

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

**TODAY** **Poinsettias** -- Thank you to everyone who brought a poinsettia to decorate the altar for Advent. Please feel free to take your plant home after worship today.

**Sunday School** -- there are no classes today. Classes will resume next Sunday, Dec. 31. New adult ed classes will begin in February.

**Small groups** are on break until January.

**NEXT MONTH** **March for Life** -- will be January 19, 2018. See Jennie deAraujo with any questions.

**Ladies Alive Retreat** -- a ladies winter get-away retreat is planned for February 3 at First Baptist in Coldwater. Reservations are due by January 1. Information and registration forms are in the lobby.

**Youth Winter Retreat** -- January 19-21, 2018 at Camp Selah with the Lockwood Youth Group. There is a flier at the Information Center.

**PLEASE NOTE** **2018 Council meetings:** The church Council voted to hold their 2018 meetings as follows: February 19, April 16, June 18, August 20, October 15 and December 17. *The Executive Committee will meet at 7:00 p.m. and Council meetings will begin at 7:30 p.m.*

**Directory Photos** -- If you did not receive your directory photos in the mail, please see Pastor Dave or contact the office.

**Weather Cancellations** -- If church is to be cancelled due to inclement weather, it will be decided and announced on WTVB radio or posted on the church website, [www.bethelgilead.org](http://www.bethelgilead.org). by 8:00 a.m.

**Communication Cards** -- please use the cards enclosed in your bulletin to let us know how best to text and what information we can send to you. Please drop the cards in the offering plate when completed.

**A Way to Serve** -- *Beginnings Care for Life Center* is in need of receptionists and board members. Applications are on the Information Center. Call the office for more information.

## CONTACT INFORMATION:

[Pastor Jim Erwin](#)  
517.756.8001

[Associate Pastor David Minard](#)  
517.756.8000

[Church Office](#)  
517.369.1588

## DECEMBER 24, 2017

SERVICE: 9:30 AM

JUNIOR CHURCH: 10:10 AM

CHRISTIAN ED: 11:15 AM



## MISSION STATEMENT

"WE HONOR GOD THROUGH REGULARLY ASSEMBLING TOGETHER TO WORSHIP HIM AS LORD, STUDY AND OBEY HIS WORD, AND ATTEND TO THE NEEDS OF HIS PEOPLE. WHEN WE LEAVE, WE GO OUT COMMISSIONED AS CHRIST'S REPRESENTATIVES TO A NEEDY WORLD."

876 BLOCK RD

• BRONSON MI. 49028 •  
VISIT US AT [WWW.BETHELGILEAD.ORG](http://WWW.BETHELGILEAD.ORG)

(517) 369-1588

**DECEMBER 24, 2017**

NURSERY..... Sally Davis and Shanda Carpenter  
SOUND ROOM..... Kenny Bennett  
GREETERS..... Bill and Linda Penn

## **ORDER OF WORSHIP SERVICE**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS..... David Minard  
*Special Music*..... Sharon McMeen  
OPENING WORSHIP..... Jim Erwin  
*Christmas Carol Sing a Long*..... Hymnal #123 - 157  
ADVENT READING..... The Smith Family  
OFFERING..... Jim Wickey  
*Special Music*..... The Stutzman Family  
CHILDREN'S MESSAGE..... (Toddlers-Grade 5 dismissed)  
MESSAGE..... Jim Erwin  
CLOSING SONG..... Silent Night

*There will be no refreshments after church today.*

**Merry Christmas**  
**to all!!!**

## **MESSAGE**

### **THE BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT**

[Luke 2:8-20](#)

**INTRODUCTION:** Calling All Shepherds

#### **I. SHEPHERDS THROUGHOUT THE BIBLE**

- \*Famous shepherds
- \*God as a Shepherd
- \*Jesus the Good Shepherd
- \*Pastors as “Undershepherds”

#### **II. GOD’S “UPSIDE DOWN APPROACH”**

- Good news is preached to the poor.....([Isaiah 61:1](#))
- \*The Jewish nation ([Luke 1:50-55, 68-74](#))
  - \*Twelve Fishermen .....([Acts 4:13](#))
  - \*Jesus and “the downcast” ([1 Corinthians 1:26-31](#))
  - \*Women at the tomb.....([Luke 24:1](#))
  - \*Revival in Samaria .....([Acts 5:8](#))
  - \*The Slaves of Rome .....([Romans 16](#))

#### **III. ANGELS ON ASSIGNMENT**

A message to the shepherds and to us! ([Luke 2:8-20](#))

1. Cast off fear (v. 10)
2. Understand the News (v. 11-12)
3. Find the Savior (v. 15-16)
4. Spread the Word (v. 17-18)
5. Give God the glory (v. 20)



## A Call to Prayer

### Recent additions

- *Steve Russell* --health; in the hospital at Battle Creek
- *Kim Erwin* -- back pain
- *Norita Skinner* -- back pain
- *Tina Graybill* -friend of Melissa Houtz, double mastectomy on 12/20.
- *Mary Sue Baldwin* - second hip replacement
- *Jean LaClair* -- at U of M Hospital undergoing treatment for leukemia
- *Tim Long's grandmother, Dorothy*, dealing with death of husband
- *Flo Cabrera's mother* -- health issues
- *Ron Will's niece's husband, Ernie*, stage 4 cancer.
- *Solano's sister, May*, health issues
- *Lisa Frank's Uncle Tony* -- in hospice care
- *Lee Bidwell* -- recovering at home from surgery.
- *Jennie Williamson* -- final stages of ALS
- *Ethan Metzger* --student in Bronson; seizures
- *Jen Byler's stepdad, Rex* -- more eye surgery required.
- *Gary Ratkowski* -- undergoing 12 rounds of chemotherapy at U of M.
- *Mary Stall* -- Dale Davis' cousin--undergoing treatment for stage 4 cancer.
- *Jim Comb*- vision issues

### Continue to remember those in need

- *Wanda DeBolt* -- health issues
- Rick Hollister's mother, *Kathleen's* health.
- Brandon Carpenter's brother-in-law, *Eric Algrim and family*, heart issues.
- *Jim Eley* is at Maple Lawn, room 508.
- *Carmel Roberts* - health issues
- *Rick Wilcox* - Alzheimer's, failing health

### Praises

- *Brandon Carpenter's grandmother, Gloria*, recuperating from knee surgery.
- *Shanda Carpenter's cousin, Nick* --out of hospital, improving

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