

**Bethany Church**  
EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN

# ABCs of Christmas

**December 24, 2021 @ 4:00 p.m.**  
5 N. Concord Ave, Havertown, PA 19083  
610-789-2486 · [www.bethanyepc.org](http://www.bethanyepc.org)

# We're Glad You're Here!

Welcome! At its heart, a church is a community that worships and serves God together. Together we are building a community in which people can explore the big questions of life and Christianity's answers, work together for a thriving neighborhood and serve those in need.

## Sunday Schedule

Worship Service:	9:15 a.m.
Sunday School:	9:15 a.m.
Fellowship:	10:15 a.m.
Worship Service:	10:45 a.m.
Sunday School:	10:45 a.m.
Children's Church:	10:45 a.m.

*\*Masks are required at the 9:15 a.m. worship service.  
Masks optional but recommended at the 10:45 a.m. service.*

## Children's Programs

**Nursery** – Our well qualified nursery staff is available during the 9:15 a.m. service to watch children ages 0 to 3 years.

During the 10:45 a.m. service the nursery room will be available for parents and children to use.

**Children's Church** – Before the sermon begins we will dismiss the children (K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade) to the church gym to have their own service where they will enjoy an interactive Bible lesson. After the worship service is over, parents can walk over and pick up their kids.

## Stay in Touch

To learn more about the exciting things happening in the life of Bethany EPC be sure to visit our website and sign-up for our e-mail list. Visit [www.bethanyepc.org](http://www.bethanyepc.org) for all the details.

# THE ABCS OF CHRISTMAS

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## CALL TO WORSHIP

For anyone who has walked in darkness, a new light has dawned!

**O come, let us adore Him!**

For anyone who has ever felt forgotten, a new light has dawned!

**O Come, let us adore Him!**

For anyone whose patience has been put to the test, a new light has dawned!

**O come, let us adore Him!**

For anyone in search of the way, the truth, and the life, a new day has dawned!

**O come, let us adore Him!**

SONG: “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

## LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

**Read Luke 2:10-11** The angel said to the shepherds, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. (Luke 2:10, 11)

## PRAYER

## WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

- Listen to the Christmas ABC’s story and pay close attention. Every time you hear the word “Shepherds” the shepherds are supposed to hold up their poster and say “Let’s go see!”
- Every time you hear “Wisemen” the wisemen are to hold up their poster and say “Look, a star!”
- When you hear “Angel” the angels are to say, “Hallelujah!”

**A is for ANGEL.** The ANGEL Gabriel began the story by telling Mary that she was going to have a very special baby. Mary was very surprised but she trusted God to help her do what He wanted her to do.

READ: Luke 1: 28-33

# THE ABCS OF CHRISTMAS

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**B is for Bethlehem,** where the Christmas story takes place. People traveled from far and wide to get to Bethlehem, which was not a very big village, but a small town where King David once lived a long time ago.

**C is for Census.** A census is an official counting of all the people. This is the reason why so many people came to Bethlehem. It is why Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem.

**D is for Donkey.** A donkey carried Mary and Joseph walked alongside on the journey to Bethlehem. Mary and Joseph had to travel about 70 miles to get from Nazareth to Bethlehem.

**E is for Exhausted.** Exhausted means very tired. That's how everyone must have felt when they finally arrived in Bethlehem. Since the average person walks about 3 – 5 miles per hour, it would have taken Mary and Joseph 14-23 hours of walking to go from Nazareth to Bethlehem. That would be several days of doing nothing but walking.

SONG: “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

**F is for Family.** Mary and Joseph and their new baby Jesus were a family, one that would bless the whole world.

READ: Luke 2: 8-12

**G is for GOOD NEWS.** Good News is what the ANGELS announced to all the earth. At once the ANGEL was joined by a huge choir of ANGELS singing God's praises: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom God is pleased.

