

# FOOTPRINTS

Bethel Lutheran Church

Believe—Belong—Become

*“Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.” Psalm 119:105*

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

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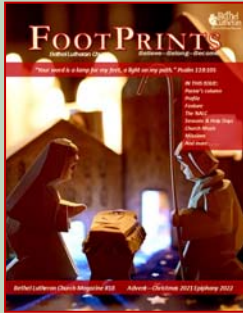
*Seasons & Holy Days*

*Church Music*

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*And more . . . .*

# FOOTPRINTS



ON THE COVER:  
Nativity—Pixabay

# FOOTPRINTS

## Issue #18

With the name **FOOTPRINTS**, we honor our commitment to walk in the steps of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ leaving a legacy for others to follow. At the same time, we look back and acknowledge the Bethel believers and our own personal *cloud of witnesses* who have gone before us leaving their footprints of faith for us to follow. We hope our humble efforts give Glory to God and provide enlightenment, entertainment, and knowledge to our readers. God bless you all!



Bethel's **vision** is to be a dynamic, life-changing church of fully devoted disciples of Jesus Christ.



Bethel's **mission** is to **engage** the curious, **encourage** the convinced, and **empower** the committed to be fully devoted disciples of Jesus Christ.



### PoWeR SuRGe

- Pray daily
- Worship regularly
- Read Scripture daily
- Serve others
- Relate to other Christians in Faith
- Give of your financial resources



### Editorial Board:

Gay Hanson (Editor in Chief), Ros Demaree, Jill Dietz, Pastor Doug Gast, Pastor Dave Hill, Carol Jacobs, Carole Kuhn, Trudy Kussow, John Patterson, and Pastor Al Schoonover.

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# ADVENT—CHRISTMAS—EPHIPANY

## PASTOR'S COLUMN

PASTOR EMERITUS DOUG GAST

### Defining Moments

They call them “Defining Moments” . . . moments when life is changed, when life is altered or when life takes an altogether different direction. Defining moments happen when someone does something heroic or when choice is made that changes the direction of a family or even a country. A defining moment can be a real high for a couple or family, like when a child or grandchild is welcomed into this world. But a defining moment can bring great grief to a family when a loved one takes his/her last breath in this world. One of the great defining moments in my life was when I came out of what was supposed to be a routine procedure to remove a polyp from my throat and the doctor informed me I had stage 3 Esophageal cancer. In that moment I was changed. My life would never be the same again. That’s the power of a moment. We all know them.

Defining moments bring a whole new perspective to life. Sometimes they bring a whole new appreciation to life. One thing is for sure, defining moments are unforgettable. That’s the power of a moment. Isn’t it something to consider the defining moments of our lives? What would they be for you in your life? I have had powerful moments in my life . . .

The first kiss between me and Terri . . . my later to be wife . . . a defining moment.

When we stood together, and I committed myself to her . . . powerful moment, the new results of which I still discover to this day.

On New Year’s Eve 1990 when I gathered my children around our dining room table to sign the papers to accept the call to Bethel. That defined the next 30 years for us.

Defining moments are not only good. The bad, the tragic, the horrific can be powerful as well. I can shut my eyes and still hear and see the events when we received the call that my dad was lost . . . driving . . . not to be found . . . A 3-day defining moment that made us aware of how far his Alzheimer’s had progressed. That altered the Gast family forever.

When Augustus was Caesar and Quirinius was governor of Syria a census was being taken that put people on the move. The moment came for Mary to give birth to her first born son . . . She wrapped Him in bands of cloth and laid Him in a manger because there was no room for Him anywhere else in town . . . it hardly sounds like a powerful moment.

Yet . . . it is a moment in time that has shaped all time since. That birth, that child brought the power of love for every relationship ever since.

- ◇ In that defining moment God stepped into time.
- ◇ In that defining moment the Holy Eternal Almighty God came wrapped in our flesh.

- ◇ God took on our circumstances and joined with us in every moment since.

We find in the birth of Jesus, that God can be wrapped up in every other moment. We find in the birth of Jesus that there is room for God. In every room . . . in every moment . . .

- ◇ In the birth of Jesus love came down.



- ◇ In the birth of Jesus, a love is called from within us that is not possible without His birth in our lives and loves. Unconditional love.

At that same time, in that same powerful moment . . . there were dwelling in the countryside around Bethlehem, shepherds, watching sheep, trying to stay awake through the long night watch.

At the moment of Jesus’ birth . . . an angel messenger stepped into their camp, and into their lives. Who were these sheep herders? Nobodies actually. Itinerant workers, going to wherever there were other people’s sheep to watch . . . They were nobodies really. In fact, so low on the food chain were shepherds that their testimony would not be heard as valid in a court. They just didn’t count. But in that moment, God chose to appear to them to reveal the fullest nature of this birth of God among us. Even those who don’t count anywhere else, God came and counted them as those who could be loved. Even to those who wouldn’t be noticed . . . in that moment God changed them from “no accounts” to full accounts. “To you and to all people, a child is born.” Great joy TO ALL PEOPLE in this defining moment. That’s the power of the Christmas moment!

I pray this Christmas is a defining moment for you, as God comes to step into your life, with a promise . . .

- ◇ Whether you are on the top of the world
- ◇ Or whether you are struggling with some secret pain.
- ◇ Whether your heart is filled with a faith that can hardly be contained
- ◇ Or whether you’re not sure of what you believe anymore
- ◇ Or whether you feel like you’re going through the motions for the sake of someone else . . .

May this Christmas defining moment bring you the absolute sure promise:

“To you is born a Savior”

In you God comes to take up residence

- ◇ Jesus comes for you, comes to you
- ◇ Jesus comes to call from you a love that does not exist without Him
- ◇ Jesus comes to name you with a name that only He can give
- ◇ Jesus comes to carry your burdens
- ◇ Jesus brings divinity to fill up our broken humanity
- ◇ Jesus comes with the power of Grace in an un-graceful world

Oh, I pray that you might know the power of this moment. For to you is given a Savior . . . Jesus!

May you know the power and joy of this defining moment.

~ Pastor Doug





# PROFILE: Joseph, the Carpenter

By Jill Dietz



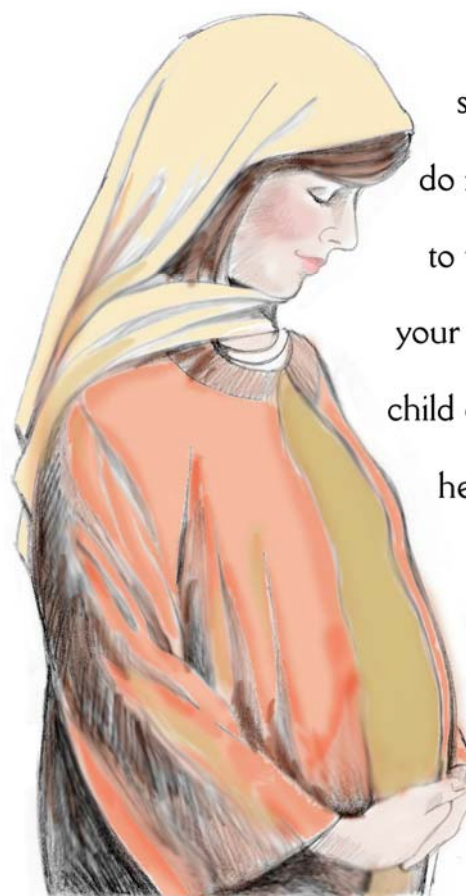
Joseph, the adoptive father of Jesus, is one of the most overlooked people in the story of Jesus. He's only covered in four chapters of the Bible and probably passed away before Jesus began His ministry.

Although there are few details of Joseph, according to the historical background of the time, a pretty good picture of Joseph's life can emerge.



We know from Matthew 1:20 that Joseph was from the tribe of Judah, a direct descendant of King David and this would mean that in some respect, he would have been in line to the throne. Therefore, any of his children, including Jesus, through adoption, would have that same right. Despite this royal lineage, Scripture tells us that Joseph was a carpenter. Being a carpenter of wood is the natural thought, but at that time, there was little wood in Israel, but there was an abundance of stone. So, he was probably a stone mason.

