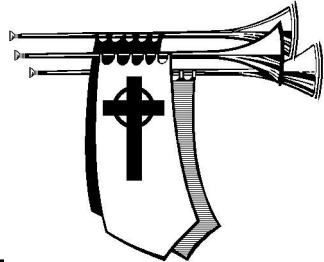


 Trumpet Call  
Aldersgate United Methodist Church  
1621 Thornton Ave.  
Butte, MT 59701  
**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

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# TRUMPET CALL

December 2023  
**ALDERSGATE UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH**  
1621 Thornton Ave., Butte - (406)782-2425

**Christmas Eve**

Our Christmas Eve service will be held at 5:00 pm. Join us for a time of hearing the story of the birth of Jesus, moments for Christmas carols, and of course, ending with the famed *Silent Night*. We cannot guarantee that snow will be falling that night but we do promise a Christmas Eve like no other.

December  
24th  
10:30 AM  
Christmas  
Program



December  
24th  
5:00 PM  
Christmas  
Eve Service

21: Brad & Terri Belke

- 01: Nita Kingsbury
- 01: Kourtney Hunking
- 04: Burt Todd
- 06: Kristin Johnson
- 10: Sarah Bernhardt
- 11: Nita Richard
- 12: Sue Gerry
- 14: Marylyn Shovlin
- 17: Mary Jo Turner
- 19: Henry Harrington
- 26: Bob Maes
- 31: Andi McCaughey



- 01: Chyanne Robinson
- 02: John Peters
- 06: Roberta Dobb
- 10: Dale Olson
- 11: Gerry Allen
- 11: Kariann Thaut
- 13: Rebecca Schwartzmiller
- 17: Sherri Hash
- 18: Lauren Sullivan
- 21: Brenda Sweet
- 28: Bill Rhoads

**Christmas Program**

Christmas Eve ... we are in for a treat. Two worship services ... two very different services ... two very different lessons on the birth of Jesus.

First, at 10:30 am, we have worship. Technically we are still in the season of Advent, and that means our colors are still purple and we will only light the fourth Advent candle. At this 10:30 service we will have our Christmas Program. This year is *The ABC's of Christmas*. It will be enjoyable and adorable and, if anything, you've got to come and experience the comedy of Bessie the Cow.

We invite you back at 5:00 pm for our official Christmas Eve service. We will have communion (again!), sing Christmas carols, and listen to the story of the birth of Christ from scripture.

## Sermon Series

ADVENT CONSPIRACY ... If these words sound familiar, you are correct. This year, at the prompting of Godson and Felicia Akushie, will be a repeat lesson of our pre-Christmas series ... Worship Fully, Spend Less, Give More, and Love All. While spending time with my friends from Ghana I learned some things. First, this season is about Jesus and nothing more. Just taking them to every store in town was an eye-opening experience. They could not believe how focused we are on gift buying, Santa Claus, materialism, etc. Where is the focus on Jesus? Where does the birth of the Messiah fit in? Why is so much money spent on these things? I believe, one of the best ways to understand our culture is to spend some time with one who is a foreigner to it all. I will be sharing some stories of my time with the Akushies, my experiences in Ghana, but also an emphasis that we get back to “better times”; a time when our focus is on the birth of the Messiah and not making sure that our Christmas checklist is done. Will you conspire with me?

### ADVENT CONSPIRACY

December 3<sup>rd</sup> – “Worship Fully”, using 1 Corinthians 1.3-9

December 10<sup>th</sup> – “Spend Less”, using 2 Peter 3.8-15

December 17<sup>th</sup> – “Give More”, using John 1.19-28

December 24<sup>th</sup> – “Love All”, using 2 Samuel 7.1-17



## Seth's Message

What is your story of Christmas? Each one of us has one, whether we were raised in a church family or not. Christmas is part of our culture and plays such a pivotal part in our upbringing. We take this time seriously and we want these moments between the holidays to have meaning. For many of us the story of Christmas is about mystery, family, and days-gone-by.

