

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 NRSVUE

¹ Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son.

² May he judge your people with righteousness and your poor with justice.

³ May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness. ⁴ May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor. ⁵ May he live while the sun endures and as long as the moon, throughout all generations. ⁶ May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth. ⁷ In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

¹⁰ May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render him tribute; may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts. ¹¹ May all kings fall down before him, all nations give him service. ¹² For he delivers the needy when they call, the poor and those who have no helper. ¹³ He has pity on the weak and the needy and saves the lives of the needy. ¹⁴ From oppression and violence he redeems their life, and precious is their blood in his sight.

*This is the Word of God, for the people of God!
Thanks be to God!*

January 4, 2026
Epiphany Sunday



Mission Statement

Knowing Christ, Growing in Faith, and Showing God's Love

Vision Statement

Bethel United Methodist Church continues its unchanging heritage of faith, striving to be a sacred place to know Christ fully, grow spiritually, and show God's love through compassion, service, and generosity.

Celebration of WORSHIP

January 4, 2026
8:00 & 11:00 a.m. Service

GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude: "In the Bleak Midwinter" arr. Hayes

Greeting & Announcements

GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

*Opening Hymn: "The First Noel".....#245 UMH

Opening Prayer: *Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Invitation: Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Confession: *Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Words of Pardon

Leader: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

People: *In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!*

All: Glory to God. Amen.

JANUARY 4—JANUARY 11

Sunday	8:00 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m.	Traditional Worship Live - Sanctuary Contemporary Worship -Come Alive Time - Sanctuary Sunday School - Various Rooms Traditional Worship Live - Sanctuary Fuel - PMH
Monday	1:00 p.m.	<i>Joyce Mentzer's Sabbath</i> Prayer Shawl Ministry - Lounge
Tuesday	9:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Sue Sprague Bible Study - PMH Elizabeth Circle Meeting - BFH "J" Crew - Music Room SPPRC Meeting - PMH YM ² - Music Room
Wednesday	12:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Mary Martha Circle Meeting - PMH King's Kids - Music Room First Towne Ringers - Music Room
Thursday	6:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:15 p.m.	Miracle Singers - BFH Wyldlife - PMH Chancel Choir - Music Room
Friday		<i>Pastor Jim's Sabbath</i> <i>Ray Davis's Sabbath</i>
Saturday	2:00 p.m.	Coastal Concerts
Sunday	8:00 a.m. 8:00 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m.	Traditional Worship Live - Sanctuary Bethel Men's Group - PMH Contemporary Worship -Come Alive Time - Sanctuary Sunday School - Various Rooms Traditional Worship Live - Sanctuary Fuel - PMH

Church Livestream Available Online Sundays
9:15 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Or anytime after the services on YouTube

BFH - Bethel Fellowship Hall
PMH - Parsonage Meeting House



BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PRAYER LIST

1/4/2026

Key: **Bold, Italicized & Underlined** type indicates a request new this week

Rehabilitation: David Hurlock, Paul Webb

Hospital: Bobby Lane, Dottie Mckain

Hospice: Gary Arrell, Rosemary Bouvier, Goodwin, Jim Kardas, Brenda Keith, Sharon Messinger, Mrs. Sample, Jim Smith

General Concerns: Meg Anderson, Andy Baker, Marilyn Battiste, Paula Carridan, Tracy Carson, Kathy Crowley, Cathy Crown, Scott Dailey, Bob Dathe, **Pat Emmett**, Jessi Ferree, Bridget Fowler, Fred Gentry, Bill Gibbons, Giovanna (Sister of Mauro De Mederios), Ida (Sister in-Law of Tina Eaton), (Mike Ingerson, Jessica, Kelly Jones, Kelsea, Kelly Lahorcek, Paulette Lazzaro, Lucca, **Penny MacClennan**, Pat McMillen, Ann Miller, Whitney Murray, June Myers, Mike O'Neill, Jennifer Nobles, Xavier Nobles, Kelly Pinsky, Pauline Powell, Beth Rampson, Naomi Rickards, Cindi Flahive-Sobel, Linda Sydell & Family