Marriage customs in those times included 3 parts: the betrothal, the period of preparation, and the wedding feast. The brides, at that time, were between the ages of 11-13, with the grooms being 17-20. Back then, the betrothal was a more significant commitment than our engagements of today. The distinction is that vows were exchanged at the betrothal, so the couple was legally married, although they did not live together and the marriage would not be consummated yet. The period of waiting follows the betrothal, while preparations were made for the feast and the groom learned a trade. In Joseph's case, he learned the trade of stone masonry and carpentry and built a small home for his future bride.



“Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.”

Matthew 1:20, NRSV

The two families would prepare for the wedding feast by harvesting all the food, making white robes for the participants and all other things that needed to be grown, made or traded for. Due to these enormous preparations, it was common to wait a year before the wedding feast. Once the feast was ready, the groom would go to the home of his bride with many family members and friends. He'd take his bride to his father's home for the feast and the marriage would be consummated. The wedding feast would often last for 7 days.

We know that after Joseph and Mary were betrothed, before they came together, she was with child. According to the law at that time, a young man had 2 options: to divorce the young lady publicly or privately. Matthew 1:19 tells us that Joseph chose to be merciful and 'not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly.'

However, before Joseph was able to divorce Mary, the angel appeared to him in a dream telling him to take Mary as his wife and to name the child Jesus. By naming the child, according to Jewish tradition, Joseph would be formally adopting Jesus as his own. The implications of these few verses were massive for Joseph. The townspeople would know that Mary had gotten pregnant before marriage. By taking her as his wife, Joseph is saying that either he broke his own vows

of betrothal and got Mary pregnant prior to the wedding feast, or that he does not mind being the father of what people would consider an illegitimate child. Either option would brand Joseph as a father of questionable background, but Joseph seems to have shrugged off these implications and does what the angel commands.

The compassion Joseph showed Mary and the unborn Christ child is remarkable. He forgoes the wedding feast, disregards the cultural consequences of marrying Mary and took the innocent baby as his own. God could not have chosen a better man to raise His Son, than Joseph, the humble carpenter. There are no accounts of his actual words and no witnesses to his feelings, but his actions of obedience, kindness, love, and faith speak volumes about the adoptive father of Jesus.





# CHRISTMAS AROUND

By Carole Kuhn



## Christmas Around the World

Not all national governments recognize Christmas as an official public holiday. Some countries see it as a symbolic observance rather than a Christian observance, such as Afghanistan, parts of China, Vietnam, and Japan. But even if not a public holiday in countries that may have few Christians, some decorating and gift-giving does happen. There are also observances for the 12 days of Christmas -- December 25 when the birth of Jesus is celebrated through January 6 when the Magi arrived. Some places begin the celebrations early, on a different date than what we in the United States do . . . officially, December 25. However, just as we do, many begin very early with songs, advertisements for gifts, Santa visits and family and friends' gatherings.

It's believed that the date of December 25 originated in the 4th century. The Romans celebrated their sun god's birthday on that date. Birthdays were not normally large public celebrations, but Catholic Church leaders decided to have their own celebration at the same time as the pagan one and chose the date of December 25 (Christ's Mass). Many say Christ's birth was actually in the spring, but this celebration was basically to combat the pagan ritual. Oddly, later the Christians celebration was not accepted in America. Some thought it a pagan ritual, and Massachusetts even outlawed the celebration in early years! In today's world, many countries celebrate Christmas whether as a time to gather or in the Christian observance, whether it is or is not a public holiday.



In **Rome** and most of **Italy** today, the season begins December 8, the day of the Immaculate Conception; gifts are given on Christmas morning. The season goes on until January 6, Epiphany, with gifts given to children on that morning. Rome is noted for all its lights along the thousand-year-old streets and the beautiful Nativity scenes. There are many life-size Nativities, the largest in St. Peter's Square in front of the Basilica. It can take a month to build this and is not "unveiled" until Christmas Eve, with the baby Jesus in the manger. Each day, figures are added until the three wise men are added January 6. There are many outdoor markets throughout the season, in the Piazza Navona and other areas.



**Great Britain (United Kingdom)** celebrates Christmas at the same time we in the U.S. do, but with a few different traditions. Families gather for the religious and cultural public holiday. Santa Claus is "Father Christmas," a more British term they say. School friends are noted for doing pantomimes and meeting at the local pub on Christmas Eve. There will be a speech by the Queen that most will observe. Many of the children hang their stockings at the foot of their bed for Father Christmas to fill . . . or he might fill pillow cases. It is said that the custom of singing carols at Christmas is of English origin ("carol" means "Song of Joy"). During the Middle Ages, serenaders went house to house singing.

Many countries celebrate Christmas and most have at least one different tradition from other countries. **Scandinavian** countries honor St. Lucia (called St. Lucy) on December 13. She was a third century martyr who brought food to persecuted Christians who were in hiding. After church on Christmas Eve are the traditional family dinners. "Santa" is the *Tomte* . . . the Christmas gnome.

# THE WORLD



In **Mexico**, around December 16, children begin performing Posada...house-to-house singing, in remembrance of Joseph and Mary asking for a place to stay. At the end of a few nights, a “house” is found, and they say prayers of thanks and party with food, games, and fireworks.

In **France**, Christmas is called Noel . . . referring to the phrase “les bonnes nouvelles” which means the good news and refers to the Gospel.

**Australia** . . . Christmas comes in the middle of their summer and can go up to 100 degrees. You might see a Santa surfing! They have a popular event called Carols by Candlelight. At night, people gather, light candles, and sing carols outside during the entire month of December. They also are known to “celebrate” (not public holiday) Christmas in July . . . when they can identify with the proper weather!

**Canada**, a country of many cultural backgrounds . . . French, English, Scottish, German . . . but they also have the Eskimos who celebrate a winter festival called “sinck tuck” . . . dancing and exchanging gifts. They also have cookie baking Parties . . .bring your recipe, bake and trade cookies.

**Greece**, a country of many Orthodox Churches . . . uses the Julian calendar which changes the number of days in a year on leap years. Their celebrations may go on until January 7, with Christmas gifts usually given on January 1, St. Basil’s Day. Some believe in *kallikantzeri*, goblins who appear to cause mischief during the 12 days of Christmas.

It’s said that in **South America** families attend Christmas Eve services in their churches, and it is a late night mass that is so long, they don’t get home until the rooster crows. Then they have their large Christmas Eve meals. They are in the summer Solstice . . . so they have bands and dancing at gatherings. They are very focused on Nativity scenes, and even have competitions.

You might hear the term “Boxing Day,” celebrated December 26. **Britain, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and other Commonwealth countries** still celebrate this as a public holiday. It is a day off work for servants . . . they receive a Christmas box from their masters to take home and share.

In **Germany**, families begin celebrating four Sundays before Christmas by making their Advent wreaths. They put four candles on the wreath and light one each Sunday, sing Christmas songs, and eat Christmas cookies! Though we’ve all heard that Martin Luther was the first to light a Christmas tree with candles, the first “Christmas trees” decorated for the Christian holiday appeared in Strasbourg, in Alsace, in the beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. In the 1820s, the German immigrants to Pennsylvania decorated Christmas trees. In 1848, the first American newspaper showed a picture of a Christmas tree and thus began the spread of the tradition.

And so we see there are many ways to “celebrate” Christmas...whether by public holiday pronouncement or non-Christians joining in the day. Interesting terminology comes up also. **Xmas** is considered by many an unchristian term. In reality, the word for Christ in Greek is **Xristos**. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the first initial of Christ’s name was often abbreviated to an X in the Greek word for Christmas. This probably is not a “tradition” any longer in the Christian world.

Places, traditions...all change and all places around the world have their favorites. It’s always interesting to study their differences.





