

# BETHEL NOTES

## Serving This Sunday

### Accompanist

Lynn Ryan, Piano

### Lay Assistant

Brian Boucher

### Readers

Anna and Brian Boucher,

Sammy Seidel,

Sidney and Sierra Rio,

Charley Goroski,

Kendall and Kari Ryan,

Jackson Duff,

Tesher Johnson,

Cailyn Chadbourne,

Ellie Kosanda,

Elle Gustafson

### Usher

Sidney Rio

Kendall Ryan

### Acolyte

Jackson Duff

### Tech

Gabe Smith

### Projection

TBD

### Children's Church

Tyler Grosenick

Claire Woods

### Hospitality

Tamy Scholten

### Counters

Greg Grosenick

Tammy Good



## THIS SUNDAY

### Readings:

*First Reading:*  
Jeremiah 33:14-16

*Psalm:*  
Psalm 23:1-10

*Second Reading:*  
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

*Gospel:*  
Luke 21:25-36



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

## This Sunday at Bethel...

We celebrate **First Sunday of Advent**.

We welcome and thank **Pastor Jessica Crist** for leading worship for us today. Also thank you to our **LOGOs Youth** for assisting her this morning.

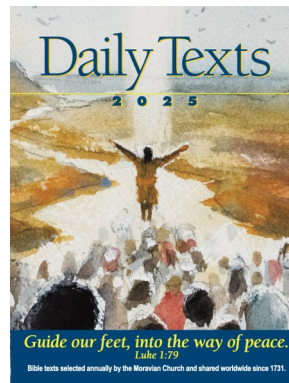
**Adult Forum The Chosen** season 4 continues after worship in the Pastor's office.

### Inside this issue:

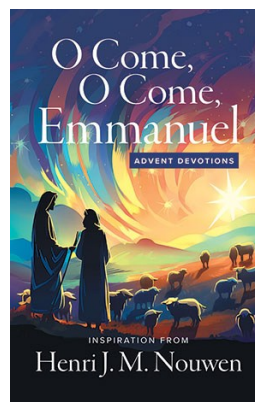
Prayers	2
Good Gifts	3
Christmas Decorating Thank you	
Voters' Meeting Announcement	4
1st Monday Quilters Reception Help Needed	
World Aids Day	
Christmas Market	5
Flowing Water music Series	
Longfellow Needs Helping Hands Needs	
Gospel Message	6
Thelma Seyfert COL	
Just for <b>YOUth</b>	7
Calendar	8
Ministries	
Preaching and Presiding at Bethel	

*Lord,  
in your mercy  
hear our prayers.*

- ✠ Prayers of healing for **Carol Ann**, *Marilyn Carlson's sister*, as she recovers from surgery and determines future treatment.
- ✠ Prayers of healing for **Lynn Ryan's mother**, who is having a double lung transplant.
- ✠ Prayers of healing for **Mary Lou Norbie** as she recovers from eye surgery.
- ✠ Prayers healing for **Maddie** and support for her family, *she is the daughter of a friend of Lindsey Turner Johnson's*, who is having surgery.
- ✠ Prayers of healing for **Shelly Murphy** as she continues with cancer treatments and is doing well.
- ✠ Prayers of healing for **Sue Cassell**, *friend of Sara Sexe*, as she is receiving treatments for cancer.
- ✠ Prayers of Healing for **Kendra**, *TLC Day-care employee*, who was diagnosed with cancer and will begin treatment.
- ✠ Prayers of healing for **Dick Seim** who is in Park Place receiving physical therapy and preparing for surgery.
- ✠ Prayers of healing for **Carrie O'Brien** as she is in the hospital following complications after surgery.
- ✠ Prayers of healing and support for **Dylan Erickson** as he recovers from hip surgery.
- ✠ Prayers of healing for **Shannon Obrecht**, *family friend of Karen Lord*, as she manages cancer diagnosis with complications.
- ✠ **Gustavo Driau**, Regional Representative of South America, who is in the hospital.
- ✠ Prayers of healing for **Alex Bostic** as he continues to manage his health.
- ✠ Prayers of healing for **Ed Pottratz** as he continues cancer treatment.



2025 Daily Texts are now available in the Narthex. You can make a donation to cover the cost if you wish, but is not expected.



2025 Advent Devotionals are now available in the Narthex. If you would like one mailed to you, call the Bethel Office 406-761-1543 or email [bethelgf.church@gmail.com](mailto:bethelgf.church@gmail.com)



# Christmas Giving Tree

Our Good Gifts Giving Tree is back this year! The tree is located in the Narthex as you enter the church. To participate in the Giving Tree follow these simple instructions:

- ⇒ Select one or more ornaments from the tree and write your name on the back.
- ⇒ Write a check or insert cash for the total amount of your donation.
- ⇒ Pick up an envelop from the table in the Narthex that are marked for Good Gifts.
- ⇒ Put the cash or check and the ornaments in the envelop and place in the offering tray.
- ⇒ We will have an online option for those who wish to pay with a credit or debit card through our website.

