



## BETHEL UNITED CHURCH

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Minister: Rev. Norm Laird  
Music Director: Sarah Makins

**December 13, 2009**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

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

Musical Prelude:

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of 3<sup>rd</sup> Advent Candle:

One: Christmas fast approaches. The joyous celebration of Divine Light is almost here.

All: **We set aflame once more the candle of hope and light.** (pause) **We set aflame once more the candle of star and peace.** (pause)

One: This week we focus on the place of birth; womb and cave, manger and stable.

All: **We light the candle of joy, pink and bright. We celebrate birth, we celebrate life; the mystery of being unfolding in the womb. In the darkness Divine Light grows, preparing itself to shine forth into the world.**

Carol Sing: Which are your favourite Advent and Christmas carols?

Lighting Candles of Joy and Concern

Passing the Peace of Christ

2

Readings:

Luke 2:1-7 *p. 58 (in the New Testament)*

Gospel of James, selected verses

One: God speaks through human voices.

Response: **God's words are heard in human hearts and minds.**

Musical Pause

Sermon:

Hymn: 46 VU, Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

Offering: We consider those who are visiting with us this morning to be our guests. As a guest, when the offering plate is passed by you, please do not feel obligated to place anything on it.

Prayer of Dedication: **Holy God, the act of giving is inseparable from Christmas. You gave of yourself born into the world. Kings gave gifts to the divine child. We, too, give as part of our Christmas celebrations. We give to friends and family. We give to those in need. May all our giving be a blessing to both the givers and the gifted. Amen**

Minutes for Mission: 'From the Heart'

Prayers of and for the people and the prayer from Jesus (Paraphrase p.916 or 906VU)

Hymn: 58 VU, Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Benediction

Choral Closing: 37 VU, Gloria

Postlude

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## The Life and Work of the Congregation December 13, 2009

**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**.

### This morning:

**Head Usher:** Larry Fowke

**Ushers and Greeters:** Doreen Froom  
Marguerite Irvine

**Greeter and Lift Operator:** Peter Geres

**Reader:** Jeanette Liberty-Duns

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

**Special Coffee time:** The Communication and Contact Committee will serve Christmas cake and hot apple cider after the service today, December 13th. We invite everyone to join us after the service.

**The Communication and Contact Committee will be preparing Christmas Flowers for 18 to 20 shut-ins to be delivered next Sunday, Dec. 20. If you are able to help by making a delivery, please contact Barb Bourassa today or after the service on Dec. 20.**

**The Canadian Church Calendar 2010 will be for sale in the gym after the service today for \$5.00. The calendars are in celebration of the 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United Church of Canada.**

**Choir practise will be held on Wednesday nights at 7:00 p.m. on the following dates: Dec. 16 & 23.**

We are looking for **MUSICANS and SINGERS** who might like to participate in our **Sunday services**. If you are one of the musical, or know of someone who is, **please speak to Sarah**.

**Weekly and monthly donation envelopes for 2010** are in your mailboxes. The options for donating are weekly, monthly or the pre-authorized remittance (par) program. If you have not received an envelope, wish to change the frequency or amount of your donation, you are new in the congregation and require envelopes for the first time, or wish to join the par program, please contact the church office at 343-6085 or Jan Lahti at 374-0903, as soon as possible.

**EGADZ Christmas party** – The Saskatoon downtown Youth Centre at 301 – 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue N. will be holding its Christmas party on Dec. 21/2009. They will need gifts for approximately 230 young people and 30 toddlers. Can you help with a donation? Examples of gift items: Toiletries, mitts, socks, T-shirts, toques, art supplies, books, DVD/VHS, toys and stocking stuffers. For details check out the posted green sheet by the office door.  
**Note: Donations must be received by today or Monday. We will be calling EGADZ on Tues., Dec. 15 for pick up.**

**Men's Fellowship Breakfast:** There will be no breakfast meeting in Jan. 2010 the first meeting will be Sat., Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>.

**These Days** – 'Daily Devotions for Living by Faith' booklets for January, February and March 2010 are now available.

### Other Church and Community events:

United Church Calls on CIDA to reconsider **Cuts to KAIROS**. The United Church of Canada expresses shock at the news of the Canadian Government's decision to cut funding to KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives. See posted info.

**Spectrum Core Community Services** need monetary support from people in Saskatoon to continue their work with people who are homeless or in danger of becoming homeless and with isolated seniors in the core communities. There may be members of our congregation who are interested in making a charitable donation to support vital charitable work in Saskatoon. This would be an opportunity to donate before the end of the year. Spectrum Core Community Services, a registered charity, works to alleviate the effects of poverty for two groups of vulnerable individuals and their families in the Core Neighbourhoods of Saskatoon. In partnership with St. Thomas Wesley United Church and the Rainbow Community Centre, they provide basic services for the homeless and those at risk. Donations to Spectrum will ensure that they can continue helping those living in poverty. Please send donations to **Spectrum**, 808 – 20<sup>th</sup> Street West, Saskatoon, SK S7M 0Y3. Official receipts for income tax will be issued for all donations. Donations of warm winter clothing including socks and toiletries will also be gratefully accepted at the Rainbow Community Centre. Thank you for your support.

**Train the Trainers Workshop 2010.** The Interim Ministry Committee of Saskatchewan Conference will hold this event in hope that Presbyteries will send representatives for the training. Held at **St. Peter's Abbey** - Muenster, SK on **March 16/2010** at **2:00 pm** until **Thurs., March 17/2010**. Contact the office for more information and to obtain a registration form.

A message from Ursula Wiig: **Share the Christmas Spirit!** This Christmas consider opening your home to international students from the U of S for a few hours during your Christmas celebrations. Dec. 24, 25 or 26. Application deadline: Thurs., Dec. 10. For more info or to apply contact Rev. Paul Sartison at 966-8500 or [luth.chap@usask.ca](mailto:luth.chap@usask.ca). Program is organized by the U of S International Students Office and the Multi-Faith Chaplains Assoc.

Two Spaces are left for the '**Courage to Lead Seasonal Retreat Series**' based on the work of Parker J. Palmer - Jan. 18/2010 at the Calling Lakes Centre. Inquire at office for info.

FAOC website:

<http://www.kabissa.org/civiorg/940>

Veterinarians Without Borders (VWB) website:

<http://www.vwb-vsfc.ca/>

Email address for Pamela Barmentloo:

pjs026@mail.usask.ca

**Meetings and events this week:**

**Monday:**

- Ladies Fitness, 9:15 am (Gym)

**Tuesday:**

- Choral Society, 7:00 pm (Sanctuary and Social Hall)

- Venturers, 7:00 – 9:00 pm (Upper Room) 9:00 – 9:30 pm (Gym)

**Wednesday:**

- CHEP Good Food Boxes, 2:00 pm

- Choir practise, 7:00 pm (Sanctuary)

- 22<sup>nd</sup> Bethel Christmas Party, 7:00 pm (Gym)

**Thursday:**

- Ladies Fitness, 9:15 am (Gym) Last one until Jan. 2010

**Scripture readings for next Sunday, Dec. 20:**

Matthew 1:18-25

**Stewardship Seconds 2009 - Dec. 13:**

Blessings have many faces; so do the needs of those around us. Let us rejoice in what we have been given and look for others with whom we can share it.

**Hand sanitizer is available in the narthex and in the gym.**