SONG: “Hark the Herald Angels Sing”

**H is for HOPE.** Hope is knowing that good news is coming, even when things look miserable or are sad. Jesus is the source of our hope.

**I is for IMAGINE.** If we close our eyes we can imagine the ANGELS proclaiming good news in the heavens. We can picture the SHEPHERDS being afraid, but then overcome with joy as they heard about the birth of Jesus and went to see him.

**J is for JOY.** Joy is happiness that comes from God. It cannot be stopped; it is always shared with others. The birth of Jesus gives us joy.

# THE ABCS OF CHRISTMAS

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SONG: “Joy to the World”

**K is for KING.** Even though Jesus came to the world as a baby, he was the King, but not the kind of King people were used to. Most kings are born in palaces, surrounded by servants. Jesus was born in a stable surrounded by animals and dirty, smelly SHEPHERDS. Most kings rule with power and fear. Jesus rules with mercy and love.

**L is for LOVE.** It was because God the world so much that he sent Jesus to be born. Even though people do mean and sinful things, or when they think they are so good that they don't need anyone for anything, Jesus shows His love.

**M is for MANGER.** A manger was usually to hold food for animals. When Jesus was born, a manger became his bed.

SONG: “Away in the Manger”

**N is for NOEL.** Noel is another word for Christmas. It means new birth, and that is what happened in our story and happens every year at Christmas. Every time we have faith in Jesus and follow Him, we experience new birth – a fresh start.

**O is for OFFERING.** The WISEMEN came to see baby Jesus and gave gifts to him. We can also offer God gifts every day. We give God our time, our talents, and our money to God, and pray that as a Church we use well all of the blessings that God gives to us.

PRAYER

SONG: “We Three Kings of Orient Are”

**P is for PEACE.** Jesus is called the Prince of Peace. He is the source of calm and security for everyone who believes in Him.

**Q is for QUIET.** We begin a time of prayer in quiet, allowing God to speak to us, and joyful when the quiet is broken by small voices.

PRAYER

# THE ABCS OF CHRISTMAS

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**R is for REVEALED.** “Revealed” means “to show us something that was once hidden.” God revealed to us what He is like and what love looks like by giving us Jesus. Jesus is love and reveals to us the way we are to love one another.

**S is for STAR.** One special star in the sky guided the WISEMEN to go and see the baby. They were mysterious men and lived far away. But they brought gifts to Jesus because they knew that he would grow up to be King.

**READ:** Matthew 2: 7-12

**T is for Time.** After waiting hundreds and hundreds of years the time had finally come for God’s people. It was time for God’s many promises to come to fulfillment.

**READ:** Isaiah 9:6-7

**SERMON:** The *Time* is Now! (Isaiah 9:6-7)

**U is for UNITY.** Jesus prayed that his followers would come together and be like one. This group of Jesus followers is called the Church.

**V is for VICTORY.** Someday soon Jesus is going to come back to earth. It will be a very special day when all of Jesus’ followers celebrate His victory over sin, death, and the Devil.

**W is for WONDER.** Just like the WISEMEN, at Christmas time we are amazed and in wonder of Jesus the newborn King.

**X is for Christ.** X or “Chi” is a letter from the Greek alphabet that is the first letter in the word “Christ.” It is also an ancient symbol for Christianity. The Christ candle of the Advent Wreath is the last candle we light tonight to symbolize Jesus, the Christ, whose birth we celebrate.

**SONG:** “Happy Birthday” to Jesus

**Y is for YOU.** You ANGELS. You WISEMEN. You SHEPHERDS. You boys and girls, moms and dads, grandpas and grandmas, friends and strangers who are here tonight – you are here tonight to worship and celebrate the birth of Jesus.

# THE ABCS OF CHRISTMAS

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**Z is for ZEAL.** Zeal is a word that means “enthusiasm” and “eagerness”. Zeal describes how we are to live for Jesus. Let’s be enthusiastic for Jesus. Let’s tell everyone that God loved us so much to send His son Jesus to be the Savior.