# CELEBRATING & HONORING OUR 80+ MEMBERS!

**Tom Alford  
Gayle Anderson  
Phyllis Anderson  
Bob Beeman  
Carl Behrendt  
Clara Behrendt  
Maury Coperhaver  
Jim Diamond  
Joy Diamond  
Dee Evans  
Marlene Foley  
Jeanne Gast  
John Grimes  
Nancy Hansen  
Vic Hansen  
Edna Hecht  
Jean Holmes  
Nora Lee Kerry  
Roy Kerry  
Irene Kinyon  
Paul Krebs  
Carole Kuhn**

**Trudy Kussow  
Paul Lake  
Dale Lubs  
Dale Martz  
Nancy Martz  
Bill Mikulski  
Mary Jo Mikulski  
Jim Nightenhelser  
Judith Ottinger  
Randy Peters  
Shannon Schneider  
Jerry Schulenburg  
Duke Schuller  
Linda Stevens  
Myron Storms  
Al Stowell  
Roxanna Stowell  
Gary Turnage  
Jenny Turnage  
Jane Whitmore  
Joyce Windhorn**

For I am sure of this very thing, that the one who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus. *Philippians 1:6*



# STEWARDSHIP 2022



## Bearing Fruit for Jesus

***“I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”***

**John 15:5**



*Bearing fruit isn't something we psych ourselves up to do and we can't train our hearts and minds to do it either. We can try, but we're unable to do it. Yet in John 15:16 we're told by Jesus to **“bear fruit...fruit that will last.”** We can and will do that only by faith in Christ. He said: “I am the Vine; you are the branches” (John 15:5a). Only by faith in him we can and will receive needed life-giving nourishment and energy. So, connected to Christ (the Vine), we branches can and will do what comes naturally to any healthy fruit tree: we bear fruit.*

### Week 1

*As God chose some trees and vines, so he has chosen us to bear spiritual fruit. Fruit is what is expected of all Christians. “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit...fruit that will last” (John 15:16). Paul explained to the Galatians what that fruit is: “The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control” (Galatians 5:22-23). This fruit will be evident in the lives of Christians as a natural outcome of Christ living in us.*

### Week 2

*For the second week of this series, our focus is on our talents. It's all about differences in people, why everyone is unique in their own way. Some can take apart engines of cars, while others hardly know where to add the oil. Some build houses, while others can barely nail boards together. Some buy their bread at the store, while others bake. It's wonderful that God has given us different gifts so that we become dependent on one another. This is what church is all about. Together we form the Body of Christ where each part functions as part of the greater whole.*

### Week 3

*A basic definition of a testimony is to declare or acknowledge under oath. When we stand before the altar of God and testify we are showing a personal experience with God. It is a declaration of what God has done for us that will encourage others to continue in the faith, (Ps 145:10-12).*



**STEWARDS**  
— IN ALL SEASONS

**Commitment Day  
will be Wednesday,  
November 24  
at the 7:00 p.m.  
Thanksgiving Eve  
Service.**

## Shaping leaders and pastors to grow our church

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we are forming pastors and church leaders for the North American Lutheran Church who will faithfully preach, teach, and live God's eternal truth, through Word and Sacrament, proclaiming Christ's cross and resurrection, making disciples who will renew and grow the church in Christ's name.



As we live out our Mission and Vision, shaping competent and capable leaders for the NALC, we are called to:

- Take delight in our studies of Holy Scripture, Lutheran Confessions, and all the academic disciplines provided within the seminary's curriculum.
- Live out the trust we have in God through a life of daily prayer, regular reception of the Holy Sacrament, and attentive listening to the preaching of his Word.
- Listen to the cries of God's people so that we may witness with compassion, openness, and strength.
- Give thanks to God for his unending love for us, seeking his will in all things.
- Sing the faith that is in us.

Prepare ourselves in the classroom, in the church, and in the world, to be pastors, teachers, evangelists, and catechists —servants who minister in Christ's name, vessels of his mercy.

As students, faculty, and staff we seek to live out the reign of God together, proclaiming his lordship and his desire for all people to know his eternal love for them.

### We Believe:

1. Tomorrow's pastors must be formed in the wisdom of the Great Tradition
2. Seminary education must be affordable and meet you where you are
3. You may be God's match for one of the many ministry opportunities available throughout the NALC and beyond
4. An accredited degree from an ecumenical, world-class institution is the best preparation for ministry and further study
5. An authentic community and trusting relationships are necessary for enduring formation



## Support the North American Lutheran Seminary

### PRAY

#### THE NEED TO RAISE LEADERS IS GREAT

- Approximately nine out of ten NALC pastors are over the age of 40.
- 75 percent of pastors are over the age of 60.
- Since 2010, the NALC has grown to more than 450 congregations and is still growing.

To give to the North American Lutheran Seminary, go to:

<https://www.thenals.org/ways-to-give/>



# MISSIONS



## The Arlington Project

Wreaths Across America was first inspired when 12-year-old paperboy Morrill Worcester won a trip to the nation's capital, a trip he would never forget. He later recognized that his success as a businessman was, in large part, due to the values of this nation and the veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. In 1992, when Morrill Worcester found himself with an excess of wreaths nearing the end of the holiday season, he saw an opportunity to make a boyhood dream a reality. With the help of Senator Olympia Snowe and the Maine State Society of DC, the wreaths were placed at Arlington National Cemetery. Mr. Worcester vowed to bring wreaths to honor veterans every year. In 2006, in response to thousands of e-mails and letters, Morrill Worcester expanded his wreath donations nationwide, with ceremonies held at 230 locations. Heading into our 30th year and millions of veterans wreaths later, our Nation's heroes continue to be honored at more than 2700 cemeteries from the banks of Alaska to the beaches of Normandy.



REMEMBER ★ HONOR ★ TEACH

## The Wreaths Across America Story

In 2007, Morrill Worcester was inspired to create Wreaths Across America, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to helping families honor their loved ones by sending wreaths to cemeteries, monuments, and state houses across the country and sponsoring annual National Remembrance ceremonies. Emulating the Arlington Project at the local level, WAA is funded by sponsorships from people just like you. One day, every veteran's resting place will be adorned with a wreath. We need your help to make this dream a reality.

## National Wreaths Across America Day December 18, 2021

### Bethel Ceremony at Zimmer Cemetery

For the last 2 years, members of Bethel and members from the community have come together to **Remember, Honor, and Teach** (Wreaths Across America themes) about the sacrifices veterans have made by honoring those veterans buried in the Zimmer Cemetery 1/2 mile east of Bethel on 206th Street. We place wreaths on all the veterans' graves and have a short ceremony. Navy Club Ship #29 has provided a color guard, rifle salute, and taps.

Bethel Missions and members of the community have purchased the wreaths for the ceremony. Members of Bethel who are veterans or related to veterans have participated in the ceremonial wreath-laying that honors the various armed forces — Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Merchant Marines. There is also a wreath to honor MIA-POWs and this year, there will be an additional wreath for the new Space Force.

See below for the meanings associated with the various parts of the wreaths.

**10 BALSAM BOUQUETS**  
make up each veterans' wreath, representing the

**10 SPECIAL QUALITIES**  
that our veterans embody.



Evergreens =  
**LONGEVITY & ENDURANCE**



Red Bow =  
**GREAT SACRIFICE**



Forest Scene =  
**PURITY & SIMPLICITY**



Circular Shape =  
**ETERNITY**

1. Their **BELIEF** in a greater good
2. Their **LOVE** for each other
3. Their **STRENGTH**, work ethic, & character
4. Their **HONESTY** & integrity
5. Their **HUMILITY**, selflessness, & modesty
6. Their **AMBITIONS** & aspirations
7. Their **OPTIMISM** for America
8. Their **CONCERN** for the future
9. Their **PRIDE** in their duties
10. Their **HOPES & DREAMS** that didn't always come true, but left them with no regrets

This year, over 2,700 cemeteries will participate in Wreaths Across America.

We will gather at 11:30 a.m. Wreath laying will be at 11:45 a.m., and the ceremony will start at 12 noon. Parking is limited so it would be helpful if you would park at Bethel and carpool to Zimmer. For more information, please contact Gay Hanson at [FootPrints@BethelLutheranChurch.com](mailto:FootPrints@BethelLutheranChurch.com).



