



Dear Bethel Family,

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." (Luke 1:41-42)



In the days leading up to the birth of Jesus, the Holy Spirit and the angel Gabriel were working overtime. Elizabeth (Mary's cousin) and Zechariah could not have children and were told by Gabriel that they would have a son John who would be filled with the Holy Spirit. Then the angel came to Mary and told her that even though she is a virgin, she will, by the power of the Holy Spirit, bear a child who will be Jesus, Son of God.

In our gospel for Sunday, Mary visits Elizabeth (6 months pregnant) and the Holy Spirit within her recognizes what God is up to with Mary. We will ponder all this and more on Sunday, when we will also have special presentations from our Confirmation youth and Kid Connection children.

**Blessings,  
Pastor Ben Sandin**

## December 22 4th Sunday of Advent

*message given by Pr. Ben Sandin*

8:45am - Traditional Worship  
10:45am - Contemporary Worship



[Click here to see the bulletins](#)

## The Week Ahead at Bethel

### Sunday, December 22

8:45am - Traditional Worship Service with Confirmands' "Keep Christ in Christmas"

9:30am - Confirmation Class

9:50am - Kid Connection Sunday School

9:50am - Sr High Gathering

10:45am - Contemporary Worship Service with Kid Connection's "Christ is Born in Bethlehem"

2:00pm - Ice Skating, Caroling, Pizza

### Monday, December 23

9:00am - Men of Monday

9:15am - Quilters

## Tuesday, December 24, Christmas Eve

10am-1pm Office Open  
5:00pm - Family Themed Christmas Eve  
9:00pm - Traditional Themed Christmas Eve

## Wednesday, December 25, Christmas

Office Closed

## Thursday, December 26

Office Closed

## Friday, December 27

5:30pm - Young Adult Meet-Up

## Saturday, December 28



## Bethel Staff Meeting

Click on the adjacent image and watch a clip from the December 3 staff meeting.

## End of Year Giving

Please consider making a December contribution to help keep Bethel's ministries and outreach thriving in 2025. The stock market has been doing really well and you'll have no capital gain tax on donated stock. All gifts received or postmarked by December 31, 2024 will be included on your 2024 Statement of Contributions for tax purposes. Please contact Fara in the church office if you have questions about end of year giving.

## Church Office Hours During Holiday Weeks

The church office will be closed from Tuesday, December 24 through Wednesday, January 1. Regular office hours will resume on Thursday, January 2. End of year check gifts can be dropped in the church mail slot or postmarked by December 31.

## 2025 Offering Envelopes

If you use Offering Envelopes for giving, then you may pick up your 2025 envelopes from the back of the Sanctuary on Sundays, December 8-22. After December 22, the envelopes may be picked up at the church office. If you use automated giving and no longer need offering envelopes, contact Mary Deutscher.

## Ice Skating, Caroling, Pizza

Sunday, December 22 at 2pm-7pm

All ages are welcome to our annual Ice Skating/Caroling/Pizza extravaganza. We'll start out skating at the quaint outdoor rink at Winterlodge in Palo Alto. Then we'll bring some Christmas Cheer to some Bethel loved ones that can't get out, and finish with some yummy pizza from Tony & Albas. See all the details and sign up [here](http://www.bethelcupertino.org).



Confirmation Students present:

## "Keep Christ in Christmas"

Sunday, December 22  
at the 8:45am Worship Service



## Confirmation Christmas Program

Sunday, December 22  
at the 8:45am service

Be sure to see the Confirmands in their Christmas Program 2024 "Keep Christ in Christmas."



## Kid Connection Christmas Program

Sunday, December 22  
at the 10:45am service

And, don't miss our Kid Connection kids acting out the Nativity Story "Christ is Born in Bethlehem", with Amanda narrating.

## Got \$5K Ideas?

Submit by Tuesday, January 14

The Bethel Endowment Committee requests your ideas as to potential uses of up to \$5,000 from the endowment account. Suitable projects must be in the areas of Outreach, Education, or Charitable Work. The Committee is requesting new and visionary ideas. If you have an idea or proposal, please reach out to the endowment committee.



