



BETHEL UNITED CHURCH

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Minister: Rev. Norm Laird

Organist and Choir Director: Robert Don

December 7th, 2008

Second Sunday of Advent

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Focus: Experience God as our place of being.

***Consider this sign: From a small, insignificant place,
God can cause great things to happen.***

THE APPROACH

Musical Prelude

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 (verse 3)
(Please remain seated)

Hymn: 20 MV, God of Still Waiting

Prayer of Humility: (together)

**God of Advent love, your blessing reaches to the
tiniest infant and the aged alike. As snow blankets**

**the ground, so does your love cover all parts of the
earth. May we be renewed in that love today. Bathe
us in transforming mercy, that goodness and joy may
be shared with everyone we meet...**

Assurance of God's Love

Passing the Peace

THE WORD

Readings:

Acts 17:22-29 *p.137*

John 1:1-5, 9, 10 *p. 91*

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: A Tiny Child will Come *—Don Besig/Nancy Price*

*Soon a tiny child will come,
As prophets have foretold
A tiny babe whose humble birth
Will warm the winter cold.*

Sermon

THE RESPONSE

Hymn: 4, God of All Places

Minute for Mission:

"Getting to Know about Advent in China"

Offering and Prayer of Dedication (together)

Our God, remove from us any insecurity that has us afraid to share. Help us to see the needs of our sisters and brothers, here, now, rather than the needs for our future comfort. We give boldly and freely, secure in our trust of you. Amen

Prayers of the People

Prayer of Jesus (sung VU p.960)

Hymn: 28 MV, God of the Bible (Fresh as the Morning)

Benediction and Blessing

Amen: 974



The Life and Work of the Congregation December 7th, 2008

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. **Hot punch 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: Craig Balfour

Head usher: Peggy Amy

Ushering and greeting: Lynne Harley, Garry King, Marilyn Sagi, and Harvey Clarke

Greeter and lift operator: Beverley Andres

Lighting the Advent Candles: Barbara Martin, Kyoka Yabe, Glen and Karen Baxter

Reader: Cliff Ulrich

Today's bulletin is sponsored by Jim Reid in loving memory of Jessie.

Next Sunday come a little early and enjoy singing! 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.

Advent Bible Study and discussion will continue next Sunday, December 14th and on the 21st, as well, 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.

The Communication & Contact Committee thanks all those who helped decorate the church November 23rd for the Advent season.

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 reminder from the Worship Committee: perfumes, after-shave lotions and other kinds of scents can cause real difficulty for those who have allergies. Let us try to keep this in mind as we come together for worship.

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).

Samples of the 2009 Bulletin Covers are in the church office. If you wish to sponsor a bulletin to honour a loved one, a birthday, anniversary or other special occasion, the cost is \$30. All contributions are tax deductible.

2009 Canadian Church Calendars will be available from the countertop next to the church office today - \$5.00.

Surprise Birthday Tea: Rev. Stewart MacTavish will be 100 years young on December 25th! His family will host a surprise birthday tea for him **on Saturday, December 13th, 2:00-4:00 p.m.**, 3rd Floor, Luther Special Care Home, 1212 Osler Street. Everyone is welcome.

2008 Annual Reports: People or groups who will be writing reports are asked to hand them in to the church office **by Sunday, January 11th**. 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 8th, 2009. Thank you.

–Bev.

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 or phone 1-800-268-3781, ext.4035.

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. Some gift suggestions are: Toiletries (toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, soap, deodorant, disposable razors); brushes, combs, hair accessories, gift packs (teen); mini gloves, mitts, socks (boys & Girls), T-shirts, sweatshirts, toques, small picture frames, art supplies, alarm clocks, books, colouring books, comics, journals, youth/child appropriate DVD/VHS movies/cartoons, toys and stocking stuffers, and anything else teenagers and toddlers would need. If you have any questions or need more information, please call Beth or Russ @ 931-6644, 301 – 1st Avenue North. **The Bethel UCW bin for EGADZ donations (by December 14th, please)** is on the platform opposite the gym doors.

Calling Lakes Centre (PCTC) events:

Looking for a Stuff-less Christmas present?

Give the gift of time away to play and learn, refresh and renew. Calling Lakes gift certificates may be used for program or personal retreat fees or for purchases from our bookroom.

Hmmm, what about a weekend away with your life partner...

A Little Romance & A Lot of Fun, February 13 – 15: Enjoy a break from the routines of life...let others do the cooking...and rekindle your relationship as you spend refreshing time together as a couple in the scenic Qu'Appelle Valley on Valentine's Weekend. For more information: 306-332-5691 register at: office@callinglakes.ca

www.callinglakes.ca

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

Persephone Theatre presents *A Christmas Carol* by

Charles Dickens, a beautiful classic for the whole family, **December 3rd – 28th.** Box Office 384-7727

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

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.

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.

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

(Please see the bulletin board next to the church office for posters and information on events.)

Meetings and events this week:

Monday:

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

Tuesday:

-Staff Meeting, 9:30

-Worship Committee, 1:30 (Upper Room)

-Naomi Unit, 2:00 (Kitchen)

Wednesday:

-Choir Practice, 7:00 p.m.

-22nd Bethel Scouting Group All-Section Christmas Party, 7:00 (Gym)

Scripture readings for next Sunday, December 14th:

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

Stewardship Seconds 2008 - December 7th:

Stewards help to create a new heaven and a new earth
by living as though they are already here.

Check out Bethel's website for general information about our church, our service and news and events. The site address is: 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.