

Bethelite

A publication of Bethel Lutheran Church distributed twice monthly.



bethelmadison.org/bethelite

CHRISTMAS AT BETHEL

December 22
4th Sat in Advent
5pm; Sanctuary

December 23
4th Sun in Advent
NO 7:45AM WORSHIP
9am & 11:15am

Christmas Eve
Candlelight
Worship
3pm & 5pm **Family Service**
7pm & 9pm **Traditional**
Worship & Carols
Telecast at 10pm WKOW-27

Christmas Day
Worship 10am

December 29-30
Regular Worship Schedule



BETHEL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

We wish you the blessings of Immanuel: God-with-us.

This greeting comes from your Bethel Lutheran Pastoral Staff:
Pastors: John Swanson, Margo Martens, Roger Black; Deacon Lisa Huber.

“What do I want for Christmas?
I want to kneel in Bethlehem, the air thick with alleluias,
the angels singing that God is born among us.
In the light of the Star, I want to see them come:
the wise ones and the humble, bearing whatever they treasure
to lay at the feet of Him who gives us life.

What do I want for Christmas?
To see in that stable, the whole world kneeling in thanks
for God’s promise kept: new life.
For in his nativity, we find ours.

–Ann Weems, Kneeling in Bethlehem

Thanks for each one of you and your partnership in our ministry, as we continue our walk toward the Babe in the manger and finally kneel in homage and prayer to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. For these next few days, we, as your pastoral staff, will focus immediately and primarily on offering meaningful and faithful worship events and projects for the Advent/Christmas season.

God gives us the immeasurable gift of love and acceptance and forgiveness through the eternal ministries of Jesus. We, in turn, pass these gifts along to everyone we meet. We, as grateful recipients of God’s gifts have one task: to let these gifts flow through us to people who do not have the basics of food, shelter and clothing, whether through our financial offerings, and/or our contributions of ‘winter hats and gloves’, as well as ‘Giving Hope for the Holidays’, or our Food Pantry. We are blessed to BE God’s blessing in God’s world.

Thanks for the kindness of your gifts, cards and notes. Please know that we are always available to you for time of conversation. May Jesus bless you, now and always. 🌈

Resettlement Ministry Update

On this, the eighth anniversary of our ministry with our Bhutanese Community, it is with great pleasure that we bring you an update on their progress and say thank you to the people of Bethel for all things great and small that you have done to welcome them, assist them, guide them and now, stand beside them as members of our Bethel congregation.

In late 2010, Bethel sent a staff member to a meeting called by the Bishop to talk about a refugee crisis emerging in Nepal where seven U.N. refugee camps were being closed. The United Nations had declared officially that there was no longer hope of repatriation for thousands of ethnic Nepali people who had been systematically cleansed from Bhutan. For years and indeed for some a life-time, these people had been living in U.N. refugee camps. With no hope of reclaiming their lands, the U.N. began closing the camps.

We knew nothing about Bhutan, the people, or what was expected of a “sponsoring church”. We had no designated committee to do this, we had no money to do this and we didn’t know HOW to do this. But we felt called...and we learned fast!

After the Synod meeting Anita Grue asked her Circle if they would sponsor one family.

Answer: yes. Our first family arrived on October 21 of 2010. Almost overnight, Grace Circle collected enough furniture, bedding, supplies and food our first family could be welcomed to a small furnished apartment supplied with everything from paper towels to real towels and toothpaste. Our second family arrived in December of that year, the third family in February shortly thereafter. Our 17th family arrived in October of 2016. Many we have helped settle are family to others and family is everything to them.

Over the years, we learned a lot. This ministry and the number of people needed to support it grew. We formed a committee! And the people of Bethel gave...funds, supplies, a welcoming smile, a ride to a medical appointment, help reading instructions, support enrolling children in school, jobs, a Bible study translated into Nepali, a place for our new (surprise, Christian!) friends to worship. And the people of Bethel received...introduction to a faith-centered, family oriented, communal culture of warm, modest, open hearted people anxious to share their new life and give new opportunities to their children.

