

# BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

4500 EAST HAMPDEN AVENUE | CHERRY HILLS VILLAGE, CO 80113 | [WWW.BETHANY-DENVER.ORG](http://WWW.BETHANY-DENVER.ORG) | 303.758.2820



## The Beginning of Everything + The Promise to Abraham +

*8:30am and 10:00am December 7, 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:**

**Christmas Eve –**

**11:00am - Sounds of Praise, Eliza Neff**

**1:30pm - Outdoor Christmas Pageant**

**3:00pm - Youth Choir,  
Matthew Eschliman,  
Denver Brass**

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

**7:00pm - Chancel Choir, Denver Brass**

**Christmas Day – Recorded – drops at 6:00am**

**Sunday after Christmas – Sweaters & Carols  
12/28 – 10:00am service only**

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

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

## **Bethany Arts & Events Christmas Concert Schedule**

### **DECEMBER**

**Dec 7 – Salvation Army Christmas! – 4:00 pm**

**Dec 12 – Cherry Creek Chorale – 7:00 pm**

**Dec 13 – Denver Brass – 2:30 pm**

**Dec 13 – Cherry Creek Chorale – 7:00 pm**

**Dec 14 – Canto Deo Christmas – 3:00 pm**

**Dec 15 – Canto Deo Christmas – 7:00 pm**

**Dec 16 - Chamber Music Society of Greater Denver - 1:00pm**

**Dec 18 – Canto Deo Christmas – 7:00 pm**

**Dec 19 – Denver Jazz Orchestra – 7:30 pm**

**Dec 20 – Colorado Chorale – 7:30 pm**

# ✠ We Prepare Our Hearts ✠

**GATHERING MUSIC**  
*Matthew Eschliman, trombone*

Wachtet auf, ruft uns die Stimme

J. S. Bach

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP**

*Pastor Gary Sandberg*

**ADVENT PROCESSIONAL**

**KYRIE**

In our waiting, we lift our prayers to you.



For the coming of your promise, and the fulfillment of salvation,



For peace to fill the world, and for unity over division,



For this waiting place, and for all who gather in worship,



Comfort and defend us, and be with us, gracious Lord.



## SONG OF PRAISE



1. Lord Je - sus Christ, your sto - ry told of hope, and peace, and grief con - soled, we
2. O - meg - a, Al - pha, Spi - rit, Son, and Fa - ther God, the three in one, your



sing to you whose sov-'reign-ty en-dured the cross and set us free.\_\_\_\_ Be -  
word speaks through all time and space, yet meets us ev - er in this place.\_\_\_\_



gin - ning with cre - a - tion's dawn, God's love through his - to - ry sang on. From



gar - den's dawn to ex - ile's night, through pro-phet's hope and Christ - mas light.

## A TIME OF CONFESSION

The weary world waits for a solution to all that troubles their hearts. Grief and pain, tragedy and loss, confusion and longing stir in the souls of all. As people waiting for something to be different, let us come before God now, to confess our sin and encounter God's grace again, that a new beginning may take root in us this day.

Most merciful God,

**we wait, but often we do not wait patiently. For what we have failed to do, and for what we have done that is not pleasing in your sight, have mercy on us. Forgive us when we rush ahead of your plans. Forgive us when we fail to see your presence in the quiet spaces of our lives. Comfort us with hope as we wait for you to break into our world again. Amen.**

## GOD'S GIFT OF FORGIVENESS AND ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

As we light this candle, we remember the stars of your promise to Abraham.

