

 **Who Are We?**

We are a welcoming church that wants everyone to know God's love.

 <b>Our Core Values</b>	
Love First	Foster Belonging
Grace-Powered	Hope, Help, and Healing

**PRELUDE****WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Welcome visitors – please take this opportunity to register your attendance in the red attendance pads located in the pews.*

**\*CALL to WORSHIP and LIGHTING of the FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE:**

\*Advent Candle Hymn

***“Prepare the Way”***

Today we light four candles. The first three remind us of hope, peace, and joy we have in Christ. This fourth candle represents love. As we watch and wait we are called to prepare our hearts with the love of Christ, who is coming to us anew.

**Prepare the way of the Lord with love.**

In a world often torn by division, we remember that Christ's love has the power to hear, to reconcile, and to bring peace.

**Prepare the way of the Lord with love.**

Love calls us to action – may our hands and hearts be ready to serve, to care, and to share the love of Christ with those in need.

**Prepare the way of the Lord with love.**

In moments of difficulty and despair, let the love of Christ be our anchor, reminding us that nothing can separate us from the love of God.

**Prepare the way of the Lord with love.**

May the love of Christ fill our home, our communities, and our world, bringing light to the darkness and hope to the hopeless.

**Prepare the way of the Lord with love.**

O God of love, help us to embody your love in our daily lives, sharing it freely and generously with all whom we encounter. As we wait the coming of the Prince of Peace, fill our hearts with love, and make us ready to embrace Christ in every moment.

**Prepare the way of the Lord with love.****\*OPENING PRAYER:**

**Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace, King of Kings, Emmanuel,  
you are the light that reveals divine love  
that is the heart of our existence.**

**May your way be prepared in our hearts and minds,  
that we may be founded and centered upon your love,  
and so be illuminated by your light even in the darkness,  
ever ready for the coming of your kingdom,  
in which you reign for ever and ever. Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING (see insert)**

\*HYMN

**UMH 204**

Isaiah 7:10-16

**“Emmanuel, Emmanuel”**

PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19 (see insert)

EPISTLE READING (see insert)

Romans 1:1-7

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GOSPEL READING (see insert)

Matthew 1:18-25

SERMON

**“Emmanuel”**

Pastor Andy Petter

*Good News: The Lord gives us more than a sign – a child, God-with-us, whose face shines upon us to restore us, that we may be saved.*

*Discipleship: Listen for the voice of the Lord, and trade false piety for humble obedience.  
My Response:*

\*HYMN of INVITATION

**W&S 3056**

**“Jesus, the Light of the World”**

PASTORAL PRAYER and the LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING / \*DOXOLOGY **UMH 95**

\*PRAYER of THANKSGIVING:

*All things come from you, O God,  
and with praise and thanksgiving we return to you what is yours.*

*You created all that is, and with love formed us in your image.*

*When our love failed, your love remained steadfast.*

*You gave your only Son Jesus Christ to be our Savior,  
that we might have abundant and eternal life.*

*All that we are, and all that we have, is a trust from you.*

*And so, in gratitude for all that you have done,*

*we offer ourselves, and all that we have,  
in union with Christ's offering for us.*

*By your Holy Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other,  
and one in ministry to all the world;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.*

**HOLY COMMUNION**

*All who seek Jesus are welcome to share in this grace with us,  
whether you are a member of this church, another church, or no church at all.*

\*CLOSING HYMN

**TFWS 2092**

**“Like a Child”**

BENEDICTION and POSTLUDE

Pianist: Chris Miller

*\*Indicates stand as you are able.*

*Do good, be rich in the good things you do, be generous, and share with others. When you do these things, you will save a treasure for yourselves that is a good foundation for the future. That way you can take hold of what is truly life.*      *1 Timothy 6:18-19*

Offerings may be placed in plates or given online through our website. Offerings can be made using electronic fund transfers from your bank account or by credit/debit card, with the option to be set as a recurring gift. Please go to <https://byronmn.umcchurches.org/giving>, or scan the QR code to be directed to the giving page.



