

# Bethany Beacon

JANUARY 2020



Plan to attend a scripture-based workshop on **Saturday, January 18, 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.** Speaker Marcy Roundtree of Cedar Rapids will be at Bethany to lead us in a workshop on embracing ethnic diversity. As a church that strives to live and share God's love, we need to understand how to welcome all people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

This workshop will address how we may be unintentionally creating roadblocks to people hearing that Gospel, and how we can instead be a thriving environment where inclusion and equality are embraced.

Lunch will be served at 12:30, immediately following the workshop. Please contact the church office or sign up at the Welcome Center if you plan to attend.



**Bethany**  
Lutheran Church

*Living and Sharing God's Love*

*And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God...who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man – The Nicene Creed*

I have always found it interesting that Christian artists seem to have a habit of portraying Jesus in ways that resemble themselves, often giving Him the physical features of their own ethnicity. In paintings from around the world, Jesus will often look very different depending upon if the artist is from Europe, Africa, Asia, or the Americas.

When I first noticed this tendency in Christian art, it somewhat annoyed me. While we know from the Scriptures that Jesus' father is God, His mother was a young Jewish girl from first century Israel. Therefore, Jesus probably looked like your typical Middle Eastern man from that time and place (Isaiah 53:2). And I thought that portraying our Savior in whatever way fits our cultural and ethnic expectations denigrates the very real, historical acts of His saving work to the realm of mythology or fables.

But then I thought of something this Advent season when I was looking at the Nicene Creed. When talking of Jesus, we confess in the Creed that Jesus was incarnate by the Holy Spirit and "made man". Notice that the Creed, at least in our English translation, does not say that Jesus was made "a" man, but rather just "man". Speaking of Jesus' taking on our humanity in this way helps all people identify themselves with Jesus. And this is indeed what He would have us do. For Jesus is the embodiment of all humanity into one person. Where we have all failed to keep God's Law and live up to His expectations, Jesus has kept the Law and met those expectations perfectly for every person. This was so that He could die and rise again to be the Savior of, not just this or that group of people, but of every human being, regardless of where they come from or what they look like. So, from now on when I look at a picture of Jesus that doesn't look like a Middle-Eastern Jew, I won't be so troubled. Rather, I'll appreciate that the artist, whether consciously or not, is recognizing that Jesus took upon Himself their human nature to their Savior.

This is something for all of us at Bethany to remember as we move together into the new year of 2020 A.D. The mission of our congregation is to *Live and Share God's Love*. Looking back, we give thanks to God for all the ways that we have been able to do in years past. And looking forward we can be confident that God will continue to bless and be with us as we do His work in the future. But we must also remember, that as Jesus was "made man" to be every person's Savior, we must live and share this love of Christ with everyone for whom He has died.

I mention this because I have always believed that the makeup of a healthy congregation, (whether we are talking age, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, or other factors), should always reflect the community in which it is located. But this is not necessarily the case at Bethany, especially when it comes ethnic diversity. While I believe that this is not intentional, talking about why this is and addressing any issues that might be contributing to it – must be. That is why I would like to see everyone at Bethany come to the Embracing Diversity workshop on January 18. There, I'll be looking forward to discussing any obstacles that we may unintentionally be placing in people's way that prevent us from *Living and Sharing God's Love* with everyone in our community. And the more people we have in attendance, the more productive our workshop will be, and the better job we'll do in accomplishing our mission together.

More information on the Embracing Diversity Workshop, as well as other happenings at Bethany, can be found inside this issue of the *Beacon*. As you read through it this month I pray that you'll give thanks for what the Lord is doing in our congregation and be excited to continue to *Live and Share* the love of God who was "made man" for all people.

