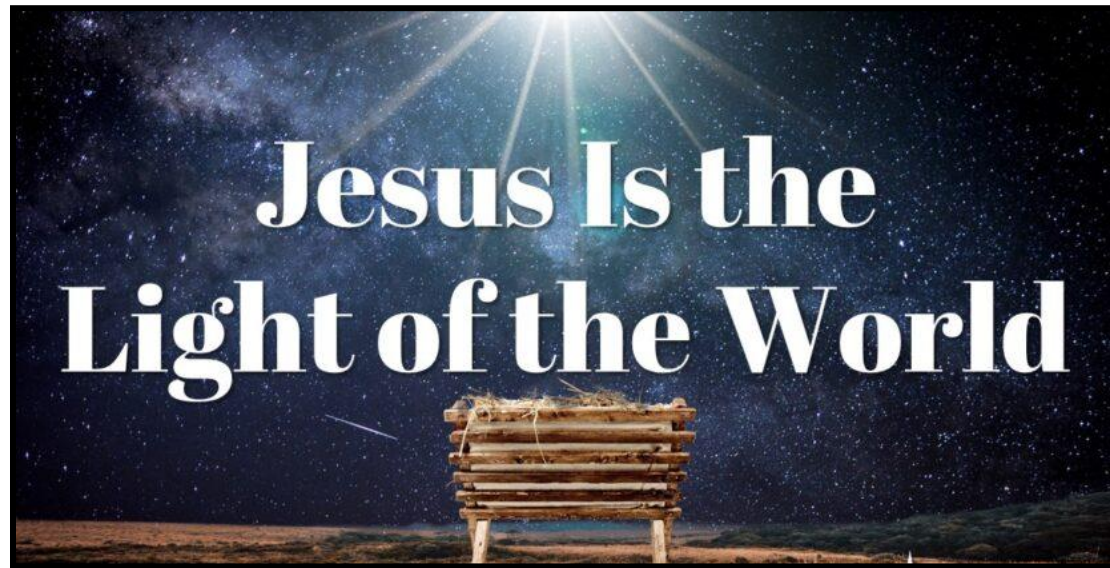


First Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 3, 2023



Bethel Christian Reformed Church

521 S. Halleck St., DeMotte, IN 46310

www.bethelcrcdemotte.org

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 first Sunday in the Advent season. We will focus 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 and in our darkest night our spirits long for God's hope.

This morning Pastor Jabaay looks at Isaiah 9:1-7 "Christmas Is All About Light and Darkness". Next week we welcome Mr. Joel Trinidad: "Who is Our Savior Jesus Christ" from Luke 2:1-7. Come find the light!

The children are dismissed for **CHILDREN'S CHURCH** after our time of praise. Please go to the foyer where your teachers will meet you. Children turning 4 years old by Jan. 1st are welcome along with any children parents feel would benefit from this opportunity. Visitors welcome!



Christmas Family Fun Night! Wednesday, December 13, 6:00 p.m. There will be pizza, Bingo and prizes for everyone! All you need to bring is your appetite and a wrapped White Elephant gift labeled for each woman, man or child in your family attending. Be sure to sign the sign-up sheet so we know how many to plan on. Hope to see you all there for another great Family Fun Night, you won't want to miss it!

Bethel has made the decision to extend a call to **Pastor Jeremy Oosterhouse**. We encourage you to send them an encouraging note as they seek God's guidance and leading. His email is joosterhouse@gmail.com and Rachel's is 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.

The Bethel Council wants to thank all members who attended the Congregational Meeting this past Tuesday. Also, a thank you to those who submitted Absentee ballots on the issues. This was a very important meeting for Bethel as discussions and voting took place to guide us through the coming year as the Lord leads. All three of the issues upon which we were asked to vote (2024 Budget, Pastoral call to Jeremy Oosterhouse, and Discontinuing the Sunday afternoon services - emphasizing Small Group meetings during the week) passed by significant numbers. The Official Letter of Call to Jeremy is now being completed, and a personal phone conversation has already taken place with him to inform him of the vote. We asked for the Lord's leading in all these matters, and it is now prudent upon each one of us that we follow His leading by personal involvement in Serving, Building, Leading, and Praying. It means ACTION on our part!

With that in mind, we want to inform you that a Men's Study Group is already in the planning to commence sometime in January with the idea of twice a month on Saturday mornings.

