

3001 12th Ave. Rd.
Nampa, ID 83686
208-466-6344

DECEMBER 2024



For more information check out our website www.bethelnazarene.org

FROM THE HEART OF THE PASTOR

Christmas is about an Invitation

"...I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people."

(Luke 2:10)

No doubt some of you had the opportunity to go and see the newly released movie, "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever." In this story, there's a local family called the Herdmans who end up causing a local church a lot of issues. Sadly, we never see the parents but the children are known for bullying and terrorizing the townspeople as they punch kids, steal lunches and start fires. One character says, "The Herdmans are absolutely the worst kids in the history of the world."

But one day, the Herdman kids show up for church (after hearing they have snacks) and they want to be in the Christmas pageant and the chaos ensues. If anything, this movie is a great reminder of what Christmas is all about. It'll make you laugh and cry as we see this church struggling through tradition and what the mission of the church truly is. The mother leading the pageant ends up saying, "Jesus was born for the Herdmans as much as He was for us."

That's what the Christmas story is all about. The good news of Christ is for all people. As the Apostle John says in the New Testament, "He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world" (1 John 2:2).

With that being said, let's continue in this great mission and great invitation Christ has given us. Let's be Christmas Invite Crazy and invite as many people as possible to hear the greatest story ever told; that even though the world is in sin, God loves us and sent His Son to restore us to Him. All we have to do is share His great invitation with the world.

Greater things ahead!

Pastor Derek

Church Events

- Dec. 1 - Advent Fair
- Dec. 4 - Lunch Bunch; Solo Mamas Closet
- Dec. 6 - Ladies' Ministry Christmas Party
- Dec. 7 - KIDS Program practice; 50-UP Field Trip
- Dec. 8 - KIDS Christmas Programs; House of Prayer
- Dec. 9 - Young Adult Ministry
- Dec. 10 - Revival House
- Dec. 11 - Board Meeting
- Dec. 15 - Choir Cantata
- Dec. 16 - Secret Sister Reveal Party
- Dec. 17 - 50-UP
- Dec. 18 - Teen Christmas parties
- Dec. 20 - Gingerbread Bash
- Dec. 21 - Blue Christmas Service
- Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
- Dec. 25 - Merry Christmas!!
- Dec. 29 - Family Christmas Service - No Sunday School or childcare
- Dec. 31 - New Year's Eve

Look what's happening...

Advent Fair ~ Dec. 1 @ 6pm - Join us in the Teen Center for this annual event! We'll learn about Advent, do an Advent craft, and break bread together. Please bring a pot of soup or chili, or bread/cheese/crackers to share. Dessert provided.

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. 4 @ 11:45am. Call Bertie @ 208-800-7541 if you have any questions.

50-UP Fellowship Night ~ Dec. 17 @ 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 Encore Carolers. Please be prepared to give a love offering. Signup at the Event Table outside the Fellowship Hall if you can come and if you need a ride.

Novel Ideas & Slice of Life Book Club - taking a break for the holidays.

Ladies' Ministry Christmas Party - Friday, December 6 @ 7pm at the home of Julie Braden. We will be making Christmas ornaments, have a gift exchange (\$10 or less) and eat some yummy Christmas treats. Please sign-up at the Event Table so we can plan for enough food.

Blue Christmas Service ~ December 21st @ 5:30pm - Do you know someone who's having a hard time 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 soup supper.

Christmas Services:



December 8th ~ 9:00am & 10:45am - PromiseLand Kids' Program & Bethel Kids' Program

December 15th ~ Choir Christmas Cantata (both services)

December 21st ~ 5:30pm - Blue Christmas Service

December 22nd ~ Normal Sunday Worship & Sunday School (no Evening Service)

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

December 29th ~ 9:00am & 10:45am - Family Christmas Sunday (No Sunday School or Childcare)

Revival House ~ Tuesday, December 10th @ 7pm - Join us in the Teen Center for this special night of worship and prayer led by our young adults and teens. People of **ALL AGES** are invited to come and encouraged to bring someone.

Secret Sister Reveal Party - Monday, Dec. 16 @ 7pm in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your reveal gift for 2024 and come prepared to fill out forms and draw names for 2025. Please also bring a snack to share.

Gingerbread Bash ~ Dec. 20 @ 6:30pm - Come join us for the Gingerbread Bash! It's a super fun, hands-on way for your family to celebrate the real reason for the Christmas season! Together, we're going to build and decorate gingerbread nativities while hearing the Christmas story from the Bible. Everyone is invited to this free event...families, grandparents, singles, young adults. Sign-up with Kids Director Kaisha if you would like to attend.

Family Christmas Sunday - will be December 29 this year. No adult or kid Sunday school classes or childcare provided. Our littles will have color sheets & kid bulletins for service.

2024 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 2024 tax year. Please keep in mind that the office will be closed December 31. Checks received in the offering January 5 but back-dated into December are **not** considered 2024 contributions. Donors having given more than \$500 during the 2024 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 need a printed copy of your statement, please contact Amy in the church office.