Your ornaments will be displayed on our Giving Wall throughout Advent.

Please reach out to Tami in the Bethel Office with any questions.

## Thank You to Our Decorating Elves!

We wanted to say thank you to all who stayed after worship on Sunday to get the church ready for Christmas. Setting up and decorating 4 trees, the beautiful Crèche and myriad of holiday accoutrements!



A special thank you to those who helped with cleaning the burgundy and taupe curtains in the Gathering Place, especially Mathias Pappos and Warren Johnson. Also, thank you to Patty Braget and Randy Gilbertson for getting the lift and getting it set up.

The Church looks beautiful and it could not have been done without all of your help!



## Bethel Voting Members Mark Your Calendars

The Call Committee has made a recommendation to the Council for our new pastor. We will be sending out a biography for this candidate soon as well as a link for a podcast that will give you more information very soon.

It may seem like we are putting the cart before the horse not releasing the information prior to our announcing the meeting, however to be in compliance with our constitution we must give 30 days notice for a voters' meeting. In order to be as expedient as we can and giving our candidate the opportunity to manage things in their end. This also gives you ample time to review the biography and podcast.

Our meeting to vote on this candidate will be **December 22, 2024** and will be a combined in person and Zoom for those voters who wish to attend, but due to the holidays will not be in town. The meeting will be held following our worship service and we expect to begin the meeting at 10:45 am.

You may let the Council know if you have any questions. If you are not a voting member and would like to become one before this meeting, please let Tami know in the Bethel Office.



**1<sup>ST</sup> MONDAY QUILTERS**  
December 2nd, 2024  
6:00 to 8:00 pm  
New Hope Lutheran Church  
3125 5th Avenue South  
Great Falls MT 59405  
Questions? 406-799-0100

## Reception Help Needed

Thelma Seyfert's (Tami's mom) service will be Saturday December 14th at 2:00 p.m. with a reception following.

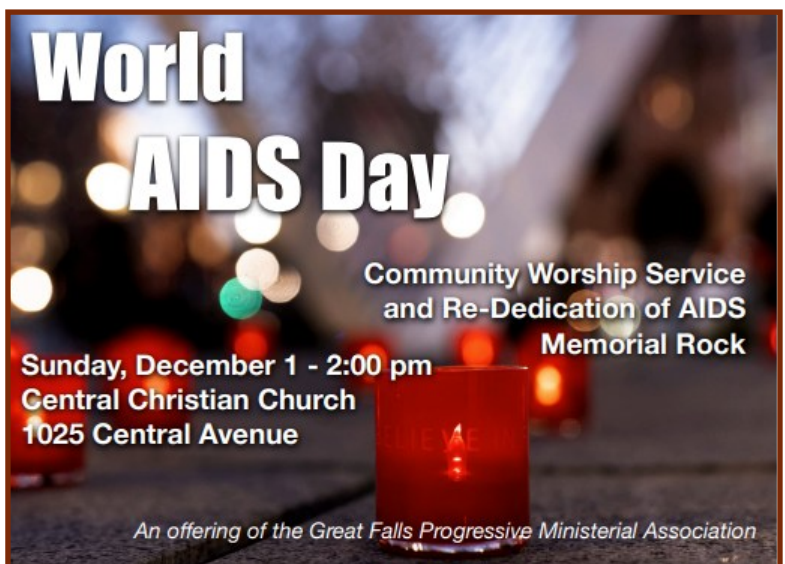
If you would like to help set up for the reception on Friday 12/13 at 4:00 p.m. please let Terry Korpela know or sign up on the sign up sheet in the narthex.

There will also be a sign up to bring desserts, fruit plates, and crackers. The church will provide the charcuterie boards of cheeses.

If you would like to help serve and/or be on cleanup that also would be appreciated.

Thanks everyone for volunteering your help and your support for Tami and our Bethel family.

God Bless  
Terry Korpela



**World AIDS Day**  
Community Worship Service  
and Re-Dedication of AIDS  
Memorial Rock  
Sunday, December 1 - 2:00 pm  
Central Christian Church  
1025 Central Avenue  
An offering of the Great Falls Progressive Ministerial Association



Hosted by the Great Falls Public Library  
**How to Survive a Plague** a film  
by David France  
World AIDS Day is December 1, and together with community partners, we are continuing the education of what this disease is and how it impacts people's lives.  
Join us for this FREE showing of the 2012 American documentary film about the early days of the AIDS epidemic.  
Tuesday December 3  
Doors open at 5:30  
Documentary starts at 6:00  
THE LITTLE WHITE PARTY  
FOR WORLD AIDS DAY  
7 DECEMBER 2024  
7PM-10PM  
LUNA COFFEE  
GREAT FALLS, MT  
HIV AND HEP C TESTS AVAILABLE FOR 7.8PM PROVIDED BY ALLUVION  
Independence Rock Coalition

# Christmas Market

December 15th after worship, we will have our second annual Christmas Market fundraiser for Vacation Bible School Day Camp 2025!