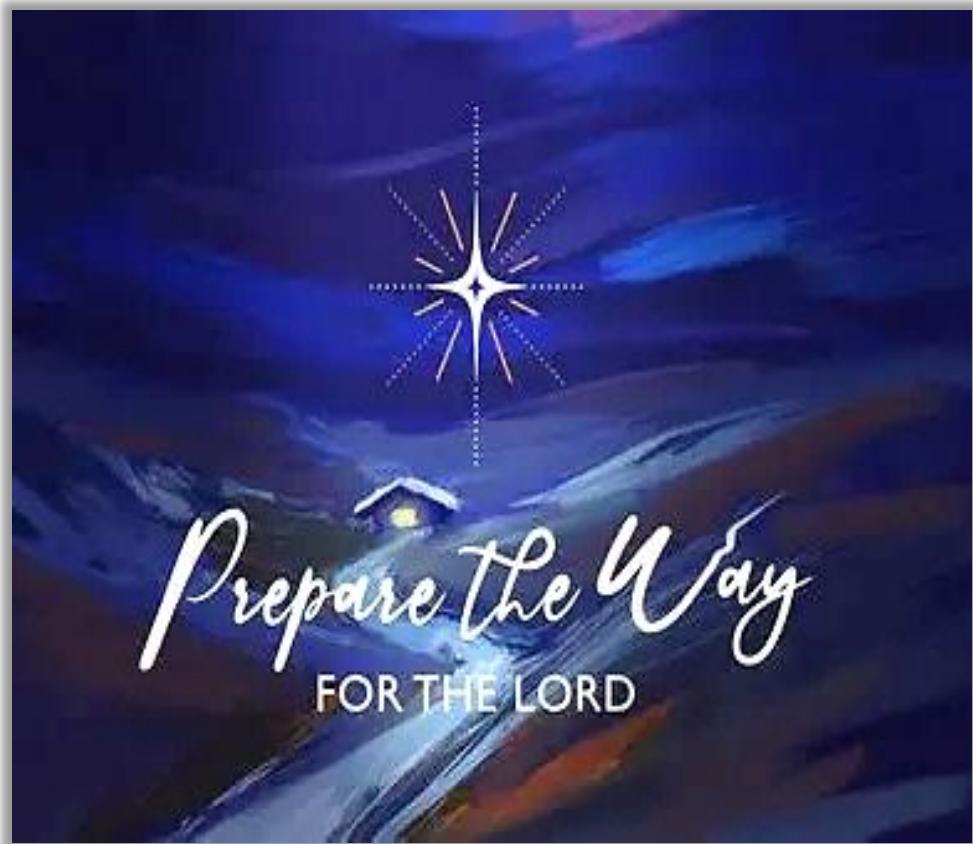
#### COUNTERS SCHEDULE:

Dec. 21 – Roger Vick, Nancy White  
Dec. 24 – Al Miller, Paul Riggs  
Dec. 28 – Marty Nelson, Terri Nelson  
Jan. 4 – Marty Nelson, Paul Riggs  
Jan. 11 – Al Miller, Terri Nelson  
Jan. 18 – Roger Vick, Nancy White  
Jan. 25 – Al Miller, Roger Vick

#### COMMUNION STEWARDS:

Dec. 21 – Aubree / Gauge Hart  
Dec. 24 – Pastor Andy  
Dec. 28 – Cathy Huntoon  
Jan. 4 – NO Communion  
Jan. 11 – Chris Miller  
Jan. 18 – Aubree / Gauge Hart  
Jan. 25 – Cathy Huntoon

# Byron United Methodist Church



**Byron UM Church contact info:**  
503 1st Ave. NW  
P.O. Box 146, Byron, MN 55920  
Phone: 507-775-6610  
Email: [byronumchurch@gmail.com](mailto:byronumchurch@gmail.com)

**Pastor Andy Petter contact info:**  
708 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. NW; Byron, MN 55920  
Parsonage: 507-775-2522  
Cell: 210-288-9477  
Email: [Andrew.L.Petter@gmail.com](mailto:Andrew.L.Petter@gmail.com)

Byron UMC Website: <https://byronmn.umcchurches.org>

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

**December 21, 2025**  
**9:30 a.m.**