



Bethel

by God, each other, family,
friends and community

November 30, 2023

Bethel Lutheran Church, White Rock, SC



December provides numerous opportunities for meaningful worship including four Sundays of Advent, Blue Christmas, Christmas Eve Festival Worship, and Lessons and Carols on the First Sunday of Christmas. While the world hustles and bustles, Christians are invited to pause and prepare our hearts for the Christ child. Our services are carefully pieced together by Julia Parker and Pastor Megan with the input of our Worship and Music Committee. Your participation is an essential part of worship. Liturgy actually means “the work of the people”. So, come and worship. Invite your friends, family, and neighbors. If you haven’t been in a while, join us again as we begin this new church year.

A word from Julia Parker about worship:

Our church calendar tells us the Advent season is here! This year all four Advent Sundays are in December. Advent suggests preparation, anticipation, contemplation. To help us keep awake, turn again to the coming Christ and ponder how this event works in our lives, we are asked to consider simplicity, especially in our Advent music.

To that end, the prelude music will be a shorter, subdued selection based on one of the hymns for each week. “Come Now, O Prince of Peace”, ELW #247, is the hymn for lighting the Advent wreath. We will sing two stanzas before the lighting and two after the lighting. The Kyrie, ELW #156, is simpler in that the cantor will sing “Lord, have mercy” and the congregation will repeat exactly. Each petition is sung in the same format cantor/all. Some of us remember this format from before the previous “red” hymnal. During Advent, the Cantic of Praise is omitted.

As we move to the chanting of the Psalm, we’re asking the cantor to sing the refrain and the congregation to repeat it, as is our usual custom. Then the cantor will chant each verse and you, congregation, are asked to respond with the refrain at the appointed **R**. This design is to give you the opportunity to concentrate on the text of the psalm while you listen as the cantor chants the text.

During the reception of the offering, we ask that you join in singing “O Come, Emmanuel”, ELW #257, using stanza 1 on the first and second Sundays of Advent, stanza 2 on Advent III and stanza 7 on Advent IV. The hymn text will be in the bulletin insert.

Finally, you may find it interesting to know that each Sunday of Advent has a designation which helps us remember the emphasis for that week.

Advent I - “Stir up” Sunday, a reference to the first words of the Prayer of the Day. In fact, Advent is four weeks of “Stir up” Sundays: “your power, Lord Jesus”; “our hearts”; “the wills of your faithful people”; and “your power, Lord Christ”.

Advent II - John the Baptist calls us to repent and calls himself the “forerunner.”

Advent III - ‘Rejoice’ Sunday, again a reference to the first words of Paul’s writing to the Thessalonians, “Rejoice”, the Savior is coming! This is the Sunday that pastors traditionally wear rose-colored garments and smaller bouquets of flowers are placed on the altar to represent the joy we share for the coming of the Savior.

Advent IV - Mary sings “Magnificat” - My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord.





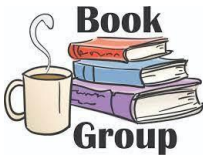
Congratulations and welcome to our newly elected church council members: Donna Brown, Sarah Cheesman, and Mike Moore.



Noisy Offering will be held on Sunday, December 31. Contributions will be made to Harvest Hope Food Bank.



WILD WOMEN AT LUTHERIDGE - If you are interested in a weekend away on the mountain alongside other women for faith formation and renewal, contact Pastor Megan. There are two weekends in March. Pastor Megan is on the planning team and is a leader for one of the two weekends. We hope to gather a group to go share this meaningful time together.



Bethel's Book Group will be discussing Pope Joan by Donna Woolfolk Cross on Sunday, January 21. If you need help ordering a copy (it can be difficult to find), please contact Pastor Megan.



Note about the Organ and Pews- You may have noticed there are a few pews missing (relocated) near the front of the sanctuary. We have been working on this project for a while in order to move the organ for a better view for our musician as she plays and for security reasons. Moving pews enables this to happen AND creates more worshipping space for those who attend worship in a wheelchair. Thanks to those who worked hard to make this happen!



The church office will be closed for Christmas beginning Monday, December 25, 2023 through Monday, January 1, 2024. For pastoral care emergencies, contact Pastor Megan on her cell phone. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



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| December 3: George Faust | December 4: Mary Kathryne Wadford |
| December 7: Patrick George | December 13: Bonnie Lowman |
| December 16: Grady Slice | December 18: David Chaney |
| December 18: Carla Derrick-Chaney | December 18: Brian Stone |
| December 22: Marilyn Bull | December 23: Jane Sites |
| December 27: Danika Kochems | December 28: Sally Duncan |



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| December 10 | Melissa and Brian Stone |
| December 17 | Donna and Allan Derrick |
| December 31 | Ann and Dick Cameron |



Year End Reports are due to the church office no later than January 7 so they can be included in our church directory. Chairs from 2023 are asked to submit reports, updated team members, and any changes expected for 2024.



Hold the date for Annual Congregational Meeting on January 28 following worship.



Patsy McCartha, Julie Allen, Harvey Stone, Grady Slice, Phil Wunder, Pebble Briggs, Vannie Toy, Sue Elliott, Claude Leviner, Irene Leviner, Ronnie Taylor, Bertha McCartha, Paul and Bonnie Bates, Bella Raniszewski, Sheri Southworth, Richard Torres, Sheri Johnson (friend of Ron and Patrick), Betty Rhodes (Donna Torres’ sister), Nicole Ganz (friend of Patrick George), Daniel George (Patrick’s brother), Wayne Prescott (friend of Bob and Sue Elliott), Monica McCartha, and Richard Chouinard.
Currently deployed: Drake Upchurch (Aleena Stone’s husband), Brittney Bingham (Becky Smoak’s granddaughter).