In Christ's Service,  
✠ Pastor Erickson



## Wednesday, January 1

Office Closed

## Thursday, January 2

6:00 pm Human Care Mtg. - GA

## Saturday, January 4

9:00 am Holy Yoga - OR

9:00 am Handbell Rehearsal

## Sunday, January 5

12:30 pm High School Youth

## Monday, January 6

7:00 am Coffee Outreach

6:00 pm LWML Board Meeting

6:30 pm Stephen Min. Supervision

## Tuesday, January 7

3:00 pm Bethany Prayer Group - Library

5:00 pm Praise Moves - GA

6:00 pm Evangelism - Ad Ed

6:30 pm Handbells Rehearsal

## Wednesday, January 8

6:00 am Men's Bible Study

6:00 pm Confirmation Classes

## Thursday, January 9

9:00 am Adult Bible Study - Ad Ed

6:30 pm Leah Circle - Ad Ed

## Saturday, January 11

9:00 am Holy Yoga - OR

9:00 am Vocal Choir Rehearsal

## Sunday, January 12

12:15 pm Sunday School Teacher Mtg.

## Monday, January 13

7:00 am Elders Meeting

## Tuesday, January 14

9:00 am Circuit Conference at Bethany

3:00 pm Bethany Prayer Group - Library

5:00 pm Praise Moves - GA

5:30 pm Board of Ed. Meeting

6:30 pm Handbells Rehearsal

7:00 pm Council Meeting - Ad Ed

## Wednesday, January 15

6:00 am Men's Bible Study

4:00 pm Cottage Grove Devotion

6:00 pm Confirmation Classes

## Thursday, January 16

9:00 am Adult Bible Study - Ad Ed

11:00 am Senior Worship

## Saturday, January 18

9:00 am Holy Yoga - OR

11:00 am Embracing Diversity Workshop

## Sunday, January 19

12:15 pm Taco Fiesta Fellowship

12:30 pm High School Youth

## Monday, January 20

6:30 pm Stephen Min. Continuing Ed.

## Tuesday, January 21

9:00 am Quilting for World Relief - FLC

3:00 pm Bethany Prayer Group - Library

5:00 pm Praise Moves - GA

6:30 pm Handbells Rehearsal

## Wednesday, January 22

6:00 am Men's Bible Study

6:00 pm Confirmation Classes

## Thursday, January 23

9:00 am Adult Bible Study - Ad Ed

## Saturday, January 25

9:00 am Holy Yoga - OR

## Sunday, January 26

9:30 am Blood Pressure Screening

12:15 pm Annual Meeting

## Monday, January 27

7:00 am Coffee Outreach

## Tuesday, January 28

3:00 pm Bethany Prayer Group - Library

5:00 pm Praise Moves - GA

6:30 pm Handbells Rehearsal

## Wednesday, January 29

6:00 am Men's Bible Study

12:00 pm Beacon Assembly

6:00 pm Confirmation Classes

## Thursday, January 30

9:00 am Adult Bible Study - Ad Ed

## Friday, January 31

Middle School Retreat - Io-Dis-E-Ca

### Key:

**Ad Ed** - Adult Education Room

**FLC** - Family Life Center

**GA** - Gathering Area

**OR** - Opening Room

**LL** - Lower Level

**Annual Meeting:  
January 26**

**Elders**

Jan 5 Jim Novitch  
 Jan 12 Phil Hedtke  
 Jan 19 Karl Hoech  
 Jan 26 Mark Holt

**Ushers**

Jan 5	8:30	Crew #4	11:00	Crew #8
Jan 12	8:30	Crew #1	11:00	Crew #6
Jan 19	8:30	Crew #2	11:00	Crew #7
Jan 26	8:30	Crew #3	11:00	Crew #8

**Greeters**

Jan 5	8:30	Pete & Kris Larson Ken Ambrecht
	11:00	Shari Mehlhoff, Donna Birkicht, Mary Nanke
Jan 12	8:30	Cherie Miller & Doris Baker Arlen & Bonnie Breiholz
	11:00	Jim & Lissa Novitch Ken & Elaine Cook
Jan 19	8:30	Nancy Owens & Carol Edwards Mark & Julie Elias
	11:00	Brad & Erin Crawford Duane & Karen Pfeffer
Jan 26	8:30	Ed & Gloria Schumacher Lorna Fischer
	11:00	Michael & Andrea Prohaska Jeff & Melinda Crow

**Lectors**

Jan 5	8:30	Harrison Sieck
	11:00	Sheryl Knutson
Jan 12	8:30	Arlen Breiholz
	11:00	Dave Christian
Jan 19	8:30	Pete Larson
	11:00	Lissa Novitch
Jan 26	8:30	Mark Bornemann
	11:00	Lissa Novitch

