



2ND SUNDAY IN ADVENT › DECEMBER 10TH 2023 › 11:00 AM

Prelude *Open the Gates of the Temple* arranged by Ethel Smith

Westminster Chimes

Welcome & Announcements Wade Cash

WE APPROACH GOD -----

Invocation Wade Cash

Call to Worship {Psalms 121} Wade Cash

Leader: Lord in these darkening days we come.

People: We come seeking peace.

Leader: We seek serenity within ourselves.

People: We seek harmony within our families.

Leader: We seek goodwill among our neighbors.

People: Lord, we seek peace in all nations.

Leader: We seek not just the absence of conflict.

People: But the peace found in Your presence.

Leader: We seek the abiding Peace.

Everyone: Lord, we seek healing life, we also seek the unrelenting justice and peace that God calls us to in Christ Jesus our Savior. Amen

† Opening Hymn #5 *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent* JoAnn Pendley

† Call to Confession Wade Cash

† Prayer of Confession Wade Cash

Forgive us, Lord, for the times we refuse to listen to those who announce your presence. Forgive us when we ignore the cries that come from the wilderness. Allow us to understand that, like John the Baptist, we too are unworthy before the Lord of All. Help us live into our baptisms. Remind us of the beginning of the Good News of Jesus Christ and empower us to be the continuation of that Good News as we live and serve. Help us to be the facilitators of Christ's Peace in this world. Amen.

† Moment of Silent Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness Wade Cash

HEARING GOD’S WORD -----

The Advent Wreath Mo Kyle

 Luke 2:13-14. Mo Kyle

Lighting the 2nd Advent Candle *The Candle of Peace.* Steve Kyle

The Advent Song - Verse 2Melissa Swisher

Advent Prayer. Mo Kyle

Anthem. *What Can I Give Him.* Bethel Choir

Time with Young People {Isaiah 9:6} *The Prince of Peace.* Derek Almarode

Prayer of Illumination Derek Almarode

Scripture Reading {Isaiah 9:1-7} Derek Almarode

Sermon *Anchored In Peace* Derek Almarode

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD -----

† Hymn of Reflection #14. *Savior of the Nations Come* JoAnn Pendley

† Statement of Faith {The Apostle’s Creed} Wade Cash

*THE HOLY CATHOLIC CHURCH: THAT IS THE TRUE CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF ALL TIMES AND ALL PLACES

Joys & Concerns Wade Cash

Prayers of the People followed by Amen #601 Derek Almarode

RECEPTION OF TITHES & OFFERINGS -----

Offertory *In the Bleak Mid-Winter* by Charity Bowles

† Doxology. JoAnn Pendley

† Prayer of Dedication. Derek Almarode

SENDING -----

† Closing Hymn #13 *Prepare The Way* JoAnn Pendley

† Charge & Benediction Derek Almarode

Postlude *The Faithful Shepherd* by George Blake



Advent Song

2090

C C/E G7 G7 G7 G7 G7 C

1. Light the Ad - vent can - dle, one: Now the wait - ing has be - gun;
 2. Light the Ad - vent can - dle, two: Think of hum - ble shep - herds, who
 3. Light the Ad - vent can - dle, three: Think of heaven - ly har - mo - ny;
 4. Light the Ad - vent can - dle, four: Think of joy for - ev - er - more;
 5. Light the Christ - mas can - dles, now: Sing of don - key, sheep, and cow;

E E7 Am F C/E C G7 G7

we have start - ed on our way, time to think of Christ - mas day.
 filled with won - der at the sight of the child of Christ - mas night.
 an - gels sing - ing "Peace on earth" at the bless - ed Sav - ior's birth.
 Christ Child in a sta - ble born, gift of love that Christ - mas morn.
 birth - day can - dles for the King, let the al - le - lu - ias ring.

Refrain
C C/E G7 G7 G7 G7 G7 C

Can - dle, can - dle, burn - ing bright, shin - ing in the cold win - ter night;

E E7 Am F C/E C G7 C

can - dle, can - dle, burn - ing bright, fill our hearts with Christ - mas light.

RIVERHEADS WRE

Riverheads Weekday Religious Education is currently looking for a long-term sub. This is a part-time position, five days a week, working a rotating schedule of half days. Six days in a row classes are in the morning (8:40-11:05) followed by six days of afternoon classes (12:20-2:45). Therefore the applicant would need to be willing to work a flexible schedule. **A love of Jesus and children is a must!**

Deadline to apply is December 20, 2023.