Long Term: Ansalvish Family, Bryan Attix, Rev. Gloria Attix, Fran Baker, Matthew Baker, Ruth Ann Baker, Ginny Barney, Wesley Beam, Dave Beddle, Nancy Bektolino, Betty, Gavin Birl, Daryl Bradley, Inez Brengle, Liz Carrier, John Caycedo, Janette Clavette, Clawson Family, Victor Colon, Rev. Charles Covington, Bill Dell, Delores, Jay Dentino, Bob Dickey, Richard Dickey, Bonnie Ekas, **Jim Emanuel**, Marilyn Emanuel, Trish Emmett, Tom Engel, Susie Eveland, Olga Fitch, Frank Fitzgerald Sr, Gayle Gibbons, Danny Gillespie, Hazel Gillespie, Junie Grant, Jude Gray, Alex Grove, George Hammond, Kelly Harp, Heather & Indy, **Nancy Hecker**, Lou Henderson, Sharon Henderson, Jack Henriksen, Connor Hiple, Jim Hooban, Kayla Hottinger, David Jones, Erika Jones, Chubby Joseph, Deb Kellenbenz, Adam Kent, Faye Kintz, Kathy Kroley, Norm Kugel, Janice Kulp, Paulette Lazarro, Nancy Logan, Bill Lyons, Rob MacArthur, Madison MacElrevey, Matt, Kortlyn, & Bodi, Dr. Jim Marvel, Patty Marvel, Janet McGinnis, Claranne Mettrott, Stephen Mettler, **Marsha Miller**, **Stephanie Miller**, Rev. Charles Moyer, Chuck Naspinsky, Curt & Melinda Newsome, Ted Niemczyk, Lori O'Day, Brian O'Dell, Thom Pemberton, George Pepper, Earl Peters, Jodi Potter, Steve Rellihan, Beth Rinker, Carla Robinson, Tom Schaich, Mary Louise Scott, John Schulze, Joe Seay, Bill Seitz, Betty Sheats, Logan Smith, Tricia(Spangler)Gracey, Chet Sprague, Judy Stevenson, Bonnie Stevlingson, Margaret Stockslager, Dale Stough, James Taylor, Bonnie Tedesco, Peggy Thomas, Dave Trout, Bob Turcovski, Dawn Vandegrift, Michael Walker, Wanda, Kathy Watson, Kathy Wetherold-Parrott, Hilda Williams, Trish Wilson, Woody Wilson, Theresa Wise, Jim & Jolie Woodward, Lucretia Y., Glenn Yetter, Marge Zayatz

Up Coming Procedures: **Anne Schulze**

Recovering From Procedures: Bobbie Flynn, Margaret Hitchens, Pam Monti, Peter Moyer

Other:

- **Prayers for our DE State Police & Family of Trooper Snook killed on duty at DMV.**
- Shooting at Brown University.
- Terrorist attack of Jewish Community in Bondi Beach, Australia
- Christian persecution in Nigeria and other parts of the world
- All those caring for family and friends, especially spouses and those that have lost a child.
- Delaware Firefighters, EMS, and State Troopers.
- For racial justice in the United States.

Sympathy to:

- **Family (Wife & Infant Daughter) & Friends of Corporal Ty Snook.**
- **Family & Friends of Richard Dick Schulze, Brother in law of Anne Schulze, who passed**
- **Family & Friends of Sadie Green, Mother of Jennifer Nobles fiancé's, who passed.**
- **Sympathy to Mimi, Court, & Brooke Jones on the death of Mimi's mother, Joan Gibson**

LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

Joys & Concerns and Pastoral Prayer

God's Tithes and our Offerings

Offertory (8): "Variations on 'I Saw Three Ships'" by Payne

(11): "Light of the World - Sing Hallelujah"

presented by Logan Shuttleworth

*Doxology:#94 UMH

Scripture Lesson: Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Message "The Heart of it All" Pastor Jim Penuel

CELEBRATE THE SACRAMENT

Service of Word and Table 2.....Page 9 UMH

The Lord's Prayer (sung)

Hymns For Communion: "What Child Is This"#219 UMH

"Sing We Now of Christmas"#237 UMH

Prayer After Communion: *Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

GO FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

*Closing Hymn: "There's a Song in the Air"#249 UMH

*Benediction & Final Blessing

Leader: As we depart, may the Peace of Christ be with you.

