

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

4500 EAST HAMPDEN AVENUE | CHERRY HILLS VILLAGE, CO 80113 | WWW.BETHANY-DENVER.ORG | 303.758.2820



Christ the King Sunday

8:30am November 23, 2025

Holiday Worship Schedule

**We know that many are already making holiday plans
and
we hope worshipping at Bethany is part of those plans!**

Here is the holiday worship schedule:

Thanksgiving Eve – 6:30pm

Christmas Eve –

11:00am (NEW!)

1:30pm (Outdoor Christmas Pageant)

3:00pm - Denver Brass

**5:00pm - Denver Brass, Chancel Choir
Ensemble, Carillons Handbells**

7:00pm - Denver Brass & Chancel Choir

Christmas Day – Recorded – drops at 6:00am

Sunday after Christmas – 12/28 – 10:00am service only

Service of Remembrance – 12/28 – 11:30am, Chapel

Epiphany Sunday – 1/4 – 10:00am service only

✠ GATHERING ✠

PRELUDE

Festival Alleluia

Dan Miller

WELCOME

To fill out your digital connection card, go to www.tinyurl.com/BethanyConnect.

Pastor Gary Sandberg



CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN**Oh, Worship the King**

ELW #842

You are invited to face the cross as it enters.

- 1 Oh, wor - ship the King, all - glo - rious a - bove.
- 2 The earth with its store of won - ders un - told,
- 3 Your boun - ti - ful care what tongue can re - cite?
- 4 Frail chil - dren of dust, and fee - ble as frail,
- 5 O mea - sure - less might, in - ef - fa - ble love,



Oh, grate - ful - ly sing God's pow - er and love;
Al - might - y, your pow'r has found - ed of old;
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light,
in you do we trust, nor find you to fail;
while an - gels de - light to hymn you a - bove,



our shield and de - fend - er, the An - cient of Days,
es - tab - lished it fast by a change - less de - cree,
it streams from the hills, it de - scends to the plain,
your mer - cies, how ten - der, how firm to the end,
the hum - bler cre - a - tion, though fee - ble their lays,



pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor, and gird - ed with praise.
and round it has cast, like a man - tle, the sea.
and sweet - ly dis - tills in the dew and the rain.
our mak - er, de - fend - er, re - deem - er, and friend.
with true ad - o - ra - tion shall sing to your praise.

Text: Robert Grant, 1779–1838, alt.

Music: HANOVER, William Croft, 1678–1727

GREETING*Pastor Gary Sandberg*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

KYRIE

Cantor:



For hope, for joy, for peace in the world, let us pray to the Lord, let us



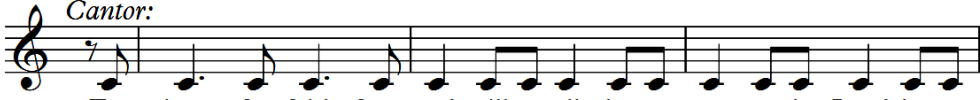
pray to the Lord.

Assembly:

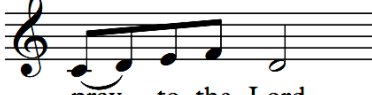


Lord, have mer-cy, Christ, have mer-cy, Lord, have mer - cy.

Cantor:



For love, for faith, for good-will to all, let us pray to the Lord, let us



pray to the Lord.

Assembly:

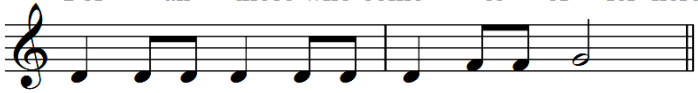


Lord, have mer-cy, Christ, have mer-cy, Lord, have mer - cy.

Cantor:



For all those who come to of-fer here their wor-ship and



praise, let us pray, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly:



Lord, have mer-cy, Christ, have mer-cy, Lord, have mer - cy.

HYMN OF PRAISE

This is the feast of vic - to - ry, vic - t'ry for our God.

This is the feast of vic - to - ry, al - le - lu - ia. Wor - thy is Christ, the

Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free, free to be peo - ple of God.

Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and hon - or and bless - ing and

glo - ry are his. — This is the feast of vic - to - ry, vic - t'ry for our God.