# SEASONS & HOLY DAYS

## ANGELS SURROUNDING JESUS BIRTH

by Carol Jacobs

It is difficult for us to understand the appearance of angels in the Bible. After all, it's not something we are familiar with in everyday life. Our ideas of angels come from art, folklore, literature, and tv shows. Our only sure source is God's word where we learn that angels are created spiritual beings, who have judgment, intelligence, and can be visible or invisible.

At Jesus' conception and birth, there are three individuals and also one group of people who have encounters with angels. Chronologically, let's look at the different appearances. Our first in Luke 1 is the story of Zechariah who was a priest in the temple in Jerusalem. Each of the 24 divisions of the 18,000 priests spent two weeks a year ministering in the Temple. Zechariah was chosen by lot to place the incense on the altar in the Holy Place, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. As he was in the Holy Place the angel Gabriel appeared on the right side of the altar. Not only was Zechariah startled as he was to be the only person behind the veil separating the Holy Place from the courtyard, but he was gripped with fear. Why fear? Was it the sudden appearance of the angel? We are not told. However, this is a common reaction when God or his agents are present in Scripture. Equally common is the angel's response, "Do not be afraid. . . ." Gabriel delivered the promise that Zechariah would have a son whose name would be John, who would have the spirit and power of Elijah and would bring repentance to the people to prepare the way for the Lord. The sign for Zechariah of the coming of the awaited Messiah would be that he had a son. But Zechariah doubted asking, "How can I be sure of this?" So the angel provided another sign. He would be unable to speak until the baby was born.

The story of Mary (also in Luke 1) is a parallel to Zechariah. However, rather than a contrast of good and bad, it is a contrast of good and better responses. Their reactions to the news brought by Gabriel seem similar, but there is an important difference. Mary is confused about the promise that she would conceive since she was a virgin. After Gabriel explained that the conception would be from the Holy Spirit, Mary no longer questions but fully devotes herself to God's plan. Zechariah

doubts and asks for proof by a sign. Gabriel's strong response indicates Zechariah's unbelief. Though unasked for, Gabriel gives Mary a sign by informing her of Zechariah's wife Elizabeth, Mary's cousin, who would bear a son in her old age, showing "nothing is impossible with God."

Joseph's story is in Matthew 1. The angel who is not named appears to Joseph in a dream. He is told not to be afraid to take Mary as his wife as the child was conceived by the Holy Spirit. He is also told to call the child Jesus, because he will save the people from their sins. Others will call him Immanuel meaning God with us. Joseph obeys, and the sign for him is that Mary will have a son.

The last we hear of angels in the birth of Jesus is to the group of shepherds in fields in Luke 2. Imagine what it would have been like for the shepherds alone in a field. Perhaps they sat around a fire at night, but otherwise it would have been pitch black. No ambient light from a nearby metropolis, no street lights. An angel appeared telling them of the babe in Bethlehem. In an instant the sky was filled with angels. Not just an angel, but a multitude of heavenly hosts or angels and the glory of the Lord shone around them. They were terrified. Can you imagine?! On hearing that a Savior, a Messiah, the Lord was born in the city of David, did they think of a political leader like the inscriptions about Caesar as the empire's savior and lord? Messianic hopes ran high in the centuries around Jesus' birth. There were many false messiahs who failed to bring about the overthrow of Rome's hold of Israel, bring peace, and draw all nations to worship at the temple. No one quite understood that this Messiah was the one to bring true peace between God and man. However, the sign delivered by an angel was that there would be a baby lying in a feed trough and wrapped in cloths in Bethlehem. And so the shepherds went to see that child.

In our four stories, we see that it was angels who brought the good news pointing to the coming of the Messiah. They all provided signs to confirm their messages. We don't worship them, but we acknowledge that they were the ones who brought messages from God for us.



# LUTHERAN CHRISTIANS

## WHO WE ARE - WHAT WE BELIEVE

### What Does Mary's Song—"The Magnificat"—Teach Us Today?

During the season of Advent, we often read the words of Luke as he tells the Christmas story. In chapter 1 verses 46-55, we find a song by Mary in which she praises God who has chosen her to be the mother of Jesus. The words of this song are powerful and hold lessons we can learn today. They were spoken during a visit with her cousin Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist, *after* she asked Mary: **"How could this happen that the mother of my Lord should come to me?"** Yes, Mary knew she was going to give birth to the Christ child because the angel Gabriel told her. But it seems that when she heard Elizabeth's question, she was overwhelmed with a spirit of praise and spoke this song of praise. It's known as "The Magnificat", in Latin meaning: *"my soul magnifies the Lord."* It can be heard during Catholic, Lutheran, and Anglican worship services.

One might wonder why it's significant because it's just words spoken in a moment of happiness. But the truth is, the "Magnificat" speaks of who Mary was and the depth of her faith. In verses 46-47 she says: **"My soul praises the greatness of the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior."** Her faith was rooted in Jewish tradition because she came from a devout Jewish family. Her faith is further shown in verses 48-50 where she acknowledged that God took her humble status and used it to exalt her for generations to come. In verse 49, she says that she'll be called blessed because **"the Mighty One has done great things for me, and his name is holy."**

In the last four verses of her song, Mary speaks of wonderful things that God has done for her ancestors, for her, and for all who will believe. Her recognition of God's mighty deeds, and the mercies He had given to the people of Israel was significant. This tells us that while she may have been nervous about her situation, she knew God had it all under control; that He wouldn't give her this blessing and then abandon her.

While this song may not be as popular as other Bible passages, it's worth consideration as an awesome example of praise given by a young girl who was carrying the only son of God and feeling anxiety about living in a community that ostracized her because she was engaged, pregnant, and claiming to be a virgin.

Some meaningful thought comes from Mary's words. Verse 51 says: **"He has done a mighty deed with his arm; he has scattered the proud,"** and it

conveys a moral thought about pride. In 21<sup>st</sup> century society, we hold to a lot of pride and tend to turn a blind eye to those in need and refuse to ask for help when we need it. Pride holds people back from acting on God's direction and being obedient.

Secondly, we're given a societal thought. Mary says: **"he has toppled the mighty from their thrones and exalted the lowly."** She knew she wasn't special in the eyes of the world but saw her situation as God exalting the lowly to bring the greatest gift to mankind. Our society thinks that the more we have, the better we are. But, in Mary, God proved that not true. It's all about what's in a person's heart.

Finally, we're given an economic thought. Verse 53 says: **"He has satisfied the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty."** If we're a Christian society, why do we have the hungry? God's word tells us that our status at the bank won't matter when Jesus comes again. To live in obedience to Him, we shouldn't want to gain wealth while letting others go hungry. We should use our wealth to glorify God.

Yes, the "Magnificat" is an inspiring piece of Scripture. Mary's words are profound in the face of what she was about to do. We don't know what she was thinking regarding the pregnancy. We don't have a word that describes her fear of what others will think or how they will treat her. All we have are these magnificent words that reveal her praises to God. And the message for us is that we are to have faith. We're to trust in our God, no matter the situation or circumstance because He has it all in His hands. We should strive to imitate the heart and mind of Mary in every situation. Her words are not just for the Advent season, they are for all seasons.



# ASK THE PASTOR



## IS THERE SOMETHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO ASK?

By Pastor Al Schoonover

### What is Advent?

Advent [ad-vent] *noun*

- 1 a coming into place, view, or being; arrival;
- 2 Usually Advent, the coming of Christ into the world. (from [www.dictionary.com](http://www.dictionary.com))

I wasn't born or raised in the Lutheran church – in fact, I didn't start attending one regularly until my junior year in college – so the idea of a “church” year apart from the “calendar” year was a new experience for me. As a new believer, I understood the basic idea that Christians celebrated Christmas and Easter, but the thought that there was an annual cycle of festivals and commemorations according to a liturgical calendar with “seasons” like Advent, Epiphany, Lent, and Pentecost (not fall, winter, spring, summer, and road repair!) was a strange concept at first.