Today our Community looks like this:

- 95 people we count among The Community; this includes families and individuals we have officially sponsored and additional people they have brought to Bethel through connections in the large Bhutanese community of Madison;
- Included in these 95 are:
 - 34 school-age or younger children (including a high honor roll achiever at West High who did not know a word of English until she was nine years old!)
 - 8 elders
- All of our married couples are two wage-earner families except two with stay-at-home moms of less than 2-year old babies;



- 19 are homeowners (living in a house owned by their family)
- 7 children are naturally born U.S. citizens (since 2010)
- 8 adults are naturalized adult U.S. Citizens (studied in English and passed the test!)
- 2 are possibly interested in going into the ministry full time

In the near future we hope to continue supporting them as friends, more than “assisting” them. They have worked hard and, if anything, perhaps Bethel can especially support those next generation Americans who will need guidance and connections in plotting out their post-secondary education opportunities. To a person, the parents will tell you that they came here for their children.

Note: For most of its existence, the Bethel Resettlement Committee has been comprised of these people: Anita Grue, Mary Lou Tyne, Larry and Ann Veleke, Jeff and Maureen Bittner, Susan Stein, Carmen Grue and her husband Mark Thompson. Each brought special talents and used them exactly when and where needed the most. In 2015, through Intersity Christian Fellowship (and a miracle) Bijay Lama and his wife Andrea joined our happy band and Bijay has since been employing his native Nepali language in translating Bethel events, preaching the Word in Nepali, and coordinating the faith life of The Community. At each juncture, the people of Bethel supported us. Thank you. 🌈

GREETER & USHER APPRECIATION BRUNCH

Saturday, January 12

11am - 1pm

Brunch and a program will be provided in appreciation for serving in this ministry. All ushers and greeters are invited to attend with spouses/significant others. Anyone interested in serving in these ministries are also invited to attend.

You are invited to join us as we:

- Appreciate and affirm the importance of those serving in the roles of usher and greeter at Bethel.
- Underscore the value of God's call to serve in these roles in sharing the gifts of compassion, hospitality and service to God's people.
- Offer the opportunity to share with one another the positive outcomes of this ministry and to ask for feedback/recommendations to strengthen the ministry. We will breakout in groups for brainstorming.
- A video featuring Bethel ushers and greeters will be shown to celebrate the work of this ministry.

Join us for Food, Fun and Celebration

Please RSVP by Jan 9: <https://tinyurl.com/y93examy>

Email Deacon Lisa at lisabethel-madison.org

OR call the church office 608.257.3577

Hosted by the Community Ministry Team

Jesus said, "The greatest among you will be your servant. For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted."

(Matthew 23:11-12) 🌈



I am a senior at the University of Wisconsin-Madison studying economics and minoring in environmental studies. After graduating from school I would love to pursue a career in business development, sales, or finance in the renewable energy industry.

Outside of school, I am an avid fisherman, hunter, and outdoor enthusiast. I also enjoy playing basketball and working out in my free time as well. For service, I have enjoyed helping out at the homeless shelter, Olbrich Botanical Gardens, and the salvation army.

—Brad Quinn

Drew comes from Mount Pleasant, Michigan, graduating from Central Michigan University with a bachelors in Biomedical Sciences, moving to Madison following college because of opportunities in the biotech field. He currently works for Exact Sciences in their technical lab. During free time, he likes to volunteer, travel, catch live music or simply be outdoors. 🌈



L-R: Drew Roy and Brad Quinn

Drew and Brad helped prepare and serve the Thanksgiving lunch for our homeless guests on November 20.



THE "HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESUS" WORSHIP:

Christmas Eve, 3pm and 5pm



We will celebrate Jesus' birthday at 3pm and 5pm on Christmas Eve, complete with a birthday cake!

These two worship events invite the children to full participation, as we gather around the manger.

Of course, when we go to a birthday party, we most often bring gifts with us. This party for Jesus is no different: **if you plan to bring your children** to this 'birthday party', please help them prepare and bring their gifts:

- the bags/boxes of gifts to be share with others in need
- a soft (cuddly-soft, fleece, etc) strip of fabric, (any size or shape or fabric content, approximately 10 "long) which the children will lay in the manger to help make the bed for Jesus to be 'soft and undefiled'. We will have extra strips available at the entrance to the sanctuary.

The Advent Mangers (bags/boxes of gifts) can be placed in the sanctuary before worship. The children will bring their 'strip of fabric' to the manger when they gather around the manger to sing "Happy Birthday" and "Away in a Manger" during worship.

O come, let us adore Him...
Christ the Lord!