This is the feast of vic - to - ry, al - le - lu - ia. Sing with all the

peo - ple of God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:

Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A -

men. — This is the feast, this is the feast, for the Lamb who was slain

has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. —

This is the feast of vic - to - ry, vic - t'ry for our God. This is the feast of

vic - to - ry, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, our true life, to serve you is freedom, and to know you is unending joy. We worship you, we glorify you, we give thanks to you for your great glory. Abide with us, reign in us, and make this world into a fit habitation for your divine majesty, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Marie Friedemann

Dear Lord, may the scriptures we read today ground us in the joy of the resurrection, that we might grow in God's grace. May we find opportunity to live out your Gospel message as we share this good news with the world. **Amen.**

LESSON

Colossians 1:11-20

An early Christian hymn praises the mystery of the political, personal, and mystical Christ, the one who was present at creation and is eternally reigning with God.

¹¹ May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³ He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, ¹⁶ for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu -

ia. Lord, to whom shall we go, Lord, to whom shall we

go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al-le-

lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - - - ia.

GOSPEL

Luke 23:33-43

Amid scoffing and slander from those who sarcastically call him Messiah and king, Jesus reveals that to be Messiah and king is to give one's life for others. Here he uses his power to welcome a despised sinner to paradise but puts his own death into God's hands.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord**

³³ When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴ Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵ And the people stood by watching, but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" ³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷ and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸ There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?" ⁴¹ And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴² Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom." ⁴³ He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**

SERMON

Deacon Debra Alba

HYMN OF THE DAY

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

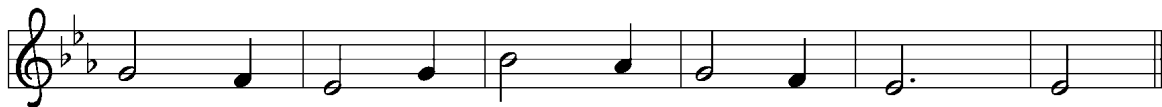
ELW #502



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness
2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed
3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in
4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear



fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
soul he lead - eth and, where the ver - dant
love he sought me, and on his shoul - der
Lord, be - side me, thy rod and staff my



I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.
pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.
com - fort still; thy cross be - fore to guide me.

5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
thine unction grace bestoweth;
and, oh, what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so, through all the length of days,
thy goodness faileth never.
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house forever.

APOSTLES' CREED

Deacon Debra Alba

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 to the dead. 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

BLESSING OF PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

Please share a blessing of peace with others around you. After sharing the Peace, please be seated.

✠ Offering ✠

ABUNDANTLY BETHANY

Deacon Debra Alba

To fill out your digital connection card, go to www.tinyurl.com/BethanyConnect.

- **MomCo Bake Sale**
- **Thanksgiving Eve Worship & Pie Festival**
- **Christmas decorating help**
- **Summer Camp**

OFFERING

You can give in the following ways; Thank you for your gifts!

- On our **website**, find the GIVE button in the header or under the Get Involved tab at **Bethany-Denver.org**
- Through **SubSplash** - Use your phone's camera to scan this **QR Code**
- **Mail** in your check to the office (4500 E. Hampden Ave. Cherry Hills Village, CO 80113)
- Sunday mornings, drop your offering in the silver plate at the doors as you exit