People: ***May the Peace of Christ be with you.***

(All are invited to pass the Peace of Christ to all as you exit during the Postlude)

*Postlude: "Fanfare on 'Gloria'" by Payne

*Those who are able, please stand.

The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God

Hearing assistance devices are located at the sound booth.

Bethel CCLI License #1774982, Streaming License #20110751

Bethel One License (with Podcasting) #A-73619

Come Alive Time WORSHIP



GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering: (Please watch the screen for upcoming events)

Greeting and Opening Prayer

GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

*Opening Song of Praise & Worship: "The First Noel"

Children's Message

Joys & Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Offering: "Light of the World - Sing Hallelujah"
presented by Logan Shuttleworth

LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

Scripture Lesson: Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Message "The Heart of it All"

Pastor Jim Penuel

CELEBRATE THE SACRAMENT

Holy Communion

Song for Communion "Christmas Offering"

GO FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

*Closing Song "His Name Is Wonderful"

*Benediction & Final Blessing

Leader: As we depart, may the Peace of Christ be with you.

People: **May the Peace of Christ be with you.**

(All are invited to pass the Peace of Christ to all as you exit during the Postlude)

**Those who are able, please stand.*

January 4, 2026
9:15 a.m. Service

ANNOUNCEMENTS



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

FOR BOTH CODE PURPLE @THE CAPE SHELTERS

Shelter Season is Mon Dec 1, 2025 - Sat Mar 15, 2026



This vital resource is dependent on volunteers as Code Purple @ the Cape is a 100% volunteer run.

Both of their emergency winter shelters, at St Jude the Apostle and the Lutheran Church of Our Savior, are open every night from December 1st until March 15th.

Volunteer spots include overnight Hosts, intake Assistants & bus Drivers.

They serve single adult men and women. Provided services include a hot meal, a warm, safe and secure bed, weather appropriate clothing, and hygiene. Each guest is uniquely homeless...each vulnerable...each one matters!

To view the descriptions and dates open for each job on their [SignUp.com](https://Signup.com) page just copy and paste this address into your browser:
<https://signup.com/go/xeVKqQw>

If you have questions about volunteering email Mike Agnew at codepurple@stjudelewes.org

Thank you



Love Inc-Code Purple Shelters:

Our friends at Love INC could also use some helping hands at the **Georgetown** and **Milford** Code Purple shelters. They're looking for overnight volunteers!

If you're able to serve, you can sign up at:

<https://40484.people.myamplify.io/external/form/807a9e0b-3191-48c1-bc4c-f6864db51097> Thank You!!

**UMCOR**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Love Offering: The January Love Offering will benefit UMCOR/US. disaster relief with a direct focus on the disaster in the Northwest. UMCOR provides vital disaster relief and recovery support to individuals and communities affected by natural and human-made disasters worldwide. UMCOR has been dedicated to alleviating suffering and serves as a source of help and hope for the vulnerable. Love Offerings may be given throughout the month in the “designated” plates found at the back of Fellowship Hall & the Sanctuary or online by clicking “Choose a Fund” and then by clicking “Communion/Love Offering” in the drop down menu. If donating by check please remember to make payable to Bethel UMC and note love offering.



Blood Drive Reminder: It's hard to believe that we need to mention something going on in March when it is only early December but, for those of you planning on donating at our March 10, 2026 Blood Drive, please note that the last date to give prior to that donation is January 13 to allow the required minimum of 56 days between donations. We encourage everyone who can to donate.

