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## Advent: A Season For Action and Anticipation

Rev. Jim Wright



The word Advent means “coming.” In this season of the year, we focus on the two comings of the Son of God into the world: his first coming to rescue and his second coming to fully redeem those who are watching and waiting for his return. The spirit of our celebration at this time of year should reflect both of those significant events; for it is in the preparation and anticipation of the second coming that we are consumed with the spirit and purpose of his first coming as summed up for us in Luke 19:10: “The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

Advent is a season for acting on the declared mission of the Messiah to seek and to save lost people from the wrath to come. As Paul remarked to the Thessalonian believers in 1 Thessalonians 1:8a,10: *And now the word of the Lord is ringing out from you to people everywhere, even beyond Macedonia and Achaia, for wherever we go we find people telling us about your faith in God...And they speak of how you are looking forward to the coming of God’s Son from heaven—Jesus, whom God raised from the dead. He is the one who has rescued us from the terrors of the coming judgment.*

This Advent season is a time for cherishing and worshipping this characteristic of God – that He is a searching and saving God, that He is a

God on a mission to fully redeem all who will come to Him. He is sending, pursuing, searching and saving until ‘that day’ when he will come to rescue those whom He has reconciled.

The book of Acts is a reflection of this first advent purpose of God’s: to seek out and to call into communion with Him those who are lost. In His prayer in John 17, Jesus said to his Father: *Just as you sent me into the world, I am sending them into the world. (John 17:18 NLT).* Our story is the story of people who have been called and sent to declare the message of Jesus’ first and second advent to the people of the world. Acts is the record of how the early church understood his words in Acts 1:8 (NIV), *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere – in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria and to the ends of the earth.”* It is the historical account of how the vertical advent of God in the mission of Jesus bends out and becomes the horizontal advent of Jesus in the mission of his church.

Jesus came into the world at the first Advent, and every Advent since is a reminder of his first coming and anticipates his return.

In the final days of His ministry, Jesus spent much of his time preparing his disciples for

*Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.*

*James 1:17*



the mission that would be theirs after he ascended. Then, using the Old Testament account of Noah, He warned them concerning the time of his second Advent: "The coming of the Son of Man will be like what happened in the time of Noah in the days before the flood people ate and drank, men and women married, up to the very day Noah went into the boat; yet they did not realize what was happening until the flood came and swept them all away. That is how it will be when the Son of Man comes." (Matthew 24:37-29, GNB)

At His first Advent, Jesus came upon a world largely unaware and unprepared for His coming. He instructed His disciples never to lose sight of the promise of his second coming, as the ancients had.

*"So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this, that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect." (Matthew 24:42-44 JB)*

At Bethel Park Camp, we take seriously our calling to serve faithfully in the 'seek and save mission' that Jesus assigned to us at His first Advent. As we celebrate this season with joy, let us live while also looking forward with hearts filled with hope and expectation for his promised return.

## Finance Report

Harald Drewitz, Treasurer



We are thankful we have met the 2022 expenses for Bethel Park Camp Ministry events, first full Ministry season since 2019. The expenses to maintain the facilities and Bethel Park grounds, were also covered. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to thank everyone who has donated this year. For those cabin owners who have not yet done so, we will appreciate your consideration, between now and the end of this calendar year.

### You can donate using one of the following options:

A **donation link on the Bethel Park website** allows you to donate directly to Bethel Park through CandaHelps.org. The Canada Helps page will display on your screen. You can make your donation by credit/debit card or PayPal. Canada Helps will issue you a receipt for your donation.

**E-transfer** is available and set up for auto deposit when you make an e-transfer to Bethel Park Camp. You do not require a password. Include in the message box that this is a donation either towards Camp General fund or the General Capital fund. Send your e-transfer to [bookkeeper@bethelpark.ca](mailto:bookkeeper@bethelpark.ca).

**Send your cheque payable to ONTARIO BETHEL PARK BIBLE CAMP SOCIETY** to 310 Fairway Road South, Box 45070, Kitchener, ON N2C 1X0. **NOTE: It is important that the camp's full name is written on the cheque otherwise the bank will not accept your cheque to us.**

### 2022 Donation Receipt and 2023 Tax and Fee Invoice

Treasury can email and attach your 2022 Donation Receipt and your 2023 Tax and Fee Invoice. If you prefer this information be sent electronically, please let us know by January 13, 2023, by sending an email to [bookkeeper@bethelpark.ca](mailto:bookkeeper@bethelpark.ca). If you received this electronically in 2022 already, you DO NOT need to let us know again. It will be sent to you electronically for 2023.

### NEW for 2023 – Tax and Fee Payment

As per the Cabin Owner Policies and Procedures Handbook you received in 2022, **payment for your 2023 Taxes and Fees invoice are due May 31, 2023. Please note change in date.** For more information, please refer to your copy of the Cabin Owner Policies and Procedures Handbook, Page 6, Section 2.4. Taxes and Fees can also be e-transferred to [bookkeeper@bethelpark.ca](mailto:bookkeeper@bethelpark.ca). Be sure to add your cabin address in the message box.



# Christmas Greetings from the President

Doris Bilitz



## A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Eternal God, the hope of all humankind, you gave us the greatest gift of all in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Son of God, you came as God's Light to shine brightly in the darkness of minds and hearts; bathe our world in your Light.

Jesus Christ, Word made flesh, make a way for the Good News of your Kingdom to reach every home, every heart, everywhere.

