



A Publication of Bethlehem Lutheran Church - Aloha, OR

WHERE THERE IS FAITH, THERE IS PEACE

EXCERPT FROM *His Gospel is Peace* ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

"But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, 'Do not fear, only believe'" (Mark 5:36).

Sometimes, Jesus says things that are best described as simply impossible. Simple to say but impossible to do. A ruler of the synagogue's daughter has been declared dead, and Jesus tells him not to be afraid, only to believe. How could anyone do this?

One thing that stands out about the ministry of Jesus is how little power he credits to death. He almost never even refers to it as death unless he is speaking of his own death on the cross. Jesus' go-to name for death is sleep. We see that in this story as he finds people weeping and wailing over the death of this man's daughter and says to them: "Why are you making a commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but sleeping" (Mark 5:39).

We think the opposite of fear is peace, but many times, Jesus contrasts fear with faith. This is because true peace is born out of faith in Christ. Without faith, there is no peace. This is not a command to replace fear with a faith we have created in ourselves. Jesus knows we can't do that. So, instead, he speaks faith into the hearts of his fearful creation. Jesus doesn't wait for the weepers and mourners to believe before he raises this little girl from the dead (after all, we are told that those hearing these words from Jesus laughed at him); instead, he does it in the presence of fear and doubt.

"Taking her by the hand he said to her, 'Talitha cumi,' which means, 'Little girl, I say to you, arise.' And immediately the girl got up and began walking (for she was twelve years of age), and they were immediately overcome with amazement" (Mark

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Bethlehem

Lutheran Church & Preschool

Bethlehem Mission Statement

*"Building the family of God through
relationship with Jesus Christ."*

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5:41-42).

Jesus overturns death with a word. Fear has now been replaced by faith, and where there is faith, there is peace. Do not fear; only believe. Simple to say but impossible to do. The good news is Jesus is Lord of the impossible. His birth into a sinful and chaotic world speaks faith and peace into hearts that can muster up neither. He was born to make war with death and he has won. On the day of resurrection, he will take you by the hand and say, "Child of God, wake up."

Heavenly Father, replace our doubts and fears with the faith and peace that only come from your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Bethlehem has copies of *His Gospel is Peace* printed out and available.

If you would like to order a printed copy of *His Gospel is Peace*, [click here](#).



Dec 3 - Dec 17
10:30a | 6:30p



Mondays @ 7:30pm

Take a moment and join your Bethlehem family as we pray for our church and the call process.

Check your email Mondays at noon.

PRESCHOOL NEWS

WRITTEN BY LAIVA HOFFMAN, DIRECTOR

This is one of my favorite times of year. Especially at Preschool. I love the wonder and joy that Christmas brings to our hearts and our homes. I love how people are generous and loving to one another. But what I love most of all is that I get the honor of teaching our students about the *real* reason we have Christmas! At preschool we focus on the birth of our Lord and Savior and the miracle that is Christmas, God coming down to earth to be a person like you and me.

Thank you everyone for supporting the Preschool by purchasing a wreath and/or poinsettia. Our orders will be delivered on Tuesday, December 2nd. You will be able to pick up your order in the Community Center between 12-7 pm. I am excited for that day because the wreaths make the room smell like Christmas! Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!

Next month registration for the 2026-27 school year will open. If you know of anyone that has children between the ages of 2-5, now is a good time to start talking to them about the program that we offer at Bethlehem.



Bethlehem Lutheran Preschool

971.394.4387

Blp-aloha.com

blc..preschool@frontier.com

18865 SW Johnson St
Aloha, OR 97003

FOREST HILLS NEWS



Forest Hills Lutheran Christian School

503.359.4853

www.fhls.org

info@fhlcs.org

4221 SW Golf Course Rd
Cornelius, OR 97113

KNOWN IN JESUS

WRITTEN BY ERIC OSWALD, DCE



Dear Bethlehem,

"You can be right or you can have relationship" is a quote a friend shared with me years ago that I have wrestled with. "Do you care more about right doctrine or saving souls?" is a similar question someone close to me asked recently. They're meant to be provocative and get you thinking. I'm writing this before thanksgiving- so I can rightly say- when meeting relatives around the table you only see once a year this is very good advice. Yet you also have "to stand for something or fall for everything." There's some balance between these two thoughts.