**Video**

Jan 5	8:30	Greg Dunn
	11:00	Greg Dunn
Jan 12	8:30	Jeff Gebert
	11:00	Troy Donels
Jan 19	8:30	Jeff Gebert
	11:00	Michelle Hedtke
Jan 26	8:30	Greg Dunn
	11:00	Mike Diers

**Acolytes**

Jan 5	8:30	Lauren Bricker & Ashlyn Godbey
	11:00	Abby Bogner & Carmen Ranbarger
Jan 12	8:30	Noah Pelletier
	11:00	Kaleb Diers
Jan 19	8:30	Lexi Brink
	11:00	Caleb Strait & Talan Robinson
Jan 26	8:30	Lucas Volden
	11:00	Jase Bond

**Communion Sunday Prayers**

Jan 5	8:30	Harrison Sieck
	11:00	Jim Novitch
Jan 19	8:30	Pete Larson
	11:00	Sheryl Knutson

**Nursery (11:00 Service)**

Jan 5	Kris Dunn, Melissa Loney
Jan 12	Hannah Sieck, Maren Hopkins
Jan 19	Karen Schmidt, Debbie Mills
Jan 26	Liz & Ryan Corey

**If you would like to serve in one of  
these areas, please contact:**

Ushers:	Steve Hanchera (857-4716)
Greeters:	Kay Karsten (361-2017)
Lectors:	Rick Thorington (360-2641)
Pray-er:	Nurse Ronda (364-6026)
Video:	Greg Dunn (389-4271)
Nursery:	Nurse Ronda (364-6026)
Coffee:	Tina Freese (329-3882)



## Thanksgiving:

Oliver (son of \*Joel & Katia Knutson)- Born 12/18  
Greta (daughter of Luke Viertel)- Finger healed  
Angel Tree families

## Illness, injuries, health issues:

Kayleen (friend of \*Novitches)- Recovering after surgery  
Bryan (son in law of \*Mary Nanke)- Health issues  
Bryan (brother of \*Trisha Brink)- Health issues  
Mark (brother of \*Lori Dohrmann)- Health issues  
Gene (husband of \*Karen Schmidt)- Recovering after surgery  
Carol (mother of \*Angie Pfeil)- Recovering after fall  
Carol (mother of \*Kris Larson)- Hip pain  
Andrew (relative of \*Brenda Heims)- Health issues  
Brad (cousin of \*K Pfeffer)- Recovering after heart transplant  
Mike (relative of \*Bonnie Bubke)- Recovering after surgery  
Jennifer (daughter of \*Pat Krekeler)- Life challenges  
Jane (daughter of \*Bonnie Bubke)- Recovering after surgery  
James (grandson of \*Carol Grimminger)- Recovering  
Jeff Mellgren (former member)- Recovering after stroke  
Steve (brother of \*L Patten)- Health issues  
Hayden (relatives of \*Bonnie Bubke)- Brain disorder  
Gwendolyn- (friend of \*Karen Swanson)- Terminal illness  
Steve (brother of \*Barb Miller)- Health issues  
Susan (niece of \*Bonnie Bubke)- Health issues  
Pastor Renfro (Trinity)- Health issues  
Mike (friend of \*Joel Knutson)- Recovering after hospitalization  
Steve (friend of \*Pete Larson)- Recovering after stroke  
John (nephew of \*Bonnie Bubke)- Health issues  
Ruth (friend of \*Velma Ziesemer)- Health issues  
David (relative of \*Melissa Loney)- Health issues  
Rod (nephew of \*Bonnie Bubke)- Parkinson's Disease

## Homebound members of Bethany:

\*Rollis Deetz- at home  
\*Shirley Hansen- at home  
\*Wayne & Darlene Schilling- at home  
Candi Engel- at home  
\*Ann Meyer- Keystone Cedars  
\*Del & \*Dee Block- Summit Pointe, Marion

