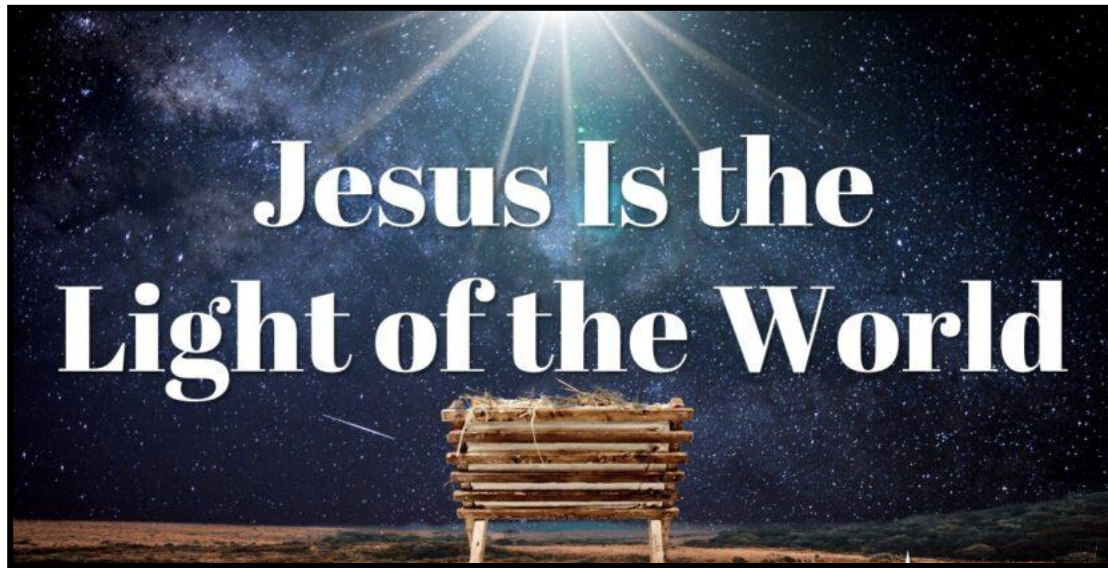


# Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2023



## Bethel Christian Reformed Church

521 S. Halleck St., DeMotte, IN 46310

[www.bethelcrcdemotte.org](http://www.bethelcrcdemotte.org)

[bethelcrc@netnitco.net](mailto:bethelcrc@netnitco.net)

**WE WELCOME YOU TO WORSHIP** whether in person or online. We welcome any visitors who have chosen to join us! Please take a welcome mug from the table in the back of church.

Today marks the Fourth Sunday in the Advent season. We are focusing our Advent this year on **Jesus – the light of the world** as we anticipate Christmas and the promise of the coming Christ Child. We long for the light to grow –we long for God to restore and forgive us.

Today we welcome Pastor Tim Toeset – “Enlightened Heart Eyes” from Ephesians 1:15-23. We rejoice to see God working through us. Come nurture your light and be forgiven!

Next week Pastor Dan Bloesch will lead us in worship – “The Glory of Christmas” from Luke 2:1-2. We will also have **installation of new elders and deacons**.

## MORNING WORSHIP

Prelude: Carrie Cain

Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Leader: Jesus said, “I am the light of the world.”

**People: We welcome God’s Light into our lives;  
we welcome the full revelation of God’s unfailing love.**

Leader: In the warm glow of God’s salvation, we welcome the fullness of God’s promise. Bathed in God’s light, we can clearly see the faithfulness of our God from age to age. Listen to the words from Psalm 89:

Leader: The candle we light today stands as a testament to God’s Glory and Faithfulness. Jesus said, “I am the light of the world.”  
We Light the Advent Candle!

**People: We welcome God’s light into our lives; we welcome the certainty the full revelation of God’s unfailing love brings to our wandering hearts.**

\*Please Stand as we sing: “The First Noel” vs. 1,2,4,6

\*God’s Greeting

\*Mutual Greeting

\*We Continue in Praise:

“Joy to the World” vs. 1,2,4

“Angels We Have Heard on High” vs.1,3,4

Please Be Seated

Offering will be received for Ministries of Bethel and Illiana Right to Life  
During Offering we will Sing: “Silent Night” vs 1,3

Morning Prayers

Scripture: Ephesians 1:15-23 (pg.1818)

Sermon: “**Enlightened Heart Eyes**”

**\*Please Stand as We Prepare to Light the Christ Candle  
Join us in Song: “Adore”**

\*Leader: We wonder at God’s Light, present since before the beginning, yet ever new, and we hear the words of Psalm 98:

\*Leader: Today we also light the Christ Candle. As we leave this place and celebrate our Savior’s birth on Christmas Day –take this light with you – Jesus said, “I am the light of the world.”  
We Light the Christ Candle!