The “church” year begins in late November with the season called “Advent,” a word which means “coming” and focuses on Jesus' coming into our world. But this coming has a dual nature to it. Advent is both a time of thanks for the gift of Jesus Christ to us in the past *and* a time of anticipation of his second coming. Interestingly, the gospel reading for the first week of Advent focuses more on Jesus' second coming at the end of time:

*And there will be strange signs in the sun, moon, and stars. And here on earth the nations will be in turmoil, perplexed by the roaring seas and strange tides. People will be terrified at what they see coming upon the earth, for the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then everyone will see the Son of Man coming on a cloud with power and great glory. (Luke 21:25–27, NLT)*

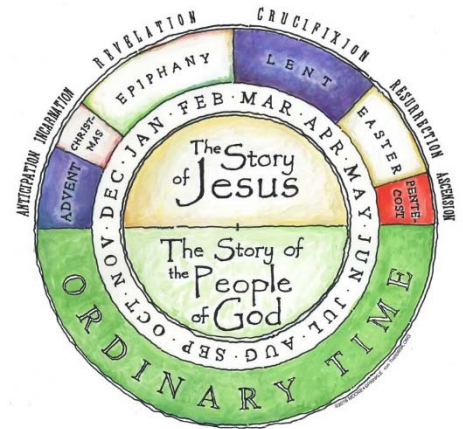
This flows from the series of “end of times” gospel readings that conclude the Pentecost season, and it serves to link the end of one year with the beginning of the next. This gives the impression that the church year places last things first. But perhaps this is a good way to start: with a clear sense of where we are heading before we set out on the journey. It is certainly a counter-cultural lens through which to view the holiday season! And that, too, is a good

thing. When the rest of the society is focusing on presents or decorations – as early as October in some stores, even! – our gaze is looking to a more distant shore. As the stress ramps up over what to get or preparing for the arrival of family for

Christmas dinner, our readings refocus us on the true purpose of the One who is coming: to restore both creature and creation to its intended state.

This refocusing serves an important purpose. The world's agendas, celebrations, and even its calendar, stress a human accomplishment – it's about what *we* do by our efforts or ingenuity. In contrast, our liturgical seasons center on what God has already done and continues to do through the Holy Spirit. God is the primary actor, and we simply respond in faith to the gift we have been given. From that foundation of grace, we are free to act as a living thank you to what God has done.

This has implications for how we live as Jesus' disciples! In December, when everything around us is swirling with consumption and indulgence, followers of Jesus quietly focus on lamenting the state of the world and waiting with renewed expectation for the coming Messiah in Advent. In the Spring, when the broader culture acknowledges Easter as a single day (or weekend) of candy and bunnies, we celebrate Easter for 50 days, diving deeply into the implications of his resurrection for the world and for our lives. Keeping time in this way puts us out of step with the secular culture around us, but it also reminds us in every single season how God calls us to tell the world through our words and deeds about our true King who has come to save.



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Pastor Al



# CHURCH HISTORY

## MAKING MEMORIES, 1 ADVENT PROJECT AT A TIME

By Ros Demaree

When Bethel families unpack their beloved Christmas decorations, some of the most cherished ones were likely collected through decades of church-sponsored Advent projects. Making them has been a congregation-wide effort intended to deepen the meaning of the Advent season and tie all of us together, just like the ribbon on a Christmas gift, into the Bethel family.

Over the years, the projects have spanned a wide range of symbols, Scripture and sentiment.

3D crèches were projects in 1998 and again around 2015, and one year there was a banner-like Nativity made of felt. If we could ever collect the G-shaped Ornaments (G for God) that were one year's project, they probably would reflect the many threads that make up the fabric of the congregation because every member or family who took one of the project packs painted the ornament to suit their individual style.



Pastor Doug initiated the projects to make something special as a family memento and, "We hoped that Christ would be a more important part of the season. It was a way to look forward to the real reason for the season."

The projects have been designed to draw families together for a common spiritual purpose and to keep us focused on the right things when we're so easily distracted by the busyness of the season. The idea, according to Pastor Doug, was that the projects would help them think of Bethel, remember Jesus and remember to create a manger in their hearts.

While generations of Bethel members may remember the projects and have them in their Christmas decorations, few people may know it takes a village to create the parts for the projects. Pastor Doug was often the one asking for village volunteers, no doubt using one of his sacred clipboards for the sign-up. It seems members never let him, or each other, down.



When the project was a shadow box decoupage with a colorful "Jesus is the Reason for the Season" label, several members made the boxes, the youth of the church painted the boxes, and the Circle of Sisters raised their crafty hands to decoupage the label to the boxes. When

woodworkers were needed to create kit parts for the crèches, Pastor Doug was surprised and humbled that seven men immediately offered their skills.

John Haessig, a Bethel member for about 40 years, was one of them.

"I like building things. I like making things," said John, who attends the 8:45 service with his wife, Jan, and also helped build the boxes. "It's gratifying to do something like (making pieces for Advent project kits)." He estimates he spent 60-80 hours sawing 300 sets of Popsicle sticks and clothespins that would become rails in the stall framing the manger and the holy family.

A former tool and die maker, John methodically set up his part of the projects like a production line. He would mass produce one piece, move on to the next, and then move on to the next. When the pieces were finished, he often took them to the church where another member, he didn't always know who, would pick up the projects as if in a relay and take them to the next stage, whether that was assembling, staining, painting or packaging them.

He kept a few of the crèches kits to give to friends. Some might say it's John's way to spread Bethel's storied history of fellowship and love for each other. This year he's making several sets to send to his sisters in Virginia and his brother in California. There will be a piece of Bethel in each one. A regular volunteer at the June rummage sale, John discovered a big bag of clothespins donated for this year's sale. With that purchase in hand, he's stocked up on Holy Family materials for years of crèches to come.

He volunteers for the projects because he enjoys the work, but as he and Jan were unpacking the decoupage "Jesus is the Reason" shadow boxes to decorate a spare bedroom year-round in their Cicero home, he found a reminder of how these projects touch the Bethel family. Tucked away in the box were notes from the pastors, thanking him for his time and talent.



Gay Hanson fondly recalls how one year's Advent wreath project became a group activity. The entire congregation, no matter the age or craft-ability, was invited to spend time in the Fellowship Hall creating their own wreath in the good company of other members and a few helpers.

While we were all dealing with the social effects of COVID last year, Gay created magnets for us. The message was printed in the shape of a Christmas tree, and it followed the 2020 Advent theme of "I am." Line after line forms the tree as it lists the various names that are used for the Lord, such as Savior, Advocate, King of Kings and Prince of Peace.



When you're unpacking decorations in this Advent season and you unwrap one of these projects, pause to think about the Bethel family members who made it for you and the glory of God.

# CHURCH MUSIC

## HYMNS



By Gay Hanson

### “Mary, Did You Know?”

In 1970, Thomas Road Baptist Church of Lynchburg, VA began a Christmas program that, for decades, was known as *The Living Christmas Tree*. Their choir would stand, like live ornaments in a large tree-shaped loft and fill the auditorium with the beautiful sounds of Christmas. It is now known as the *Virginia Christmas Spectacular*.

In 1984, in preparation for that year’s program, Dr. Jerry Falwell asked one of his church members to write the program. That member was Mark Lowry, who was at the time a virtually unknown singer-songwriter. In his efforts to write a memorable program, Lowry took popular Christmas carols and hymns and interspersed them with play-like dialogue. While he was struggling to capture the wonder and amazement of that first Christmas, his mother, Bev, gave him the spark of the idea that would eventually become the song “Mary, Did You Know?” One day in a casual conversation, she simply commented to Mark, “You know, if anyone knew [Jesus] was virgin born, it was Mary . . . and her silence at the cross is proof, I think, that her story was indeed true.” Lowry said that that simple observation, from his own mother, unleashed a torrent of questions and thoughts in his mind about Jesus’ mother.

His reflections became the dialogue for the program, but his lyrics still needed music. He spent 7 years trying to track down just the right notes. Eventually, Lowry pitched the lyrics to a gospel music songwriter, Buddy Greene. Greene was a well-known expert harmonica player and a staple of the Southern Gospel music scene. He also had an ear for timeless tunes. Lowry shared the song idea with Greene while riding cross-country in a tour bus. He wrote the lyrics down on a piece of paper and gave them to Greene on a weekend.