Jesus Loves You, Come and Fill the Manger

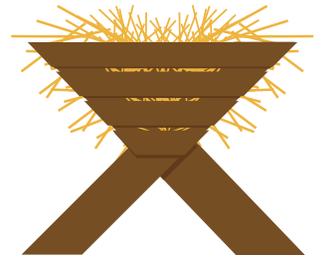
Be sure to pick-up your Advent Calendar and bring your filled manger to worship on Christmas Eve, Sun, Dec 24!

This season, and in all seasons of the year, Jesus comes to us in expected and unexpected ways. We expect the candles, the music, the familiar passage in the gospel of Luke 2. But Jesus meets us in unexpected ways, too. When we help a neighbor who needs transportation. When we're kind to someone who is difficult. When we pay attention to those who are left out. Where have you seen Jesus on your Advent journey? Come, Lord Jesus, we are ready to meet you.

We can see Jesus in our daily lives when we practice noticing. Pay attention with us this Christmas and into the new year. We look forward to journeying in hope, peace, joy & love with you!

We invite you to help our neighbors by bringing donations of new items for our Homeless Ministry with you to worship in your filled mangers on Dec 24:

- warm socks
- thermal underwear
- warm gloves
- hand lotion
- lip balm
- bottled water
- candy
- protein bar
- hand written note with a Bible verse
- gift certificate
- bar soap
- sm. Shampoo/conditioner
- deodorant
- toothbrush/toothpaste
- nail clippers
- popcorn 🍿



If you are unable to make one of our Christmas Eve services please deliver any items to the Pentecost Room on Tuesdays or Thursdays or to the front desk on other days. Thank you.



Capital Campaign Completed



The Capital Campaign that Bethel embarked on in 2014 is successfully completed and paid in full. **Thank You** to the hundreds of families who supported this large endeavor over the past five years. We moved and refurbished the historic Steensland House and are now in the third full rental year. The parking lot was redone and features landscaping and much improved lighting that we didn't previously enjoy. And finally, the interior remodel project utterly transformed our well used main level and significantly improved the choir room on the lower level. Nearly \$3.9 million provided for all of these capital upgrades and all bills are paid. Thanks for your care and generosity to your church, at Christmastime and always. 🌈



—Alice Mowbray
Director of Development



Give Something Unexpected This Christmas



Give something **unexpected** this Christmas.

Join us in giving something unexpected this Christmas! As members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), we believe that God is calling us into the world – together. And with generous, loving hands, we can make a difference. ELCA Good Gifts is your opportunity to provide critical support to the ministries and programs that mean the most to you and the people you love. For more info and to start choosing your gift visit www.elca.org/goodgifts. 🌈

Recent Personnel Changes at Bethel:

- Pam Schellberg begins Jan. 2, 2019 as Director of Lifelong Faith Formation
- Jeff Bittner is now the receptionist at Bethel
- Chris McDowell has moved to a full-time custodial position
- Jerry Buss, Director of Administration and Ministry Support, resigned, effective Dec. 17, 2018.

Eat Right When Money's Tight

FoodShare is a monthly benefit deposited on a debit-like card, the QUEST Card, to help with food purchases, freeing up money for bills, medications and other necessities. *You or someone you care about* may be eligible.

ELIGIBILITY

You **MAY** qualify if your household's gross monthly income is less than...

	\$2,024
	\$2,744
	\$3,464
	\$4,184

Income guidelines are valid through September 30, 2019

\$180 ^{OR MORE} for groceries each year!

APPLYING IS FAST, EASY & CONFIDENTIAL!!

Call **Heidi** at
608-630-3449
or the FOODSHARE HELPLINE
to learn if you might qualify:
(877) 366-3635

Did you know...

- You can have a home, car and savings account.
- Most people receiving just Social Security, and even a small pension, qualify.
- You receiving benefits doesn't take away from anyone else.



The FoodShare Helpline is a service of Feeding Wisconsin and its member food banks.



Simply Giving - Your automatic Vanco Simply Giving gifts will continue to be taken out of your account next year unless you tell us to stop your gifts or change the amount for next year to reflect your pledged gifts. Thanks so much!