Thank you, Elizabeth Circle



Coming on Thursday Mornings Beginning January 15, 2026

What a great way to begin the New Year: A new Bible Study on the Gospel of Matthew emphasizing the 5 Great Discourses or Conversations contained in the book. Jesus had a lot to say and a very short time to say it. Come and join in as we explore His words together in the Sermon on the Mount, in the instructions he gave to the 12 before sending them out to proclaim the Gospel, the Parables on the Kingdom of Heaven, the Church, and the End Times.

This class is for everyone: those who want to learn more about how to study the Bible, those who love studying the Bible, and everyone in between. All you need is your Bible and a heart that's inclined to studying God's Word and listening to His teaching. The class is led by John Hammett and will meet for 11 consecutive Thursday mornings from 10:00 - 11:30 in the PMH.

Please contact John by text at 410-733-5736 or by email at hammettjohnj@comcast.net if you'd like to attend or if you have questions.

BETHEL INFORMATION

To our guests...

Welcome to Bethel! Thank you for worshipping with us. We invite you to experience the love and grace of God in Jesus Christ today. During the announcements we would like to give you a welcome packet—just raise your hand and an Usher will bring you one. We value your feedback. Please fill out the Information Card in the mug and place it in the offering plate. For more information about Bethel, visit our website at www.bethellewes.org or call the Church Office. Thank you.

Worship Opportunities

Traditional Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary, 8:00 a.m.
Contemporary Worship in Fellowship Hall, 9:15 a.m.

Traditional Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary, 11:00 a.m.
Church Livestream Watch Online Sundays @ 9:15 or 11:00
Or anytime after the services on YouTube

Bethel Ministry Staff Contact Information

Jim Penuel, Senior Pastor
Earle Baker, Pastor of Visitation
Joyce Mentzer, Director of Music
Ray Davis, Youth & Family Director
Sandy Stough, Office Manager
Cindi Clavette, Treasurer
Laura Petranto, Financial Secretary
Katie Davis, S.S. Superintendent
Todd Mentzer, AV Coordinator
Susan Kremer, PR Coordinator
George Pepper, Maintenance
Bill Gaskill, Custodian
Kathy Pepper, Bethel Christian School

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Bethel Christian School Phone: (302) 645-5132
Church Office Hours M-F 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. & 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leaders for Today's Service

Greeters: 8:00 Bill & Nancy Collick

9:15 Curtis Moomaw

11:00

Ushers: 8:00 Ernie Stanley, Head Usher
Sandy Hunsicker, & Ron Smith Assistants
9:15 Libby Gibson, Head Usher
11:00 Joann Brittingham, Head Usher
Miguel Gomez & Ralph Scott; Assistants

Liturgists: 8:00 Mary Lou Warren
9:15 Ray Davis
11:00 Marjorie Mounts

Audio Visual Techs: Ray Davis, Ed Emmett, Norm Macturk,
Mauro Medeiros, Todd Mentzer

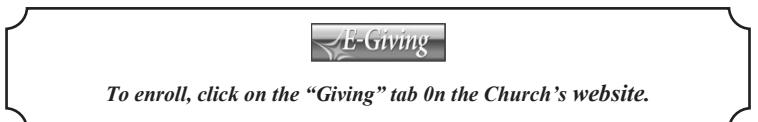
Miracle Singers: 9:15 Kim Edmonds, Cathy Ferree, John Harris,
Faye Kintz, Patty Marvel, Bill Powell

Weekly Statistics

Attendance: December 28, 2025: 170 (8:00-36; 9:15-66; 11:00-68)
Christmas Eve: 907 (3:00-268; 5:00-347; 7:00-207; 11:00-85)

Contributions for December 28, 2025

weekly deposit	\$ 15,901.00
weekly budget	\$ 16,461.43
YTD collection	\$ 814,441.39
YTD budget	\$ 855,994.36



Bethel's Food Ministries

Cold Weather Sheltering programs will begin 12/1/25

Contact for both programs is Cathie Wagner at
ccwgr@aol.com



Anyone interested in providing food can access the sign-up sheets for the two programs by following these steps:

- Go to: www.bethellewes.org
- Click on Information at the top of Bethel's home page.
- Select "Bethel Food Ministries" from the drop down menu. This will bring you to a page that contains the direct links to the two programs and important information for each program, (so read through carefully).
- Click on the link for the program you want and you will be linked to the sign-up sheet for that program.

