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Worship Team for today:
Presider: Pastor Barb Lemke
Pianist: Cindy Josephson **Hymnists:** Grace Flows Down
Reader: Jon Lohmer **Greeter:** **Usher:** Rich Richmond & Marv/Ev Kelley
Communion Asst.: Jon Lohmer & **Screen/Sound:** Travis Kleven
Youth Offering Asst.: Rhyan & Melodi **Youth Communion Asst.:** Rhyan & Amon
Acolyte: Janessa **Video FaceBook:** Jamie Villante **YouTube:** Tom Lenahan

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

L On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of love, remembering the love that God has for us in sending His Son, Jesus Christ.
C **"This is how God showed His love among us: He sent His one and only Son into the world." (1 John 4:9)**

Sheila and Melody will light the four purple candles.

L May the light of love guide us as we prepare for the coming of Christ.
C **We light this candle of love, remembering the love of Christ.**

Advent Kyrie

Sung to the tune of "Away in the Manager" ELW 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 4

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

Verse 4 – Love
God's great love has come to us,
Blessed Child, so good and just.
Fill our hearts with faith and love
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 Brenda Ham in memory of her husband Jim and by Joy Faciane in memory of her father Tommy.

Sunday Worship Service

Image: Church Art Online

4th Sunday of Advent

December 21, 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 21, 2025
9:30 A.M.

PRELUDE: Cindy Josephson

GATHERING: "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" 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: "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" (vv. 1, 3, 5) ELW, #249

GREETING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

SPECIAL MUSIC "Jesus, Our Emmanuel" Choir

1ST READING: Isaiah 7:10–16

2ND READING: Romans 1:1–7

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ELW, p. 205

GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18–25

CHILDREN'S CHOIR Kathy Harrison

The King of Christmas Away In a Manger
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: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (vv. 1, 5, 6) ELW, #257

SERMON "Nothing is Ever Easy" Pastor Barb Lemke

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:
Brad Byrnes Joni Dammen, Khaleb Bob & Deloris DeLapp

OFFERING

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
"Of the Father's Love Begotten" ELW, #295
"All My Heart Again Rejoices" ELW, #273

POST COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER

BENEDICTION

CLOSING SONG: "Jesus, What a Wonderful Child" (sing twice) ELW, #297

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

GO IN PEACE

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Recent hospitalizations, illnesses, and concerns:

Rev. Mike Lemke *(hip replacement recovery)*
Randy Feakes *(fall injuries recovery)*
Cecelia Morrissey *(Debbie Diedrich's friend, breast cancer)*
Ralph Westadt *(ankle surgery recovery)*
Ron McBroom *(Dana's husband, heart surgery)*
Gypsy *(esophagus health)* and the Hendricks *(friends)*

For the families who have lost loved ones:

The family of Cammy Gaylord *(Debbie Diedrich's godmother)*

For our homebound members and friends:

Wil Wertz – Jim Craig – Josh Carter – Cathy McConchie

For those diagnosed with cancer:

Patti Schoenfeld
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)*
Mary Sellinger (health) and Michael (her son, stroke recovery)
Paige Petrock *(Carol Einertson's granddaughter, CIDP)*
Lisa Pruitt (*Andrea French's friend, congestive heart failure)*
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

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.

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.

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 We need a few more volunteers for Christmas Eve please.***

This Week at Bethel
December 21–28, 2025

Sun	8:15 a.m.	Choir Practice
	8:45 a.m.	Praise Team Practice
	9:00 a.m.	Children's Choir Practice
	9:30 a.m.	Worship w/ Children's Choir singing
	3:00 p.m.	Tongans
Mon	6:00 p.m.	TOPS
Tue	6:30 p.m.	
Wed	6:15 p.m.	Choir Practice
	7:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Worship
	11:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Worship
Thu		**Christmas Day** *Church closed*
Fri	6:00 p.m.	Tongans
Sat	12:30 p.m.	SLT Christmas Party *(rescheduled)*
Sun	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	3 p.m.	Tongans

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES

7:00 & 11:00 P.M.

WITH CANDLELIGHT AND COMMUNION