

BETHEL BIBLE CHURCH

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THE BETHEL CONNECTION

December 23, 2020

O Holy night! The stars are brightly shining
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
'Til He appears and the soul felt its worth
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn
Fall on your knees; O hear the Angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born
O night, O Holy night, O night divine!



Merry Christmas Bethel Church Family!

This Christmas song, written in France in the mid-1800's, is a favorite for many as it so clearly and compellingly communicates the truth of the Christmas story. The appeal to 'fall on your knees' is so fitting and appropriate – we find ourselves wanting to do so as we are again overwhelmed with the grace of God expressed in Christ's coming. The phrase in this song that seems to catch and represent the heartbeat of many this year is 'a thrill of hope the weary world rejoices.' Many of us come to our Christmas celebration weary and in need of hope.

Our prayer for everyone in our Bethel family is that your hope in Christ will be refreshed and renewed during these days. We pray that God will meet you in powerful ways as you seek him through time in his word and prayer. We anticipate that God will renew our joy and warm our love for him as we hear and reflect on the coming of Jesus, the Son of the Most High – the one who will reign forever! On behalf of our Elders, Deacons, and staff we hope and pray that you will have a wonderful holiday season.

Praise the Lord for his generosity seen in the generosity of God's people! The past few weeks have been an amazing time of giving around here. Our Christmas offering came in over \$12,000 which will be used to help meet needs of pastors in Ecuador, vulnerable children and families in Pulaski County and several in our church family with unexpected needs. Many of you helped provide gifts for families and children at Baptist Children's Home as well as a few local families. Several helped get out to our elderly and shut-in folks to encourage them by caroling and a visit. I have heard from many who have been on the receiving end how grateful and encouraged in the Lord they are. Thank you for all you have done in Jesus name.

We are looking forward to our Christmas Eve gathering at 6 PM in the parking lot on FM 91.3 or in the church sanctuary if you want to come indoors. We will enjoy a special time of singing and testimonies celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior.

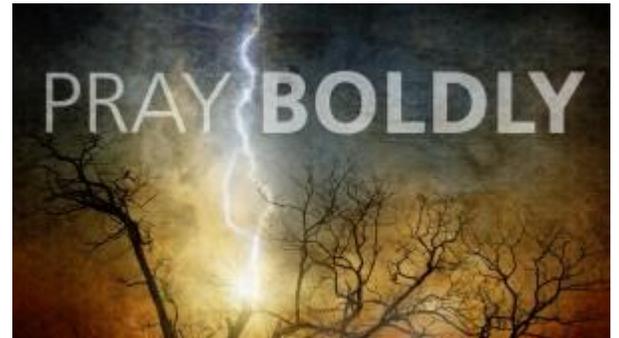
Remember, we will not gather for services on Sundays December 27th and January 3rd. Given the recent bump in infection rates after the Thanksgiving holiday, we believe it is prudent to take these Sundays off to protect our church family as many may find themselves in various settings celebrating Christmas and New Year's. Recorded sermons will be available on our website by Sunday morning (video may be a bit later). We look forward to gathering again on Sunday January 10th.

Bethel Prayer Concerns

- Dorothy Nice, mother of Mike Schultz, went home to be with the Lord this past week. Pray for God's peace for the family this Christmas season.
- Please remember Joie, the granddaughter of Bob & Carrie Fritz in your prayers. She has been diagnosed with a severe case on mono and then Covid on top of that. She is currently in the hospital at LaPorte and not doing very well. Pray for peace during this time. Thankful for the technology to be able to communicate with her during this time as she is not allowed visitors. Pray for strength to return to her body.
- Please remember those who have recently lost loved ones: Budd family with the loss of Ruth Budd, Miller family with the loss of Gregg Inskeep, Leman family with the loss of Howard Leman
- Continue in prayer for Chris Shell as he struggles with his Lyme disease.
- Continue in prayer for Brad Garling. Pray for good health; pray that God would guard his mind.
- Pray for our Associate Pastor search process. The McKays, Hines, Bungers and Whipples are serving as a search committee. There is a conversation that started recently with an individual. Ask God to direct our paths as we gather resumes, get to know possible candidates and discern what He would have us do in this important process.

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 4:16



Reminders:

- **There are no in-person services 12/27/20 and 1/3/20. Sermons will be available on the website by Sunday mornings.**
- **BBC Semi-annual Business meeting will be held Wednesday, January 20 at 7 pm.**

Holiday Hours:

Melody will be in the office Monday through Wednesday next week, from 9 am to noon. We are available by cell/text/email throughout the rest of the week.