If you are a crafter or baker we would love your donation for this event.

Please let Terry Korpela know what you would like to donate.

## Flowing Water

New Music ~ Great Falls

Flowing Water | New Music | Great Falls, Montana  
Wednesday Afternoons | 12:05 pm

### Series Three

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| November 27, 2024 | Jean Annau, Wendy Weissman, Clarinets<br>Mark Barry, Bruce Bull, Percussionists<br>Samarra Nicholson, Dancer<br><i>By Moonlight by Laura Detrick</i><br><i>Seven Dances by James F. Rickley</i> |
| December 4, 2024  | Destin Markland, James F. Rickley, Pianists<br><i>17, Reawakening, Progression and Undiminished</i><br><i>by Destin Markland</i>  |
| December 11, 2024 | Alan Johnson, Soprano Saxophone<br>Jake Henneford, Marimba<br><i>Phenomenon by James F. Rickley</i>   |
| December 18, 2024 | Christopher Kloker, Clarinet<br><i>Clarinficence by David Saslav</i><br><i>Dancing Wind, Mystic Wind, Numberings in the City of Night by James F. Rickley</i>                                   |

**New Hope Lutheran Church**  
3125 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue South • Great Falls, Montana  
For Further Information  
406-315-1203 • 406-768-8023  
Bring a Lunch – Tea, Coffee, Water, Dessert Provided  
Montana Composers' Alliance Protocols  
New Compositions are Performed Twice with a Q & A Between  
Support Contributions to: New Hope – Concert Series



Longfellow Elementary will have their Holiday Concert on Tuesday December 17th. We love to help our kids to look and feel their best! If you have any gently used or new donations to contribute, it would be greatly appreciated. We will be setting up a store for students to shop for their holiday outfits on the day of the concert.

### How can you help?

- Boys and Girls Dress Clothing  
Sizes 5t to Adult XL
- Accessories
- Dress Shoes
- Hair Brushes, Clips, & Other Products

Please bring donations to Longfellow or contact us to pick them up!

*Thank you for supporting our amazing students!*

## Cold Weather Gear Drive for Helping Hands of Great Falls

During Advent we are taking a collection of cold weather gear for Helping Hands, can be new or gently used. Items include, but not limited to:

- Hats, gloves, scarves
- Snow boots or other warm boots/shoes
- Long johns or leggings
- Coats
- Blankets/sleeping bags
- Snow pants or lined pants

We have a collection box in the Narthex under the Bethel Office window and we will be delivering items weekly.



# GOSPEL MESSAGE



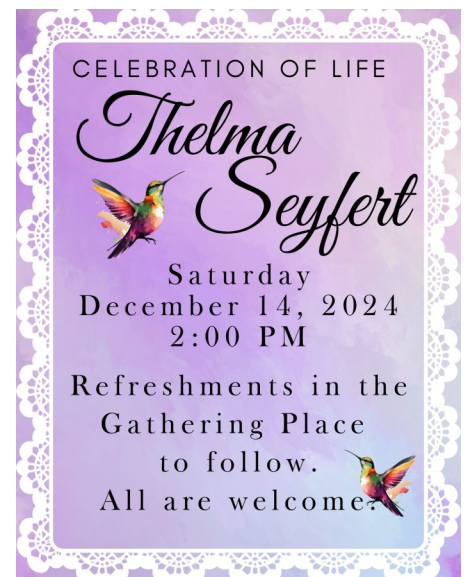
## Real Worries, Real Hope

“Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.” With these words, often invoked at the table of holy communion, the church proclaims “the mystery of faith” (*ELW*, p. 110). At communion, we remember the good story of Jesus’ death and resurrection. But there is more! We also look forward to a time yet to be.

Thoughts of the future can inspire hopefulness for the promise of good things to come. Yet looking ahead can also conjure worries about what we do not know, or a sense of foreboding about what is out of our control. It’s hard not to hear in Jesus’ references to nature a warning about the dramatic effects of climate change. We inhabit a world in which ordinary signs that used to reliably mark the change of seasons are shifting. So when he talks about the trees sprouting leaves as a sure sign that summer is near, the image may leave us unsettled. In recent times, trees in some places have started budding when meteorological spring and summer are still months away. How will the trees respond when frost comes again? How is the church to respond in times such as these? Will the fig tree bloom on time this year?

