

THE *Tower*

DECEMBER 2023

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ADVENT SEASON

Dear Bethel Family,

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

— MESSAGE FROM — **PASTOR'S DESK**

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.

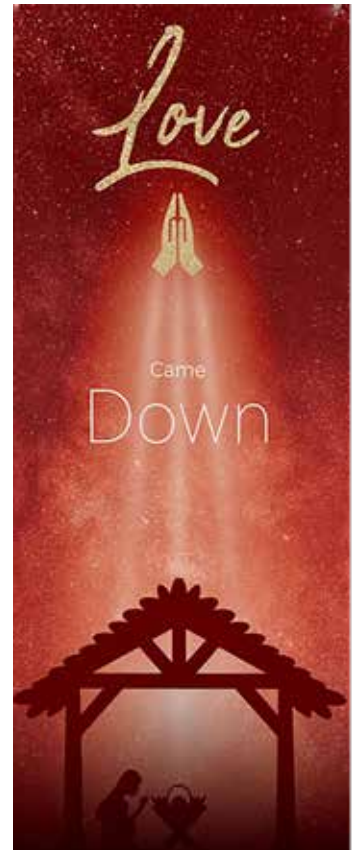
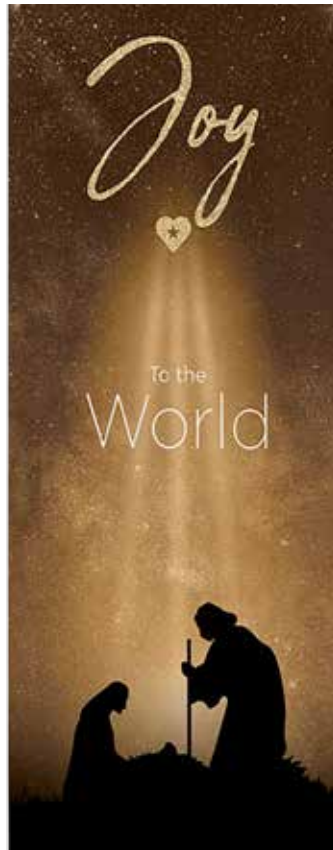
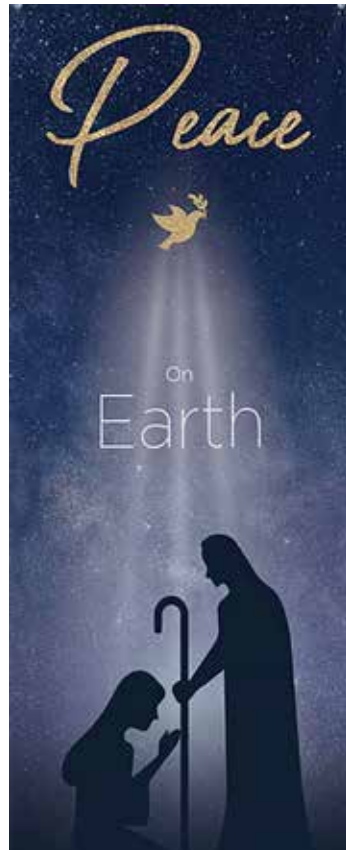
Please know Bethel's doors are open this advent season and beyond for you and your loved ones to experience the attributes of Christ Jesus! "Come one, Come All!!"

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!
Derek

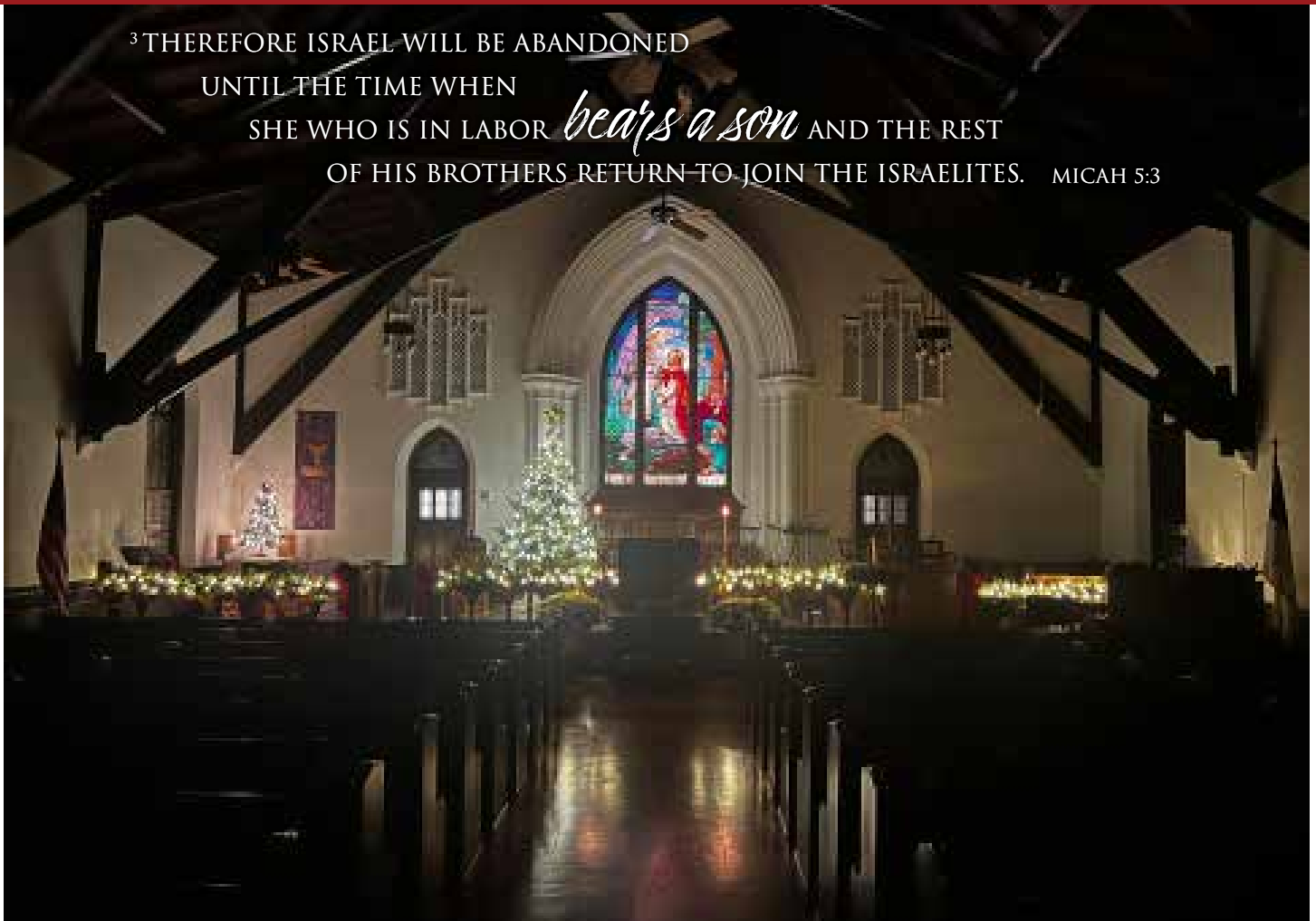
THIS IS REAL LOVE — NOT THAT WE LOVED GOD, BUT THAT *He loved us* AND SENT HIS SON AS A SACRIFICE TO TAKE AWAY OUR SINS.