My story goes like this ... Up until the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, my father was a pastor. On Christmas Eve we would all attend worship at the Douglas United Methodist Church. After the service, my father would drive me and my sister around town while mom went home to help Santa with the presents. I can still remember looking in the sky for Santa to leave our little town of Douglas, Nebraska and allow us to go home. Our tradition was to open all of our presents on Christmas Eve. Christmas day was time spent with family. First, was breakfast with the McGill family (these were my second cousins and my mom's cousins). We then travelled to Beatrice, Nebraska to be with my grandma Dorothy. This was my dad's side of the family. My dad is one of seven (there are only four left now) and Grandma loved to buy presents for everyone. We all had garbage sacks stuffed full of our gifts. My great-aunt Bobbie was there, and we often would receive a call from my aunt Janice who lived in Oregon. We'd eat, open presents, play with cousins, and then head home.

This is my story. Each one of you has a story of Christmas and when you tell it, like I just did, there is a gleam in your eye as you remember. Christmas is a special time, a wondrous time, but also a moment that has some sadness. The story I just shared reminded me that my grandparents are not living, and I have started attending funeral services for aunts and uncles; but I still remember the story with that gleam of “better times.”

We come to this season remembering that we all have our own story of Christmas. I invite you to come this season and experience the story again. You will hear about the baby Jesus and why Christmas is about him and not about our Christmas shopping. You will hear about the shepherds and not a focus on Santa. You will experience the birth of the Messiah and not feel the pull to spend and spend and spend. I invite you to share your story and remember why this season is so special.

Seth



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b> 7:00 Men's Group 10:00 Trumpet Call	<b>2</b> 3:00 Mining City Choral Dress Re- hearsal
<b>3</b> 9:00 Adult SS 10:30Worship 11:30 Coffee & Conversa- tion 3:00 Mining City Choral Concert 6:30 Kid's/Youth Meal 6:00 Kids/Youth Group	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 7:00 Mining City Choir	<b>6</b> 8:00 Women's 4th Day 9:00 Sandwich Ministry 5:30 Choir 6:30 Men's 4th day	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 7:00 Men's Group	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 9:00 Adult SS 10:30Worship 11:30 Coffee & Conversation 6:00 Youth Group	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 7:00 Trustees 7:00 Mining City Choir	<b>13</b> 8:00 Women's 4th Day 5:30 Choir 6:30 Men's 4th day	<b>14</b> 4:30 Girl Scout #3515	<b>15</b> 7:00 Men's Group	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 9:00 Adult SS 10:30Worship 11:30 Coffee & Conversation 6:00 Youth Group	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 6:45 Change Conference 7:00 Mining City Choir	<b>20</b> 8:00 Women's 4th Day 5:30 Choir 6:30 Men's 4th day	<b>21</b> 9:00 Montessori School Program	<b>22</b> 7:00 Men's Group	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 9:00 Adult SS 10:30Worship 11:30 Coffee & Conversation 5:00 Worship	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 8:00 Women's 4th Day 5:30 Choir 6:30 Men's 4th day	<b>28</b> 4:30 Girl Scout #3515	<b>29</b> 7:00 Men's Group	<b>30</b>
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## GOD IS WITH US

*“And they shall name him Emmanuel, which means ‘God is with us.’”  
Matthew 1:23*

It is Christmas again; it seems to come about this time every year— in peace and in war; in times of mourning and of joy; in illness and in health. No matter how terrible things look at home, locally, nationally, or around the world, Christmas comes every year. And with it, the message of hope: **“God is with us.”**

However, you celebrate Christmas this year, never lose sight of the sacred power which is the reason for the season: Jesus comes to us where we are, and cares for us as we are. He is not afraid of the mess we often make of things. We celebrate his nativity not because it happened perfectly, but because everything wasn’t perfect in Bethlehem on that night. It is the story of a God who entered our world as it actually exists, and not as the idyllic world we dream about. The older I get the better I recognize that religion is not the place where we escape from pain and suffering but is the place where the pain and suffering, we all experience is given meaning.

A United Nations peacekeeper who had worked in some of the most terrible places in the world and who had done exhausting, heartbreaking work, often with limited success, was once asked how he kept going. He simply replied, *“I am Christian. For Christians, hopelessness is not an option.”* It is not an option because we know that the birth of Christ was not a one-time event that happened in another time at a far distant place. Christ is born anew each and every time someone follows him and provides love where there is suffering. You can be the reason for hope, the sign of Christ in the world, this holiday season. What better way to share the wondrous lives we are given, because after all we know that: **“God is with us.”**

November-  
Trumpet Call  
is in memory  
of Jim and  
Florence  
Street from  
their family

Brad Belke

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