"Into Your hands we commit our lives. Into Your hands we commit Your church."

GO IN PEACE

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Worship Team for today:
Presider: Pastor Barb Lemke
Pianist: Cindy Josephson **Hymnists:** Laina Kelley-Walker and Sheila Kelley
Reader: Heidi Davison **Greeter:** **Usher:** Marv & Ev Kelley
Communion Asst.: Sean Gordon & Leighton Harrison **Screen/Sound:** Travis Kleven
Youth Offering Asst.: Kiera **Youth Communion Asst.:** _ **Acolyte:** Melodi
Video FaceBook: Ron Freund **YouTube:** Tom Lenahan

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

L This third Sunday of Advent is a time of rejoicing. We light the candle of joy, celebrating the coming of Christ, who brings joy to all the world.
C **"The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy." (Psalm 126:3)**

Heidi and Kiera will light the first three candles.

L May the joy of the Lord fill our hearts this Advent season.
C **We light this candle of joy, rejoicing in the gift of Jesus.**

Advent Kyrie

Sung to the tune of "Away in the Manager" ELV 277

Verse 1
Christ Jesus, our Savior, You come as our light,
Shine hope in our darkness and hold us each night.
Be born in our hearts, Lord, and teach us Your way.
O Kyrie, Christ, be our mercy today.

Verse 2:
Lord, guide us and keep us in love pure and strong,
Help us to be gentle, to right what is wrong.
Prepare us to welcome Your kingdom of grace.
O Kyrie, Lord, show us Your holy face.

Text: North American, 19th century
Music: James R. Murray
Public Domain

Advent Offertory – Week 3

Sung to the tune of "Angels We Have Heard on High" ELV 289

Verse 3 – Joy
Joy is rising, hearts rejoice,
Let us lift our thankful voice.
Singing praises from above,
Come, O Lord, Emmanuel!
Gloria in excelsis Deo;
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Music: French carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes
Public Domain

Altar Flowers were given by Laina Kelley Walker in honor of her granddaughter Aimee's baptism.

Sunday Worship Service

Image: Church Art Online

3rd Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025

Bethel Lutheran Church
1450 Airport Blvd.
Aurora, CO 80011
Phone: 303-364-2245 email: church@bethelaurora.org
website: www.bethelaurora.org

SUNDAY WORSHIP
December 14, 2025
9:30 A.M.

PRELUDE: Cindy Josephson

GATHERING: "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" (vv. 1, 2, & 3) ELW, #240

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH *see back cover*

CORPORATE PRAYER:
"Into Your hands we commit our lives. Into Your hands we commit Your church."

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS ELW, pp. 94–96

OPENING HYMN: "He Came Down" ELW, #253

GREETING

ADVENT KYRIE sung to tune of "Away in a Manger" *see back cover*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

1ST READING: Isaiah 35:1–10

2ND READING: James 5:7–10

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ELW, p. 205

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2–11

CHILDREN'S SERMON Kathy Harrison
Children leave for Sunday School afterwards, and will return for Communion.
Feel free to "pick them up" in the Fellowship Hall if you want them sooner.

HYMN: "Prepare the Royal Highway" (vv. 1, 3, & 4) ELW, #264

SERMON "There is More Joy to Come" Pastor Barb Lemke

BAPTISM: ***Aimee Monroe Lee*** ELW, pp. 227–231
Parents: Anthony & Maegan Lee
Sponsors: Javier and Victoria Castillo-Caraveo

APOSTLES' CREED
I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell.*
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH *see insert*
Thanksgiving for Families:
Lisa, James, & Marvin Bohrer
Grace and Olivia Anderson
George & Carol Kalamarides, Isaac

OFFERING
Special Music "My Lord, He Is a Comin' Soon" Winnen, Cothran, Drennan
Bliss-Falk Families

OFFERTORY: sung to tune of "Angels We Have Heard on High" *see back cover*

HOLY COMMUNION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

SONGS DURING COMMUNION:
"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" ELW, #254
"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" ELW, #631
"O Little Town of Bethlehem" ELW, #279

POST COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER

BENEDICTION

CLOSING SONG: "The Bells of Christmas" (vv. 1–3) ELW, #298

CORPORATE PRAYER:

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Recent hospitalizations, illnesses, and concerns:

Ralph Westadt *(ankle surgery recovery)*
Ron McBroom *(Dana's husband, heart surgery)*

For our homebound members and friends:

Wil Wertz – Jim Craig – Josh Carter

For those diagnosed with cancer:

Patti Schoenfeld
Mike Lemke
Susan Riley *(Lorraine Chambers' friend)*
Ashlyn *(daughter of friend Wade and Lynn Hampton)*
Alicia Michaels *(Mary Katherine Smith's friend)*
Gary *(Andrea Newport's brother-in-law)*
Scott Petrock *(Carol Einertson's son-in-law)*
Tammy Hawley *(Sheila Kelly's boss)*
Linda Hardy
Andrew Carpenter *(Alexa Weaver's friend)*
Rodney Steggs & his mother Rita Johnson *(Hamptons' friends)*
Peggy Russell *(Eddie & Pat Garcia's friend)*
Linda Kirkegaard
Wendy *(Kim Evancho's friend)*
Connie Lovell *(Deloris DeLapp's friend)*
Bob Bliss
Patrick Stephenson
Pastor Steve Ruechel
Marv Kelley
Mike S. *(Gypsie's friend)*
Summer Stephens *(Doris Freund's niece)*
Heather & Heidi Mortenson *(Lynn Hampton's friends)*
Karen Ryberg *(Sylvia Cowan's niece)*
Ruth *(Joni Dammen's friend & roommate)*

For those dealing with ongoing concerns:

John & Casey Howshar
Delores Rasmussen & Dan Rasmussen
Eyes: Marvin Bohrer & Bonnie Frank
Ray Johnson
Danny Cowan
Kaylee, *friend of Hamptons*
Bill Schmidt *(kidney health)*
Gerald Kelley, *Carol Smith's significant other (Alzheimer's)*
Sylvia Cowan *(leg and heart health)*
Frank Ruhs, *Ev Kelley's brother (heart health)*
Caroline Hailey-Kesler, *Linda Hailey's granddaughter (rare kidney disease)*
Scott Crosby *(recovery from infection)*
Cheryl Gednalske *(leg infection)*
Donna Arntson, *Lynn Hampton's sister-in-law (stroke)*
Matthew Zenn, *Bob's grandson (heart health)*
Craig Mortenson, *Lynn Hampton's friend (health)*
Pastor Barb *(health recovery)*
Mark Craig and his wife Susan, *Pr. Barb's cousin (car accident recovery)*
Michael Sellinger (*Mary Sellinger's son, stroke recovery)*
Paige Petrock *(Carol Einertson's granddaughter, CIDP)*
Lisa Pruitt (*Andrea French's friend, congestive heart failure)*
Braden Elliott *(dislocated shoulder)*
Carol Einertson *(heart & kidney health)*
Stephanie & Bret's premature baby Michael *(Joy's friend)*
Laura Thompson *(foot surgery recovery)*

Scan this QR code for links to Bethel Lutheran's Facebook page, website, and YouTube channel or visit our LinkTree page at bit.ly/m/Bethel-Lutheran-Aurora

Welcome!

We welcome all who gather for worship on this day and pray God's blessing on our time together!

Guests are invited to record their visit by signing the Guest Book located at the entrance to the worship space.
All worshippers are invited to sign the red attendance folder in the pew and pass it on to their neighbor to sign.

Upcoming Events

Children's Choir Practice is after worship; meet up at the front by the piano. We will be singing in Church on Dec. 21.

Wednesday evenings in Advent *Dec. 3–17* – Come at 6 p.m. for soup and salad suppers; stay for worship at 7 p.m.

Missions for December – We are collecting NEW sneakers and socks (preferably for toddlers or men's size 7) and monetary donations for Wholly Kicks as this month's Missions focus. Please mark your checks as Missions in the note field.

"The Chosen" Bible Study – We have multiple options for "The Chosen" Bible Study groups that meet:
-Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom
-Thursdays at 1 p.m. at the church
We would love to have you join us.

Cards for Ministry – We are collecting CLEAN greeting cards of any kind (except holiday) WITH envelopes for New Beginnings Women's Prison Ministry. Please place them in the labeled bucket on the table in the entryway. **Calendars Too!** We are also collecting new 2026 calendars for this ministry, please drop off donations by ***Dec. 14***.

This Week at Bethel
December 14–21, 2025

Sun	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	~10:45 a.m.	Children's Choir Practice
	3:00 p.m.	Tongans
Mon	6:00 p.m.	TOPS
Tue	6:30 p.m.	Bible Study *(Zoom)*
Wed	11:30 a.m.	Senior Luncheon at Mama Alvino's
	6:00 p.m.	Advent Soup Supper
	7:00 p.m.	Advent worship service
Thu	11:00 a.m.	Prayer Team
	1:00 p.m.	Bible Study *(in-person)*
Fri	6:00 p.m.	Tongans
Sat	9:00 a.m.	Prayer Shawl Group *(in-person)*
Sun	8:15 a.m.	Choir Practice
	9:30 a.m.	Worship w/ Children's Choir singing
	3 p.m.	Tongans

Worship Helpers Needed – Please see sign-up sheets outside the entry to the sanctuary. We are especially in need of greeters, ushers, and communion assistants. ***Christmas Eve sign-up is posted as well as new positions for the youth to help.***

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES

7:00 & 11:00 P.M.

WITH CANDLELIGHT AND COMMUNION