## Cancer:

Deb (niece of \*Carol Grimminger)- cancer  
Kevin (brother of \*Laura Holt)- cancer treatment  
David (relative of \*Hasses)- cancer  
Gene (husband of \*N Owens)- cancer treatment  
Julie (friend of \*Brenda Heims)- cancer  
Janet (friend of \*Brenda Heims)-cancer  
Judy (godmother of \*Jim Novitch)- cancer treatment  
Chad (son of \*Vicki Huschka)- leukemia  
Rita (friend of \*Shirley Kellogg)- cancer

## Grief, family and friends of:

John (husband of \*Vicki Huschka)- Died 12/1  
Lyla (mother of \*Sheryl Knutson)- Died 11/27  
\*Margaret Speers- Died 11/23  
Don (brother of \*Wayne Schilling)- Died 11/16

## Safety:

Taylor (grandson of \*Kim Neuhaus)- Marines, Deployed  
Charlie (grandson of \*Kim Neuhaus)- Army, Deployed

## Local/National/World:

Victims of Floods, Hurricanes, Fires & Disasters  
Local, State and National Leaders

**Submit a prayer:** Email: nurse.bethanycr@gmail.com or call the church office at 319-364-6026

## Bethany Prayers

Do you have prayer requests? Let us know if you would like your request added to the Sunday prayer list, the email prayer chain, or both. Call 364-6026 or email requests to nurse.bethanycr@gmail.com.

## Senior Worship and Lunch

Next service:

**Thursday, January 16**  
11:00 a.m.

Join us for

## SUNDAY SCHOOL



Come walk with Jesus in Sunday School as we journey through the Bible together.

**Sundays at 9:45 a.m.**



Kids in preschool - 5th grade meet in the Opening Room in the lower level.

Youth in 6th-8th grade meet in the middle school room in the lower level.

Youth in 9th-12th grade meet in the high school room in the lower level.

## Middle School Retreat: January 31 - February 1

Middle school students will gather for a retreat and Snowlympics at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca, Jan. 31 - Feb. 1. If your student will attend, please contact DCE Intern Amanda at [dceintern.bethanycr@gmail.com](mailto:dceintern.bethanycr@gmail.com). The retreat will focus on the topic of music:

*Each one of us has our own unique taste of what we enjoy—some like country music, others prefer rock or rap. There's also classical, jazz, blues, hip hop, and Christian music. At the Iowa District East Middle School Retreat, our youth will study God's gift of music with Pastor Ferch. Together, we will look back to the Old Testament and learn how music was involved in the life of the church. We will peer back into history to see how the early church used music in the Divine Service and how that applies to the church today. We'll also answer an equally important question of, "How does Satan influence our youth with music?" Pastor Ferch will have samples of popular songs that today's teens listen to and together as we parse the words of the song. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, our youth will recognize the influence of Satan through all genres of music.*

## Youth Advent Meal



Thank you to all who came and supported the youth at our Advent meal. Delicious chili was enjoyed by all and the youth did a great job serving all in attendance. All donations and proceeds are going towards fundraising for the next National Youth Gathering. - DCE Intern Amanda Segebart





## Children's Christmas Program

Children at Bethany shared the Christmas message on December 15th. The children shared of what it means to Behold the newborn Christ Child with joyful hearts, songs, and readings. Thank you to all the children who participated and adults who helped with the program!

- DCE Intern Amanda Segebart



## TACO FIESTA

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 19



Join us for lunch and games on January 19 at 12:15 in the Family Life Center.

Sign up at the Welcome Center if you plan to attend and can bring food to share.

Please feel free to bring a game to play, and be sure to invite some friends!





Our next time to host for Family Promise will be **February 9-16**. Family Promise is a program that works with faith communities in the area to house families who are currently homeless.

We will need several volunteers to provide meals, as well as people to stay overnight at Bethany to host families. Please sign up at the Welcome Center to volunteer, or go to [bit.ly/39eu9og](http://bit.ly/39eu9og) to sign up online.



## Baby Bottle Boomerang

In January, we will collect donations for Bridgehaven Pregnancy Support Center. Baby bottles will be available to pick up on January 12 and 19. Please take a bottle home with you and use it to collect cash, change, or checks written to Bridgehaven, then return your bottle to Bethany by January 26. Bridgehaven is a ministry that provides essential services to parents at no cost to clients.