Homeless Ministry Christmas Gift Bags - If you would be interested in giving to our homeless friends this Advent season, please consider one or any of the following items listed below to help complete a Christmas gift bag: warm socks, thermal underwear, warm gloves, hand lotion, lip balm, bottled water, candy, protein bar, hand written note with a Bible verse, gift certificate, bar soap, sm. Shampoo/conditioner, deodorant, toothbrush/toothpaste, nail clippers and popcorn. Please deliver any items to the Pentecost Room on Tuesdays and Thursdays or to the front desk on other days. Thank you so very much for your kindness.

Bethel's Homeless Christmas Dinner - As the cold weather descends on us, the number of people seeking services increases and our cost rises commensurate to the demand. We hold an annual Christmas dinner for our guests followed by a worship service in celebration of Christmas. All of what we can do is dependent on the generosity of our congregation and the Madison community. Please prayerfully consider a contribution to Bethel's Homeless Ministry. Thank you.

Bethel's "The Holy Family" Advent Art Show is on display now-Jan 11 in both of Bethel's Art Galleries: Emmaus Room Hallway Gallery and Fireside Gallery. Numerous Advent-themed fine art originals and prints from the Bethel Fine Art Collection pictorially tell the story of The Holy Family.

Men's Current Christian Concerns (Thurs at 7am; Community Rm)
Dec 20 - A Nation's Morality
Dec 27 - What Makes Life Worth Living?

Donate Christmas Cookies for Christmas Eve - We welcome all donations of homemade Christmas cookies between now and Christmas Eve. Cookies should be labeled, securely wrapped and freezable. Your Contact: Heather at heather.rainwater@yahoo.com

CHRISTMAS EVE PARKING - Parking passes will be available for the Carrol Street Ramp on Christmas Eve for the 3pm, 5pm, 7pm and 9pm services. Please take a ticket as you normally would upon entry to the ramp and plan to pick up a parking voucher when you arrive at church. You can use this voucher to pay for your parking upon exiting the ramp. Your normal parking card works only on Sun mornings 7am-1pm.

Filled Advent Mangers (Dec 24) - Be sure to bring your filled manger to worship on Christmas Eve, Sun, Dec 24! If you can't make it to one of our Christmas Eve worship services please drop off at the reception desk during the week. Thanks!

Christmas Day Worship Service (Dec 25) - Join us on Christmas Day at 10am at Bethel for a morning full of music, friendship and good cheer! Pastor John O. Swanson presiding, and featuring music on viola, piano, pipe organ, guitar, and mix of vocal ensembles.

2019 Estimate of Giving - We are beginning the process of developing the 2019 operating budget. As you know, the budget is based on the Estimate of Giving cards. Please join the Financial

Resources Team in returning your completed Estimate of Giving card as soon as possible (blank cards are available at the Reception Desk, should you need one), or you may complete your card online here: www.bethel-madison.org/onlineform. Thank you for your ongoing support of Bethel.

Bethel Horizons Events: Breakfast with the Birds - Join naturalist Eric Volden for an entertaining morning of bird watching and bird lore at Bethel Horizons' Nature Center. A hearty breakfast will be served as Eric identifies birds coming to the feeders and relates bird feeding information and stories. Bring binoculars if you have them, and bird feeding stories to share. To register or for more information contact Eric Volden at 608.574.1992. **Cost:** \$10/adult, \$6/child. **Time:** 9-11am
Dates: Dec 29, Jan 12 & 26, Feb 9 & 23; March 9 & 23 and May 4

Christian Men's Fellowship (Jan 8 - a change from the 1st Tuesday) - Landscapes of Wisconsin – Historic Aerial Photography Discovery and Access Online; Jaime Martindale has been the Map & Geospatial Data Librarian at the Robinson Map Library since 1903. She has a B.S. degree in Biological Aspects of Conservation and an M.A. in Library and Information Science from the UW-Milwaukee. Her interests include geography, landscape architecture, urban & regional planning and library & information studies. The program will offer a historical narrative of aerial photography in Wisconsin with beginnings in 1937 with photographs digitally preserved and now available. She'll highlight the Wisconsin Historic Aerial Image Finder enabling view of the oldest imagery in our state.