Here this Good News: God has promised to forgive our sin and redeem our shame through Jesus Christ. As a called and ordained minister and by his authority I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sin in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Begin anew this day, for you are forgiven and set free. **Amen.**



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for  
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -  
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when  
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for  
man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is  
all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so  
dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.  
qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;  
qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.  
crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -  
mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -  
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in  
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and  
kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to  
won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and  
sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.  
shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.  
weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.  
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

## GREETING

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.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

God of promise,

**you led Abraham beneath the stars and pledged blessing for all families. Count us among your people of trust and widen our welcome. Teach us to wait with hope and to bless our neighbors as you have blessed us through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, we pray. Amen.**

*Are we ready for the babe of Bethlehem to be born in a lowly stall?  
Are we ready to greet the tiny little King who will come to save us all?  
Are we ready for the star of Bethlehem to appear in the winter sky?  
Are we ready to follow anywhere it leads, and let its light fill all our lives?  
Prepare ye the way for the King of Glory, once again proclaim the wondrous story.  
God will send his own true Son, but will we know him when he comes?  
Are we ready for the song of Bethlehem to declare our Savior's birth?  
Are we ready to join the angels as they sing, and spread the news to all on earth?  
Are we ready for the babe of Bethlehem, God's true and promised son?  
Are we ready to greet the tiny little King, and will we know him when he comes?*

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM (10:00am)**

**Lucille Mae Gardner** - Born: April 25, 2025

*Parents: Chase and Jamie Gardner*

We gather at these living waters. Throughout history, God's saving action toward God's people has taken place through water. Let us pray:

**Most Holy God, you created the seas, rivers, and lakes; you saved Noah and his family from the floods; you led the Israelites through the Red Sea and quenched their thirst with water flowing from a rock. Through the waters of the Jordan River, you proclaimed Jesus your own beloved son and so through these waters of baptism, you proclaim that we, too, are your own beloved children, now and forever. Amen.**

Parents, do you wish Lucille to be baptized into the promises of God?

**R: I do.**

We make promises and assume responsibilities at baptism. God promises us unconditional love and life forever, and we know that our journey of faith encompasses certain promises so that our lives reflect this love.

Parents, do you promise to: Live with your child among God's faithful people, bring your child to the Lord's table, teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place the holy scriptures in their hands to nurture their faith and prayer life, so that they will know and trust God?

**R: I do.**

Parents, sponsors, people of God, do you promise to support and pray for Lucille's new life in Christ?

**R: We do.**

**Baptism:** Lucille Mae, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Prayer:** Sustain Lucille with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. Amen.

**Blessing:** Lucille Mae, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. Amen.

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven.

Let us welcome our new sibling in Christ!

**We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as a member of the body of Christ, child of God's kingdom on earth and in heaven.**



# ✠ We Encounter God's Word ✠

## LESSON

Genesis 15:1-6

*Dennis Graham, Gretchen Hack*

<sup>1</sup> After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." <sup>2</sup> But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" <sup>3</sup> And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." <sup>4</sup> But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." <sup>5</sup> He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." <sup>6</sup> And he believed the Lord, and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Revelation 7:9-12

<sup>9</sup> After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. <sup>10</sup> They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

"Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!"

<sup>11</sup> And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, <sup>12</sup> singing,

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

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

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## GOSPEL

Luke 1:5-13

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

<sup>5</sup> In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was descended from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. <sup>6</sup> Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. <sup>7</sup> But they had no children because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

<sup>8</sup> Once when he was serving as priest before God during his section's turn of duty, <sup>9</sup> he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord to offer incense. <sup>10</sup> Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. <sup>11</sup> Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. <sup>12</sup> When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified, and fear overwhelmed him. <sup>13</sup> But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John.

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

SONG OF THE DAY

Blessed Be the God of Israel

ELW #250



1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free  
2 With prom-ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,  
3 My child, as proph-et of the Lord you will pre-pare the way,



and rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da-vid's tree.  
the oath once sworn to A - bra-ham, from foes to save us all;  
to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.



So have the proph-ets long de-clared that with a might-y arm  
that we might wor - ship with-out fear and of - fer lives of praise,  
Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease



God would turn back our en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.  
in ho - li - ness and righ - teous-ness to serve God all our days.  
to drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944, based on Luke 1:68-79

Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune

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WE SHARE GOD'S PEACE

The peace of Christ 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

To fill out your digital connection card, go to [www.tinyurl.com/BethanyConnect](http://www.tinyurl.com/BethanyConnect).

