



## BETHEL UNITED CHURCH

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Minister: Rev. Norm Laird

Organist and Choir Director: Robert Don

**December 14, 2008**

**Third Sunday of Advent**

**10:30 a.m. Family Service**

***Focus: Conception and the Star.***

***Consider this sign: from unknown spaces comes the meeting of two possibilities. Within its miracle the new begins. A guiding star lights the pathway, then and now.***

### **THE APPROACH**

Carol Sing

Welcome and Announcements

Advent Candle Lighting

(Material is taken from A Family Journey by Dallas A. Brauning, and used by written permission of The CSS Publishing Company.)

Hymn for Advent: 158 MV, Dream a Dream (v. 2)

*(Please remain seated)*

Hymn: 18, There's a Voice in the Wilderness

Advent Prayer: (together)

**Eternally giving God, we come before you waiting, watching, listening. As we gather, we pause, to**

**remember the past here within this congregation. We honour the gifts of those who have gone before us, as well as those who are still among us. We look to the future with expectation and hope during this Advent journey. We experience anew the anticipation of the birth Divine Life...**

Assurance of God's Love

Passing the Peace

### **THE WORD**

Readings:

Isaiah 6:1-4, 8-10

*p. 635*

Luke 1:47-55

(Song of Mary 899 VU)

Reader: This is the Word of God as it is written in our Christian scripture.

**All: The written word of God is enlightened by the living Word of God that is within us.**

Anthem: Welcome, Holy Child

*-Deborah Governor*

O star, O holy star,  
Twinkling in the eve'ning sky,  
Brightly shine o'er the Babe divine,  
As Mary sings her lullaby.

Telling the Story

### **THE RESPONSE**

Hymn: 30, Hail to God's Own Anointed

Minute for Mission:

"Getting to Know a Canadian Partner"

Offering and Prayer of Dedication (together)

**Peace is your gift, O God: a generous peace that gives beyond need, a compassionate peace that responds to the suffering, a just peace that will not tolerate poverty, a peace of fellowship that works with others. Bless these gifts, O God, which convey the Peace of Christ. Amen**

Prayers of the People

Prayer of Jesus (sung VU p.960)

Hymn: 137 MV, Welcome, Jesus, You Are Welcome

Benediction and Blessing

Amen: 974



## The Life and Work of the Congregation December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008

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**Good morning and welcome!** We are glad you came! **Visitors** are asked to sign our guest book in the vestibule. **All are invited** to the auditorium following the service for refreshments and visiting. **Fruit cake will be served today.**

**Coffee (regular and decaf.) and juice** are being served in the narthex each morning before the service. This is an opportunity to socialize prior to the Sunday worship services and is one way congregations are engaging in the **Emerging Spirit Campaign.**

**This morning:**

**Leading the Christmas Carol sing-along:** Cliff Ulrich

**Head usher:** Allan McDougald

**Ushering and greeting:** Dick and Jenny Neal, Bridget Salamon, Dana and Claire Lahti

**Greeter and lift operator:** Davis Morrison

**Lighting the Advent Candles:** Tanner and Pam Barmantloo

**Reader:** Gillian McDougald

**Today's bulletin** is sponsored by Bob Stodler in loving memory of Marie.

**Next Sunday** we will again sing a few **Christmas carols** before worship.

**Norm** will be in his office for part of the day Tuesday to Friday most weeks. Feel free to drop in if you see his car parked in its spot. In an effort to be more easily accessible, Norm will for sure be in his office **Tuesday evenings 5:00-7:00, and Thursday mornings 9:00-noon.** Again, feel free to drop in or call during these times.

**Thank you** to all who supported the Sunday School Biscuit Lunch and St. Andrew's Guild Tea on November 30. The total raised was \$215.49 with all proceeds going to St. Andrew's College.

**Advent Bible Study and discussion** will continue next Sunday, December 21st at 9:15 am, in the Social Hall. We will look at the two stories of Jesus' birth from Matthew and Luke. Anyone and everyone are welcome to attend and participate.

**Copies of 'The Upper Room'** and the **'These Days'** daily devotional guides are available from the table in the narthex.

**Copies of the November Financial Statements** have been distributed to Council members. Extra copies are on the literature stand. Please help yourself.

**To help prevent the spread** of colds and flu-like illnesses, please remember to use the **hand sanitizer** that is provided on the table in the narthex and on the table at coffee time.

**A martial arts group** will be meeting in the gymnasium this evening. Please stay for a few minutes after coffee time, if you can, and help put away the tables and chairs. Thank you.

**Meals on Wheels: Volunteers** are needed to continue delivering meals. The sign-up calendar is on the literature table. Bethel's coordinator is Shirley McKay (374-4883).

**2009 Canadian Church Calendars** are available from the church office - \$5.00.

**2008 Annual Reports:** People or groups who will be writing reports are asked to hand them in to the church office **by Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup>**. The goal is to have the printed 2008 Annual Reports available to the congregation the Sunday prior to the Annual Congregational Meeting to be held February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Thank you.  
-Bev.

