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DECEMBER 2025



For more information check out our website [www.bethelnazarene.org](http://www.bethelnazarene.org)

## FROM THE HEART OF THE PASTOR

If you've lived in Alaska for any length of time, you know that Christmas comes wrapped not just in snow, but in darkness. The sun rises late and slips away early. Mornings can feel like night. Evenings come before supper. Headlights, porch lights, and the glow from living room windows become your daily companions. Yet it's in this very setting that Christmas shines the brightest.

Here are some good reminders for us this Christmas season:

### **First, Light in a Long Winter—Remind Us of God's Steady Light**

Picture a clear December night in Alaska. The air is cold and sharp. Snow squeaks under your boots. The sky is deep and dark, and then—suddenly—you see it: a house with a single string of lights along the roof, a Christmas tree glowing in the window, maybe a candle on the sill. It's nothing huge or flashy, but in that long winter darkness, even a small light seems to shout: You're not alone out here. The same Jesus who came to Bethlehem comes to you—right in the middle of your life: into your long nights of worry, quiet moments of grief, questions about the future, memories of Christmases long past and loved ones now with the Lord.

### **Second, Northern Lights show a Greater Glory**

He painted His love across the sky of our broken world by sending His Son. Only this glory didn't just dance overhead. It came down. It walked among us. It healed the sick, welcomed sinners, and ultimately went to the cross, where Jesus took our sin and rose again, so that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life. That means Christmas isn't just a sweet story—it is God's rescue mission.

### **Finally, Let's bring The Light Home**

So what do we do with this Christmas? When you flip on the porch light in the dark afternoon, remember: *Christ is the Light who came for you.* When you see a single candle glowing in a window, remember even small lights matter in deep darkness. Your simple faith, quiet prayers, and everyday obedience shine more than you know. When you feel the weight of loneliness or loss, remember: the Savior who came to Bethlehem is still *Immanuel*—“*God with us*”—in your living room, in your village, in your vehicle, in your tears.

This Christmas, whether you're surrounded by family or sitting quietly by yourself in the stillness, you can open your heart to Him again. You can say:

*“Lord Jesus, thank You for coming all the way into our world—and all the way into Alaska, into my life, into my darkness. Be my Light. Lead me, forgive me, and shine through me this Christmas.”*

And He will. Because the message of Christmas is not simply that A light appeared once long ago, but that **The Light** has come—and He has not gone out.

*Merry Christmas!*

*Pastor Weldon Shuman*

## Church Events

- Dec. 2 - Deck the Halls
- Dec. 3 - Lunch Bunch
- Dec. 5 - Ladies' Christmas Party
- Dec. 7 - Baptism Sunday; House of Prayer
- Dec. 9 - 50-UP Field Trip
- Dec. 13 - Kids' Program Practice
- Dec. 14 - Kids' Christmas Program; Starry Night
- Dec. 16 - 50-UP Fellowship
- Dec. 19 - Family Movie Night
- Dec. 21 - Christmas Choir Cantata; Blue Service
- Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
- Dec. 25 - Merry Christmas!
- Dec. 28 - Family Sunday  
*No Sunday School or childcare*
- Dec. 31 - New Year's Eve

# Look what's happening...

**Deck the Halls** - come help us decorate the church for Christmas! Tuesday, December 2 @ 8:30am. We should be done by noon.

**Angel Tree & Solo Mama/Solo Papa Trees** - we still have a few tags on the Angel Tree and we need funds to get grocery gift cards. The Solo tree still has lots of tags. Please grab a tag, purchase and wrap the gift, and return to the office by **DECEMBER 7**. Let's be generous to these families in need.

**Lunch Bunch** - All ladies, young & old, single or married, are invited. This month a Christmas lunch will be provided so you **MUST** RSVP with Bertie. Join us in the Fellowship Hall on **Wednesday, Dec. 3 @ 11:45am**. Call Bertie @ 208-800-7541 if you have any questions.

**50-UP Fellowship Night ~ Dec. 16 @ 5:45pm** - This event is for anyone age 50 and older. This month bring a favorite sweet or savory Christmas treat. Entertainment this month will be the Phyllis Tincher and Ring Praise Bells. Please be prepared to give a love offering. Sign up at the Event Table if you can come and if you need a ride.

**50-UP Field Trip to Indian Creek Lights ~ Dec. 9 @ 2:45pm** - we'll meet at the church and head out at 3pm to the Golden Corral for an early dinner. Then we'll head to see that lights when it gets dark. Wear good shoes and dress warm. Sign up at the Event Table if you would like to go and need a ride on the bus.

**Novel Ideas & Slice of Life Book Club** - taking a break for the holidays. January's book is "Centennial" by James Mitchener.

**Ladies' Ministry Christmas Party** - Friday, December 5 @ 6pm in the Fellowship Hall. Come kick off the Christmas Season with your Bethel sisters! We'll share Christmas treats and Christmas carols at this fun event. Bring your favorite Christmas treat with the recipe to share with the ladies.

**Starry Night ~ December 14 @ 6:00pm** - Bethel's Got Talent! Join us for this fun night of Christmas musical numbers brought to you by our very own members. Contact Pastor Derek if you have a special Christmas song you would like to share.

**Blue Christmas Service ~ December 21st @ 6:00pm** - Do you know someone who's having a hard time in their grief this season? Are you? We hope you'll join us and invite someone to come with you to our Blue Christmas Service. We are gathering together to acknowledge the hope we have in this season, even in the midst of challenges, losses, and struggles. This service is followed by a simple soup supper.

**Family Christmas Movie Night ~ December 19 @ 6:30pm** - Everyone is invited to join us in the Teen Center for the viewing of "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever". Popcorn & hot cocoa will be provided. Please bring a finger-food to share. Contact Director Kaisha if you have questions.

**Nazarene Evangelism Team** - join the team and help evangelize, disciple new believers, and connect newcomers to Bethel Church. Our first training opportunity will be January 8-February 12, 2026; Thursday nights 7-8:30pm. Call Dave or Rosie Kerr for more information (208-250-2084) or signup in the foyer.

**Odd Jobs for Teens** - the teens going to Nazarene Youth Conference next summer are raising funds. If you have any odd jobs, like leaf raking, yard work, house cleaning, babysitting, snow shoveling, etc., contact KayLynn Pentecost at 208-412-1967 or KayLynn@bethelnazarene.org and she will schedule a couple of teens to come work.

## Christmas Services:

**December 7th ~ Baptism Service; House of Prayer**

**December 14th ~ PromiseLand & Bethel Kids' Programs (both services)**

**December 14th ~ 6:00pm - Starry Night Music Program**

**December 21st ~ Christmas Choir Cantata (both services)**

**December 21st ~ 6:00pm - Blue Christmas Service**

**December 24th ~ 5:00pm - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

**December 28th ~ 9:00am & 10:45am - Family Sunday**

*(No Sunday School, Childcare, or Evening Service)*

### 2025 Contribution Reminder:

Only those contributions actually received in the office by **December 31** or postmarked by that date may be recorded as given during the 2025 tax year. Please keep in mind that the office will be closed December 31. Checks received in the offering January 4 but back-dated into December are **not** considered 2025 contributions. Donors having given more than \$500 during the 2025 tax year should delay filing their tax returns until after they receive their contribution statement from the church. IRS regulations require that the contribution statement be in hand prior to filing the return. Bethel Church contribution statements will be emailed or made available by January 30, 2025. If you don't get the email, or if you need a printed copy of your statement, please contact Amy in the church office.