



# Bethel Mennonite Church

“Serving Jesus, Loving Others”

Vol. 59

December 10, 2017

No.50

## **Gathering – Led by Worship Leader**

Barb Evxns

## **Welcome**

Barb Evxns

## **Advent Call to Worship**

Doug and Ellen Steinxr

Leader: Awake!

The invitation to carry light  
comes from the voice who cries out  
for a smooth way through wild places.

**ALL: O God, your call is uncomfortable.**

**How can we who are weak  
remove the rough and rugged places?  
(pause for silence)**

Leader: Quiet our questioning souls.

**ALL: Lead us into your presence so all can see  
your way.**

Leader: Let it be so.

## **Prelude**

Bill Barrxtt

## **Psalm**

**Psalms 85: 1-2, 8-13**

## **Opening Prayer**

## **Praising**

## **Congregational Singing**

Bill Barrxtt

## **With our offerings & Offertory**

Ellen Steinxr

## **Congregational Singing**

Janxt and Praise Team

## **Confession & Words of Assurance**

(see insert) Barb Evxns

## **Proclaiming**

## **Scripture Reading**

Isaiah 40:1-5, John 1:6-9

## **Message:**

“A Man Sent by God

Larry Evxns

## **Sharing – Led by Pastoral Team**

Pastor Cheryl Shxnk

Of our joys, requests, thanksgivings & responses

## **Pastoral Prayer**

## **Sending**

## **Sending song**

Bill Barrxtt

## **Benediction**

Pastor Cheryl Shxnk

## **THIS WEEK**

### **TODAY**

**9:30 a.m.** – Sunday School

**10:40 a.m.** – Worship. Larry Evxns, speaker.

### **TUESDAY**

**9:30 a.m.** – Women Serving in Love

**3:20 – 5:00 p.m.** – Bethel Homework Help

### **THURSDAY**

**3:20 – 5:00 p.m.** – Bethel Homework Help

### **SATURDAY**

**8:00 a.m.** – Men’s Breakfast. Liberty Gathering Place

### **NEXT SUNDAY**

**9:30 a.m.** – Sunday School.

**10:40 a.m.** – Worship. Alvin Yodxr, speaker

**Noon** – Soup Lunch

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Next Sunday, December 17th.** We will have a soup lunch at noon following the worship service. Soup will be provided. Please bring a salad or dessert to share.

**FREE for the taking.** The 8 foot tables in the fellowship hall with a sign on them are free for the taking. There are some items on the bar counter in the kitchen that are also free. Help yourself to the marked tables and kitchen items.

**Women Serving in Love** meet Tuesday. Nellie and Doris are the hostesses of the Christmas Potluck. For devotions all will share Christmas Memories.

You will find alternative and/or additional Christmas gift giving opportunities/suggestions listed in a variety of catalogues in the foyer:

...Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA)

...Food Resources Bank (FRB)

...Mennonite Central Committee (MCC)

...Heifer International

...World Vision

There are so many persons suffering in so many places. These organizations are working in various ways to care for them. “Honor your friends and family with gifts that change lives...and bring HOPE.” \*

*Medicare made easy*, an upcoming **webinar presented by Everence** Financial, will be presented on Monday, Dec. 11, at 3 and 8:30 p.m. To register, visit [everence.com/MedicareMadeEasy](http://everence.com/MedicareMadeEasy)

\*More information in the foyer.

## PRAYER & PRAISE NOTES

- Remember Chuck Swartz on Tuesday morning. He will be receiving a new defibrillator implant.
- Stacey King DeVernx, Mary Kay Kixg's granddaughter, gave birth to a baby girl on Thursday, December 7. The DeVernx's now have 3 daughters.

## LAST WEEK

Sunday School Attendance  
Worship Attendance

*Your generosity empowers our collective work for  
God's kingdom purposes. Thanks!*

## OUR THANKS TO THOSE WHO SERVE

**PASTORAL CARE THIS WEEK:** Sally Harshbargxr

### GREETERS:

**Today:** Paul & Linda Hostetlrx **Next Week:** Joe & Donna Lehmrxn

### SOUND OPERATOR:

**Today:** Ken Shxnk

**Next Week:** Larry Evxns

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**Pastors:** Cheryl Shxnk (youthpastor@bethelchurchwl.org)

**Office hours:** M-F 1:30 – 3:30 p.m., by appointment

**Chuck Swartz** ([chuckandjeanie@gmail.com](mailto:chuckandjeanie@gmail.com))

**Office hours:** M-W, F 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. Th 10 – Noon,  
by appointment

**Administrative Assistant:** Miriam Lxpp  
(secretary@bethelchurchwl.org)

**Office Hours:** W and F 9:00-3:30 p.m.

**Elders:** Larry Evans, Steve Lxpp, Elaine Newcomxr, Dick Lindemxr

**Pastoral Care Team:** Mark Thomxs, Barb Kauffmxn, Dick Lindemer,  
Carl Newcomxr, Sally Harshbargxr and Michelle Lxnk

**Crisis Care:** Chuck Swartz and Cheryl Shxnk

## Confession

O God of blazing heavens,  
you come to us gently and tenderly,  
speaking peace and comfort into our fear.  
We long for you,  
we yearn for your promise of a new heaven and earth.  
Yet we confess  
that though we know how to get busy  
and prepare for this season,  
we do not know  
how to slow down or wait  
and make space for your presence.  
May our ordinary lives intersect  
with the power of your Word  
and the transforming presence of you grace.  
Empower us to "let it be so."  
(pause for silence)

## Words of assurance

O God, Emmanuel,  
In Jesus, the Christ, you have come among us.  
You have given us life, and we are restored.

## Benediction

As you go, may the voice of comfort  
speak peace and promise to you.  
May grace spring up from troubled ground  
and righteousness shine down from the sky,  
May the light of Christ dwell within you,  
and may you see clearly the path  
the Spirit is blazing for you.  
Amen.