Aiming for a start date in January to continue through the rest of the school year.

If interested, please contact:

Mary Alford
President of Riverheads WRE
(540) 280-3540
alfords4@verizon.net

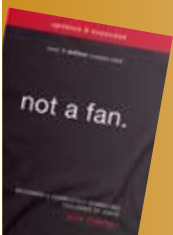
PRAYER REQUESTS OR CHANGES

If you have any changes, additions or updates to the Prayer List please contact:
Tammy Barbour @ 540-471-0450— or — Ellen Fitzgerald @ 540-292-2914

To keep the Prayer List as up to date as possible, names will be removed from the list after eight weeks unless Tammy, Ellen or the Office has been notified otherwise.

BIBLE STUDY THURSDAYS @ 6:30

There will be no bible study on December 28 or January 4. We will begin a NEW study on January 11. Book is TBD.



ECO

As a Presbyterian church, ECO adheres to Reformed theology and Presbyterian polity. The acronym represent ECO's three-fold commitment to make disciples of Jesus Christ (Evangelical), connect leaders through accountable relationships and encourage collaboration (Covenant), and commit to a shared way of life together (Order).

Winter Plans

We're making plans for the bleak winter months and want your suggestions! Drop a note in the box under the tv in memorial hall if you have any ideas!

game night · movie night · date night
more fellowship · sight & sound in lancaster
You name it and we'll try to make it happen!!

YOUTH (KIDS AT HEART INCLUDED)

bowling · movies · tubing · water park
basketball · snowflex · give us your ideas!!

Impacting Lives with a Helping Hand

"God's Pit Crew" is traveling to Mississippi to construct a new home. Are you interested in lending a hand? Bethel would be joining another local church to comprise a team, the team would be assigned to work the week of April 6-13, 2024 (Saturday to Saturday) We have talked about resurrecting our great Mission Teams here at Bethel and putting our talent back to work for Christ, here is our chance to lend a hand in a storm tattered area. If you are interested please see Derek for details.

*All of the large windows
are installed -
go check them out!*

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

If you would like to purchase a new window for the Sunday School Wing in Honor or Memory of someone, please see Wade Cash.

SAMPLE WINDOW ON THE RIGHT.



LIVING NATIVITY

at the Chapel in the Woods

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17TH @ 5:00 PM

LIVE ANIMALS. REFRESHMENTS BEFORE.

COME EARLY AND FELLOWSHIP AROUND THE FIRE!

PINES CHAPEL WILL BE JOINING US!

LIVING NATIVITY AT THE CHAPEL IN THE WOODS

If you would like to participate, have any livestock that we can use or help in any way, please see Cindy, Penny, Tammy, Brian or Derek!

CHRISTMAS ALIVE PROJECT

RIVERHEADS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

In addition to providing Christmas gifts to our Christmas Alive Families, we would like to provide our families with food for Christmas as well.

We are requesting the following items that could be used for Christmas dinner:

HAM • INSTANT OR BOXED MASHED POTATOES • BOXED MAC'N CHEESE OR VELVEETA SHELLS & CHEESE
BOXED STUFFING • CANNED VEGETABLES • CANNED FRUIT

Any kind of meat would also be appreciated since it's unaffordable for them at this time such as ground beef or chicken tenders.

If you plan donate a ham, ground beef or chicken tenders please call Katie McElveen @ 540-292-4442 before purchasing so as not to duplicate the meats.

We would also like to donate snacks for the kids, suggested items include:

MICROWAVE POPCORN • GOLDFISH CRACKERS • INDIVIDUAL CUPS OF APPLESAUCE OR FRUIT • FRUIT SNACKS
HOT COCOA MIX • CAKE MIXES & FROSTING • MUFFIN MIXES WITH LINERS OR NON STICK SPRAY
PEANUT BUTTER • JELLY • CAPRI SUNS OR JUICE BOXES

**PLEASE HAVE YOUR DONATIONS TO CHURCH BY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023.
PRESENTS ARE ALSO DUE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17TH — ALREADY WRAPPED WITH THE TAG ATTACHED**

lift up in prayer

Bethel Leadership and Our Bethel Church Family

Bill Brubeck | Joyce Davis | Ronnie Wilson | Cathy Bartley
Jane Law | John Sproul | Skyler Harris | Rodger Swisher
Kenny Olson | Joe Heizer | Bobbie Lawhorn | Eddie Bartley
Ronnie Warren | Wilda Dyer | Debbie Koogler | Crystal Gordan
Pat Quick | Tara Lafler | Lester Hughes | Faye Ambler

Sympathy & Condolences

FAMILY and FRIENDS of the FOLLOWING:

John Pilson | Virginia Francisco | Gary Sutton
Chuckie Burgdorf

Dear Bethel Family,

A MESSAGE FROM THE PULPIT

Christmas is the celebration of the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. The season of Advent is known as a season of drawing families together and the faithful to worship. As we celebrate this Christmas season with each other, our thoughts turn to that sacred event long ago in Bethlehem where the "Light of the World" was born.