Jesus’ parable of the fig tree comes smack-dab in the middle of some very disturbing news. Jesus offers an image of hope amid circumstances that seem all but hopeless. He talks of new growth even while what is old and familiar is passing away. Much like Jesus’ parable, the season of Advent invites the church to hold together these multiple, seemingly contradictory realities. We are called to rise up with courage and hope as we anticipate Jesus coming to us, without ignoring the weight of the world or neglecting our very real concerns. Jesus gathers us to the table where we remember his death but also his resurrection, where we pray for the world and also anticipate God’s redemption of all things.

From [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com)  
Copyright © 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.



# JUST 4 YOUTH

Welcome to worship. Today is the first Sunday in Advent. Advent means “coming.” During Advent we get ready and wait for Jesus to come. What’s different in your worship space today? What colors do you see? Do you see an Advent wreath? What color are the candles? Is one candle burning?

Color and light one candle here.



### Getting ready for Christmas

Jesus told a story to help his disciples get ready for his coming. Jesus wants us to get ready for his coming, too. Praying is one way we can get ready for Christmas.



Ask someone to help you write a prayer of thanks to God.

---

---

---

---

### The fig tree

Luke 21:25-36

Jesus told a story to his friends. In the winter, many trees have no leaves. But in the springtime their leaves begin to appear. These new green leaves show that summer is near. This is one sign that God’s kingdom is coming. Look around you: Jesus is coming. Get ready!

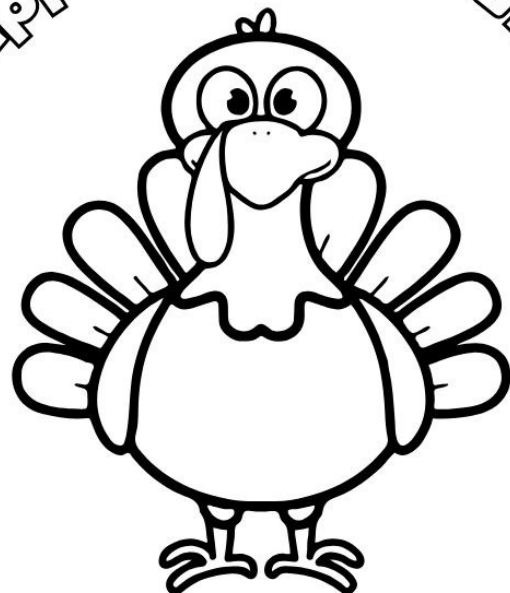


Unscramble these words to find ways you can get ready for Jesus. Write one word inside each fig leaf.

apry \_\_\_\_\_ rashe \_\_\_\_\_

gism \_\_\_\_\_ sipwroh \_\_\_\_\_

happy thanksgiving



## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

### **Tuesday, 12/3**

- Electric City Bible Study on Zoom 7:00 am
- NO Men's Breakfast

### **Wednesday, 12/4**

- LOGOs Youth Ministry 5:30 pm; HS 6:30 pm

### **Thursday 12/5**

- Exec Board meeting in the Fellowship Hall 6:30 pm

### **Friday, 12/6**

- Office Closed
- Aitz Chaim Friday worship 6:00 pm

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Sunday 12/8**

- Worship led by Jim Carlson, LMA in person and live stream 9:30 am
- World Hunger Sunday
- Jubilate Choir will sing
- Adult Forum The Chosen season 4 continues

### **Tuesday, 12/10**

- Electric City Bible Study on Zoom 7:00 am
- Men's Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall 7:00 am
- Budget Committee Meeting in the Fellowship Hall 5:00 pm
- Council meeting in the Fellowship Hall 6:30 pm

### **Wednesday, 12/11**

- LOGOs Youth Ministry 5:30 pm; HS 6:30 pm

### **Friday, 12/13**

- Office Closed

### **Saturday 12/14**

- 9:30 am LOGOs Christmas Program Rehearsal
- Celebration of Life Thelma Seyfert 2:00 pm; Reception in the Gathering Place to follow

## **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 [dscholten1118@gmail.com](mailto:dscholten1118@gmail.com) for more information.

### **Hope Circle—in person**

This group meets once a month usually on Tuesday or Thursday afternoons. 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](mailto:terry.korpela@gmail.com).

Next meeting December

### **Preaching And Presiding at Bethel**

December 1st Pastor Jessica Crist

December 8th Jim Carlson, LMA

December 15th, Christmas Program and  
Hymn Sing

December 22nd Dave Scholten, LMA

December 24th Pastor Jessica Crist

December 29th Dave Scholten, LMA

January 5, 2025 Jim Carlson, LMA