

## Matthew 11:1-11 NRSVUE

<sup>1</sup> Now when Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and proclaim his message in their cities. <sup>2</sup> When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup> and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup> the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup> And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.” <sup>7</sup> As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup> What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup> What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup> This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ <sup>11</sup> “Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

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

December 7, 2025  
Second Sunday in Advent



*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.*

# Worship

Celebration of



December 7, 2025  
8:00 & 11:00 a.m. Service

## GATHER IN GOD’S NAME

Prelude: “Once In Royal David’s City” arr. Cherwien  
Greeting & Announcements  
Lighting of the second Advent candle (8) Diana Robertson  
(11) Mary Hall & Nancy Logan  
Advent Candle Response: “Emmanuel, Emmanuel”.....#204 UMH

## GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

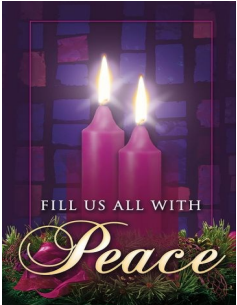
\*Opening Hymn: “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”.....#213 UMH  
Opening Prayer: *Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily 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.*

## DECEMBER 7–DECEMBER 14

Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship Live - Sanctuary
	9:15 a.m.	Contemporary Worship -Come Alive Time - Sanctuary
	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School - Various Rooms
	11:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship Live - Sanctuary
	12:30 p.m.	Christmas Musical Rehearsal - BFH
	6:30 p.m.	Fuel - PMH
Monday		<b>Joyce Mentzer’s Sabbath</b>
	6:30 p.m.	Advent Bible Study - PMH
Tuesday	9:30 a.m.	Sue Sprague Bible Study - PMH
	6:00 p.m.	“J” Crew - Music Room
	6:30 p.m.	Finance Meeting - PMH
	7:00 p.m.	YM <sup>2</sup> - Music Room
Wednesday	10:30 a.m.	Women’s Ministry Meeting - PMH
	6:00 p.m.	King’s Kids - Music Room
	7:00 p.m.	First Towne Ringers - Music Room
Thursday	6:00 p.m.	Miracle Singers - BFH
	6:00 p.m.	Wyldlife - PMH
	7:15 p.m.	Chancel Choir - Music Room
Friday		<b>Pastor Jim’s Sabbath</b>
		<b>Ray Davis’s Sabbath</b>
Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Dress Rehearsal-Christmas Musical - BFH
	4:00 p.m.	Parent’s Night Out
Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship Live - Sanctuary
	8:00 a.m.	Bethel Men’s Group - PMH
	9:15 a.m.	Contemporary Worship -Come Alive Time - Sanctuary
	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School - Various Rooms
	11:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship Live - Sanctuary
	6:30 p.m.	Christmas Musical - BFH

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  
12/7/2025

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

**Rehabilitation:** David Hurlock, Bobby Lane, Paul Webb

**Hospital:** Joe Daughtery, Dottie Mckain

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

**General Concerns:** Amelia, Meg Anderson, Andy Baker, Felena Bartlett, Marilyn Battiste, Paula Carridan, Tracy Carson, Kathy Counts, Kathy Crowley, Cathy Crown, Scott Dailey, Bob Dathe, Pat Emmett, Jessi Ferree, Bridget Fowler, Fred Gentry, Bill Gibbons, Giovanna (Sister of Mauro De Mederios), ***Mike Ingerson***, Jessica, Kelly Jones, Kelsea, Kelly Lahorcek, Paulette Lazzarro, Pat McMillen, Megan, Ann Miller, Whitney Murray, June Myers, Mike O'Neill, Kelly Pinsky, Beth Rampson, Naomi Rickards, Cindi Flahive-Sobel, Janice Skok, Linda Sydel & Family, Theresa Walls