- ♦ **Christmas Decorating:** TODAY, Dec 14 & 21
- ♦ **Advent Fest:** TODAY
- ♦ **Birthday Party for Jesus:** Wednesday, Dec 10
- ♦ **Toddler Sock Drive:** Throughout December

## 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

*Chancel Choir, dir. Kirk Schjodt*

Deo Gracias (8:30am)

Benjamin Britten

*Deo gracias!*

*Adam lay ybounden, bounden in a bond.*

*Four thousand winter thought he not too long.*

*And all was for an apple, an apple that he took.*

*As clerkēs finden written in their book.*

*Né had one apple taken been, the apple taken been,*

*Né haddé never Our Lady a been Heaven's Queen.*

*Blessèd be the time that apple takèn was.*

*Therefore we moun singen: Deo gracias!*

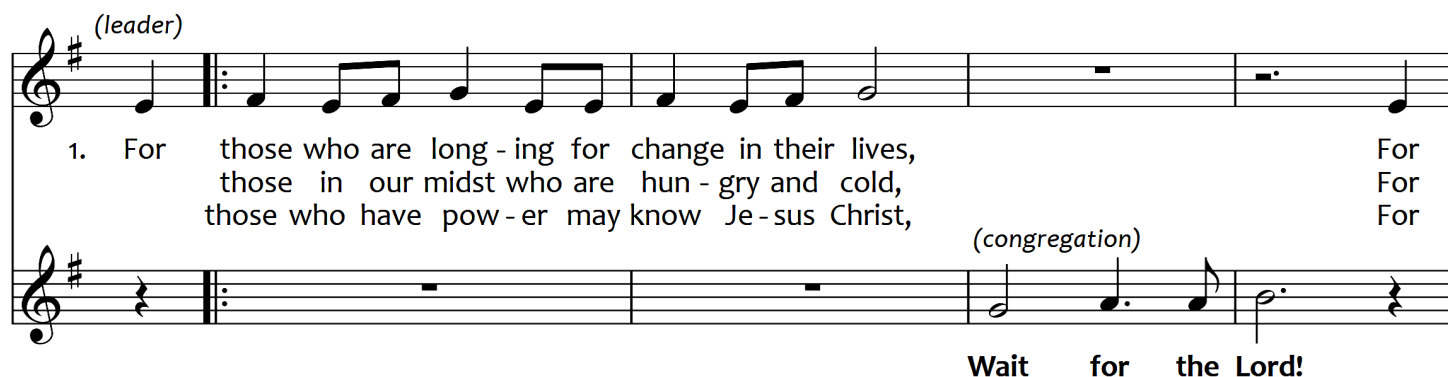
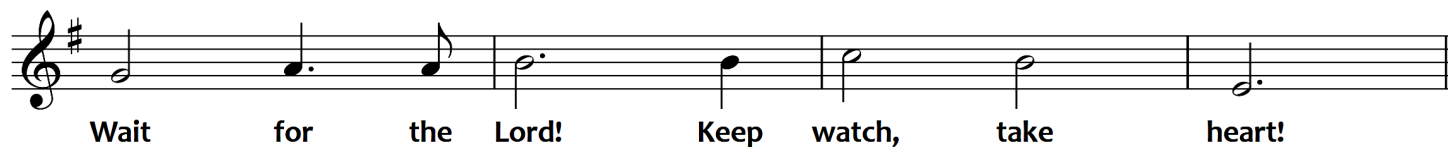
Carol of the Bells (10:00am)

arr. Kristine Johaneck

*ReBELLion, dir. Alex Rodasti*

## ADVENT PRAYERS

Let us be in a spirit of prayer today.



In our waiting, O God, we trust in your promises. Receive these prayers we offer as we anticipate your coming. **Amen.**

# ✠ Meal ✠

## INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

*Pastor Gary Sandberg*

## CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

In this season of beginnings, lift up your hearts to God.

**We lift them to the One who brings light from darkness.**

Let us give thanks to the Word who creates and renews.