I think as northwesterners we know that we as church goers and even more so as Lutherans- we are the minority. We think different than most in our culture about God, sex, swearing, raising kids, it's all different. How much though do we need to tell other people they're wrong? I don't know the answer for that. Scripture speaks of correcting people privately and in love, and to come from the perspective of someone who has pulled the log out of their own eye first, and said- "I've been there and this is what helped me."

But to be fair, what has helped me the most and what I want to be known for most- is not my judgement of others- but the one who took my judgement for me. If I'm going to share something that's going to make someone think- I want that to be Jesus. I want to share how He's helped me in my struggles- that I've found perfect love in Him. That He's given my life value by knowing how much He values me and values you. Because there is a God- you matter- everything

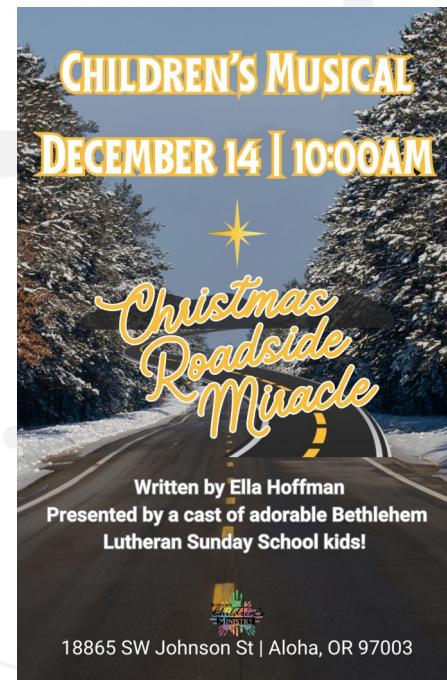
matters! Even small things from the words we say to the thoughts we have it all matters- which from the perspective than we can discuss how we're working on our sin- but more importantly how we might love our neighbors better.

May that be our focus now and always!

God bless,

Eric Oswald DCE

801-518-9411



YOUTH & CHILDREN NEWS

Sunday School:

Christmas Roadside Miracle: The kids Christmas program is coming together! Ella Hoffman has written a musical about kids learning the story of Christmas when they've had car trouble in a small town! Come watch Dec. 14th at 10am in the community center! Kids come practice Saturday Dec. 6th and 13th from 10am-11:30am.



Youth:

Those in 6th-12th grade meet Sunday night from 5:30-7:30pm Sundays Dec. 7th and 14th! Join us Jan 30th-Feb. 1st for our beach retreat next year!



Christmas at Bethlehem

Wednesday Advent Worship

Dec 3 Please join us for worship on Wednesdays at 10:30am and 6:30pm, starting December 3rd. The morning service will incorporate Christmas Carols into the liturgy and will be followed by a luncheon. The evening service will follow the Holden Evening Prayer order of worship with a dinner before the service.

Bethlehem's Carol Sing

Dec 6 Come to Bethlehem and hear the Sanctuary filled with the joyous sounds of Christmas. Listen as voices and instruments blend their melodies in worship of Emmanuel "God With Us". The Carol Sing begins at 2pm.

Children's Christmas Program

Dec 14 The children of Bethlehem will put on their annual Christmas Program during the Sunday School Hour on December 14th. Please join us in the Community Center as they present their production of "Christmas Roadside Miracle".

Christmas Food Boxes

Dec 21 We will gather to pack Christmas Food Boxes on Sunday December 21st. These boxes will provide food and joy to 15 families this Christmas. Please plan on helping!

Christmas Eve

Dec 24 Please join us as we gather to celebrate the birth of Jesus our Savior! We will have candlelight services at 3pm and 5pm.

Christmas Day

Dec 25 Come join us on Christmas Day to glorify God and proclaim the good news that our Savior, our Hope, is born! The service will be at 10am in the Sanctuary. Holy Communion will be served.