On Monday morning, Lowry’s phone rang. It was Buddy. In about 30 minutes, he had crafted a tune, which he sang to Mark over the phone that fit the lyrics perfectly. As soon as he heard it, Lowry was hooked and began to make plans to produce the song.

By this time, in 1991, Lowry was singing and touring with *The Gaither Vocal Band* full-time. He felt like the song was too “rangy” for his personal singing abilities but had a singer in mind to record it: Michael English. English’s debut album, which featured the song, had a seasonally unfortunate release date of January 1, 1992, but even though it made its first appearance after Christmas, the song was an instant hit that insured its longevity.

Since English debuted the song, it has been recorded by over 500 artists, both secular and Christian. For years, Lowry refused to sing the song, publicly, thinking it was beyond his ability and musical comfort zone. However,

### Mary, Did You Know?

Words and Music by Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene  
Arranged by Tom Fettke

Mary, did you know that your baby boy  
Would one day walk on water?  
Mary, did you know that your baby boy  
Would save our sons and daughters?  
Did you know that your baby boy  
Has come to make you new;  
This Child that you delivered  
Will soon deliver you?

Mary, did you know that your baby boy  
Will give sight to a blind man?  
Mary, did you know that your baby boy  
Would calm a storm with His hand?  
Did you know that your baby boy  
Has walked where angels trod,  
And when you kiss your little baby  
You’ve kissed the face of God?  
Mary, did you know?

The blind will see, the deaf will hear,  
The dead will live again,  
The lame will leap, the dumb will speak  
The praises of the Lamb!

Mary, did you know that your baby boy  
Is Lord of all creation?  
Mary, did you know that your baby boy  
Will one day rule the nations?  
Did you know that your baby boy  
Was Heaven’s perfect Lamb,  
And the sleeping Child you’re holding  
Is the Great I AM?  
Oh, Mary, Mary, did you know?

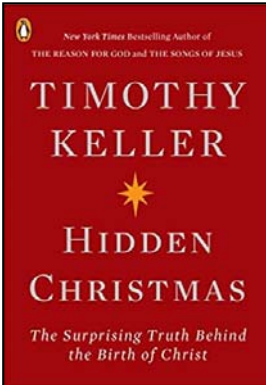
one night during a Gaither concert in Detroit, an audience member yelled out, “Mark – Sing ‘Mary Did You Know!’” Lowry kindly refused, “Well, I don’t sing that,” to which the crowd responded with cheers and chants encouraging him to try. Lowry indulged the audience with an impromptu, a cappella rendition. “Since then,” Lowry said, “I’ve sung it every night.”

While so many modern Christmas songs focus on “the season,” Lowry’s timeless work is a refreshing reminder of its “reason.” Surely, there are many things which Mary did not know. Yet, in her own song, Mary did, at least, know this: “*My soul exalts the Lord, And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior...For the Mighty One has done great things for me...The Lord has given help to Israel so that we remember His mercy.*” (Luke 1:46ff)

# BOOKS OF INTEREST

Reviews by Trudy Kussov

Reading level:  
Adult



## HIDDEN CHRISTMAS

**The Surprising Truth Behind the Birth of Christ**

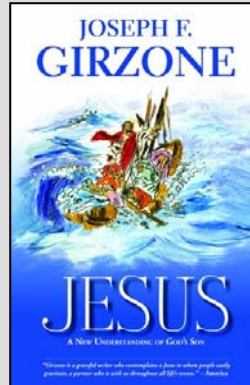
*by Timothy Keller*

Christmas is celebrated with joy and happiness everywhere in our culture today, but many are unaware of the true significance of the event. In this small book Pastor Keller reveals the depth of meaning behind the birth of Jesus. Looking at Isaiah 9, Luke 1-2, and Matthew 1-2, we learn how Mary and Joseph, the Shepherds and the Wisemen were affected by the birth. Understanding more fully the message of hope and salvation that is within the account of Jesus' birth, we know that the redeeming power of God's grace was there in the manger.

These intellectually provocative ideas are communicated in a style that is so readable that our joy in celebrating Christmas will forever be enriched.



Reading level:  
Adult



## JESUS

**A New Understanding of God's Son**

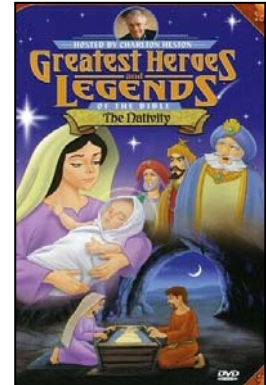
*by Joseph F. Girzone*

Fr. Girzone is the author of the very popular Joshua series of novels. This book is not fiction, but it reads like fiction because of Girzone's long experience of writing fiction. To the faithfully Biblical account, Girzone adds details learned from his research and personal contacts that help the reader to visualize and understand the context of the events. The book is based on a series of talks Girzone gave over three years as he reflected on his research.

For us, reading the book as Christmas approaches, sections 1-4 are of greatest interest. In them Girzone speculated about what Mary and Joseph may have encountered as they went about fulfilling the prophecy. His intention is to help us understand more deeply this Jesus who came to give his life for us.



DVD:  
Young Children



## THE NATIVITY

*Part of a DVD series hosted by Charlton Heston*

This charming animation about the Christmas story will be enjoyed by families with young children. For the most part it is true to the Biblical account and will help to emphasize the real event that is celebrated at Christmas. To children, Mary and Joseph are somewhat like their own moms and dads, as they are perplexed and deal with their difficult situation.





# GIFTS OF THE MAGI

## THE GIFTS OF GOLD, FRANKINCENSE, & MYRRH

By Jill Dietz

While it is clear that visitors, whom we call the wise men, came to visit Jesus at His birth, through the years, many details have been added as to how many men came, their names, and the timing of their arrival. One thing that has not changed, is the gifts they brought to The Baby. We know they brought gifts to honor Him and we know the gifts have great value. Scripture tells us what was brought, but doesn't attach any symbolic meaning to the gifts. *And they came into the house and saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell down and worshiped Him; and opening their treasures they presented to Him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh.* (Matthew 2:11) Let's look into the significance of these gifts.

**Gold** - the Bible lists precious metals, livestock, servants, gemstones and other items as large assets, with accumulation of gold being the main measure of wealth. Since gold is associated with royalty and nobility, the wise men, showed that they were in fact, honoring Jesus as a king. King Solomon acquired gold, and King Nebuchadnezzar made a golden idol of himself. There are 189 scriptures about gold.

*The Lord has greatly blessed my master, so that he has become rich; and He has given him flocks and herds, and silver and gold, and servants and maids, and camels and donkeys.* (Genesis 24:35)



**Frankincense** comes from tree resins and was greatly valued through the Middle East from Rome to India. It is produced by scraping the bark of certain trees and harvesting the beads of resin after they have dried. It was used as incense and was expensive, so therefore it was not used as a household air freshener. Frankincense occurs 15 times in the Bible. It was used to make incense, perfume, and as an ingredient in sacrifices. It was mostly used during worship of a deity, so the gift of frankincense indicates the wise men understood that the newborn king was a deity.



*Then the LORD said to Moses, "Take fragrant*

*spices-gum resin, onycha and galbanum-and pure frankincense, all in equal amounts, and make a fragrant blend of incense, the work of a perfumer. It is to be salted and pure and sacred.* (Exodus 30:34-35)



**Myrrh** is extruded from the gum of the Commiphora Myrrh plant. Although it was less expensive than frankincense, it was highly valued. Myrrh is referenced 17 times in the Bible and was used for a variety of purposes such as perfume, an anesthetic, for embalming, an anointing oil, to deodorize clothes, and in cosmetics, most importantly — in Jesus' death. This was a foreshadowing of what was to come with the wise men bringing this gift.