**We give thanks for mercy that starts again today.**

We remember the stars of promise shown to Abraham.

**Begin in us God, your new creation.**

With the faithful of every time and place, we join in singing heaven's unending hymn...

## SANCTUS

O ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God, who speaks all things to life a - gain, as  
it was in the be - gin - ning, and world with - out end.  
Blessed is the one who comes in your name, "Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na" we ac - claim, as  
at the be - gin - ning, mer - cy re - mains. Now and al - ways you will be the same. O  
ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God, who speaks all things to life a - gain, as  
it was in the be - gin - ning, world with - out end, A - men!

## 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

The musical score for 'LAMB OF GOD' is written for a single melodic line on a grand staff. It begins in the key of D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The score consists of eight staves of music. The lyrics are: 'Lord Je - sus, the Christ, Lord Je - sus the Christ, have mer - cy, mer - cy we pray. Lord Je - sus, the Christ, the Lamb of God, grant us peace. At this your Ho - ly ta - ble, your love will make us new. We share the bread and the wine as we join our hearts to you. Your love sus-tains and gives us breath and vic - t'ry o - ver death. Lord Je - sus, the Christ, Lord Je - sus, the Christ, have mer - cy, mer - cy, we pray. Lord Je - sus, the Christ, the Lamb of God, grant us peace.' The score ends with a double bar line.

Lord Je - sus, the Christ, Lord Je - sus the Christ, have mer - cy, mer - cy we  
pray. Lord Je - sus, the Christ, the Lamb of God, grant us peace. At  
this your Ho - ly ta - ble, your love will make us new. We  
share the bread and the wine as we join our hearts to you. Your  
love sus-tains and gives us breath and vic - t'ry o - ver death. Lord  
Je - sus, the Christ, Lord Je - sus, the Christ, have mer - cy, mer - cy, we  
pray. Lord Je - sus, the Christ, the Lamb of God, grant us peace.

**COMMUNION MUSIC***Chancel Choir, dir. Kirk Schjodt*

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming (8:30am)

Michael Praetorius

*Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!  
 Of Jesse's lineage coming as men of old have sung.  
 It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half-spent was the night.  
 Isaiah 'twas fortold it, the rose I have in mind,  
 With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.  
 To show God's love aright, she bore to men a savior, when half-spent was the night.*

**COMMUNION SONG**

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

ELW #256



- 1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
- 2 For the her-ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
- 3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load.  
 call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.  
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God's ho - ly reign.



To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!  
 Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.  
 For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for-ev - er.  
 Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum-ble fa - vor.  
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.  
 Music: FREU DICH SEHR, *Trente quatre pseumes de David*, Geneva, 1551

**TABLE BLESSING**



# ✠ Sending ✠

## BENEDICTION

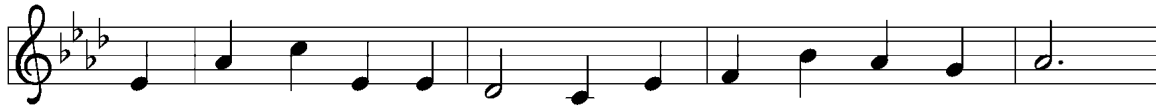
Pastor Gary Sandberg

## SONG OF SENDING

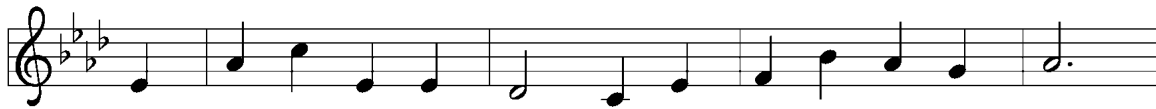
Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

ELW #244

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



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;  
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;  
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ings bore,  
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.  
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.  
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.  
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.  
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.  
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;  
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.  
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.  
in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.  
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907

Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

## DISMISSAL

Pastor Gary Sandberg

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 hope, for the Lord is near. **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