**\*People: We wonder at the Light who shines in the darkness,  
wonder at the new light that transforms us in this world. Alleluia!**

\*God’s Parting Blessing

\*Closing Song: “Shine on Us”

There will be **NO CHILDREN'S WORSHIP** December 24 -- January 7. See you on January 14<sup>th</sup>

**JOIN US AFTER THE SERVICE** for a special Christmas video from Ray VanderLaan in the council room. Grab your coffee and come celebrate!

Bethel has made the decision to extend a call to **Pastor Jeremy Oosterhouse**. We invite you to send them an encouraging note as they seek God's guidance and leading. His email is [joosterhouse@gmail.com](mailto:joosterhouse@gmail.com) and Rachel's is [rachel.ooms@gmail.com](mailto:rachel.ooms@gmail.com) There address to send snail mail: 12606 S. Menard Ave, Alsip IL 60803. Lift them up in prayer along with Bethel as we seek God's will.

We will be having a 9:30 am service here at Bethel each week – **Jesus is the Light of the World!** Here is a schedule of opportunities to join with First CRC for their 5pm worship time.

Dec. 24: No PM Service

**CHRISTMAS DAY: COMBINED SERVICE AT FIRST CRC @ 9:30 AM**

Dec. 31: No PM Service

**SERVING TODAY**

**December 24**

Nursery: AM	Rachel and Ashley
Children's Leaders	Christmas Break
Piano:	Amy
Usher	Jon D
Greeters	Rich & Mary(E), Ron & Sue(S).
Media Shout	Todd
Offering	Ministries of Bethel and Illiana Right to Life

You can continue to give online at [www.bethelcrcdemotte.org](http://www.bethelcrcdemotte.org). Thank you!

**SERVING NEXT WEEK December 31**

Nursery: AM	Bailee & Sue
Children's Leaders	Christmas Break
Piano:	Marla
Usher	Jon D
Greeters	Rich & Mary(E), Ron & Sue(S).
Media Shout	Scott
Offering	Ministries of Bethel and Gideon's

**CHURCH FAMILY: PLEASE CONTINUE TO KEEP IN PRAYER:**

- Surgery went well, and as expected, this was the last one. Now it's just healing and gaining strength back. Hopefully in January, life will get back to normal. Thank you for the continued prayers and support. It really means a lot. Merry Christmas! Carollyn Broertjes
- Request for continued prayers for Donna Hoekstra for healing in her leg and patience since she will be at the hospital for a while yet. She is managing her pain and healing needs to take place before she can walk on it and do therapy. Continued prayers for Ted also as he misses her and dealing with being alone.
- Andy & Cheryl, Barb E, Rich K, Ted & Donna, Ruth DV, Carolyn VV, Hank VW
- Be with all the sick and shut-ins especially during this Christmas Season. Bless them all with a deep peace and that they are truly each enlightened by "Jesus – the Light of the World".
- Also remember all our service men and women who are away from their families during this time. Give them all a peace and keep them safe.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There is a **NEW SNACK SIGN-UP SHEET** on the table. Thank you to all who supplied us with snacks each Sunday morning to go with our coffee/tea in 2023. You are all very much appreciated.

**LOOKING FOR A WAY TO SERVE?**

- 1.) The Education Team is looking for a few more people who would be willing to be a **CHILDREN'S WORSHIP TEACHER OR HELPER**. We try to schedule everyone once every 4 to 6 weeks. If interested or want more information, please talk to Dianne DeVries or Mary Buitert. Children's Worship will resume January 14<sup>th</sup> – **COME JOIN THE TEAM!**
- 2.) We are greatly in need of a volunteer to serve one Sunday service a month in **SOUND & LIVE-STREAM** and also a volunteer to serve one Sunday service a month on **MEDIA-SHOUT** starting in January. It's not hard to do, we will show you how. Great opportunity to serve the Lord in Worship. Contact Gary. Thanks

**Jesus is All of Christmas** - As we give and receive gifts, we celebrate Jesus, God's gift to us! Will you add someone who lives in poverty to your Christmas giving today? Change a life for good with an item from World Renew's Gift Catalog. Give online at [worldrenew.net/gifts](http://worldrenew.net/gifts) or call 800-552-7972.

The **Dordt University Chamber Orchestra** from Sioux Center, Iowa, invites you to a concert at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at First Christian Reformed Church in DeMotte. This free concert is part of a winter tour with performances scheduled in Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, and Iowa. Under the baton of Associate Professor of Music and Director of Instrumental Activities Dr. Onsby C. Rose, the Dordt University Chamber Orchestra will perform a wide variety of repertoire ranging from the Romantic era with Tchaikovsky's *Serenade for Strings*, to music by living composers, such as *Only Light* by Minnesota native Aaron Perrine. Join us for an evening of music for the Glory of God! The concert is free, with a freewill offering received to help defray tour expenses.