**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 Lazzarro, Nancy Logan, Bill Lyons, Rob MacArthur, Madison MacElrevey, Matt, Kortlyn, & Bodi, Dr. Jim Marvel, Patty Marvel, Janet McGinnis, Claranne Meitrott, Stephen Metler, Marsha Miller, 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 Wetherhold-Parrott, Hilda Williams, Trish Wilson, Woody Wilson, Theresa Wise, ***Jim & Jolie Woodward***, Lucretia Y., Glenn Yetter, Marge Zayatz

**Up Coming Procedures:**

**Recovering From Procedures:** Jean Cantrell, Bobbie Flynn, ***Margaret Hitchens***, Jodi Lane, ***Burt Murray***, Tom Schiach

**Other:**

- 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 & Friends of Bob Rectenwald who passed away unexpectedly on 11/27.***
- Family & Friends of Barbara Plambeck, Wife of Dick, who passed away 11/24. ***The Service for Barbara will be December 20th at 10am at Bethel with a Reception immediately following the service.***
- Family & Friends of Joyce Baker Andrew, Cousin of Earle Baker, who passed away.

**LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD**

Joys & Concerns and Pastoral Prayer

God's Tithes and our Offerings

Offertory (8): *"In the Bleak Midwinter"* arr. Cherwien

(11): *"Extra, Extra"* presented by the "J" Crew  
with introduction and solo by Claire James

\*Doxology:.....#94 UMH

\*Gospel Lesson: Matthew 11:1-11

Message *"The Christmas Gift of Freedom"* Pastor Jim Penuel

**CELEBRATE THE SACRAMENT**

Service of Word and Table 2.....Page 13 UMH

The Lord's Prayer (sung)

Hymns For Communion: *"My Soul Gives Glory to My God"*.....#198 UMH

*"Once In Royal David's City"*.....#250 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: *"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"*.....#196 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: *"People, Look East!"* arr. Langlois

*\*Those who are able, please stand.*

*The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God  
& are lovingly placed in memory of Chip Brittingham and Virginia Lodge Brittingham  
by Joann, Jody and Lauren Brittingham.*

*Hearing assistance devices are located at the sound booth.*



# Come Alive Time WORSHIP



December 7, 2025  
9:15 a.m. Service

## GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering: *(Please watch the screen for upcoming events)*

Prelude: "Stille, Stille, Stille" presented by the First Towne Ringers

Greeting and Opening Prayer

## GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

\*Opening Song of Praise & Worship: "King of Heaven Come Down"

Lighting of the second Advent candle: Elise Sarik

Advent Candle Response: "Emmanuel, Emmanuel".....#204 UMH

Musical Offering by the King's Kids & "J" Crew

"Extra, Extra" with introduction and solo by Claire James

Children's Message: "The Gift To Be Free"

Joys & Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Offering: "Advent Carol" presented by the First Towne Ringers

## LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

\*Gospel Lesson: Matthew 11:1-11

Message "The Christmas Gift of Freedom" Pastor Jim Penuel

## CELEBRATE THE SACRAMENT

Holy Communion

Song for Communion "You Gave"

## GO FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

\*Closing Song "Glory - Let There Be Peace"

\*Benediction & Final Blessing: On Screen

*\*Those who are able, please stand.*

Bethel CCLI License #1774982, Streaming License #20110751  
Bethel One License (with Podcasting) #A-73619

## 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/go/xeVKqQw) 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](mailto:codepurple@stjudelewes.org)

Thank you



## ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Love Offering:** The December Love Offering will benefit Lifetime Wells. Their mission is to improve the quality of life for communities in Ghana and Tanzania by providing access to safe drinking water and a new ministry of eyecare in Africa. 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.



