



BETHEL UNITED CHURCH

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Minister: Rev. Norm Laird

Organist and Choir Director: Robert Don

November 30th, 2008

First Sunday of Advent

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

***Focus: The pathway through the Desert.
Consider this sign: Into the desert of our life
a path of purpose shows itself.***

THE APPROACH

Musical Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Advent Candle Lighting

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

Hymn for Advent: 158 MV, Dream a Dream (verse 1)
(Please remain seated)

Hymn: 1 MV, Let Us Build a House (All Are Welcome)

Prayer of Humility: (together)

God of the path, God of the way -- you are the road we travel, its source, and its destination. As we journey together, inspire us to reach out to your beloved world, and all its people. And if we stray, gently set our feet upon the path once again, encouraging us to be who we truly are. Amen

Assurance of God's Love

Passing the Peace

THE WORD

Readings:

Isaiah 40:1-5, 28-31 *p. 667*

Luke 2:1-7 *p. 58*

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.**

Musical Pause

Reflection *-Rev. Rob Brown*

THE RESPONSE

Hymn: 271, There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Minute for Mission:

"Getting to Know Montreal City Mission (MCM)"

Offering and Prayer of Dedication (together)

**Wonderful God, you are the source of life and love,
all that we can see, and so much more. You are the
source of all we are, and all we have. So we bring the
work of our hands and the love of our hearts. May
these, and we, be sources of blessing to many. Amen**

Prayers of the People

The Prayer of Jesus (sung: Voices United 960)

Hymn: 639, One More Step Along the World I Go

Benediction and Blessing

Amen: 974, Voices United



The Life and Work of the Congregation November 30th, 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.

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**.

Thank you to Rev. Rob Brown for taking the service this morning while Norm Laird has this 5th Sunday of the month off.

This morning:

Head usher: Larry Fowke

Ushering and greeting: Kathy Bazin, Ivy Gunderson,
Bob and Lorraine Mickleborough

Reader: Lynne Fowke

Lighting the Advent Candles:

Deb Horseman and her daughter, Brenna

Today's bulletin is sponsored by Trudy Doidge in loving memory of her husband, Bill.

Come join us after the service!

Sunday School students are baking biscuits

St. Andrew's Auxiliary ladies will provide dainties and refreshments.

Silver collection proceeds will go to St. Andrew's Auxiliary

(This is in lieu of the tea which the Auxiliary sponsored in previous years.)

Next Sunday come a little early and enjoy singing! We will 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.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study: Cantor Neil, from synagogue Agudas Israel, was not able to join us this past Wednesday as planned but is rescheduled for this Wednesday, 10:00 am Bible Study.

Advent Bible Study and discussion will begin next Sunday 9:15 am in the Social Hall, and will continue for the 14th and 21st as well. 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 last Sunday 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 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.

Men's Fellowship Breakfast: Saturday, December 6th, 9:00 a.m., Social Hall.

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.

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.

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.

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:

Sacred Discovery (Weekend 1 of 5) January 30 - February 1
Come on a journey of awakening to new ways of being as we explore spiritual practices inspired by many faith traditions that open us to our deeper spiritual nature.

Leadership: Hazel Arbon, Jim Tenford, Marg Janick-Grayston

Cost: \$240; \$265 after January 16

For more information: 306-332-5691 register@callinglakes.ca

www.callinglakes.ca

Other Church and Community Events:

-Mayfair United Church is hosting a Dinner Theatre, "Captain's Outrageous" – A Comedy by David Deboy; directed by Dennis Beerling. Last show is **this afternoon at 1:30** (see poster)

-Third Avenue United Church 'Barn Service on the Lawn', this evening at 6:30. Experience the Christmas Story in a Stable Setting.

-St. Martin's UC Music Ministry Presents "The Sounds of the Season", this evening, November 30, 7:00 pm.

-World AIDS Day, Annual HIV/AIDS Candlelight Vigil, December 1, 6:30 p.m., St. Peter the Apostle Church in Bishop Klein School, 1121 Northumberland Ave. Everyone welcome.

-Christmas Tea & Bake Sale, St. Martin's U.C., 2617 Clarence Ave., Saturday, **December 6,** 2:00 – 4:00 pm. Free-will donation.

-Persephone Theatre presents *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens, a beautiful classic for the whole family. The miraculous transformation of Ebenezer Scrooge, the cheerful courage of Tiny Tim and the loving devotion of his family will fill your heart with the true spirit of Christmas, **December 3–28.** Box Office 384-7727

(See the bulletin board for posters on the above and other events)

Wanted: Youth Leader for Mayfair United Church Kindred Youth (MUCKY). Preference will be given to young adults/post secondary students. 6 hours/week. Please contact Rev. Deb Walker @382-6446 for more information.

Meetings and events this week:**Monday:**

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

-Cubs, 7:00 (Social Hall)

Tuesday:

-Staff Meeting, 9:30

-Beavers, 6:30 (Social Hall)

Wednesday:

-Bible Study, 10:00 (Gym)

-Choir Practice, 7:00 p.m.

-Scouts, 7:00 (Gym Kitchen)

Saturday:

-Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 9:00 (Social Hall)

Scripture readings for next Sunday, December 7th:

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

Stewardship Seconds 2008 - November 30th:

The gifts of this world will not last past our lifetimes, but God's gifts to us – and our gifts to God – will last through this life and beyond.