OFFERING MUSIC

Carillons, dir. Nolan Oltjenbruns

We Praise Thee, O God, Our Redeemer

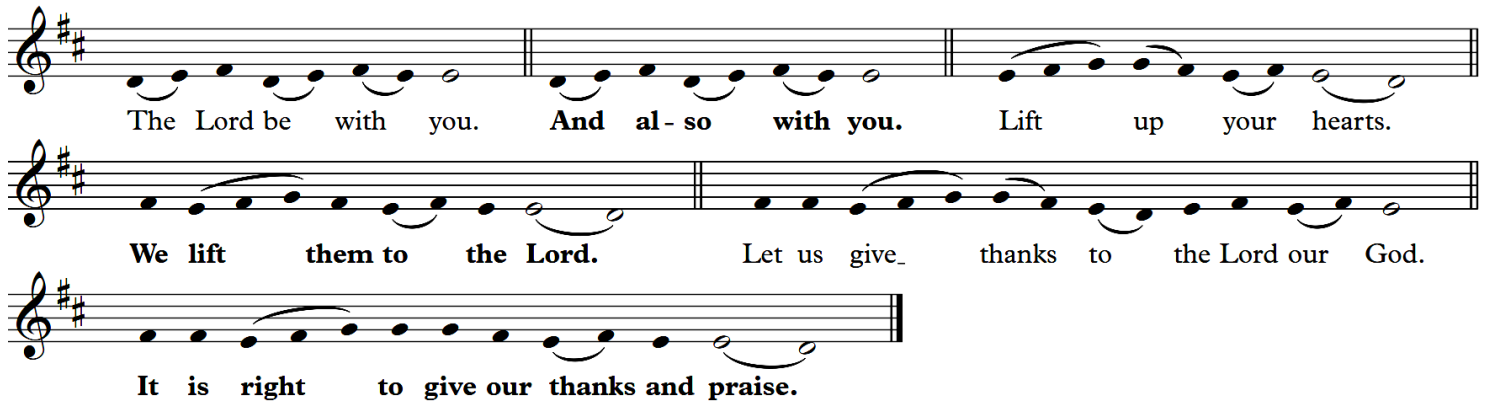
arr. Cynthia Dobrinski

✠ Meal ✠

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Pastor Gary Sandberg

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

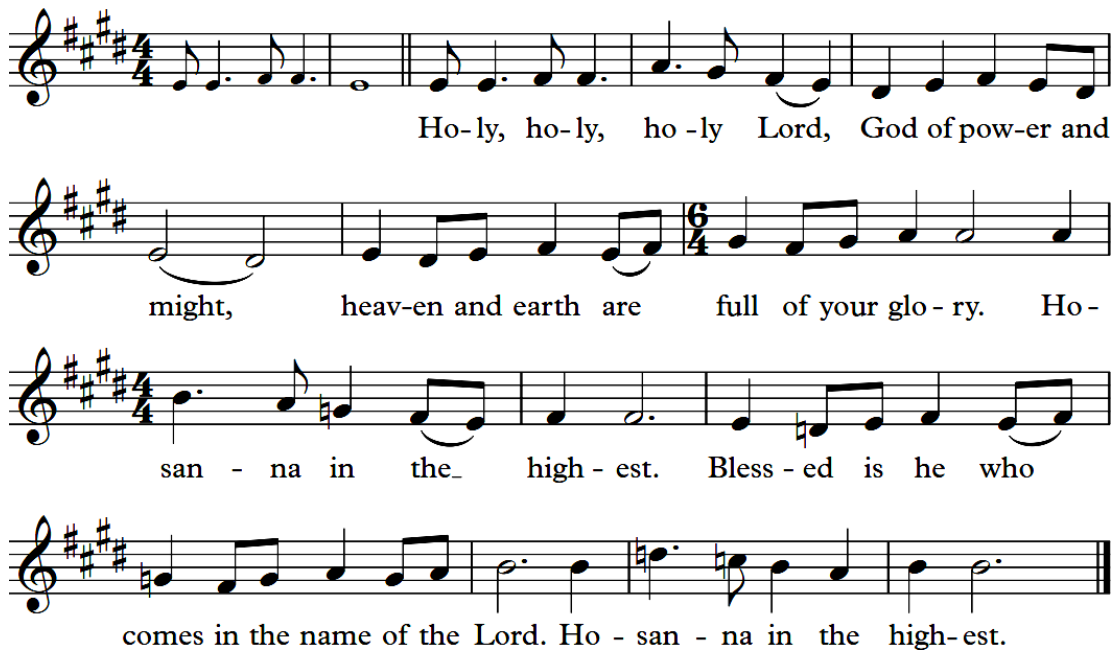


The Lord be with you. And al- so with you. Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord. Let us give_ thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...
...we praise your name and join in their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of pow-er and
might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo- ry. Ho -
san - na in the_ high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high-est.

BLESSING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day 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.