## Christmas Eve Worship Services

Tuesday, December 24 at 5pm & 9pm

This Christmas Eve honor and celebrate the birth of Jesus at one or both candle lighting services. At 5pm, celebrate with a family theme as you sing with and listen to the Worship Team, led by Clayton Johnson. At 9pm, celebrate in a traditional, more meditative style, with traditional music, led by Melody Wright. Nursery will be available at the 5pm service.

## Young Adult Meet Up

December 27, at 5:30pm in the Youth Room

Meet for kicks and giggles. Bring friends if you wish. Contact Harumy Miura for more information.



2025



## NEW: Knitting Ministry

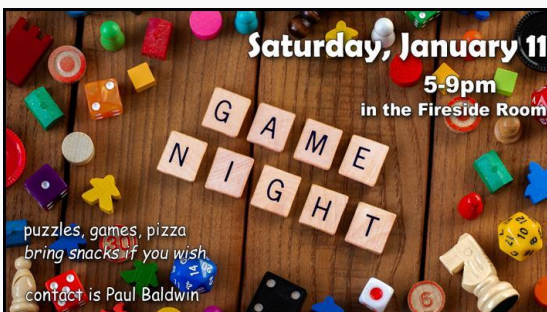
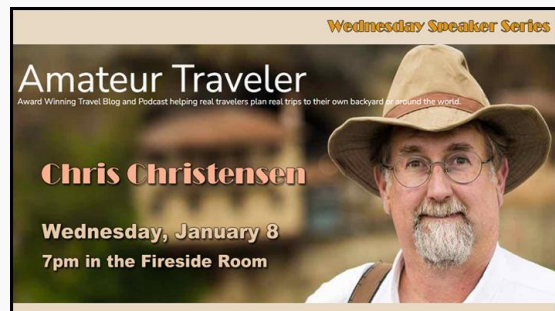
(Kids may also crochet)

Do you like to knit? How about crochet? Ellen Aist is starting a new knitting ministry, in January, to make hats for the unhoused. Yarn, and loom for crocheting, will be provided. If you would like to be part of this ministry, contact Ellen Aist or Amanda Laughlin.

## Wednesday Speaker Series

January 8, at 7pm in the Fireside Room

Chris Christensen will share what he has learned from his many years of travel for his podcast "The Amateur Traveler."



## Out 'n About Plays Games at Bethel

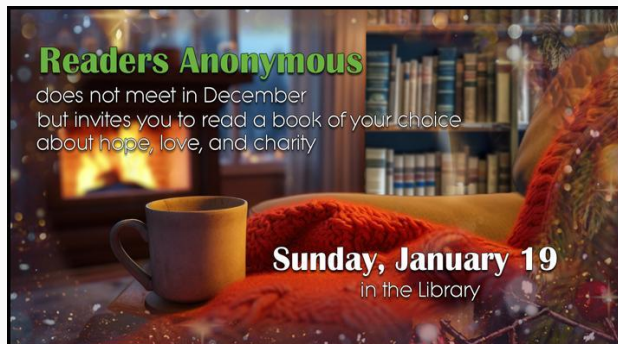
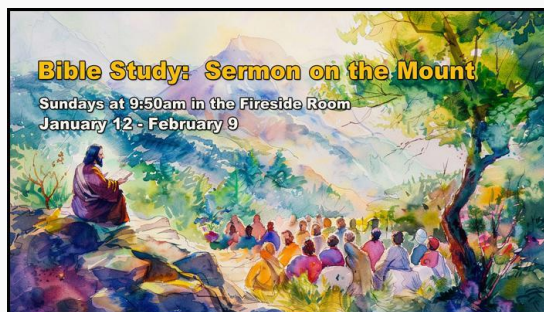
Saturday, January 11, 5-9pm

All are invited to come to the Fireside Room for a Game Night. Bring your favorite board game and/or puzzle and we'll figure out which ones we are going to play. Pizza is provided but feel free to bring snacks. Contact is Paul Baldwin.