As Advent begins, I sincerely pray that the light and testimony of Jesus will come into your hearts, and your lives will reflect His life and attributes. It is my prayer, that people everywhere will accept the blessings of His mercy and grace that are made possible through His birth and atoning sacrifice.

During this Christmas Season don't miss out on all the great and wonderful things planned here at Bethel. As we celebrate and worship together, may your families be blessed by the joy found in this season of birth which brings us all great hope.

Christmas is a joyous time where we acknowledge with gratitude God's incomparable gift to us, His Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Friends, speaking of gifts, the best Christmas gift we can give each other is to share our faith with loved ones and strangers alike, proclaiming the joyous tidings that God is truly with us.

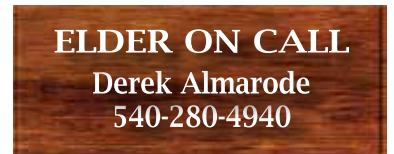
As we serve Jesus here at Bethel, we should not just share our faith with one another but we should reach out beyond our walls and share all the blessings God has given us, especially the gift of love and peace. In our world we are witnesses to violence, prejudice and fear. Christmas is a time for us to counter these worldly sins and ills by loving each other as deeply as God loved us by sending us His son Jesus on that beautiful Christmas Night!

This Christmas Season, Cindy, Ashlyn, Cayden and I wish each of you great tidings of peace, joy and good will. May this Christmas be one for which you remember for years to come as you share in love of family and friendship.

Please know Bethel's doors are open this Advent season and beyond for you and your loved ones to experience the attributes of Christ Jesus! "Come one, Come All!!!"

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Derek





UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

INCLUDING OUR
COMMUNITY FAMILY OF FAITH

Sunday, December 17th

LIVING NATIVITY AT THE CHAPEL IN THE WOODS, BETHEL
WITH PINES CHAPEL AND MT. TABOR.

Sunday, December 24th - Christmas Eve

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT.
REGULAR WORSHIP AT 11:00.
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE @ 8:00PM.

Thursday, December 28 - NO BIBLE STUDY

Sunday, December 31st

WRE BREAKFAST AT PINES CHAPEL AT 8:30
WORSHIP AT PINES - 9:30, WORSHIP AT BETHEL - 11:00.

Thursday, January 4 - NO BIBLE STUDY

Thursdays - 6:30

BIBLE STUDY AT BETHEL — SERIES "NOT A FAN"
NEW LESSON SERIES STARTS JANUARY 11TH!!
SERIES TO BE DETERMINED



YOUTH COMMITTEE
Meets the last Sunday
of each month.

SECURITY COMMITTEE
Meets the 3rd Sunday
of each month.

ELDERS

Dave Schooley
CLERK OF SESSION
& F CO-CHAIR

Cindy Almarode
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION, CHAIR
MODERATOR, WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

Derek Almarode
LAY PASTOR
TRANSITION CHAIR

Tammy Barbour
WORSHIP CHAIR

Wade Cash
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS CHAIR
CHAIRMAN OF THE DEACONS

Penny Lee
CHRISTIAN OUTREACH CHAIR

Brian Lee
YOUTH CHAIR
& F CO-CHAIR

Bob Olson
NOMINATING CHAIR
WITNESS CHAIR

Dale Thompson
PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Tim Turner
COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR

Jill Webb

DEACONS

Ellen Fitzgerald

Charlie Johnson

Mitch Lathrop

Harleigh Lee

Katie McElveen

D.W. Miller

TRUSTEES

Guy D. Brooks

Bill Brubeck

Charlie Johnson

Billy Wade

James Williams

CHURCH STAFF

JoAnn Pendley
PIANIST, ORGANIST
BELL CHOIR AND CHOIR

Lois Stogdale
DISBURSING TREASURER

Kay Thompson
RECEIVING TREASURER

John & Donna Bush
CUSTODIANS

Carol & Puggie Sprouse
CUSTODIANS