The CRC sign up has a separate link for each month.

Elizabeth Circle Meeting: Will meet on Tuesday, January 6, at 12:45 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. We will have refreshments and reconnect after the holiday and then begin planning our activities for the new year. We welcome all women of Bethel to join us! For more information, contact Donna Fleischauer (djmarrin@yahoo.com) or any circle member.



Our Bethel Cookbook is returning after 15 years!

The Elizabeth Circle will be collecting your favorite recipes from January 11 to February 1st to publish in a new cookbook. As you prepare your holiday best, set aside the recipes to share. Forms and a collection box are available in the Lobby.

Missions First Annual

Opportunity to Serve Fair & Chili Tasting



Sunday, February 1, 2026

4 to 5:30pm in Fellowship Hall



Our commitment to the Methodist faith calls for our “prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness.” To help us meet that commitment several non-profit organizations are coming to the Fair so they can explain their mission and the work that must be completed to achieve that mission. It is an opportunity to understand the purpose of the organization and to volunteer for a single day or on an ongoing basis.

In addition, existing Bethel groups will be present to share their opportunities to volunteer. The Fair gives everyone an opportunity to volunteer for an existing church activity or project well as reach beyond the walls of the church.

To entice you to come, attendees will have an opportunity to taste different chili recipes. Chili makers are asked to contribute a crockpot of their favorite chili. So that the Missions Team can prepare, please email George Phillips (retiredman2017@gmail.com) to let him know you want to share your great chili with others. Please include your recipe in the email so the Team can make copies to share with everyone attending the Fair.

The Missions Team looks forward to seeing you at the Fair. Thank You!

Note Sheet

1/4/26

Worship: At the Heart of it All

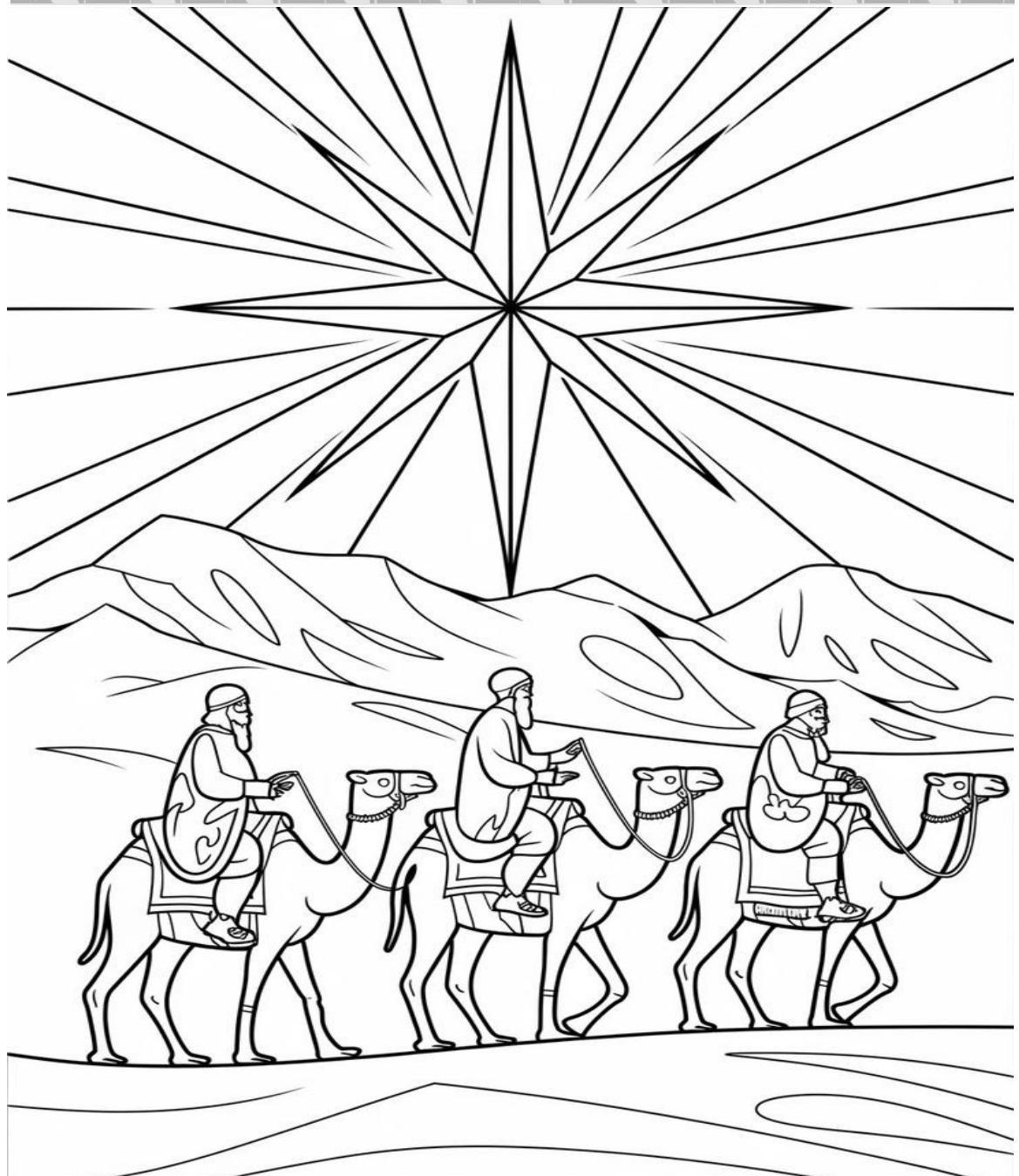
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

