

# Bethel Mennonite Church

*“Serving Jesus, Loving Others”*

Vol. 63

December 19, 2021

No. 51

## Advent: Joy

Announcements

Lighting the Peace Lamp:

Grace and peace be yours in abundance through  
the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. II Peter 1:2 (NIV)

Prelude

Call to worship

Lighting the Advent candle

We light a candle for *joy*:  
joy in our hearts,  
joy in our homes,  
joy in the world.

**May the light of *joy* shine through our lives.**

Hymns: O come, all ye faithful – H #212

O Little Town of Bethlehem – H #191

Mary’s song - Luke 1:46-55 (see insert)

Offering & prayer

Offertory

Scripture: Luke 1:39-45

Message: Two women sing their joy

Hymn of response: My soul is filled with joy – SJ #13

Sharing: reflections on the scripture, joys, requests, thanksgivings

Intercessory prayer

Sending song: Joy to the World – H #318

Benediction

## THIS WEEK

### TODAY

**9:30 - 10:10 a.m.** – Christmas Breakfast. Sunday School, optional.

**10:30 a.m.** – Worship. Speaker: Rebecca Kauffmxn.

### TUESDAY

**7:00 p.m.** – Longest Night Service. At Oak Grove

### WEDNESDAY

**4:15 p.m.** – Our Daily Bread

### FRIDAY

**6:30 p.m.** – Christmas Eve Service

### SATURDAY – CHRISTMAS DAY

**11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.** – Community Christmas meal.

Pick up at Liberty Gathering Place

### NEXT SUNDAY

**9:30 a.m.** – Sunday School

**10:30 a.m.** – Worship. Speaker: Rebecca Kauffmxn. Luke 2:8-20

**PASTORAL CARE THIS WEEK:** Barb Kauffmxn

## LAST WEEK

Worship 43

Sunday School 20

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

### OUR THANKS TO THOSE WHO SERVE

This Week – December 19

**Worship leader:** Elaine Newcomxr

**Music leader:** Janet Wilkxns

**Speaker:** Rebecca Kauffmxn

**Greeters:** Barb & Byron Kauffmxn

**Sound:** Ken Shxnk

**Media:** Andrew Bloxnt

**Prelude:** Janet Wilkxns

Next Week – December 26

**Worship leader:** Rebecca Kauffmxn

**Music leader:** Byron Kauffmxn

**Speaker:** Rebecca Kauffmxn

**Greeters:** Ken & Jeanette Hostetlrx

**Sound:** Lori Lehmxn

**Media:** Andrew Bloxnt

**Prelude:** Elaine Newcomxr

## **PRAYER & PRAISE NOTES**

- “Come, thou long-expected Jesus! Born to set thy people free; from our sins and fears release us, let us find our rest in thee.”
- Give thanks that David H. was able to move into his new home in the Green Hills Inn. May God bless him as he settles in and gets acquainted with new neighbors.
- Praise God for the healing that has come to Lee Jordan; and for the “cancer free” report given to Mary N’s grand-nephew Adrien, which will enable him to be home for Christmas.
- Pray for God’s healing mercy to be upon Bob Bxss, Deb Cramxr, Kyle’s friend Mackenzie, Peggy Wirxck, and others you know.
- Pray for Carol Bxck and her siblings as they support their mother.
- Praise God that the Christian Aid Ministries missionaries who had been kidnapped by a gang in Haiti in October have been released. Pray for wisdom and resilience for the people and churches in Haiti as they continue to live in a context of economic and political insecurity, fear of violence, and lack of resources.

In order to sing together as a congregation as safely as possible, we will need to wear our masks during the service, and especially while singing. Thank you for caring for one another in this way. May God’s grace cover us as we worship together.

The number of Covid-19 cases and community spread in our area continues to be quite high, please take appropriate precautions (using masks and distance) given your own health factors and the vulnerability of those you come into contact with.

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**Pastor: Rebecca Kauffmxn** ([Rebecca@bethelchurchwl.org](mailto:Rebecca@bethelchurchwl.org))

**Office hours:** T & F 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.,  
W & Th 1:00-5:00 p.m. or by appointment

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

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

**Leadership Team:** Elaine Newcomxr, Dick Lindemxr, Carol Bxck, Byron Kauffmxn, Doug Steinxr, Ken Shxnk

## Mary's song - Luke 1:46-55

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
who has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

***From this day all generations will call me blessed;  
the Almighty has done great things for me  
and holy is his name.***

God has mercy on those who fear him,  
from generation to generation.

***The Lord has shown strength with his arm  
and scattered the proud in their conceit,  
casting down tyrants from their thrones  
and lifting up the lowly.***

***God has filled the hungry with good things  
and sent the rich away empty.***

He has come to the aid of his servant Israel,  
remembering the promise of mercy,

***the promise made to our forebears,  
to Abraham and his children forever.***

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **Gifts Discernment Committee** has processed filling the open Stewardship Chairperson position and are recommending Ellen Steinxr for this role. If you have any concern or question about this, please speak to a GDC member **by today**. -Ken Shxnk, Carl Newcomxr, Janet Wilkxns

Tuesday, Dec. 21 at 7:00 pm, at Oak Grove. All are welcome to a **Longest Night Service** where we acknowledge our griefs and watch for God's light. The Christmas season, with all its joy, can be a difficult time of year for those who have lost loved ones, who live with illness, or have other struggles.

**Community Christmas dinner.** Volunteers are needed, especially for clean-up from 1:00-2:00 (or so). Talk to Dick L. if you are able to help. If you would like to contribute to the cost of the meals (approx \$250 per church), place your donation into the basket at the back of the

sanctuary or marked in the regular offering. Drive through pick up 11:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m in front of Liberty Gathering Place on Christmas Day. To request delivery, place your order by calling Oak Grove at 937-465-4749 (can leave a message); say how many meals are requested and the address for delivery.

**Thank you**, Rebecca and Andrew, for the memorial service for Dad. Thank you to those who prepared and served the delicious meal afterwards. Thank you to the congregation for the prayers and visits for Dad in the last year of his life. Your kindness was appreciated. He loved being a member of Bethel. - Family of Sam C. Plxnk

Words cannot express how **grateful** we were to receive your donation of \$1774.99. Your continued support means so much to us here at Lutheran Community Services. You can rest assured that your donation will touch **MANY** lives in our community. Your gift will be used for the Christmas Food & Gift program offered through Our Daily Bread. Your heart-felt donation means so much to all the people you are helping.

An **MDS Early Response Team** is investigating several of the tornado sites to determine how and where MDS will respond. 5, We also consult with local officials and our partners via the National Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD, which specialize in search and rescue, damage assessment and cleanup) to determine how MDS volunteers can best contribute to recovery efforts. If you are interested in being added to a *volunteer waitlist*, go to <https://mds.volunteermatrix.com/e/113> , call 800-241-8111 or email [dfrey@mds.org](mailto:dfrey@mds.org)

*Monetary donations* to the MDS response are welcome; see our website: <https://mds.org/donate-usa/>. We are unable to accept clothing, food, water or other material aid.

Ohio Conference will offer training in the **Missional Discipleship Initiative** (MDI) in order to equip disciples to become disciple-makers. Lay leaders and pastors are invited to join this new cohort. The program will run from January through June 2021; with online training twice a month as well as weekly face-to-face participation in 3-person Missional Discipleship Groups (MDG) in your local community. If you are interested, contact Pastor Rebecca, or Kevin Himxs at [pastorkevin@salemnonitekidron.org](mailto:pastorkevin@salemnonitekidron.org) as soon as possible.