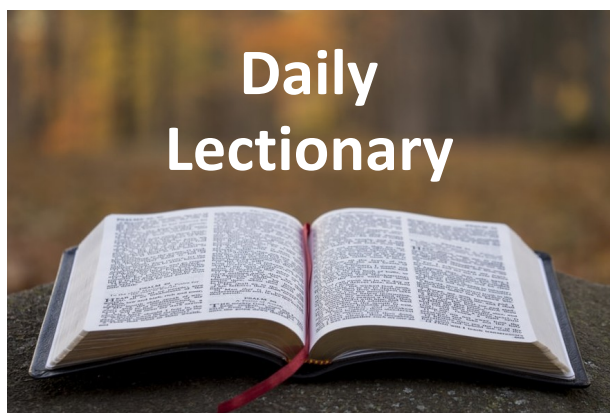


*Thank you for celebrating the birth of Christ with us on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day!*





## Daily Lectionary



### January 2020

- 1\_\_ Luke 1:68-79 & Mark 2
- 2\_\_ Psalm 30 & Mark 3
- 3\_\_ Psalm 31 & Mark 4
- 4\_\_ Psalm 32 & Mark 5
- 5\_\_ Psalm 33 & Mark 6
- 6\_\_ Psalm 34 & Mark 7
- 7\_\_ Psalm 35 & Mark 8
- 8\_\_ Psalm 36 & Mark 9
- 9\_\_ Psalm 37 & Mark 10
- 10\_\_ Psalm 38 & Mark 11
- 11\_\_ Psalm 39 & Mark 12
- 12\_\_ Psalm 40 & Mark 13
- 13\_\_ Psalm 41 & Mark 14
- 14\_\_ Psalm 42 & Mark 15-16
- 15\_\_ Psalm 43 & Genesis 1-3
- 16\_\_ Psalm 44 & Genesis 4-6
- 17\_\_ Psalm 45 & Genesis 7-9
- 18\_\_ Psalm 46 & Genesis 10-12
- 19\_\_ Psalm 47 & Genesis 13-15
- 20\_\_ Psalm 48 & Genesis 16-18
- 21\_\_ Psalm 49 & Genesis 19-21
- 22\_\_ Psalm 50 & Genesis 22-24
- 23\_\_ Psalm 51 & Genesis 25-27
- 24\_\_ Psalm 52 & Genesis 28-30
- 25\_\_ Psalm 53 & Genesis 31-33
- 26\_\_ Psalm 54 & Genesis 34-36
- 27\_\_ Psalm 55 & Genesis 37-39
- 28\_\_ Psalm 56 & Genesis 40-42
- 29\_\_ Psalm 57 & Genesis 43-45
- 30\_\_ Psalm 58 & Genesis 46-48
- 31\_\_ Luke 1:68-79 & Genesis 49-50

## Installation of Officers and Board Members—January 12

We are blessed to have wonderful volunteers who are willing to serve in leadership roles in the church.

Installation for the following leadership positions will be on January 12 during both services

**Recording Secretary** - Lora Raymon

**Financial Secretary** - Laura Holt

**Chair, Board of Education** - Debbie Mills

**Chair, Board of Evangelism** - Lissa Novitch

**Elders** - Steve Hanchera, Jim Heitland,  
Phil Hedtke, Jim Novitch, Rick Foreman

**Trustees** - Jeff Madsen, Duane Pfeffer

Thank you to those who have served the church  
in the following positions:

**Chair, Board of Trustees** - Dave Johnson

## Annual Meeting: January 26

Plan to attend our annual congregational  
meeting on Sunday, January 26.

## How to Access the Online Forum

The discussion forum can be accessed from our website at [bethanycr.org](http://bethanycr.org). Under the "Programs & Ministries" tab, select "Daily Lectionary." Follow the link on that page, which will take you to the forum. You may register and create your own account.

