about a future filled with hope!

**\$2,500** Simple water well

**\$250** Share of a safe water project

With this new well... the water is better and clear, clear. This water fountain brought relief to us. We are isolated, and with this good water, we can help families who are without.

—Sivlei, Brazil

Gifts on these  
**ELCA.or**





On Friday morning, Library staff received information that a Neo-Nazi hate group had placed propaganda in an undisclosed number of Library books. The Great Falls Public Library stands against hate. Library staff removed hate materials from 16 books. Staff examined several sections of the Library, but we cannot be sure that all of the hate materials have been found. If anyone finds this propaganda at the Library or in Library materials, please bring it to the attention of any Library staff as soon as possible. If you find stickers or fliers at

the Library, or anywhere in the community, please note the location and alert the Great Falls Police Department and the City and County Commissions.

This propaganda is being distributed by a statewide Neo-Nazi organization that believes in White Supremacy. They aim to intimidate and threaten non-White individuals, but they also want to radicalize and recruit new members. This literature is dangerous and poses a threat to our community, especially children.

The Library protects intellectual freedom and advocates against censorship. However, we do not allow anyone to use the Library to promote hate or to place unauthorized messages in Library materials. Incidents similar to this have been happening in Great Falls for over a year and a half. In addition to working to remove these materials and protect our individual patrons, the Library believes we must counter this hate speech with more community action.

Recently, the City Commission issued a proclamation condemning these hateful actions and declaring November 12-18th *United Against Hate Week*. The Library wants to work across our community to show that Great Falls rejects hateful ideology. We believe that all are equal and all are welcome here. Our community is filled with beautiful diversity and we see this diversity as a tremendous strength. We want all to feel safe and welcome at the Library and throughout Cascade County.

As a next step, the Great Falls Public Library, the Great Falls YWCA and other community organizations are creating a *"Hate Has No Home Here"* campaign. We are asking individuals and organizations to promote the *"Hate Has No Home Here"* graphic. Place the flyer in your home window, display it at your business or school, and share the message on your social media. We need your support. It will take our entire community to stop this hate-filled rhetoric.

We will officially launch the campaign at the City Commission meeting on December 5 at 7 pm. Flyers will be available at the Great Falls Public Library and the Great Falls YWCA. Soon, you will also be able to download them from our websites so you can print your own.

Let's all raise our voices to say *"Hate Has No Home Here."*

Contact Information to report hate literature found in the community:

**Great Falls Police Department NON-Emergency**

Call: (406) 455-8599

**Great Falls City Commission:**

Call: (406) 455-8451

Mail to: City Clerk, PO Box 5021, Great Falls MT 59403

Email to: [commission@greatfallsmt.net](mailto:commission@greatfallsmt.net)

**Cascade County Commission:**

Call: 406-454-6810

Mail to: 325 2nd Avenue North, Room 111

Email to: [commission@casadecountymt.gov](mailto:commission@casadecountymt.gov)

For more information, contact Susie McIntyre at

[smcintyre@greatfallslibrary.org](mailto:smcintyre@greatfallslibrary.org) or 406-453-0349 ex. 221

**Great Falls Public Library · 301 2nd Ave N · Great Falls, MT 59401-2517 · USA**



## GOSPEL MESSAGE

December 10, 2023

Second Sunday of Advent

New Beginnings

There are lots of ways to open a story, perhaps most famously “Once upon a time . . .” Similarly, the gospel-writer Mark starts out, “The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ,” even though his narrative lacks the birth, angelic announcements, and childhood stories Matthew and Luke tell about Jesus. And John’s gospel starts even farther back, at the beginning of creation, before skipping to Jesus’ adult years. What we can take from these varying opening narratives is that the story of Jesus does not have one be-

ginning, but many beginnings—each a new entry point into the old, old story of God’s love breaking into the world.

Mark starts with an invitation to baptism, repentance, and forgiveness of sins. Even so, John the baptizer declares that another new start is coming, with the baptism of the Holy Spirit that Jesus will bring. What’s more, while his baptism by John is clearly not the first event in Jesus’ life, it marks a new beginning just before he heads off to the wilderness and then on to start his public ministry.

We celebrate Advent every year at this time, but each time is a new experience, a new beginning of the church year, a new chance to anticipate grace.