## Sunday Bible Study: Sermon on the Mount

January 12-February 9, at 9:50am  
in the Fireside Room

Pastor Ben will lead a 5 week Bible Study on Jesus' famous Sermon on the Mount on Sundays. For more information contact Pastor Ben for any questions.



## Readers Anonymous

Sunday, January 19 at 1:30pm,  
Library

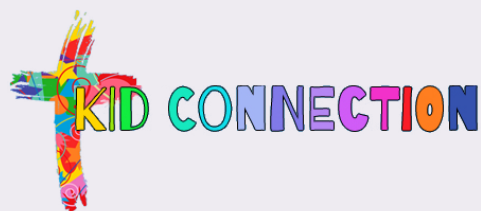
We will not meet in December, but for this month's book selection, please select a book of your own choosing about the season of hope, love, and charity. Our next meeting will be Sunday, January 19, 2025 at 1:30 in the Library.

## 9th Annual Chili Cookoff

Sunday, January 26, noon-1:30pm,  
Torvend Hall

It's time again for the Annual Chili Cook Off, so let's get cookin'! Whether you are 'in it to win it' with your best recipe, or just comin' for the great eats, RSVP via your bulletin insert (in January) and/or contact Mary Deutscher.

Break out your western wear and please bring a side dish, bread or dessert to share. We will provide chili toppings, chips, and beverages. Volunteers are needed for set up/clean up.



**Sunday School**  
Preschool-1st Grade Group  
**Children's Choir**  
3rd-5th Grade Group  
**Parent Fellowship**

## Kid Connection Sunday School (for ages Preschool-5th grade)

**Sunday, December 22 - Kid Connection Christmas Program** at the 10:45am service  
Meet at 9:50am for dress rehearsal. Our kids will be acting out the Nativity Skit "Christ is Born in Bethlehem," while Amanda narrates. Our Children's Choir will sing and there will be an opportunity for younger children and for those who are not in the choir to sing as well. We will be practicing during Kid Connection time.

**Sunday, December 22 - Kid Connection Hang Out (ages Preschool-5th grade) 11:45am-2pm in Room 1**  
Your child(ren) will hang out with Amanda so that you can go out to lunch and or do whatever you find helpful. Lunch is provided for children. A free will donation is appreciated to help offset the cost of lunch. RSVP to Amanda.

**Sunday, December 29 - no Kid Connection Sunday School.**

### **Children's Choir (ages 2nd grade and older)**

**Sundays, December 22 - At 9:30am Children's Choir meets in the Fireside Room to rehearse for the Christmas Program, then head over to the Kid Connection classrooms at 9:50 for the dress rehearsal.**

*For more information and to receive the Kid Connection emails, contact Amanda Laughlin.*



### **Confirmation (6th, 7th, 8th graders)**

Always a challenge this time of year ... to keep Christ in Christmas. Our Confirmands will share a short look at that challenge - keeping Christ in Christmas.

*For more information about the Confirmation program at Bethel, contact Robyn Winegardner.*



### **Sr. High Students**

#### **Sundays**

9:50am - Sr High Gathering

#### **Wednesdays at 6:30pm**

Sr High dinner and fellowship

*For more information on Sr. High activities and to get on the email list,*

*contact Tom Hoegel.*

### **Your Giving**

Here are the monthly Benevolence Giving Reports:

<https://www.bethelcupertino.org/insideBethel/index.php#Benevolence>

#### **Ways to give to Bethel:**

Contact Fara Brock in the church office at 408-252-8500  
or visit <https://www.bethelcupertino.org/giving>

***For more information on Bethel Cupertino  
visit [bethelcupertino.org](https://www.bethelcupertino.org)***

Lead Pastor: Pastor Ben Sandin  
Council President: Doreen Baldwin  
Congregational Life: Tom Hoegel  
Adult Ministry: Mary Deutscher  
Children's Ministry: Amanda Laughlin  
Business Administrator: Fara Brock

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