With the changes being made regarding Sunday afternoon services, we want to alert you to the invitation we have from First CRC to join them in their December 5PM Services if you would so choose. Their schedule for the 5PM services is as follows:

Dec. 3: Christmas Carol Service

Dec. 10: Sunday School Christmas Program

Dec. 17: Candlelight Service and Christmas Dinner

Dec. 24: No PM Service

Dec. 31: No PM Service

Christmas Day: Bethel is planning to join in a combined service at First CRC @ 9:30 AM

CHURCH FAMILY: PLEASE CONTINUE TO KEEP IN PRAYER:

- Carollyn B has her final procedure scheduled for Dec 12, another outpatient, even shorter recovery time. We thank God for his healing for her.
- Henry D., Andy & Cheryl, Barb E, Rich K, Ted & Donna, Ruth DV, Carolyn VV
- Norma VM and her family as they had the funeral for Elmer on Monday. Pray for them in this time of lost but also rejoice in the celebration of God's faithfulness that we belong to Him.

MORNING WORSHIP

Welcome

Please remain seated for our Opening Song:

“O Come Let Us Adore Him”

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Leader: “I am the light of the world.”

In the darkest night, our eyes search for glimmers of light.

People: We are watching for the light—watching for God’s beacon of Dazzling light to shepherd us home. (from Ps. 80:1)

Leader: In our darkest night of hopelessness, our spirits long for God’s hope, and we listen to the words of the psalmist: (prayer)

Leader: The candle we light today reminds us of the light we seek. Jesus said, “I am the light of the world.”

People: We long for the light—and are watching for God’s beacon of dazzling light to shepherd us home.

Remain seated as we sing: “O Shepherd Hear and Lead Your Flock”

*Please Stand for God’s Greeting

*Mutual Greeting

*We Continue in Praise:

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” 4 vs.

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing” 3 vs.

Please Be Seated

Children are dismissed for Children’s Worship

Offering will be received for Ministries of Bethel and DMCS Inc.

Morning Prayers

Scripture: Isaiah 9:1-7 (pg. 1072)

Sermon: “**Christmas Is All About Light and Darkness**”

Prayer

Parting Blessing

Closing Song: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” vs.1,4,6,7

SERVING TODAY

December 3

Nursery: AM	Marla & Carli
Children’s Leaders	Dianne & Lyndsy
Piano:	Amy
Usher	Steve
Greeters	Rich & Mary(E), Ron & Sue(S).
Media Shout	Riley
Offering	Ministries of Bethel and DMCS Inc.

You can continue to give online at www.bethelcrcdemotte.org. Thank you!

SERVING NEXT WEEK December 10

Nursery: AM	Steph and James
Children’s Leaders	Sandy & Linda
Piano:	Amy
Usher	Steve
Greeters	Rich & Mary(E), Ron & Sue(S).
Media Shout	Katie
Offering	Ministries of Bethel and Roseland Christian Ministries

THIS WEEKS MEETINGS

Tuesday	1:30pm	Ladies Afternoon Bible Study
	7:00pm	Council Meets
Wednesday	6:15pm	GEMS meets at First CRC
	7:00pm	Combined Teams Meet

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LADIES AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY will meet Tuesday, December 5 at 1:30 at the home of Dianne DV. Study lesson 6, “Confession is Good for the Soul.” New ladies are always welcome.

COUNCIL will meet on Tuesday, December 5. All those that will be serving in 2024 are asked to come to this meeting along with the outgoing elder and deacon. Elders for 2024: Gary DV, Jon, D. Rick E., Mike Z and Dave W. Deacons: Brent VS., Nathan V. Will J, Scott VV, and Rich B. Thank you for being willing to service. Thank you to outgoing Russ and Todd for your years of service.

The **COMBINED OUTREACH, FELLOWSHIP AND EDUCATION TEAMS** will meet on Wednesday December 6 at 7:00 pm

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 Buitter.
- 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

You’re invited to a special **Christmas Carol Night at American Reformed Church** on Sunday, December 17 at 5:00 P.M. This will be a festive night of singing along to your favorite Christmas songs while enjoying hot cocoa and cookies! You won’t want to miss it! The Christmas Carol Night will be at American Reformed Church: 1021 S. Halleck St., DeMotte, IN (Across from DeMotte Elementary School). We can’t wait to see you there!

On Wednesday, December 13th from 6-8pm, Anew Ministries is hosting a Momma’s Christmas Market at First Church in Hebron. This event will provide a wonderful opportunity to show the love of Jesus to young mommas in this area. Each young mother will get to shop, purchase, and wrap her own gifts for her child, giving her the dignity of being a part of providing Christmas for her child. If you are interested in learning more about volunteering or purchasing toys for this event, please visit anewministries.org for more information!