



THE JOURNEYS *of Christmas*

Refugees in Egypt!

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 219-987-2005

Welcome to Bethel Church. If you are visiting with us we are glad you've joined us. Visitors, please take a mug from the table in the back of church which includes all of our contact information. Any questions we would love to hear from you.

Today is the **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT** –Our Advent Series this year is “The Journeys of Christmas.” We have traveled to Bethlehem, journeyed with the shepherds looking for Jesus, we searched with the Magi still seeking Jesus, and today we take our journey to Egypt! Come take the journey with us! Today we welcome Pastor Eric Schering who will be preaching the Word of God!

Join us at 5pm today for our **CANDLELIGHT/CHILDREN’S PROGRAM**— “Christmas Around the World.” Come share the good news of Christmas!

We will be having our **CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE** on Saturday, December 25 at 9:30am. **COME CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF OUR SAVIOR!**



“**SHOW ME JESUS**” Sunday School for all PK (4 yr.) – 6th Grade. Today the classes will be practicing for the Candlelight Service. Pick up is at 11:45am. **Catechism** for all 7th – 12th graders **will NOT meet** this week.

Parents of children who would want to join the Sunday School class Christmas program and are old enough to understand are invited to practice with us after the morning Sunday Service TODAY and sing songs they know as well as put ornaments on our Christmas tree. They should practice with us in the morning so they know what to do for the service tonight at 5pm. Thanks. " Let all the children praise Him."

SERVING TODAY	December 19 (5pm Candlelight Service)
Nursery:	Mel & Riley S., Laura V.
Piano:	Marla VM
Usher AM:	Ryan S.
Media Shout	Scott VV
Offering	Ministries of Bethel and Mobility Ministries

No offering will be taken during the service, but offering boxes are available by the sanctuary doors to place your gifts. Also, you can use our online giving at www.bethelcrcdemotte.org. Thank you!

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE December 25

Nursery	Stephanie K, Anna V.
Piano:	Marla VM
Media Shout	Scott V
Offering	World Renew

CHURCH FAMILY – Please keep in prayer:

- John B. – continue to lift him and his family up in prayer as he struggles with the complications of dementia
- Fran K - remains at the rehab home in Lowell, and is not able to come home yet. Pray for healing and God’s strength for her.
- Elmer VM – continue to lift Elmer and Norma in prayer. Rejoicing in and praying for sustaining strength!
- Wayne & Carolyn VV - as Carolyn remains weak at home. Pray for healing and strength.
- Steve & Alice - as Steve was admitted to the hospital to help address some Covid symptoms. We praise the Lord that he has already made some improvements! Please pray for full healing.
- Jeff and Jori J, as they celebrate the birth of Truman Jude, born on Wednesday, 5 weeks ahead of schedule. He will remain at the NICU until the hospital staff says he’s ready to head home, but his breathing is good and we rejoice with Jeff and Jori for this little blessing from the Lord.
- Bill VW - has been experiencing seizures recently, and has been admitted to Broadway Methodist hospital for tests and observation. Please pray for God’s healing for Bill.

The family of Jack VS would like to thank pastor Rick and the church family for all your kindness shown to us in the loss of a special mother and grandmother. We appreciated all you did.

MORNING WORSHIP

Welcome

Call to Worship

Song of Praise – “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

Lighting of the 4th advent candle of Peace:

People of God:

God of Peace, you send us the Prince of Peace.

We long for his peace to rule in our lives and relationships.

We yearn for every corner of your world to be subject to your peace.

We eagerly await the days when your whole flock will live

in the security of your peace.

**May we, through the power of your Spirit,
shine the peace of Christ in the darkness.**

In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.

God’s Greeting

Time of Praise: “Here I Am to Worship”

“Go Tell It On the Mountain”

Prayer of Confession:

When we allow darkness to overcome the light,
forgive us, Lord.

When we reduce Christmas to plastic and tinsel,
have mercy on us, Father.

When hardness of heart keeps us from seeing
and hearing and touching the needs of others,
let your grace consume us, O God.

When the sufferings of those around us are of no concern,
forgive us, Lord, and move us to compassion.

When our caring is not extended to action,
move us to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

We come to confess our sinfulness before you and before each other.

Remove the barriers that divide us,

and let there be no obstacle to our love for you and for one another. Amen.

Song of Response: “Christian Hearts in Love United”

Prayers of God’s People

Scripture: Matthew 2:9-23

Sermon: **The Journeys of Christmas: Refugees in Egypt**

Prayer followed by God’s Parting Blessing

Closing Song: “Joy to the World”

MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday	10:45am	Sunday School Program Practice -- NO Catechism
	2:30pm	Service at Oak Grove
	5:00pm	Candlelight Service
Tuesday	7:00pm	Executive Team
Saturday	9:30am	Christmas Morning Service

SERVING NEXT WEEK December 26 (AM Service Only)

Nursery:	Pam VS, Jori D.
Piano:	Amy
Usher AM:	Ryan S.
Media Shout	Todd N.
Offering	Ministries of Bethel and Benevolence

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Share God’s Love on Christmas - As we share gifts with our loved ones today, remember Jesus Christ gives us salvation and calls us to share His great gift of love and hope with others, especially the hungry and vulnerable. Please give generously to World Renew – **our offering on Christmas Day**, changing the story of poverty all over the world and helping those in need.