Community Meal Program (Jan 14) - Bethel volunteers serve the Community Meal at Luke House, 312 Ingersoll Street, once a month. The next serving date is Jan 14. Please bring your food contributions to Bethel's main kitchen on the Sunday immediately preceding that date OR no later than 10am on the day of serving. *Contact: Janet Johnson at 608.274.6745 or janetjohnson44@mac.com.*

Feed & Read (Jan 14) - Have you attended a church service in another country? Come share your experiences as we discuss author Chad Gibbs experiences going to worship services in 13 countries including Brazil, Spain, England, Russia, India, and Israel. Feed and Read meets early in January – on January 14. We will get together at Noon to have lunch and talk about Jesus without Borders by Chad Gibbs. Bring your sack lunch or a dish to share.



"Drop in the Barrel"
for the Bethel Food Pantry
December: Dish Soap

Steensland Board Needs You - Looking for a way to share your gifts of communication or social media or sales for an apartment rental ministry? Do you like working with students to help them live up to their full potential and build community while volunteering their time? Steensland Board needs you! Please contact Michelle Jolly at mtesnow@yahoo.com or 608.213.7727. Learn more about the ministry at: www.steenslandhouse.org

Steensland House for Rent Starting Aug 16 - The historic Steensland House Apartments has an apartment for rent for 2019-2020

(Available Aug 16, 2019). It is located at 15 W. Gorham St, Madison WI. This 4 bed/1 bath, 1,274 sq/ft apartment includes classic design elements, beautiful crown molding, built in storage, and new appliances. A comfortable living room is perfect for relaxing or entertaining friends. Central AC, heat, internet, water, trash, electricity, and in-unit washer/dryer are included. Rent is \$2,920/month (security deposit is \$2,920). Community service hours are also needed (16 hrs/month). It is close to downtown with everything it offers. We have a parking lot that you may be able to park in for \$240/month (optional). Bike and basement storage is also available.

The gift of a WELCOME BAG! Thanks to the Community Ministry Team, we now offer a 'WELCOME BAG' as a gift to those who are worshipping with us for the first time. These bags are available following each worship service. At our 5pm, Sat worship and at our 11:15am, Sun worship, these Welcome Bags are available in the Pentecost Room. First time worshipers at 7:45am and 9am on Sun, are invited to pick up their Welcome Bag at the reception Desk. Thanks for worshipping with us and 'WELCOME'!

Prayer-Partners for you after the 9am Sunday worship on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month. Members of our Stephen Ministry Team are available to pray with you or simply have a conversation. Look for the blue PRAYER PARTNER name tags in the Emmaus Room after worship.

Reception Desk Help - We are looking for a couple volunteers available weekdays to substitute at the Reception Desk. We would train volunteers on the phone system and daily tasks. If you would like to be one of the friendly faces to welcome folks to Bethel on an occasional basis we would appreciate your time and talents. Contact recep@bethel-madison.org.

The Food Pantry is looking for plastic and cloth grocery bags. Please drop off on the table across from the Food Pantry on the lower level.

Texas Roadhouse Fundraiser - Come in to Texas Roadhouse in Madison every Sunday, with your church bulletin and we will donate 10% of your food purchases back to Bethel each month!

Text to Give - Text "BLC" to 73256 to give.

Bethel Now on Instagram - Scan the image below to follow us!



EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

***Bible Study on Sundays at 10:15am in Room 120

The Narrative Lectionary is a plan that takes you through the Bible, story by story. Developed by a Lutheran Pastor, this plan keeps you centered on God's story each week. We will read and study a story each week, following this plan. Bibles welcome but not necessary. Text will be provided each week. Led by Mimi Troutman

****Bethel's Sunday School Program** - Faith! Family! and Fun! are woven together to help children experience God's grace and love through music, stories, games, and crafts. Prayer, friendship, and building relationships with one another and God are emphasized throughout the morning.

Families attend the 9am worship service together in the sanctuary. During the service, children are encouraged to come forward for a message from a pastor or a church leader. Following the Children's Moment, the children leave with their Sunday School Leaders for a fun morning of JAM ("Jesus And Me!" featuring the day's theme, story, and song), small group classes per age/grade level, and either Choir or Kids Fellowship.

Bethel's Sunday School programming is for children ages 2 (potty training is not necessary - we can help as needed!) - 5th grade. The morning concludes at 11am. Please contact cindy@bethel-madison.org for more details. We look forward to meeting you and your children!