**Advent Bible Study:** This time of year, people often ask us, “What do you want for Christmas?” People often mean something material, but we need to think about this more deeply. What do we really want for Christmas? We will think about the blessings God provides us in the Advent/Christmas season. Please join me on Monday nights from 12/1 - 12/22 from 6:30pm - 8pm in the Parsonage meeting house. If you're interested in participating please email me

at: [pastorijm@bethellewes.org](mailto:pastorijm@bethellewes.org). This study will be provided in-person and via zoom. Please let me know your main preference (in-person or zoom) when you participate. The Book is called “What Do You Want For Christmas” by Rev. Dr. James Moore and can be found on amazon and other book-sellers.



**Advent Reader Needed:** We only need 1 advent reader for our Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> at the 11:00 service. Please email our office manager Sandy at [office@bethellewes.org](mailto:office@bethellewes.org) if you are interested in this reading. Reading will be given on a first come, first serve basis. Thank you!



**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

## 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](http://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	<a href="mailto:pastorjim@bethellewes.org">pastorjim@bethellewes.org</a>
Earle Baker, Pastor of Visitation	<a href="mailto:enbaker54@gmail.com">enbaker54@gmail.com</a>
Joyce Mentzer, Director of Music	<a href="mailto:jkmmentzer@bethellewes.org">jkmmentzer@bethellewes.org</a>
Ray Davis, Youth & Family Director	<a href="mailto:ray@bethellewes.org">ray@bethellewes.org</a>
Sandy Stough, Office Manager	<a href="mailto:office@bethellewes.org">office@bethellewes.org</a>
Cindi Clavette, Treasurer	<a href="mailto:cindi@bethellewes.org">cindi@bethellewes.org</a>
Laura Petranto, Financial Secretary	<a href="mailto:laura3152@live.com">laura3152@live.com</a>
Katie Davis, S.S. Superintendent	<a href="mailto:Kdavis4786@gmail.com">Kdavis4786@gmail.com</a>
Todd Mentzer, AV Coordinator	<a href="mailto:tamjam3@gmail.com">tamjam3@gmail.com</a>
Susan Kremer, PR Coordinator	<a href="mailto:suzykq@mchsi.com">suzykq@mchsi.com</a>
George Pepper, Maintenance	<a href="mailto:gpepper@bethellewes.org">gpepper@bethellewes.org</a>
Bill Gaskill, Custodian	<a href="mailto:chillydgz@aol.com">chillydgz@aol.com</a>
Kathy Pepper, Bethel Christian School	<a href="mailto:bethelpepper@yahoo.com">bethelpepper@yahoo.com</a>

Bethel United Methodist Church

129 West Fourth St., Lewes, DE 19958

Phone: (302) 645-9426 Fax: (302) 645-0976

Email: [office@bethellewes.org](mailto:office@bethellewes.org) Website: [www.bethellewes.org](http://www.bethellewes.org)

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.



Leaders for Today’s Service

Greeters:	8:00	Linda Gillen
	9:15	Kevin White
	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	John Hammett
	9:15	Ray Davis
	11:00	John Andalora
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: November 30, 2025: 371 ( 8:00-64; 9:15-200; 11:00-107)

Contributions for November 30, 2025

weekly deposit	\$ 23,162.90
weekly budget	\$ 16,461.43
YTD collection	\$ 735,132.33
YTD budget	\$ 790,148.64



To enroll, click on the “Giving” tab on the Church’s website.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Handel's Messiah Concert!** Join the Southern Delaware Chorale and the Southern Delaware Orchestra for Handel’s Messiah, a beloved Christmas tradition celebrating faith and joy through music. The concert will be presented on Dec. 13 at 7 p.m. & Dec. 14 at 3 p.m. at Cape Henlopen High School in Lewes. Visit [southerndelawarechorale.org/tickets](https://southerndelawarechorale.org/tickets) for tickets and details.

