

"Christ Is Coming"

"But when the fulness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, in order that He might redeem those who were under the Law..." Galatians 4:4-5

There is a long church tradition that Christians anticipate the coming of Christmas and the celebration of the birth of Jesus beginning four Sundays before Christmas. This season of Advent is not an observance found in, or commanded by, the Bible. The observance of Christmas itself is not commanded of Christians.

There is a certain value, however, in the traditions associated with Christmas and Advent. We may not appreciate all of the commercialism connected with the season, but it certainly provides us Christians with opportunities to talk about Christ.

The term "advent" comes from a Latin word *adventus*, which in turn comes from a Greek word *parousia*, which basically means "coming." In the Greek world of the first century this word was used to describe the coming of a king to a particular city. In preparation for that arrival residents of the city would spruce up their community and fix up the road leading to it.

In a recent Sunday morning adult class on the Book of Isaiah Mac Jaynes made reference to #40 v. 3: "Clear the way for the Lord in the wilderness;/ Make smooth in the desert a highway for our God." A royal messenger would typically be sent to a city to announce that the king would be arriving. Thus the prophet Malachi declared, "Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come..." (Malachi 3:1). That first messenger was John the Baptist.

The coming of a king to visit a city would provoke joy in its residents and perhaps a little fear. There would be honor and excitement in hosting the king. There might be a little fear and concern about what he might want from the city and what judgment he might make of it.

The first coming of Jesus did not fit the expectation of most of the Jewish people. Jesus was born to a poor couple in a small town in Judea. His birth did not quite fit with royal expectations. Then years later His public message was rejected by the leaders of His own people.

The Greek word *parousia* that we translate as "coming" is most often used in the New Testament of the Second Coming of Christ. The Bible makes it clear that this time he will come as King. That anticipation should provoke in us much joy, and perhaps a little fear--- at least a reverential respect. For He will come to vindicate His people and bring in His kingdom. But He will also subject us Christians to a judgment of rewards.

So we Christians can look forward to celebrating the first Advent of Jesus, but we also look forward to, eagerly anticipate and live in a reverential expectation of His second Advent. Maranatha! The Lord is coming!

December Birthdays

4th Marti Barth 10th Lary Street

23rd Bob Nycek

25th Janet Fishburn

Boards and Committees Reception 12/7 @ 6p

All 2026 and current Boards and Committee Members are invited to attend our annual meeting for a time of encouragement, information and fellowship!





Joy for our Journey

Join us Saturday, December 21, 10:30 am in Emmaus Hall for our Christmas Brunch

Christ Is Born

Let's go Caroling and have a soup supper December 21st at 5pm in Emmaus hall



Dec 6th book studya 10:30 at Jenny's Joy for our journey Christmas Brunch,
December 27, Saturday, 10:30
Dec. 24, Tues, 6:00 pm
Candlelight Service at Bethany
7:00 pm -Soup supper at Jenny's



Christmas Potluck
Sunday, December 21st
Please Sign up

on sheet in the Foyer

Ham will be provided

<u>WOMEN'S MINISTRY</u> Saturday December 20th, we will meet at the Dam Hotel Restaurant at 10am for breakfast. Please sign up so we will know how many tables to reserve. Hope you can take time out of your busy holiday schedule to join us.

<u>CHRISTMAS CAROLING</u> On Sunday, December 21 at 5 PM we will meet at the church to go Christmas caroling. Bring a pot of soup to share after we finish. We will visit it shutins from the church and bring them some Christmas cheer.

<u>MEN'S BREAKFAST</u>: Saturday, December 13, 8 AM- Men, join us in Emmaus Hall for a hearty breakfast and great fellowship. Pastor Kurt will lead us in a Bible study concerning the Christmas story.

<u>CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE:</u> Tuesday, December 24, 6 PM- Join us for our annual candlelight service at the church.

CHURCH HIKE: Saturday, December 27, 8 AM

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday: Outside Service @ 8:00 a.m.
Worship Service - 10:00 a.m.
Adult Bible Study @ 11:15 a.m.
Ladies' Sunday School @ 11:15 a.m.

Bible Study @ 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday: Ladies' Book Club 10:00 a.m.

Prayer Meeting - 11:00 a.m.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Men, join us on Saturday, December 13th at 8 AM in Emmaus Hall for our monthly men's breakfast. We will have great food, great fellowship, and discuss the Christmas story.

December 2025

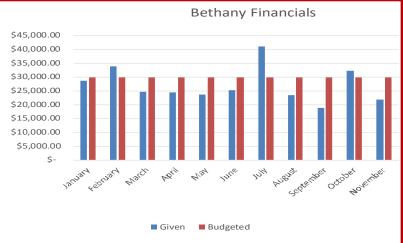
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6 CareHome Srvc 9:45a BChospital JFOJ Book study10:30
7 '24 Boards & Committee Mtg 6:00p	8	9	10	11	12	13 Men's Breakfast 8:00 am
14 Cookies due for youth in Jails	15	16	17 1pm Pack cookies and bags for youth	18	19	20 Women's Breakfast 10am @ Dam Hotel Rest
21 Christmas potluck Caroling @ 5pm	22	23	24Christ- mas Eve Service 6pm JFOJ Soup Supper	25	26	27 Church Hike 8am JFOJ Christmas Brunch 10:30 am
28	2	30	31			



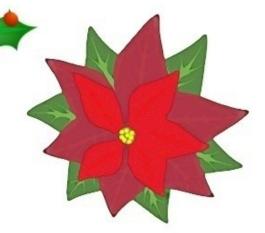
Bethany's 2025 budget was based on receiving offerings averaging \$29,843.26 each month.

Year to date budget requirement was \$328,278.46.

YTD giving, through November, \$289,086.95 The difference was (\$30,191.51) short of budget.







2025 Boards

Board of Elders - Mike Barth, Chairman

Board of Deacons - Daniel Chapman, Chairman

Board of Deaconesses - Patti Childress, Chairwoman

Christian Education Board - Eva Chapman, Chairwoman

Property Maintenance Board - Eric Eskam, Chairman

Missions Board - Rob Hedlund, Chairman

SERVICE TIMES

Worship: 8am outside 10am inside Sunday School: 11:15 a.m.

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

Telephone: 702.293.1912

Web Site: www.bcbethany.com

Senior Pastor-Kurt Hedlund kurt@bethany.lvcoxmail.com

Office Admin & Music Dir. Don Scott

don@bethany.lvcoxmail.com

Youth & Families Dir. Dan Chapman danielvernonchapman@gmail.com

The *Communicator* is published monthly as a ministry of Bethany Baptist Church. For birthday and anniversary additions; changes in address; or removal from our mailing list please contact the church office at 702-293-1912 or e-mail don@bethany.lvcoxmail.com.