Der Tag, der is so freudenreich

J. S. Bach

## THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT NEWS & EVENTS

- ♦ **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, TODAY, Dec 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 assign decorating tasks 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](mailto:kmjanicek@aol.com).
- ♦ **Advent Fest: TODAY, 10:20am-12:00pm, Great Hall.** ALL CHILDREN are invited to participate. We'll begin with Children's Worship, practice songs for Christmas Eve and then enjoy time making Christmas crafts. A light lunch will be provided. Parents are invited to join their children following the 10:00am service!
- ♦ **Annual Birthday Party for Jesus celebration: Wednesday, Dec 10, 5:00-7:00pm, in the Fellowship Hall.** EVERYONE is invited! Dinner from 5:00-6:00pm and activities from 6:00-7:00pm. There will be Birthday cake, games, and a Christmas Carol sing-a-long. All ages are invited to join in! P.S. - Don't forget to bring socks for our ongoing sock drive for Wholly Kicks!
- ♦ **Sermon Talkback: Sunday, Dec 14, 11:20-12:00 in Room 210.** Gather with Pastor Gary for a Sermon Talkback. We will have open conversation about the sermons from Nov 30, Dec 7 and Dec 14. This is an opportunity to offer comments, ask questions, or get further details on the scripture passages or what was proclaimed in the sermons.
- ♦ **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](mailto: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 Dec schedule.
- ♦ **End of Year Giving:** As you prepare to make gifts of gratitude, and in your end-of-year giving, here are some helpful tips to remember. IRA Required Minimum Distributions, if given directly to a charity, are tax free. Avoid Capital Gains taxes by donating gifts of stock directly to a charity. Charitable Gift Annuities are great options for donations. As always, consult your tax advisor for all legal advice. Please inform the Bethany accountant at [Joshua@Bethany-Denver.org](mailto:Joshua@Bethany-Denver.org) when you plan to utilize one of the forms of giving above as we do not always receive your information with the gift. [Bethany-Denver.org/Giving](http://Bethany-Denver.org/Giving) will take you to the web page with links to the Stock Transfer form that we ask you to complete when donating stock and a conversation with Pastor Gary and Steve Heuer about Generosity. Thank you for the many ways that you support the shared ministry of Bethany Lutheran Church!!

## HOW TO HELP FOR THE HOLIDAYS

- ♦ **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:** All gifts tags have been taken, thank you! When you return your gift please label each one with the recipient number and gift 1 or 2. All gifts need to be at church by **TODAY!** Thank you for making Christmas special for these kids.
- ♦ **Colorado Gives Day is Dec 9:** Make a plan to support some of our ministry partners by making a gift. Visit the Bethany website 'Join In' tab and then 'Serve the Community' for a list of all our partner organizations. Then go to [www.coloradogives.org](http://www.coloradogives.org). Beat the rush and schedule your gifts before Dec 9.
- ♦ **ELCA Good Gifts:** Do you want to give a meaningful gift this year that will make a difference? Please consider ELCA Good Gifts where you can give a goat, chicks, pig, honeybees or a water filter to people in need. Check out the tree ornament options or the catalog by the Mission Center desk.

**For more information and to see other announcements, please sign up for the weekly email by contacting the office - 303.758.2820, or visit [www.Bethany-Denver.org/news/](http://www.Bethany-Denver.org/news/).**

## 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](http://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](http://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. Bethany's Nursery is now staffed EVERY Sunday during worship services! Please welcome mother and daughter duo, Amber and Elana Kahn! They are excited to meet you and your young children!



### **Advent 2025: "The Beginning of Everything"**

This year during Advent, as we prepare our hearts and homes for Christmas we will take intentional time in our Advent worship series to explore how God's love keeps renewing us and the world. Our series, **The Beginning of Everything**, traces God's first words and fresh starts. First through **Light** in the darkness, then through **Stars** that speak of promise, next through a **Crown** that gathers a community, and then with a **Scroll** that speaks of hope. Through this Advent journey we pray that you can discover again this year, how our God makes all things new.