1. We are meant to be a people of _____.
2. Worship must be at the _____ of it all.
3. At its core, Epiphany is about _____.
4. Jesus came for _____ of us.
5. Jesus' care for those in need also reminds us that we are called to do the _____.
6. Jesus came not to _____ his importance, but to _____ himself.
7. Worship beckons us to _____ like Jesus.

Scripture reading for further reflection: Matthew 2:1-12

Note: You may access the Digital Sermon Note Page by scanning the QR Code





Thanks to All Worship Participants: We wish to thank everyone who participated in our Advent and Christmas Eve Services. Please accept our deep gratitude for making our worship both beautiful and festive. We thank all our greeters, ushers, advent readers, singers, instrumentalists, liturgists, sound & lighting operators, and video techs. We give thanks to those who served communion. We also thank those who worked behind the scenes, and everyone who donated poinsettias or contributed to the Cape Henlopen Food Basket. Finally, we thank everyone who attended, lifted their voices in song, and shared the light of Christ. Thank you all!



Staff Thank You: On behalf of the staff of Bethel, I want to personally thank everyone for their generous contributions to the staff appreciation gift. Your gift was truly a blessing to us all. It is such an honor to serve such a wonderful congregation! Many blessings to you, and I look forward to all God has in store for 2026!

In God's love, Pastor Jim Penuel

Financial Support: Thank you for your weekly support. We thank everyone who has provided funds to keep Bethel's ministries going.

There are six ways you can get your gift to Bethel:

1. **Drop off your donation** through the mail slot in the front door of the Parsonage Meeting House at 130 W. 4th St.
2. **Mail donations** to BUMC, 129 W. Fourth St., Lewes, DE.
3. **E-giving:** Go to Bethel's Website www.bethellewes.org and at the top right of the home page and click on the word, 'Giving.'
4. **Text Giving** is a newest option for donations, using a cell phone or hand-held device. Call (302) 202-6625, text the word "GIVE"
5. **IRA Distribution.** Those who are over 70½, can donate part of their mandatory distribution to Bethel. Please speak to your financial advisor before doing this.
6. **QR Code:** Scan the QR Code located on bottom right corner.