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

<b>1/1</b> Julie Gutman	<b>1/15</b> Kathryn Deetz	<b>1/22</b> Kris Larson
<b>1/4</b> Janelle Dunbar Darren Scott	<b>1/16</b> Shirley Hoppe Stephanie Macke	<b>1/23</b> Elizabeth Corey Tyler Gates
<b>1/5</b> Nate Smith	Duane Pfeffer	Stephanie Hedtke
<b>1/8</b> Hudson Freese	Bernie Rehnstrom	<b>1/26</b> Candi Engel
<b>1/9</b> Phil Hoppe Archer Milbach	<b>1/17</b> Kelly Johnson Diana Long	Tina Freese
<b>1/10</b> Sebastian Foreman Jeffrey Jasper Lissa Novitch	<b>1/18</b> Tami Vande Weerd	<b>1/27</b> Amy Smith
<b>1/11</b> Kellen Volden	<b>1/19</b> Pastor Erickson Caleb Strait	<b>1/28</b> Elianna Novitch
<b>1/13</b> Mary Nanke Thomas Stock	<b>1/20</b> Jake Vande Weerd	<b>1/29</b> Laurie Jasper
	<b>1/21</b> Sarah Kaufman	<b>1/30</b> Clark Anderson
	<b>1/22</b> Tyler Hedtke	Laura Holt
		Lynn Kellogg

## JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

<b>1/3</b> Pete & Kris Larson	<b>1/5</b> Mark and Kim Neuhaus
<b>1/4</b> Ken & Elaine Cook	



### 2019 Baptisms

We thank and praise God for these baptisms!

February 10 - Ava Henderson  
 March 10 - Hudson Freese  
 June 9 - Stephanie Macke  
 July 7 - Benjamin Ackerman  
 July 7 - John Ackerman  
 August 25 - Daphne Dohrmann  
 September 22 - Kiaya Fortner  
 November 28 - Brooklyn Hedtke

### Giving Envelopes

The 2020 giving envelopes are available to pick up. Please pick up your family's envelopes. If you do not find your box, please contact the church office. Giving statements will be sent out at the end of January.

## New Electronic Giving Now Available



**Website:** Visit [bethanycr.org](http://bethanycr.org) to set up and manage both your one-time and recurring offerings. Just click on the GIVE tab.

**Mobile App Giving:** Search your app store for “GivePlus Church” and download the GivePlus app to make one-time or recurring offerings. When you set up an account you can make changes at any time.

## Sewing Quilts for Lutheran World Relief

On Tuesday, January 21, the LWML Special Projects Committee will tie quilts for Lutheran World Relief in the Family Life Center. We will start at 9:00 a.m. and end around noon. Stop in for an hour or stay the whole time—we appreciate any time that you can give! If you plan to stay through the noon hour, please feel free to bring a sack lunch. For more information, contact Betty Happel at 319-393-9497 or Donna Bogner at 319-777-9053.



## Bethany Happenings

*Pictured above:* Ladies gathered for the LWML general meeting and prepared Christmas gifts for nursing home friends on December 8.

*Pictured left:* The Monday morning women's small group finished their fall study. The group celebrated with a fellowship luncheon at Bethany on November 25.

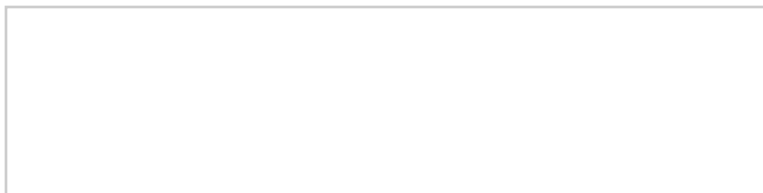




BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
2202 FOREST DR SE  
CEDAR RAPIDS IA 52403-1654

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U. S. POSTAGE PAID  
Permit #118  
CEDAR RAPIDS IA, 52403

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



*Living and Sharing God's Love*

**WORSHIP WITH US**

**Sunday Mornings**

8:30 am	Traditional Service
9:45 am	Education Hour
11:00 am	Contemporary Service

**CONNECT WITH US**

Website	<a href="http://www.bethanycr.org">www.bethanycr.org</a>
Email	<a href="mailto:office.bethanycr@gmail.com">office.bethanycr@gmail.com</a>
Phone	319-364-6026
	<a href="https://facebook.com/bethanycr">facebook.com/bethanycr</a>