Protect and preserve the labourers who courageously declare the glory of your Gospel throughout the world. Provide for their every need and be their strength and joy.

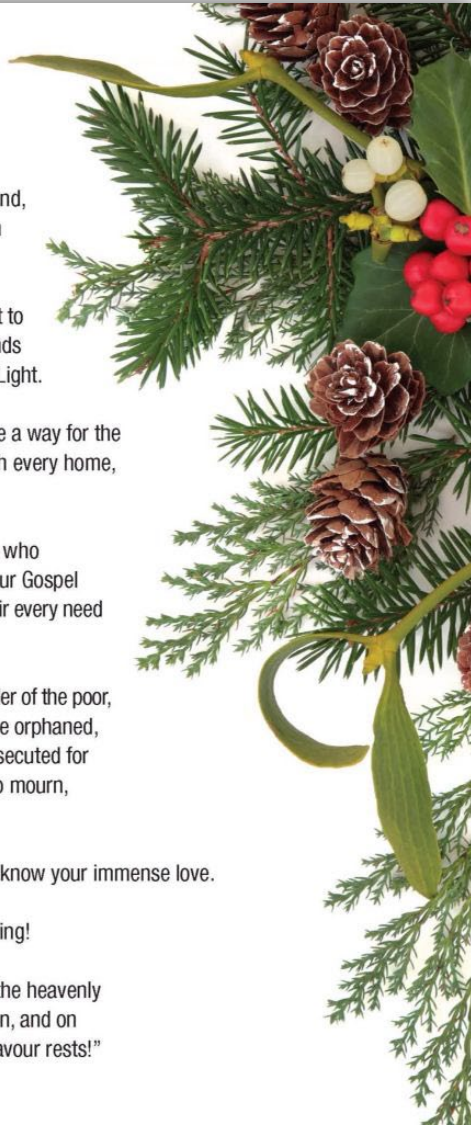
Be the comforter, defender and provider of the poor, the helpless, the cold, the hungry, the orphaned, the weary, the oppressed, those persecuted for their faith in you, the sick, those who mourn, the aged and the little children.

Reveal yourself to those who do not know your immense love.

Bless those who rejoice at your coming!

Glorious Lord, we join our voices to the heavenly host and say: "Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom His favour rests!"

**Amen.**



*I*t is hard to believe that the 2022 Camp Season is behind us. What a blessing it has been to have a full camp season including Kid's Camp and Youth Camp. It was also wonderful to have a fully functional Waste Management System as well as a new water system, two huge capital accomplishments. We are so grateful for the faithfulness of our members that have donated to these projects, and many volunteers that worked tirelessly in getting these projects completed.

At our October Board Meeting, the Board of Directors spent time reviewing our Operational & Strategic Plan. Thank you to Monica Helbrecht and Simon Weresch who provided an overview of the Kid's Camp and Youth Camp programs. This gave the Board a better understanding of the organization and administration of these programs, and the challenges that they face. Both programs reported that registration was lower than usual, most likely because it was the first season back after being closed down due to Covid restrictions. Reduced registration affects the financial viability of these programs, so let us be in prayer for both of these programs and their leadership teams as they begin to plan for the 2023 season.

This year, we formed a Recreation Committee, chaired by Helga Hintz, to review the

recreational opportunities for our children and youth. We know that the wooden playground structure that has been a source of entertainment for many, many years requires replacement. Undesignated memorial donations are allocated to the replacement and/or enhancement of recreational structures and equipment. A playground structure has been sourced and it is our hope to have it ordered and installed next summer. We are \$10,000 short but are trusting God that this difference will be covered by the time the structure is installed. Upgrades to the swings and other less costly items are also being planned for.

As we head into the winter months, may we be in prayer and look forward to the 2023 Camp Season.

*This Christmas, may you have the Gift of Faith, the Blessings of Hope and the Peace of His Love*





## Board of Directors & Email Addresses

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**NOTE: Please remove old email addresses from your devices.**

*Bethel Park family, we recognize that this has been a difficult year and that many of our members may be struggling with health and life issues. If you have a prayer request and would like your Camp family to pray for you, please call 226-964-2275 or send an email to [administration@bethelpark.ca](mailto:administration@bethelpark.ca) and Ingrid will send out an E-blast to our members. It is a privilege to pray for one another.*



*In 2022 several Bethel Park saints graduated to Glory. We have the confidence that Heaven is a place of joyous reunion with all those who have gone to heaven before us. (Billy Graham)*

- ☞ Anny Blenich
  - ☞ Ruth Green
  - ☞ Fredrich Doberstein
  - ☞ Andreas Fandrich
  - ☞ Ewald Bauer
  - ☞ Gail Meats
  - ☞ Werner Rienas
  - ☞ Terry-Lynn Hua
  - ☞ Annemarie Gesch
  - ☞ Leo Ott
  - ☞ Grace Schultz (Darlene Bodach)
  - ☞ Dale Kuntz (Barb Klein)
  - ☞ Eva Welke (Esther Kohler)
  - ☞ Mel Davis (Jacqueline Weresch)
- 
- ☞ Lorrie Gibbons
  - ☞ Garry Milley



Again for 2023 Bethel Park is actively pursuing application to hire 2 summer students for the 2023 season. Ideally, we would like to offer this opportunity to our Bethel Park youth. Areas of responsibility would include custodial, maintenance and grounds keeping. If you are interested in this opportunity, please email Ingrid Hook at [administration@bethelpark.ca](mailto:administration@bethelpark.ca) to get early information as the jobs become available.