*And they gave him to drink wine mingled with myrrh: but he received it not.* (Mark 15:23) *And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred-pound weight.* (John 19:39)

Most likely, the wealth of the gifts brought to Baby Jesus was used to help Joseph and his family escape to another nation. Joseph was told by an angel to go to Egypt, a journey of over 100 miles, after the wise men left. Though there is no record of this trip, which a family of little means would find difficult to pay for, it's reasonable to think that these gifts would certainly have helped.

These gifts were the perfect gifts for Jesus – gold was a king's gift, and Christ is our King. Frankincense speaks of the anointed One who deserves our worship, and myrrh was a prophetic gift because of Jesus' death.



# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

## YOUTH & SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT



**Sunday School** for children, ages Kindergarten through 12th grade, begins every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. All classes go to their usually assigned classrooms and parents can pick them up from those classrooms at 10:55 a.m.

**Nursery** is staffed on Sunday by volunteers from Kidz City. Want to take advantage of nursery care? Please bring your little ones to the nursery at the time children are dismissed for Kidz City. And it would be great if you could help every once in a while.

### Preschool-Kindergarten

Children who turn 3 years old before December 31<sup>st</sup>, and those in Kindergarten, can join our Preschool-Kindergarten Sunday School Class at 10:00 a.m. Gospel Light Curriculum teaches them Bible lessons in a fun, age-appropriate way, with engaging songs, stories, videos and puppets!

**1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade** — Children are grouped in Sunday School classes by age/grade. Students learn basic Bible stories and Lutheran teachings in preparation for Confirmation during Middle School. The curriculum used is “Sunday Schoolhouse” from Sola Publishing.

### High School

We explore various topics of mutual interest, seeking to apply our faith to real-life situations and challenges and to move beyond the accumulation of more head knowledge, into the area of faith application and growing as disciples. We begin class each week sharing at least one good thing from the past week. We encourage conversation and discussion in a respectful manner. We encourage active serving while reminding them of the little eyes looking up to them here at church. We end each class in a prayer that honors prayer requests.



### Confirmation

This class is for Middle School students (grades 6-8) and strives to move their faith from the *head to the heart* through interactive experiences that include both large group presentation and small group discussion. After class, we attend worship together. Once a month, we come together for worship and a fellowship activity. The goal is to develop a life-long faith through a combination of engaging learning events, regular fellowship activities, and frequent service opportunities in and outside the congregation. Want to join us? Contact Pastor Al at: [pastoral@bethellutheranchurch.com](mailto:pastoral@bethellutheranchurch.com) or call the church at 317-773-4315 for information or to register.

## 3D

### Dinner, Devotions, Discussion — Middle School & High School Youth Ministry

*Sundays time TBA*  
Middle and High School Youth will begin meeting at the church in November for 3D— Dinner, Devotions, Discussion. Contact Eddie Burks for more information at [eddie@bethellutheranchurch.com](mailto:eddie@bethellutheranchurch.com).



### Baptism Class

This class is for parents who wish to have their child(ren) baptized. During this session, we explore what happens when we come to the font and what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. We review the expectations placed on parents and the support they can expect to receive from the church. Email Pastor Al at [pastoral@bethellutheranchurch.com](mailto:pastoral@bethellutheranchurch.com) or call the church at 317-773-4315 for more information.



### First Communion Class

Children in 4th grade and up learn about God's promises and the importance of Holy Communion. Classes are usually held during Lent after the Sunday School hour, and culminate with the Rite of First Communion on Maundy Thursday. Contact Pastor Al Schoonover at [pastoral@bethellutheranchurch.com](mailto:pastoral@bethellutheranchurch.com) or call the church at 317-773-4315 for more information.



### Discovery: Becoming a Disciple of Jesus

*Sundays — To Be Determined*

Participants will grow deeper into the life of discipleship during this interactive and engaging “new disciple” orientation as we explore key aspects of our Lutheran Christian faith, including how God has wired each of us to be ministers rather than simply members of the Church. Contact the church office (773-4315) or one of the pastors for information.



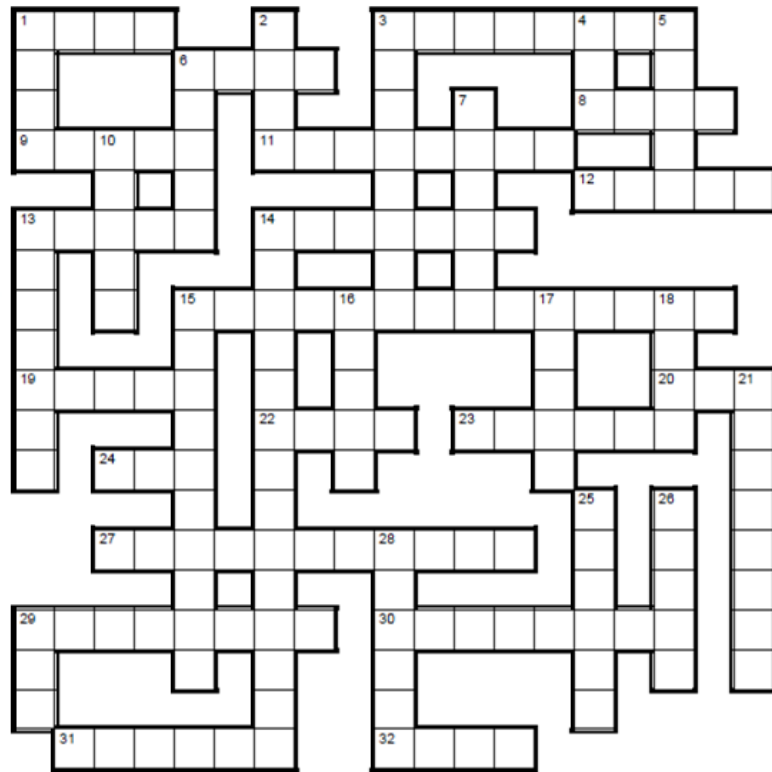


# WORD

## CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD

### Across

- 1 Transportation for going over snow (4)
- 3 Mixture of seasoned ingredients (8)
- 6 Baby's bed (4)
- 8 Period from December 24th to January 6th (4)
- 9 Red-breasted bird (5)
- 11 Twelve days after Christmas (8)
- 12 Alcoholic drink normally served in a bowl (5)
- 13 Jolly (5)
- 14 News (7)
- 15 Goes with the turkey (9,5)
- 19 A type of tree used at Christmas (5)
- 20 The colour of Santa's hat (3)
- 22 \_\_\_ log; traditionally burned at Christmas (4)
- 23 Sanctified (6)
- 24 Cured leg of pork (3)
- 27 Christmas song (6,5)
- 29 Found under the Christmas tree? (8)
- 30 Grace (8)
- 31 Snow falls in this season (6)
- 32 Given at Christmas (4)



BiblePuzzles.org.uk

### Down

- 1 Bright celestial body (4)
- 2 Christmas tree type (4)
- 3 Take aback (8)
- 4 No room here! (3)
- 5 Elvish colour (5)
- 6 Sweets; flavoured sugar (5)
- 7 Container usually found in a stable (6)
- 10 Beginning of life (5)
- 13 Amazing event (7)
- 14 Written after Christmas? (5,3,6)
- 15 Formal events (10)
- 16 Ring out from churches (5)
- 17 Accompaniment for food (5)
- 18 Printed or written greeting (4)
- 21 Month in which Christmas falls (8)
- 25 Nature of God (6)
- 26 One was born in Bethlehem (5)
- 28 Sweetened milk drink, with eggs and alcohol (6)
- 29 Pastry dish (3)

Answers may be found on page 22.

# CHRISTMAS DINGBATS

1 Shhh... Sir Galahad	2 gr + $\frac{\text{foot}}{12}$	3 sepottia	4 MEDITERRANEAN OFFSPRING	5 Mrage
6 ABCDE FGHIJK MNOPQ RSTUV WXYZ	7 A4FEZ	8 FALSEFIR	9 stel	10 
11 Warsaw citizen 	12 + OUTLET	13 smfrankell	14 PRES   ENTS	15 PPPPPP WORLD
16  Gorgeous	17 D NER	18 Athens Luz Asia McAdam NW Talus Ca Pens	19 Deco: 9 out of 10	20 LAN 

- |          |           |           |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 8. _____  | 15. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 9. _____  | 16. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 10. _____ | 17. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 11. _____ | 18. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 12. _____ | 19. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 13. _____ | 20. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 14. _____ |           |

Answers may be found on page 22.