Festival of Lessons & Carols

Dec 28 On December 28th we will have our Festival of Lessons & Carols at 10am. Christmas songs are some of the most recognizable and beloved songs of the church. At the Festival of Lessons & Carols we sing many of these classics in worship of our amazing God, and we listen as His Holy Word guides us from creation to Christ's coming. Holy Communion will be served.



SERVICE TEAM NOTES



Service Team Notes for December 2025 Star

Bethlehem Service Team Nominations being Accepted for Christmas Food Boxes! Do you know of someone in our church family that could benefit from a Bethlehem Christmas food box? Please submit names and provide contact information to the office. Nominations are due by December 8th.

This year we will be helping fifteen households in our extended Bethlehem with Christmas food boxes. Bring food donations to Thanksgiving Day Worship Service or to the "Blue Barrel" in the Narthex starting November 24th. What type of food do I bring? A Christmas tree with stars listing needed items is standing in the narthex. You may drop by the church to pick a star from the tree, grab one after services or call the office to have one picked for you.

Examples include Canned vegetables and fruit, canned soup, pasta, packaged rice or potato dishes, Pasta sauces, packaged

gravy mix, Pancake mixes, syrup, salad dressing, cereal, peanut butter, bottled juice, or desert mixes are all needed.

A packing event is planned for Sunday December 21st. Shoppers, people to pack, and people to deliver the boxes will be needed. We cannot do this without our dedicated Bethlehem volunteers; so if you can help, please sign up in the Narthex or contact Barb Bernard by email babzilla3@gmail.com.



WOMEN'S MINISTRY UPCOMING EVENTS

Women's Ministry Upcoming Events

**Saturday, December 7th—
Potluck & Craft Day**
Fellowship Hall
Bring a brunch dish to share



LWML

Thank you to everyone who supported our sale last month with their time, donations and purchases. Most of the funds will be used for mission in-reach and outreach.

There are many quilts still available and are on display and for sale in the Fellowship Hall. If you wish to purchase a quilt at anytime, just check with us, as we always have them available.

Looking ahead, the LWML will not have a meeting in December.

May all of you have a Blessed Christmas Season.

NEXT MEETING: Jan 15th @ 11:30a

Bring a salad or a dessert and join us!



**Lutheran
Women
in Mission**

LOVE INC NEWS

On November 7, approximately 160 people, including Love INC of Greater Hillsboro staff and volunteers, individuals from partner and potential partner churches, and business sponsors, came together for our 2025 Night of Vision. God blessed us with more than \$33,000 in donations and pledges!

It was a night of fun, learning more about and dreaming for the future of Love INC of Greater Hillsboro.

In keeping with our word of the year for 2025, this year's theme was, "FAITHFUL. SEED. GROW. MULTIPLY."

Guests arrived and enjoyed a "Garden Ministry Fair," a 50/50 raffle, a silent auction and dinner, as well as a review of 2025 and a look at the future of Love INC of Greater Hillsboro.

Our word of the year was *Faithful*, reminding us that God is faithful and we are called to model His faithfulness. The imagery and model of a dandelion helps us understand the persistent faithfulness of God that continues to be *Faithful. Seed. Grow. Multiply.*

Our program celebrated God's faithfulness in each of these stages for our neighbors, our churches, our



programs, etc.

We celebrated God's faithfulness by singing together "Great Is Thy Faithfulness."

love
in the name
of Christ | **Greater**
Hillsboro

Bethlehem

Carol Sing

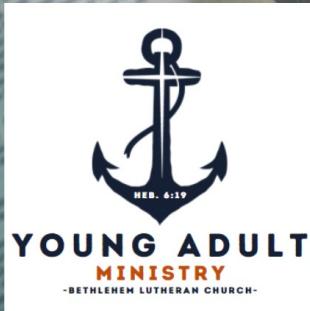
December 6 | 2pm

in the Sanctuary

Bethlehem
Carol Sing

~ 6.22.25 ~





Young Adult Bible Study

2nd & 4th Mondays
6:30p | Youth Room

For those in the 18-29 age range.