SONG: “Go Tell it On the Mountain”

CLOSING WORDS

SONG: “Silent Night”

**Thank you for coming. Please be sure to return your  
candles and to grab a Christmas ornament for your  
family on the way out. Merry Christmas!**

# LEADERSHIP

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## SESSION

Larry Barton, Administration [larryb117@gmail.com](mailto:larryb117@gmail.com)  
Alex Dawes, Administration [DWADawes@gmail.com](mailto:DWADawes@gmail.com)  
Chuck Killoran, Administration [ckilloran@aol.com](mailto:ckilloran@aol.com)  
Jorja Mathers, Congregational Life [jorja.mathers@gmail.com](mailto:jorja.mathers@gmail.com)  
Quincy McDonald, Worship [quincy\\_mcdonald@hotmail.com](mailto:quincy_mcdonald@hotmail.com)  
Christie Mills, Evangelism [ChristieMills9999@outlook.com](mailto:ChristieMills9999@outlook.com)  
Chuck Nguyen, Evangelism [chuckisc@gmail.com](mailto:chuckisc@gmail.com)  
Gary Rindone, Worship [rindone@gmail.com](mailto:rindone@gmail.com)  
Greg Rotzell, Administration [homeinsured@comcast.net](mailto:homeinsured@comcast.net)  
Chelsea Smith, Discipleship [cmgleeson@gmail.com](mailto:cmgleeson@gmail.com)  
Irene Taraborrelli, Congregational Life [irene@bethanyepc.org](mailto:irene@bethanyepc.org)  
Steve Taylor, Discipleship [stevenbtaylor@comcast.net](mailto:stevenbtaylor@comcast.net)  
Ross Wells, Worship [rosswells@aol.com](mailto:rosswells@aol.com)

## DEACONS

Linda Cruz, [glindacruz@gmail.com](mailto:glindacruz@gmail.com)  
Ginger Dunbar, [ginger.rae.dunbar@gmail.com](mailto:ginger.rae.dunbar@gmail.com)  
Dave Gbur, [bluejay6@msn.com](mailto:bluejay6@msn.com)  
Susie Keller, [TheSusie201@aol.com](mailto:TheSusie201@aol.com)  
B.J. Madden, [bjmadden01@hotmail.com](mailto:bjmadden01@hotmail.com)  
Niecy McCracken, [dmwddm@gmail.com](mailto:dmwddm@gmail.com)  
Roy Mills, [royandchristie@outlook.com](mailto:royandchristie@outlook.com)  
Leslie Rindone, [leslierindone@yahoo.com](mailto:leslierindone@yahoo.com)  
Cyndi Scace, [cynsca@comcast.net](mailto:cynsca@comcast.net)  
Debbie Taylor, [debrajoytayl@gmail.com](mailto:debrajoytayl@gmail.com)  
Cynthia Wells, [ccwells@aol.com](mailto:ccwells@aol.com)  
Debbie Wilson, [teacherdsjw@gmail.com](mailto:teacherdsjw@gmail.com)

## STAFF

Paul Bammel, Senior Pastor [pastorpaul@bethanyepc.org](mailto:pastorpaul@bethanyepc.org)  
Megan DeHaven, Youth Ministry [meg@bethanyepc.org](mailto:meg@bethanyepc.org)  
Allison Horton, Operations [ally@bethanyepc.org](mailto:ally@bethanyepc.org)  
Jake Bancroft, Children & Facilities [jake@bethanyepc.org](mailto:jake@bethanyepc.org)  
John Guzze, Praise Team [john@bethanyepc.org](mailto:john@bethanyepc.org)  
Mark Karlberg, Organist & Choir [mark@bethanyepc.org](mailto:mark@bethanyepc.org)  
Mackenzie Bancroft, Nursery [mackenzie@bethanyepc.org](mailto:mackenzie@bethanyepc.org)