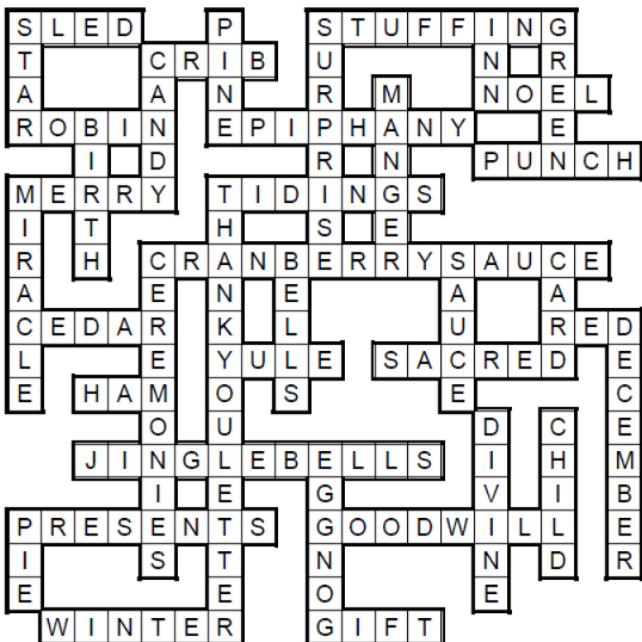
# CALENDAR

## LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Bethel Lutheran Church functions on a liturgical calendar with seasons and holy days. There are colors associated with each of the seasons and holy days. These are shown on this calendar and are reflected in sanctuary paraments.

DAY	DATE	CHURCH CALENDAR
Sunday	11/7/21	All Saints Sunday
Sunday	11/14/21	25th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday	11/21/21	Christ the King Sunday
Wednesday	11/24/21	Thanksgiving Eve Service
Sunday	11/28/21	1st Sunday of Advent
Sunday	12/5/21	2nd Sunday of Advent
Sunday	12/12/21	3rd Sunday of Advent
Sunday	12/19/21	4th Sunday of Advent
Friday	12/24/21	Nativity of Our Lord
Saturday	12/25/21	Nativity of Our Lord
Sunday	12/26/21	First Sunday after Christmas
<b>2021</b>		
Sunday	1/2/22	2nd Sunday after Christmas
Thursday	1/6/22	Feast of the Epiphany
Sunday	1/9/22	Baptism of Our Lord
Sunday	1/16/22	2nd Sunday of Epiphany
Sunday	1/23/22	3rd Sunday of Epiphany
Sunday	1/30/22	4th Sunday of Epiphany
Sunday	2/6/22	5th Sunday of Epiphany
Sunday	2/13/22	6th Sunday of Epiphany
Sunday	2/20/22	7th Sunday of Epiphany
Sunday	2/27/21	Transfiguration of Our Lord

Christmas Crossword Puzzle Answers:



## EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

### 2021

- Nov 3 Healing Service
- Nov 7 All Saints Sunday/Daylight Savings Time
- Nov 7 80+ Luncheon
- Nov 13 Operation Christmas Child Blessing
- Nov 20-21 Craft Fair
- Nov 21 Congregational Meeting 5p
- Nov 24 Commitment Day @ Thanksgiving Service
- Nov 24 Thanksgiving Eve Service 7p /Pie Fellowship
- Nov 27 Hanging of the Greens
- Dec 1 Midweek: Meal 6p-7p Worship 7p-8p
- Dec 2 Healing Service
- Dec 5 Chili Cook-off
- Dec 8 Midweek: Meal 6p-7p Worship 7p-8p
- Dec 19 Preschool Christmas Program
- Dec 15 Midweek: Meal 6p-7p Worship 7p-8p
- Dec 18 Wreaths Across America Day
- Dec 19 Sunday School Christmas Program 10a
- Dec 24 Christmas Eve Services: Family 4p, Carols & Candlelight 7p and 10:30p
- Dec 25-26 Christmas Day—no Saturday Service/ one service on Sunday at 10a

### 2021

- Jan 1-2 Jan 1 — no Saturday Service / Jan 2 — Sunday services 8:45a & 11:11a — no Sunday School
- Jan 5 Healing Service
- Jan 6 Feast of the Epiphany

Christmas Dingbat Answers:

1. Silent Night (silent knight)
2. Grinch (gr + inch = 1 foot /12)
3. Poinsettia (po-in-settia)
4. Season (sea- son)
5. Manger (rage = anger)
6. Noel (no letter 'l')
7. Paper hat
8. Artificial tree
9. Tinsel (t in sel)
10. Eggnog (no letter 'g' in the word egg)
11. North Pole (Pole is a citizen of Warsaw)
12. Advent (add + vent means outlet)
13. Frankincense (smell is a sense with the word frank inside it)
14. Open presents
15. Peace on Earth
16. Sleeping Beauty (as in the Christmas pantomime)
17. Donner (one of Santa's reindeers)
18. Mixed nuts (mixed up letters of the nuts: hazelnuts, macadamias, walnuts, and pecans)
19. Decorate
20. Lantern (lan – turn)

# Events & Activities



The graphic is a large diamond shape composed of smaller diamonds. Each small diamond contains a logo for a specific event or activity. The events include:

- SERVICE OF HEALING**: Logo with hands and a chalice.
- 80+ Luncheon**: Logo with a flower and the number 80+.
- SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK**: Logo with gears and a clock.
- All Saints' Day**: Logo with a dove and a flame.
- ANNUAL CRAFT SALE**: Logo with a palette, scissors, and a paint can.
- OPERATION Christmas Child**: Logo with a box and a plane, with the text 'Samaritan's Purse'.
- Bethel Lutheran Congregational Meeting**: Logo with the church name and tagline.
- Thanksgiving Worship**: Logo with a cornucopia, pumpkins, and candles.
- Hanging of the Greens**: Logo with a doorway decorated with greenery.
- Advent Sundays & Midweek**: Logo with three lit candles.
- CHILD COOK-OFF**: Logo with a pot and a flame.
- Bethel Lutheran Preschool & Parent's Day Out**: Logo with a cross and the text 'Grow with Us'.
- Preschool Christmas Program**: Logo with children and a star.
- WREATHS across AMERICA**: Logo with three wreaths and the text 'SEPTEMBER HONOR TEACHER'.
- Sunday School Christmas Program**: Logo with children and a star.
- Foy to the World Christmas Eve Services**: Logo with the text 'Foy to the World' and 'Christmas Eve Services'.
- Bethel Missions**: Logo with the text 'Bethel Missions' and 'Blessings + Beyond + Bethel'.
- WORSHIP THE LORD!**: Logo with a musical instrument and the text 'WORSHIP THE LORD!'.
- EPIPHANY**: Logo with the three kings and the text 'EPIPHANY'.





## WEEKEND WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

### SATURDAY

5:30 p.m. – Casual Worship

### SUNDAY

8:45 a.m. – Classic Worship

10:00 a.m. – Christian Education Hour

11:11 a.m. – Praise Worship

## OTHER WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

### FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

Healing Service—7:00 p.m.

### THANKSGIVING EVE

November 24 — Worship Service 7:00 p.m. Pie Fellowship follows service.

### ADVENT MIDWEEK MEAL/WORSHIP SERVICES

Wednesday, December 1, 8, 15

Meal 6:00 p.m./Worship Service 7:00 p.m.

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19

Sunday School Christmas Program 10:00 a.m.

### CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24—Worship Services: Family 4p, Carols & Candlelight 7p & 10:30p

SATURDAY, CHRISTMAS DAY — No Services

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26 — 10a service only — No Sunday School

SATURDAY, NEW YEARS DAY — No Services

SUNDAY, JANUARY 2 — 8:45a & 11:11a — No Sunday School

### Bethel Lutheran Church

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# NALC

North American Lutheran Church