EXECUTIVE TEAM will meet this week Tuesday, December 21st at 7pm.

COUNCIL BREAKFAST: A council breakfast will be held on Saturday January 15, and will be a time of orientation, fellowship, and encouragement, and is offered for both incoming, currently serving and outgoing elders and deacons

JOIN US TODAY at 2:30pm at Oak Grove for a Sunday worship services. Bethel CRC has been invited to present the service. Contact Larry Ouwenga with any questions. You are encouraged to participate.

Want a night off from cooking? **Help the Connection Center raise some "dough"!** Go to Burns Pizza in Demotte on December 29th and order your supper! Proceeds will go to support the second building phase of the center. You must have the flier with you which there is one in your mailbox and a few extra copies on the round table in back of church. Thanks for reaching out to our community! - Outreach Team

It is time to make a new usher schedule. We are **looking for some additional men to take a turn** throughout the year. You will be scheduled for just 2 Sunday’s during a month and usually usher 2 times during the year. Please let Shiela know if that is a way that you could serve at Bethel! Young adult guys we would love to have you help out!

There is a **SIGN-UP ON THE COFFEE TABLE** in the back of church if anyone would like to sign up to bring cookies/snack to share for after our morning services. Any questions talk to Steph K!

SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS

2022 GOD'S CREATION CALENDARS

There are a few popular 2022 God's Creation Calendars available for \$12 in the DMC office. These make great gifts! Call DMC at 219-987-3721 for availability.

ALUMNI KNIGHT & UNIFORM SALE! December 21st at 7pm all DMCS alumni are invited to our Alumni Knight at CCHS! We will be having a uniform sale this night too, so be sure to check out the photos on our Facebook event (link below) of all our "vintage" uniforms!

We will also be recognizing the three 1000 point basketball club members with plaques that will be displayed at school in the trophy case! This along with a recognition of all the alumni in the stands will take place at half-time of the varsity game. Alumni will be asked to sign in and complete an updated alumni contact sheet to gain free entry into the event.

Old uniforms will be available to take home the night of the event for free will donation to the athletics department! Visit our Facebook event at <https://fb.me/e/1ulwdOfIL> for more information.

DMCS JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Covenant Christian High School is seeking a **study hall supervisor** for the second half of the school day during 2nd semester. Hours would be between 12:20 and 2:50 Monday through Friday. The job entails supervising a group of students while they work on school work. Any additional help you could provide to assist students with homework would be greatly appreciated, but not an expectation. Interested persons should contact Mr. DeFries at rdefries@dmcsemail.org or by phone at 219-987-7651x211. The position would be paid hourly.

DMCS is looking to create a list of **substitute custodians** if any of our current custodians need additional help or are absent. If you are interested, please contact Superintendent Hucks at lhucks@dmcsemail.org.

Covenant Christian HS is looking for a part-time **Spanish instructor** for 3-4 periods per day, for the second semester of this school year. This could also be a part-time to full time position for the 2022-2023 school year. Anyone interested should contact Rick DeFries at Covenant Christian HS at 219-987-7651 or by email at rdefries@dmcsemail.org.

BUS DRIVERS NEEDED! Do you have a CDL with a passenger endorsement, or are you interested in obtaining one? DMCS is in need of bus drivers for the winter sports season! For more details, contact Jill Struble at jstruble@dmcsemail.org.

Beginning January 7 at 8:00am, DMC will accept **SIGN-UPS FOR THE 2022-2023 PRE-SCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN CLASSES**. Call Admissions at 219-987-3721 x113 and leave a voicemail with the following information:

- Student's Name
- Grade (PS3; AM or PM Preschool 4; or Half Day or Full Day Kindergarten)
- Student's DOB
- Parent's Names
- Parent's Phone Numbers

Voicemails will be listened to in order they were received. Space is limited; all new families to the school will need to complete an application (available online at www.demottechristianschools.org). Age requirements are as follows:

PS3 (T/Tham), your child must be 3 by August 1, 2022.

PS4 (M/W/Fam OR M/W/Fpm), your child must be 4 by August 1, 2022.

K (1/2 day or full day), your child must be 5 by August 1, 2022.

SAVE THE DATE! Mark your calendars and set your reminders! CCHS Service Dinner 2022 is scheduled for Friday, March 11 at 6pm. This event and our fall jog-a-thon are the only two fundraisers directed exclusively toward our students' Service Week trips in April. The evening will involve a delicious meal and a program featuring our students' reflections on last years' Service Projects.

DMCS Important Dates:

December 21: Alumni Knight & Uniform Sale @ CCHS

December 22: End Quarter 2

December 23-Jan 4: DMCS Christmas Break

January 5: Students Return for 2nd Semester

January 7: Pre-School/Kindergarten Sign Ups