COMMUNION INSTRUCTION

Receive communion by dipping the bread into the wine. Pre-packaged communion sets are alcohol free; gluten-free options are available. Groups are welcome to visit a communion station together. Those who are not receiving communion are invited to cross their arms across their chest to receive a blessing.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a-way my sin, have
mer-cy, mer - cy on me. Lamb of God, you_
take a-way my sin, have mer-cy, mer - cy on me.
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;
Grant us your peace, Grant us your peace.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Be Still, My Soul

arr. Hart Morris

Carillons, dir. Nolan Oltjenbruns, with Barbara Seaton, cellist

TABLE BLESSING

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Sarah Dolliver; Karen & Mike Griffin; BillieAnne, Jason, Leland, Byron, and Antoinette Kennedy; Diane Kraft; Jane Pope & Richard Meehan; Jessica Sussman & Brendan, Bridget and Emmett Cummings; Shannon Tracy & Eric and Irelyn Freund

✠ Sending ✠

BENEDICTION

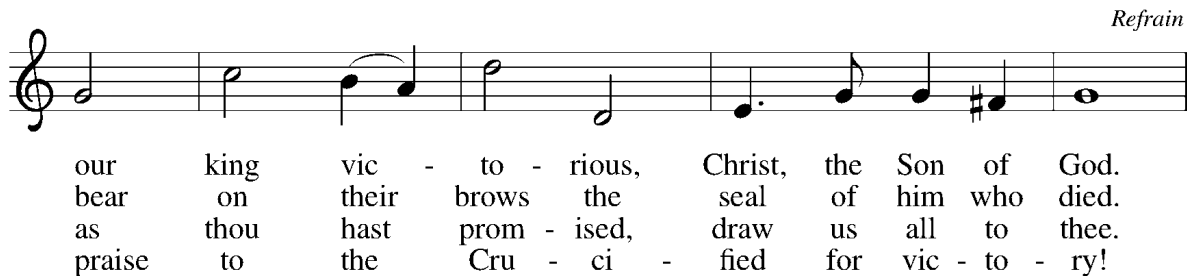
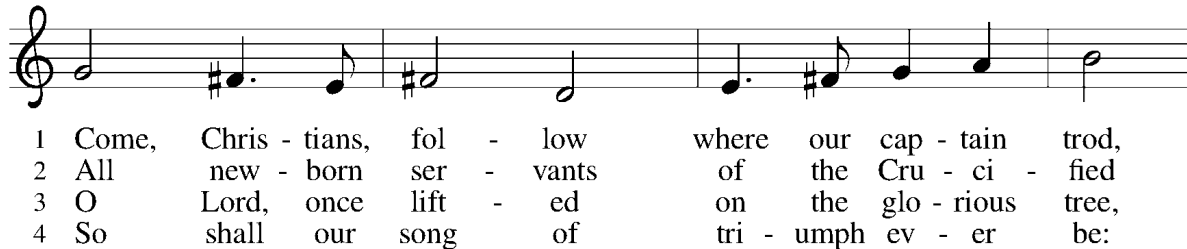
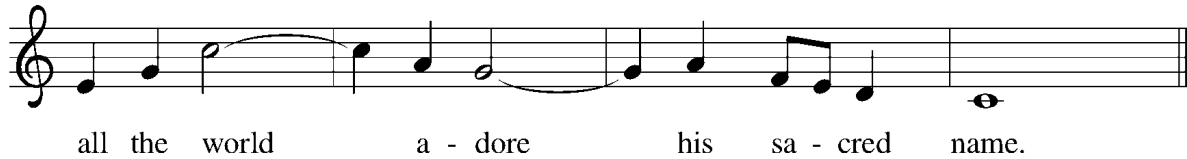
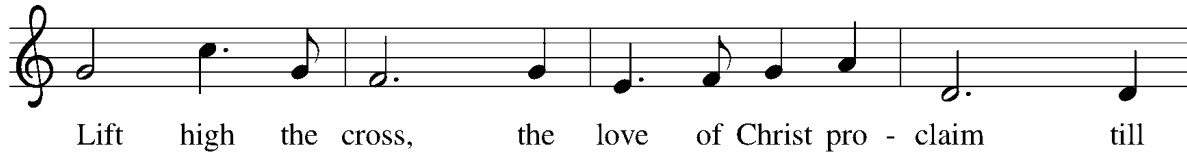
Deacon Debra Alba

SENDING HYMN

Lift High the Cross

ELW #660

You are invited to face the cross as it recesses to the center.



Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956

Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947

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DISMISSAL

Deacon Debra Alba

As we go forth into the week ahead we remember our calling as the people of Bethany.