***Bethel HS Youth Group** - 1st & 3rd Sundays, 6:30-8pm. All 9-12th grade youth welcome.

******Middle School Youth** - Confirmation CoreGroups meet 2nd Sun evenings, 6-7:30pm from Sept-May & confirmation classes take place (generally) Sun mornings, 10:15-11:15am in the Game Rm.

***Share your gifts with our youth!** Small group leaders are needed for confirmation (2nd Sun nights, 6:30-8pm), classes (Sun mornings, 10:15-11:15am), and for youth group (1st & 3rd Suns, 6:30-8pm). A young person who knows 10 adults in the congregation and is called by name during their school years is more likely to continue to be part of a church community in college & into adulthood. Join us in building relationships and connecting in faith! No expertise needed, just being human and willing to share in the journey of being a part of God's story with young people. Contact Henry to see what might work for you (so much flexibility, so much fun to be had with our youth!)

***Henry Elling:** henry@bethel-madison.org

****Cindy Terhune Melrose:** cindy@bethel-madison.org

*****Deacon Lisa Huber:** lisa@bethel-madison.org

******Pastor John O. Swanson:** swansonj@bethel-madison.org

VIEW MORE OPPORTUNITIES: www.bethel-madison.org/events



BETHEL

LUTHERAN CHURCH

312 Wisconsin Avenue | Madison, WI 53703

Bethelite (USPS 053-160) Published bi-weekly by Bethel Lutheran Church
608.257.3577 | Email Christal Swigart: christal@bethel-madison.org

4 ADVENT

Pastor Margo R. Martens - Dec 22 at 5pm - Sanctuary
Pastor Margo R. Martens - Dec 23 at 9am - Sanctuary
Pastor Margo R. Martens - Dec 23 at 11:15am - Pentecost

1 CHRISTMAS

Pastor Roger H. Black - Dec 29 at 5pm - Pentecost
Pastor Roger H. Black - Dec 30 at 7:45am & 9am - Sanctuary
Pastor Roger H. Black - Dec 30 at 11:15am - Pentecost

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23

8:00a Coffee Fellowship (Emmaus & Fireside)
Bethel Choir Rehearsal (Choir)
8:30a Childcare provided 8:30am-12:30pm (Nursery)
Library Open (Library)
9:00a Worship Service (Sanctuary)
10:15a Adult Bible Study (Rm 120)
Prayer Partners (Rm 201)
11:15a Worship Service (Pentecost)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24

3:00p Christmas Eve Service - Family
5:00p Christmas Eve Service - Family
7:00p Christmas Eve Service - Traditional & Carols
9:00p Christmas Eve Service - Traditional & Carols
10:00p Christmas Eve Service on Channel 27

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25 - BUILDING CLOSED

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26

No events scheduled

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27

7:00a Current Christian Concerns (Community)
8:00a Second Harvest Delivery
8:30a Homeless Support Services (Pentecost)
6:15p Rebuilding at Bethel (Library, Rm 100 & 120)
7:00p Bethel Choir (Choir)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28

7:00a Men's Friday Book Study (Rm 120)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29

Food Pantry Closed
5:00p Saturday Evening Worship Service (Pentecost)
Bhutanese Worship in Nepali (GS Chapel)

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor John O. Swanson - Acting Lead Pastor
jswanson@bethel-madison.org

Pastor Roger Black - Visitation/Bridge Pastor
roger@bethel-madison.org

Deacon Lisa R. Huber - Director of Pastoral Ministries
lisa@bethel-madison.org

Pastor Margo R. Martens - Worship/Visitation Pastor
margo@bethel-madison.org



Hearing Loop available in all our worship spaces.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
DATED MATERIAL: REQUESTED IN HOME BY DEC 21, 2018

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PERMIT 602

GETTING READY FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL

Preschool: First Look

Dec Basic Truth: Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

Memory Verse: God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son. (John 3:16)

Dec 23 Bible Story: Happy Birthday Jesus. Luke 2:1-20

Dec 30 Bible Story: Wise Men. Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11

K-Grade 5: 252 Kids

Dec Life App: COMPASSION—Caring enough to do something about someone else's need.

Memory Verse: God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life. (John 3:16)

Dec 23 Bible Story: Shepherds Visit Jesus. (Luke 2:8-20)

Bottom Line: Share the good news about Jesus.

Dec 30 Bible Story: God Showed His Love. (1 John 4:9-12)

Bottom Line: Love others because God loved you first.