What has changed for you since last Advent? What has changed for your family and community? What expectations or hopes do you have for God’s presence with us? What new beginning would be a blessing?

Every Sunday is a celebration of the resurrection, and each time we take part in confession and forgiveness we experience a fresh start. Mark opens with baptism, which is a new beginning for each of us. Remembering our baptism offers us daily assurance of the new things God is always unfolding around us. Today as we worship, we pray for the Holy Spirit to stir up something new in, with, and among us.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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*For Unto Us A Savior is Born.*

SPONSOR AN INDIVIDUAL  
OR FAMILY WITH  
**CHRISTMAS  
GIFTS**

RSVP: LYNNE STAIGMILLER (406) 205-0691

Take the opportunity to share in the spirit of generosity this season and provide one of our families or individuals with special gifts for Christmas Day. Some gift ideas are listed below.

Gifts will need to arrive at the Great Falls Rescue Mission Administration Office by 4:30 p.m. on Monday, December 18, 2023. We will gift wrap them the week of December 18-21, before giving them to the residents at the Men’s Shelter, Women’s Shelter and the Cameron Family Center.

For more information contact Lynne Staigmiller, volunteer coordinator at (406) 205-0691 or [lynne.staigmiller@gfrm.org](mailto:lynne.staigmiller@gfrm.org).

You can also visit our website for the list of current needs: <https://gfrm.org/ways-to-give/current-needs/>  
Scan the QR code if you’d like to donate online.

**Great Falls Rescue Mission**  
A Beacon of Hope Since 1963

**WWW.GFRM.ORG (406) 761-2653**  
**408 2ND AVE S**

Children	Adults	Gift Cards
Bibles, Craft Kits, Jewelry, Hair Accessories, Nerf Toys, Games, Dolls, Action Figures, Sports Equipment, Headphones, Earbuds, Warm Gloves, Coats & Hats	Robes & Slippers, Pajama Sets, Make-up Sets, Shampoo Sets, Nail Gift Sets, Shaving Kits, Deodorant Sets, Jeans @ Walmart, Fuzzy Socks, Warm Gloves, Perfume, Lotion Sets, Heavy Duty Gloves, Blankets	Walmart, Old Navy, Ross, Target, TJ Maxx, Claire’s, Zumiez, Google Play, Subway, McDonalds, Burger King, Taco Bell, Taco Johns

**CURRENT NEEDS FOR DECEMBER**

Milk	Twin Sheets/Blankets	Cleaning Supplies
Meat	Towels	New Underwear
Eggs	Aleve, Ibuprofen,	Vitamin C
Coffee	Tylenol & Kids Tylenol	Cough Drops
Canned Veggies	Diapers (All Sizes) & Wipes	Chapstick