Together we will:

Worship and encounter a God who loves us;

Embrace healthy dialogue that promotes unity over division;

Respond to the needs of the world through generosity and action.

With this as our mission, go in peace, serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

In Thee Is Gladness

Robert A. Hobby

NEW

Find Peace Through Guided Prayer

Pause. Reflect. Pray.

Need a moment of stillness? The new Bethany Connect app offers audio Scripture meditations to guide your personal prayer time. Deepen your connection with God through peaceful, reflective prayer—anytime, anywhere.



Download the new Bethany Connect app today!
Search "Bethany Connect" in the App Store or Google Play and
start your daily journey in faith.

Things To Know About - News & Events

- ◆ **Bethany's Bible Milestone: TODAY**, each child who participated in the class last week will be blessed and presented with a Bible during worship at the 10:00am service.
- ◆ **Bethany Information Sessions:** New Members will be received **TODAY** at both worship services and a tour of the Bethany campus will be offered at 11:20am - meet in Room 400.
- ◆ **Family Promise Volunteers Needed:** Christ the Savior Lutheran Church is hosting Family Promise the week of Thanksgiving, **Nov 23-30**. Volunteers are needed to host overnight, drive the van, and prepare dinner on the night of the 23rd. Thank you, Theo Umlauf, for arranging to move the beds Sunday the 30th to the next host church. If you have any questions, please call Jean Scott at 303 756-2106 or email her at stlax@comcast.net.
- ◆ **Thanksgiving Eve: Wednesday, Nov 26.** Worship service at 6:30pm (Holden Evening Prayer) followed by a Pie Festival in the Fellowship Hall. We need pies! Sign up to bring a pie, to help setup, help with worship, and help with cleanup after the pie fest at the yellow bubble on the website home page or on the sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring pies to the Fellowship Hall by 6:00pm that night. Thank you!
- ◆ **Christmas Poinsettias:** You can make a donation to purchase a poinsettia plant for Bethany's Christmas decorations in our worship spaces. Envelopes are now available at the Mission Center desk or you can use the Christmas Poinsettia fund in the electronic giving menu. Please be sure to denote how you would like to see your name and who you are giving in honor or in memory of for the Christmas bulletins. Deadline is **Dec 14**.
- ◆ **Christmas Decorating: Sundays, Nov 30, Dec 7, 14, and 23.** We need lots of Christmas elves to decorate the inside and outside of the church after the 10:00am services during Community Time. Each Sunday we'll add more decorations. Please meet in the Fellowship Hall each Sunday where we will assume decorating tasks assigned throughout the church to make it as easy as possible. Let's make the church sing with tidings of great joy! Questions? Please contact Kristin at kmjanicek@aol.com.
- ◆ **Advent Fest: Sunday, Dec 7, 10:20am-12:00pm, Great Hall.** Bethany's Children's Ministry team is looking for some adult and youth helpers to guide the children at numerous craft stations. Please sign up on Bethany's website or contact Deacon Debra Alba at Debra@Bethany-Denver.org if you'd like to help out! Thank you!
- ◆ **Senior Ministries:** The gatherings continue on Tuesdays through May 20, 10:00am-1:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Any special activities will be communicated via our email list. If you'd like to be on the email list, contact Janet at Janet@Bethany-Denver.org. Join us for community fellowship, chapel, and lunch. Lunch is served at Noon each week, for a suggested donation of \$10/person. Payment can be either online or by check/cash. Check Bethany's website for the Nov/Dec schedule.