Men's Bible Study

1st & 3rd Mondays
6:30p | The Inn



Adult Bible Study

Wednesdays @ 10:30a | The Inn

December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 9:30am Quilting 3:00pm TOPS Meeting (Inn) 5:00pm AA Group (Sonrise) 6:30pm Men's Bible Study (Inn)	2 7:00am BLP Fundraiser Pick up and Sort 7:00pm Elder's Mtg (Inn) 7:00pm Guide Dogs (CC) 7:00pm Men's AA (Sonrise)	3 10:30am Morning Advent Worship Service 6:30pm Evening Advent Worship Service	4 6:30pm Adult Choir (Inn)	5 7:00pm AA Meeting (Sonrise)	6 2:00pm Carol Sing (Sanc)
7 8:30am Traditional Worship Service w/Communion 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Morning Song Worship Service 12:15pm Women's Ministry Christmas Potluck and Craft Day (FH) 4:30pm Serene & Clean NA Group (Sonrise) 5:30pm Youth Night!	8 9:30am Quilting 3:00pm TOPS Meeting (Inn) 5:00pm AA Group (Sonrise) 6:00pm Preschool Board Meeting 6:30pm Young Adult Bible Study (Yth Rm) 7:00pm Women's Bible Study (CC)	9 7:00pm Admin Council (Inn) 7:00pm Guide Dogs (CC) 7:00pm Men's AA (Sonrise)	10 10:30am Morning Advent Worship Service 6:30pm Evening Advent Worship Service	11 10:00am Aloha Garden Club (CC) 6:30pm Adult Choir (Inn)	12 7:00pm AA Meeting (Sonrise)	13
14 "mite Box" Sunday 8:30am Traditional Worship Service 9:45am Children's Musical (CC) 11:00am Morning Song Worship Service w/Communion 4:30pm Serene & Clean NA Group (Sonrise) 5:30pm Youth Night!	15 9:30am Quilting 3:00pm TOPS Meeting (Inn) 5:00pm AA Group (Sonrise) 6:30pm Men's Bible Study (Inn)	16 7:00pm Guide Dogs (CC) 7:00pm Men's AA (Sonrise) 7:00pm Trustees Meeting (Inn)	17 10:30am Morning Advent Worship Service 6:30pm Evening Advent Worship Service	18 6:30pm Adult Choir (Inn)	19 10:00am Comforts of Home 7:00pm AA Meeting (Sonrise)	20
21 8:30am Traditional Worship Service w/Communion 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Morning Song Worship Service 4:30pm Serene & Clean NA Group (Sonrise)	22 9:30am Quilting 3:00pm TOPS Meeting (Inn) 5:00pm AA Group (Sonrise) 6:30pm Young Adult Bible Study (Yth Rm) 7:00pm Women's Bible Study (CC)	23 7:00pm Guide Dogs (CC) 7:00pm Men's AA (Sonrise)	24 3:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 5:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 10:00am Christmas Day Worship Service w/Communion	26 7:00pm AA Meeting (Sonrise)	27
28 9:45am Sunday School 10:00am Lessons & Carols Worship Service w/Communion 4:30pm Serene & Clean NA Group (Sonrise)	29 9:30am Quilting 3:00pm TOPS Meeting (Inn) 5:00pm AA Group (Sonrise)	30 7:00pm Guide Dogs (CC) 7:00pm Men's AA (Sonrise)	31		Bethlehem Lutheran Church & Preschool	