1 JOHN 4:10





³THEREFORE ISRAEL WILL BE ABANDONED
UNTIL THE TIME WHEN
SHE WHO IS IN LABOR *bears a son* AND THE REST
OF HIS BROTHERS RETURN TO JOIN THE ISRAELITES. MICAH 5:3



thank you to the lights in the park crew!



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.



Bethel Session Meeting November 26, 2023

——— Notes of Importance for the Congregation ———

The Bethel Session met on Sunday, November 26th for our regular meeting in the Session Room with 9 Elders present.

General Business:

The meeting was opened with prayer. The Session discussed several matters of business.

- Wade Cash announced the completion of the Windows in the downstairs Sunday school Rooms, with funds donated by our members.
- We will have a live nativity scene with Pines Chapel in the Chapel in the Woods at 5:00 pm. December 17th , come early to enjoy the fellowship.
- The Bethel Lights in the Park are on display, go see them all.
- The session will be forming an officer nominating committee in January, for elections in March
- The next session meeting is scheduled for December 17.



Respectfully,
David Schooley
Elder David Schooley
Clerk of Session

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.

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!!



LIVING NATIVITY

at the Chapel in the Woods

Sunday, December 17th @ 5:00 pm

Live animals. Refreshments before.

Come early - stay late.

Christmas Carols around the bonfire.

Pines Chapel will be joining us!



LIVING NATIVITY AT THE CHAPEL IN THE WOODS

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 can donate the ham for Christmas or some ground beef or chicken tenders, please call Katie McElveen 540-292-4442 before purchasing.

For example, if we have 5 hams donated - that would be a LOT of ham.

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 no 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! —

Thank you for your Christian Giving this Christmas Season



**THE CIRCLE MEETING
IS THE 3RD THURSDAY OF
THE MONTH AT 12:30**

December BIRTHDAYS

Guy Brooks -----December 3
 Puggie Sprouse -----December 8
 Samuel Williams -----December 8
 Rhonda Johnson -----December 13
 Frank Shifflett -----December 16
 Cynthia Williams -----December 16
 Alice Wooddell -----December 17
 Sam Goodson -----December 19
 Bob Hoy -----December 20
 Luanne Leonard -----December 20
 Mitch Lathrop -----December 24
 Shirley Heizer -----December 29
 James Schooley -----December 30

December ANNIVERSARIES

Bob & Jackie Law ----- December 11, 1985
 Ben & Tessa Williams ----- December 13, 2014
 Dan & Ginny Gano ----- December 22, 1970
 Steve & Mo Kyle ----- December 27, 1986

¹⁰ Listen, my son, accept what I say,
 and the years of your life will be
 many. ¹¹ I instruct you in the way of
 wisdom and lead you along straight
 paths. ¹² When you walk, your steps
 will not be hampered; when you run,
 you will not stumble. ¹³ Hold on to
 instruction, do not let it go; guard it
 well, for it is your life.

PROVERBS 4:10-13 NIV

ELDERS

Class of 2023

BOB OLSON
DAVE SCHOOLEY
TIM TURNER

Class of 2024

TAMMY BARBOUR
BRIAN LEE
DALE THOMPSON
JILL WEBB

Class of 2025

CINDY ALMARODE
DEREK ALMARODE
WADE CASH
PENNY LEE

Clerk of Session

DAVE SCHOOLEY

DEACONS

Class of 2023

ELLEN FITZGERALD
CHARLIE JOHNSON

Class of 2024

MITCH LATHROP
D.W. MILLER

Class of 2025

HARLEIGH LEE
KATIE MCELVEEN

TRUSTEES

Class of 2023

BILL BRUBECK
JAMES WILLIAMS

Class of 2024

GUY D. BROOKS

Class of 2025

CHARLIE JOHNSON
BILLY WADE

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



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.