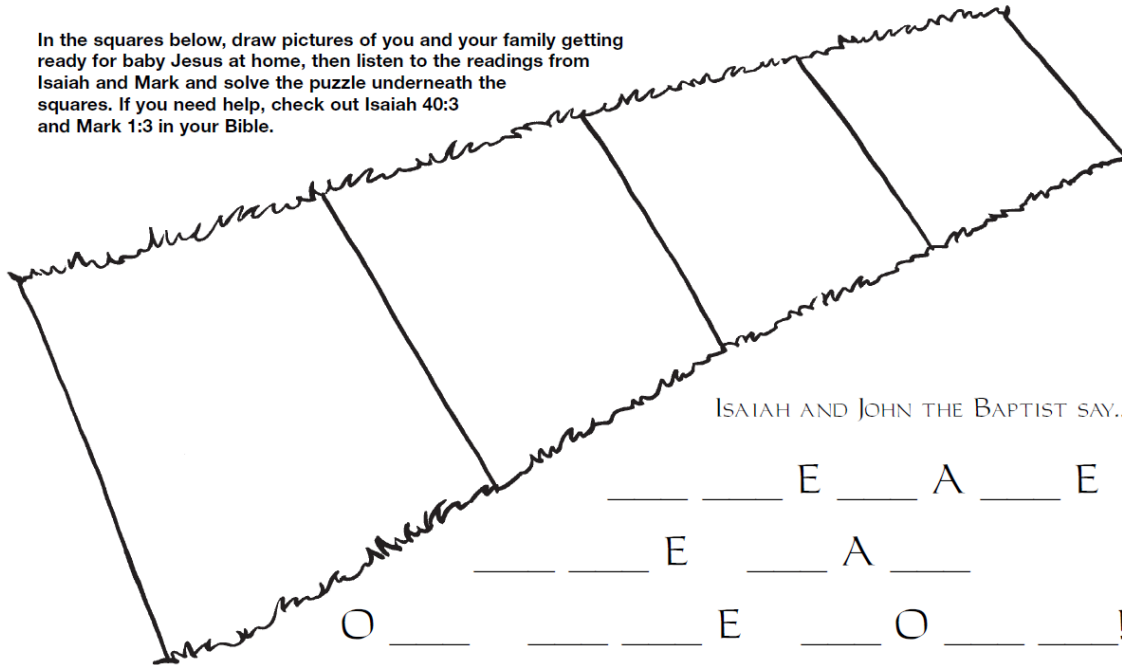
# Just for *YOU*th

## Build a road and get ready!

Isaiah 40:1-11

Isaiah the prophet and John the Baptist both worked hard telling people about God and reminding them to get ready for the Messiah, God's chosen one.

In the squares below, draw pictures of you and your family getting ready for baby Jesus at home, then listen to the readings from Isaiah and Mark and solve the puzzle underneath the squares. If you need help, check out Isaiah 40:3 and Mark 1:3 in your Bible.



ISAIAH AND JOHN THE BAPTIST SAY...



*God, thank you for being with us as we get ready for Jesus to come! Amen*

**This Week...** At home, help get ready for something—a meal, a visit, an outing.

Welcome to worship. Today is the second Sunday of Advent, and we're still watching and waiting for baby Jesus. We also need to start getting ready!

In the Advent wreath shown below, color two candles, then unscramble the letters and discover an important message from the prophet Isaiah and John the Baptist.



## Get ready for a baby

How would you get ready for a baby at your house?

How might you help someone else get ready for a new baby?



Circle a couple of things that you'd like to give to a new baby. Ask an adult to help you wrap them up and make a special delivery!

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

### **Tuesday 12/12**

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am
- Men's Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall 7:00 am
- Council meeting in the Fellowship Hall 6:30 pm

### **Wednesday 12/13**

- Bible Study on Zoom led Pastor Jessie Obrecht
- LOGOs Youth Ministry Christmas Party for all grades

### **Thursday 12/14**

- Electric City Chorale rehearsal in the sanctuary at 7:00 pm

### **Friday 12/15**

- Bethel office is closed.

### **Saturday 12/16**

- Bell Choir practice 10:00 am

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Sunday 12/17**

- Worship led by Pastor Jessie Obrecht in-person and live stream 9:30 am
- Bethel Bell Choir performs

### **Tuesday 12/19**

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am
- Men's Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall 7:00 am

### **Wednesday 12/20**

- Bible Study on Zoom led Pastor Jessie Obrecht
- No LOGOs Youth Ministry

### **Thursday 12/21**

- Electric City Chorale rehearsal in the sanctuary at 7:00 pm

### **Friday 12/22**

- Bethel office is closed.

## **Fellowship Ministries**

### **Electric City Bible Study—online**

What a great way to connect with one another! Join our bible study via Zoom, Tuesday mornings at 7:00 am. Contact Laurie Turner at lolli51gus@icloud.com for a link to join the meeting.

### **Men's Breakfast**

Join us for a fun and engaging conversation, and insightful discussion of each week's lectionary texts as we meet in the Fellowship Hall Tuesday mornings at 7:00 am. Contact Dave Scholten at dscholten@dlsconsulting.net for more information.

### **Hope Circle—in person**

This group meets once a month usually on Thursday evenings. Bible study and fellowship are celebrated with this group of ladies. Contact Terry Korpela to be on the group email for meetings and prayer requests  
terry.korpela@gmail.com.

*December*

### **Weekly Text Study**

#### **with Pastor Jessie**

Wednesdays, 10:00 am via Zoom, Pastor Jessie will be leading discussion on the text readings for the upcoming Sunday. Dig deeper in the interpretation of the readings and discuss ways they give us guidance in our daily lives. If you would like to join this meeting, email bethelgf.pastor@gmail.com to be added to the mailing list.