**EGADZ 2008 Christmas Party – December 23 - Gift – Donations Request: EGADZ** is asking for gift donations to provide gifts for 230 young people and 30 toddlers. The suggested list of gift is posted on the bulletin board next to the church office. If you have any questions, please call Beth or Russ @ 931-6644. **The Bethel UCW bin for EGADZ donations** is on the platform opposite the gym doors. **These donations will be picked up Tuesday of this week.**

**LIVING THE HOPE**  
**Learning Event for Congregations**

Friday, March 13, 2009: 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. and  
Saturday, March 14, 2009: 9:30 a.m. – 4:15 p.m. (lunch provided)

St. Martin's United Church  
2617 Clarence Avenue S.  
Saskatoon

**Living the Hope** is an Emerging Spirit learning opportunity for congregational teams to probe deeply into the generational issues facing the church today. **Living the Hope** will also focus on three areas which have emerged as critical to the work of nurturing welcoming congregations which are faithful, relevant, and vital: Re-imagining Sunday Morning, Building Connections in Community, and The Practice of Leadership.

**Living the Hope** events are designed for congregational teams, which include a paid, accountable staff person plus other key lay leaders.

**Cost:** \$300 for a team of 6, additional team members \$40; individuals \$75.

**Please speak to Norm** if you are interested in attending with him. Bethel will pay the registration cost for any who wish to go. Any donations toward the registration cost would also be appreciated.

To register and for more information see [www.emergingspirit.ca](http://www.emergingspirit.ca) or phone 1-800-268-3781, ext.4035.

**Help Wanted: The Canadian Bible Society** invites applications for a part-time position in its store. The person needs to be friendly, outgoing, have Bible knowledge and computer literacy and be one who enjoys dealing with the public. Résumé and cover letter may be submitted to the Society at 1034 Louise Ave., Saskatoon, SK, S7H 2P6.

**Brenda Baker** performs **The Old Elephant's Christmas** for 5 – 10 year olds **this afternoon**. There are two shows - 1:00 and 3:30 at the Refinery. Tickets will be available at the door. Your ticket supports the Children's programs of Hemophilia Saskatchewan.

## Calling Lakes Centre (PCTC) events:

### Call and Response: A Drumming and Music Weekend

with **Joanne Crofford** February 20-22 at Calling Lakes Centre

If you are reading this, your heart is very likely beating. Think of what a wonderful thing that rhythm is. Then think how wonderful it would be to celebrate that rhythm throughout your whole body. **Call and Response** is a great way to fill yourself with rhythm, make music with abandon, and in the process, find amazing connections to the holy within yourself and all of life. Young and old alike can learn together in this circle, whether they are new to drumming or "old hands." Open to people age 10 and up. Arrangements for childcare possible if requested by February 6. \$240; \$265 after February 8. Parent and child: \$390; \$430 after February 6. Inquire about family rates. For more information: 306-332-5691 register@callinglakes.ca [www.callinglakes.ca](http://www.callinglakes.ca)

(See the booklet on the bulletin board for more information on this and other *Calling Lakes Centre* events.)

**More detailed information about this program can be viewed on the website:**

<http://callinglakes.ca/programs/prog901a.htm>

**Parents' Child Development Co-operation (Day Care):** A "wish list" of the Day Care has been posted on the bulletin board.

**Zodiac Tapestry Handbells** will present a concert "Christmas Sparkle" on **December 19<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m.** at Grace-Westminster United Church (505 – 10<sup>th</sup> Street E.) Special guests will be the Station Singers of Rosthern. \$10 admission at the door.

**Check out Bethel's website** for general information about our church, our service and news and events. The site address is: [www.bethelsaskatoon.com](http://www.bethelsaskatoon.com) or go to the WonderCafe site and do a church search using either the church name or postal code. **Any information for our website** must be forwarded through the church office. Information from a source, other than the church office, will not be posted.

## Tips for Better Christmas Sharing

(from the Bethel Outreach Committee)

**Plan ahead** – By mid-December the Christmas parties and programs have wound down.

**Consult** – Contact a community organization that you want to support, and ask them what would be an appropriate gift or project. It is much easier than trying to find a place to donate after items have been gathered.

**Consider Cash/Gift Certificate** – It's a nice feeling to go out and buy a gift for a child, but even nicer for the family or organization to purchase their own. They are more likely to pick an appropriate gift for a particular child, and more likely to select gifts that will not leave children feeling like some got more, some less.

**Reciprocity** – Consider what you might get in return. Perhaps the organization might send you information about their work, perhaps come out to speak about the issues they are addressing

**24/7/365** – The work that comes to mind at Christmas time is happening all year round. Consider what kind of commitment you could make to this organization at other points in the year as well as this one.

**Consume Less** – Be thoughtful about how much "stuff" you and your loved ones really need. Over-consumption blocks the true spirit of Christmas and increases the gap between those who have and those who have not.

### Meetings and events this week:

#### Monday:

-Bethel Art Group, 9:30 (Upper Room)

#### Tuesday:

-Staff Meeting, 9:30

-22<sup>nd</sup> Bethel Scouting Group Admin. Team, 7:00 p.m.

#### Wednesday:

-Choir Practice, 7:00 p.m.

### **Scripture readings for next Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>:**

To prepare for the Bible study and worship, please review the two stories of Jesus' birth from Matthew and Luke.

### **Stewardship Seconds 2008 - December 14<sup>th</sup>:**

Let us remember the gifts we have received from God, and in our turn become God's giving hands in this world.