

Stay Tuned to Bethel



A publication for viewers of
Worship at Bethel



The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee,
and give thee peace. *Numbers 6:26*



Prayers for peace in 2016

While we take time to enjoy the holidays with family, friends and neighbors, it is difficult to ignore the mounting violence and unrest taking place around the world. As we move into the new year, let us remember to keep peace, kindness and love at the center of our prayers. God bless you this holiday season and throughout the new year!



Happy holidays from Bethel's pastoral staff

*Back: Joe Brosious (Congregational Outreach), Scot Sorensen (Senior Pastor), John Swanson (Congregational Life) and Paul Petersen (Bethel Horizons).
Front: Antonio Cabello (Latino Ministries).*

Our pastors share their thoughts on peace



I see peace as a gift that we may not deserve or even always appreciate, yet that is provided to us by God. And we experience it only when our self-imposed walls are broken down, allowing us to be connected with neighbors near and far as we together live hopefully and graciously.

Pastor John Swanson

(Read more inside)

Gifts and memorials help share God's word

Gift / memorial summary

Aug. 16 – Nov. 15, 2015

Total contributions \$23,407

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Pastors share their thoughts on peace, continued from page 1



A cold day, as I drove my child to school, a house in the neighborhood was on fire. I stopped and talked to the family who was observing (with panic) as the fire department secured the premises. It was a brief moment with a family in distress. A year later, I was buying groceries. The mother of the family came and thanked me: *I knew when you showed up, that everything would be OK. I knew that God was watching over us, and I was at peace.*

The presence of other believers had the powerful force of God's face. Words and discourses are unnecessary when our presence of compassion can communicate God's love. As I recall that incident, peace comes in the face of strife and discontent. Peace is a promise fulfilled in unexpected ways. Peace is not the absence of issues great and small, peace is the presence of God in the midst of spiritual and physical war and despair. God's presence cannot be fake or mistaken – it is always awesome and fearless.

Pastor Antonio Cabello



Peace to me is like the fleeting memory of a dream that disappears in the fog of a brand new morning. I used to believe there were just reasons to fight for peace through the use of force. But I was confusing a global sense of peace with the importance of self peace that is present in Christ's ministry.

Nearly 20 times throughout the gospels Jesus speaks of peace, he tells those he has healed, the lame and the leapers, to "go in peace," (Mk 5:34). He instructs his disciples to let their "peace" rest upon a home when He sends them out two by two (Mt 10:13). He commands the wind and raging seas with the words "Peace! Be still" (Mk 4:39) His first words to his followers after the resurrection are "peace be with you," (Jn 20:19). We cannot follow Jesus if we are not at peace with ourselves and at peace with our neighbor, with the person in front of us. As we make our way in the world, being a part of the body of Christ means bringing peace into the places we enter. As far as world peace goes, Jesus said he didn't come to bring peace to the world, but rather a message of love, and tolerance and selflessness which is as dangerous today as it was back then.

I think each Christmas season Jesus calls to us with the words from Luke's gospel saying "If you...had only recognized on this day the things that make for peace" (19:42)! We continually look to our leaders to bring peace when the answer is right in front of us in the life and teachings of our Lord and Savior, who gives peace not as the world gives, but gives lasting peace in the form of a loving God who came to dwell among us! Peace be with you this season of Advent!

Pastor Joe Brosious

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Memorials were given by these non-members:

In memory of Margaret Heitman
 by Elaine Buchanan

In memory of Vernice Schreier
 by Gloria Stange

In memory of Milt Sunde
 by William & June Kumpf

In honor of Naomi & Owen Bekkum's 14th anniversary
 by Marilyn Knutson

In memory of Glen & Ardene Smith
 by Cindy

In honor of Bev & Dr. Mike Thom's 22nd anniversary
 by Marilyn Knutson



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Sponsored telecasts

- ◆ **Aug. 30: In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Harold Johnson** by their daughter, Susan D. Morton
- ◆ **Sept. 27 and Oct. 4: May God, the sower, make your soil good and fertile.** Given by Laverne & Betty Forest
- ◆ **Oct. 18: In memory of my wife, Patricia Soberg** by Donald Soberg

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*Viewers: Although the telecast is no longer aired
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Bethel Lutheran Church calendar

2015-16 Sundays	First Reading	Second Reading	Gospel
December 62 Advent	Mal. 3:1-4	Phil. 1:3-11	Luke 3:1-6
December 133 Advent	Zeph. 3:14-20	Phil. 4:4-7	Luke 3:7-18
December 204 Advent	Micah. 5:2-5a	Heb. 10:5-10	Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)
December 271 Christmas	1 Sam. 2:18-20, 26	Col. 3:12-17	Luke 2:41-52
January 32 Christmas	Jer. 31:7-14	Eph. 1:3-14	John 1:(1-9) 10-18
January 10Baptism of Our Lord	Isa. 43:1-7	Acts 8:14-17	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
January 172 Epiphany	Isa. 62:1-5	1 Cor. 12:1-11	John 2:1-11
January 243 Epiphany	Neh. 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10	1 Cor. 12:12-31a	Luke 4:14-21
January 314 Epiphany	Jer. 1:4-10	1 Cor. 13:1-13	Luke 4:21-30
February 7Transfiguration of Our Lord	Exod. 34:29-35	2 Cor. 3:12-4:2	Luke 9:28-36 (37-43a)
February 141 Lent	Deut. 26:1-11	Rom. 10:8b-13	Luke 4:1-13
February 212 Lent	Gen. 15:1-12, 17-18	Phil. 3:17-4:1	Luke 13:31-35
February 283 Lent	Isa. 55:1-9	1 Cor. 10:1-13	Luke 13:1-9