Bethlehem Lutheran Church
SERVICE ROSTER FOR DECEMBER 2025



	Dec 7	Dec 14	Dec 21	Dec 28
Eternal Candle	Sponsored by Wayne & Ellen Moses			
Altar Flowers	Jim & Lee Kauth	Eric & Becky Oswald		Esther Altig
Elder on Duty	8:30 11:00	Terry Beale Matt Boelter	Joel Prusi Mark Leinhos	John Loseke Dennis Frerck
Acolytes	8:30 11:00	Henry Davis Erik Agard	Axel Pfund Ezra Pfund Erik Agard	Jillian Davis Thomas Williams Anna Hoffman
Lay Reader	8:30 11:00	Dave Cook Jeff Hoffman	Joel Prusi Mark Leinhos	Eli Plopper Joe Bernard
Ushers	8:30 11:00	Darrell Hagen Hank Modro Ken Felhaus Trevor Hoffman	Darrell Hagen Greg Starts Gayna Flake Lorna Zimbrick	Dave Dubberke Nan Dubberke Lil Harn Trevor Hoffman
Communion Servers	8:30 11:00	Greg Starts		Greg Starts
Altar Guild	Set Up Clean Up	Heather Cammack Lisa Siewert	Megan Davis Pat Winkler	Nan Dubberke Lee Kauth
Organist @ 8:30	Phyllis Murken	Dwight Siewert	Phyllis Murken	Phyllis Murken
	2nd Sunday In Advent	3rd Sunday In Advent	4th Sunday In Advent	1st Sunday After Christmas

2025

2025

*Service Roster Schedule***December 3**

10:30 am	Music— Dwight Siewert	Elder— Ivan Weichbrodt
6:30 pm	Holden Evening	Elder— TBD Ushers— TBD

December 10

10:30 am	Music— Phyllis Murken	Elder— Dennis Fredrick
6:30 pm	Holden Evening	Elder— TBD Ushers— TBD

December 17

10:30 am	Music— Dwight Siewert	Elder— Ivan Weichbrodt
6:30 pm	Holden Evening	Elder— TBD Ushers— TBD

December 24

3:00 pm	Music— Dwight Siewert, Worship Team Ushers— Dave Dubberke Hank Modro	Elder— Mark Leinhos Acolyte— Annaleigh Hoffman Jillian Davis
5:00 pm	Music— Phyllis Murken, Worship Team Ushers— Lil Harn Lorna Zimbrick	Elder— Terry Beale Acolyte— Clara Plopper Thomas Williams

December 25

10:00 am	Music— Dwight Siewert Elder— Bob Baker Acolyte— Annaleigh Hoffman Erik Agard	Communion— Matt Boelter Ushers— Dave & Nan Dubberke Altar Guild— Martha Browning Lisa Siewert
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Please call your team leader in advance if you are unable to serve on your schedule date. Thanks!



ANNIVERSARIES

DECEMBER

Anniversaries

Dec 8 Herman and Karen Fierro (41)
Dec 17 John and Sharon Werner (37)
Dec 18 Joel and Amy Hoffman (21)
Dec 18 Eric and Becky Oswald (4)
Dec 23 Larry and Erline Binkerd (58)
Dec 27 Tom and Jean Faszholz (65)
Dec 31 Gayna and Robert Flake (47)

BIRTHDAYS

Dec 2 Greg Hjelmeland
Dec 3 Paisley Heck
Dec 4 Dawn Pickens
Dec 6 Zach Hoffman
Dec 6 Margaret Williams
Dec 10 Jim Kauth
Dec 12 Zoe Godsey
Dec 14 Emily DuPre
Dec 14 Grace DuPre
Dec 16 Heidi Hoops
Dec 19 Terry Beale
Dec 19 David Cook
Dec 19 Eli Krantz
Dec 20 Kathy Cook
Dec 21 Stan Sylvester
Dec 21 Karen Wegner
Dec 23 Ruby Twenhafel
Dec 25 Ivy Cai
Dec 26 Tom Faszholz
Dec 30 Larry Binkerd

DECEMBER
Birthdays

Bethlehem Lutheran
Church & Preschool
18865 SW Johnson St.
Aloha, OR 97003-3164
www.blcfamily.org



December

We Worship

Live-Streamed & In-Person
Sundays 8:30am & 11:00am
www.BLCfamily.org/bethlehem-online



DECEMBER 2025, VOL. 15 NO. 12

Christmas at Bethlehem



DECEMBER 24

3:00pm
5:00pm

DECEMBER 25

10:00am

Bethlehem Lutheran Church & Preschool

Temp Pastor	Phil Alexander
Youth & Children	Eric Oswald
Worship & Music	Kerry Bauer
Preschool Dir.	Laiva Hoffman

Phone: 503.649.3380
BLCfamily.org
office@blcfamily.org