HOW TO HELP FOR THE HOLIDAYS

- ♦ **MomCo (formerly MOPS) Bake Sale:** Put away your mixers and bakeware and let MomCo do the baking for you this Thanksgiving! Come browse our bounty of baked goods at the annual MomCo bake sale fundraiser held **TODAY** from 8:00am-11:30am in the Fellowship Hall. We will be selling pies, breads, candies, cookies and our special cake pops! Our MomCo at Bethany group is so grateful to the congregation for its continued support over the last 30 years! MomCo is an international, outreach organization whose goal is to provide support and community for mothers with children of all ages.
- ♦ **Children's Socks Drive:** Throughout December Bethany will be collecting NEW Toddler and Children's socks. These will be donated to Wholly Kicks, a local non-profit whose focus is to mentor and build relationships in "walking with" individuals experiencing economic disparity. Donation boxes will be located at both the North and South church entrances. Thank you for your generosity!
- ♦ **Angel Tree for Lutheran Family Services:** The Angel Tree in the Narthex is full of Christmas tags for kids in their Foster Care Program. Select a tag from the tree or sign up at signupschedule.com/Bethany. All tree tags will include guidelines, gift requests and gift labels. Please label each gift with the recipient number and gift 1 or 2. All gifts need to be at church by **Sunday, Dec 7**. Thank you for making Christmas special for these kids.
- ♦ A HUGE THANK YOU to all those who donated items to the **Home For the Holidays drive for Thanksgiving!** The Outreach Ministry team is so appreciative for everyone's willingness to jump in and help those in Denver who are in need. You donated 23 boxes of kitchen equipment and 19 gift cards supplying food to the families. The items were delivered to Lutheran Family Ministries last week. The Bethany community is so giving and such a blessing!

For more information and to see other announcements, please sign up for the email blasts by contacting the office - 303.758.2820, or visit www.Bethany-Denver.org/Bethany-news/



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LUTHERAN CHURCH

bethany-denver.org

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tiktok.com/@bethanydenver

THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT WORSHIP

- ◆ **Welcome to Bethany!** If you have questions or would like to consider making Bethany your church home, visit our website, Bethany-Denver.org, or stop by the Newcomer Nook after worship. The pastoral team, consisting of Pastor Gary Sandberg (he/him), Pastor Nate Preisinger (he/him), Deacon Debra Alba (she/her) and Director of Pastoral Care Janet Mortinsen (she/her), is available to speak with you.
- ◆ Bethany Lutheran Church values people of diverse race, sexual identity, ethnicity, and political affiliation. **All are welcome at Bethany Lutheran Church** and this community is enriched because you are here. We are together for good!
- ◆ **Sunday Worship services:** 8:30am Traditional - worship follows traditional Lutheran liturgy.
10:00am Casual Blended – a flow of worship that includes the elements of Lutheran worship with music that spans multiple genres and brings some creative ways to engage the theme of the day. Worship leaders are generally dressed more casually.
- ◆ **Participating in Worship:** There will be times during worship when you are invited to stand, but if it is more comfortable or more meaningful for you to remain seated, please feel free to do so.
- ◆ **Communion Statement:** Everyone gathered for worship is invited to take part in Communion. Jesus did not place any barriers around who received communion and neither does Bethany.
- ◆ **Safety:** Bethany Lutheran Church is committed to maintaining a safe and welcoming environment for everyone. If at any time you feel uncomfortable, unsafe or have concerns, please speak with one of our staff or designated leaders. We are here to listen and to support you.
- ◆ **Hearing Assistance Device:** Please see the Sound Tech in the A/V booth at the rear of the Sanctuary if you need a hearing assistance device.
- ◆ **Worship Servants:** Thank you to all the A/V team, Ushers, Communion Servers, Altar Guild, Musicians, Embrace Volunteers and Sacristans for your work to greet people and make worship happen. We always welcome Worship Servants - go to www.signupschedule.com/Bethany to sign up!
- ◆ You are welcome to bring beverages into the Sanctuary but please use a covered container. And enjoy your food outside the Sanctuary (although we understand small children may need snacks!).
- ◆ **Children at Bethany:** Children and youth are a blessing from God and we love having children in the Sanctuary! Additionally, we offer several options for children and families to feel comfortable in a variety of spaces on Sunday mornings:
 - ⇒ **Fidget Station:** We know that all of God's children (young and old) are wonderfully and fearfully made in the image of God. And, at Bethany, ALL are welcome to worship. Available outside the Sanctuary's north doors is a Fidget Station. Children and adults are invited to use these fidgets and art supplies to aid in your spiritual growth and presence in worship. Please return items to the station when you are finished.
 - ⇒ **Busy Bags:** Near the Sanctuary doors you will find premade bags perfect for littles. Grab one on the way in and return it on the way out.
 - ⇒ **Nursery:** For directions to our Nursery, please speak with an usher. The Nursery will not be staffed during our 8:30am service but you are welcome to use it with your child.