

A Mini-Messenger

DECEMBER 2020

The Hopes and Fears of all the Years Advent Services

Our Advent theme comes from a line in “O Little Town of Bethlehem”—“*The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.*” For our Advent Wednesday Evening services, we will bring our dreams, our brokenness, and our grief to Jesus. On Dec. 2, 9, and 16, we will gather on Zoom at 7pm. Then after the online service has ended and at approximately 7:30pm, those who are interested can gather at our outdoor Nativity as we continue our prayer and prepare the manger with evergreens (representing our God-inspired dreams), straw (representing our brokenness and fragility), and bands of cloth (representing our grief). There in the manger, Jesus meets our hopes and fears of all the years with love and mercy. *Please be sure to wear masks.* Join us this holy season.

Family Advent Activity

Families are invited to pick up an Advent Activity bag at Bethany’s middle entrance on Lincoln Street. Each day offers a simple question for reflection. Just like our Advent theme, our children will bring their hopes and fears of all the years to Jesus.

Spreading Christmas Cheer

For many years, our homebound members have been remembered each Christmas with a plate of Christmas goodies. This year we’re altering the plan. Can you send a Christmas card to each of our homebound members? Let’s shower them with some love and Christmas cheer!

Ginny & Jim Connelly / 603 Singer Ave / Lemont

Marie Heeren / 101 Wayne St / Michigan City, IN / 46360

Frank & Nancy Iwan / 12224 Spire Ave / Lemont

Eleanor Johnson / The Addison of Pleasant Prairie / 9651 Prairie Ridge Blvd / Pleasant Prairie, WI 53158

Norma Johnson / Alvernia Manor / 13950 Main St / Lemont

Vivian Tiemeier / 379 Bloomfield Circle East / Oswego, IL / 60543

Drive-by Living Nativity

In this very special event, Bethany members will bring the story of Jesus’ birth to life with a Drive-by Living Nativity on Sunday, December 13 from 4-6pm. With Mary and Joseph in a stable, shepherds in the field with the flocks, and the Wise Men coming from afar, the words of scripture will lift off the page and come to life. Please join us and invite your friends, family, and neighbors! This is a gift to our community so it’s free for all! As this is a drive-by event, all guests should remain in their car. For the best view, traffic will flow south (or up the hill) on Lemont St.

Service of Longest Night

Join us on Zoom on Monday, December 21 at 7pm for our Service of Longest Night. During this worship service, we offer sacred space for our grief and lament. This year, maybe more than ever, we need a place to name our losses and hear the promise of God who comes to us in our sorrow. All are welcome. This is a great service to share with friends and family.

The No-Sausage Potato Sausage Fundraiser

The men's Annual Potato Sausage Fundraiser was another casualty of the pandemic. Please consider giving a gift to the Cemetery Fund for the amount you would spend for the purchase of potato sausage.

Christmas Eve Worship

Join us on Zoom at 5pm on December 24 for Christmas Eve worship. Following the online service, those who are interested are invited to gather around Bethany's outdoor Nativity for prayer, candles, and "Silent Night." *Please be sure to wear masks.*

Calendar

Wed., Dec. 2	The Hopes and Fears of all the Years—Our God-inspired Dreams 7pm Advent Evening Prayer on Zoom Followed by Prayer around the Manger
Sun., Dec. 6	10am Children's Zoom Gathering 10:30am Worship
Wed., Dec. 9	The Hopes and Fears of all the Years—Our Brokenness and Fragility 7pm Advent Evening Prayer on Zoom Followed by Prayer around the Manger
Sun., Dec. 13	10:30am Worship 4-6pm Drive-by Living Nativity
Mon., Dec. 14	Children's Christmas Video Clips due to Pr. Elaina/Eamon
Wed., Dec. 16	The Hopes and Fears of all the Years—Our Grief and Sorrow 7pm Advent Evening Prayer on Zoom Followed by Prayer around the Manger
Sun., Dec. 20	10:30am Worship
Mon., Dec. 21	7pm Service of Longest Night on Zoom
Thurs., Dec. 24	5pm Christmas Eve Worship on Zoom Followed by Prayer around the Manger
Sun., Dec. 27	10:30am Service of Lessons and Carols provided by Metropolitan Chicago Synod

Christmas 2020 Memorial Form

I would like to give a **MEMORIAL** or a **GIFT**:

A Memorial/Gift of \$_____

directed to the _____ Fund

In loving memory/or in honor of



_____ given by _____

Memorials can be mailed to the Church Office or submitted via Vanco noting who the gift is in memory/honor of. Please submit memorials by December 17. If you have questions, please contact Marge at 630-257-7953.