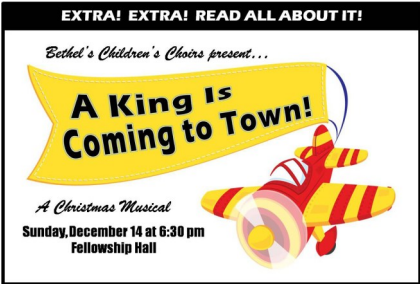


**Bethel’s Food Ministries**  
Cold Weather Sheltering programs will begin 12/1/25  
Contact for both programs is Cathie Wagner at [ccwgr@aol.com](mailto:ccwgr@aol.com)



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

- Go to: [www.bethellewes.org](http://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.



**Save the Date for the Christmas Musical!** On Sunday, December 14th at 6:30 pm, Bethel's children's choirs will be presenting a rockin' Christmas musical entitled, "A King Is Coming to Town." The King's Kids, "J" Crew, and even some members of the Youth Music Ministry look forward to sharing a delightful (if not slightly unconventional!) evening of music and drama that will help us all truly understand just WHO the King of Kings is and why He came. Admission is free, but all are encouraged to bring an item to be donated to the Cape Henlopen Food Pantry as their "price" of admission. Thanks in advance!



## Bethel Staff Christmas Appreciation Gift

In a world where integrity and values matter more than ever, our Bethel staff: Pastor Jim/Earle, Sandy, Joyce, Todd, Ray, Katie, Cindi, Laura, George, & Bill collectively stand as shining examples. Our church is truly blessed with their devotion and dedication and incredible commitment to serve. Employee appreciation plays a significant role in shaping a positive workplace culture. When employees feel valued and recognized for their contribution there is a positive catalyst... Gratitude and praise can arrive in many forms so the choices are numerous.

The time period is here when the congregation has an opportunity to demonstrate an appreciation for the Bethel staff for all that they do. You may include them in your prayers, thank them in person, send a note, or make a donation. You may make a donate online or drop it in offering plate. If making a check please note in memo for staff appreciation or by cash please indicate on envelope. Donations will be collected through December 24th.

Since my position as Chair of Staff Pastor Relations Committee (SPRC), which is the personnel department of our church, the staff has assisted the committee far beyond normal expectations. The Bethel staff is a stimulus and testimony for the Bethel reputation. Regardless of the challenges faced and there are many their optimism is sincerely contagious within the staff. The only way to do great work is to love what you do. Thank you for loving what you do, and doing it so well.

Thank you for going above and beyond every day. Your work doesn't go unnoticed.



Bud Frampton/Chair

## NOTE SHEET

### Note Sheet

### “The Christmas Gift of Freedom”

Matthew 11:1-11

12/7/25

1. \_\_\_\_\_ allows us to be the people God created us to be.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ came into the world to bring us freedom.
3. Jesus' ministry brought a \_\_\_\_\_ kind of freedom.
4. Jesus also knew that one of the most important things his disciples were supposed to do is “\_\_\_\_\_ the good news.”
5. But the reality is, the more we \_\_\_\_\_, the more we become \_\_\_\_\_ to it.
6. In sum, 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 3:17 promises, “Where the Spirit of the \_\_\_\_\_ is, there is freedom.”
7. We are to help bring about the \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus promises to the world.

Scripture reading for further reflection: Matthew 3:1-12, John 8:31-38, 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 3.

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





“We envision a world where death and disease caused by unsafe drinking water are eliminated and communities are lifted out of extreme poverty through the power of clean water.”



Lifetime Wells International was formed by the merger of two organizations with a heart to provide safe water to the people of Africa.

After working together for several years, it became clear that two like-minded organizations could accomplish more together than each could on their own.

In 2017, Lifetime Wells For Ghana (Ken Wood, Founder) and Wells for Relief (David Powell, Founder) combined efforts, and Lifetime Wells International was born.

Since 2006, Lifetime Wells International has drilled over 3,300 water wells, rehabilitated dilapidated hand pumps, installed mechanized wells, and extended water mains to deliver clean water.

They educate communities on the benefits of clean water and sanitation and educate local leaders who ensure proper maintenance and repairs are performed.

