

Bethany Beacon

JANUARY 2021

ANNUAL MEETING

Annual Meeting on January 24

Our annual meeting will be held on Sunday, January 24 after services.

Leaders will share an overview of 2020 at Bethany as they present the annual report.

You may attend the meeting in the Family Life Center, or tune in via FM radio in our parking lot.

Due to the impacts of COVID-19, the district presidents of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod expressed to LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison uncertainty regarding their ability to adequately meet for their district conventions during 2021. After consultation with the LCMS Board of Directors, and with the encouragement of the LCMS Council of Presidents, President Harrison proposes, per LCMS Constitution Article XI B 8, that the congregations of Synod vote to delay the 2022 Synod convention one year (to 2023), thus extending the window for district conventions to include the calendar year 2022. We will vote on this at the January 24 meeting.

Bethany's Mission

How have you been “Living and Sharing God’s Love”? In a year when we have spent so much time apart, it is especially important to reach out and connect with people. Consider sending a card or calling a friend to let them know God loves them. If you would like to share a message of God’s love, you could share a link to our Sunday sermons, which are posted online every weekend at bethanycr.org.

How have you found ways to live out our mission statement in 2020? Please contact the church office at office.bethanycr@gmail.com or call 364-6026 if you would like to share your story!



Bethany
Lutheran Church

Living and Sharing God's Love

And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel..." - Luke 2:34a

It seems that every time we come to January, there is always the danger that we leave Christmas behind. As we stop singing carols and take down the decorations, we can be pulled away from the manger and the angels and the shepherds and on to other, if not more important things, than at least more pressing matters that await us in the new year. But if we leave our Savior's humble beginnings behind too quickly, we run the very real risk of pulling ourselves away from Him all together.

Simeon told Mary that Jesus would be the cause of the fall and rising of many in Israel. While many would believe in Jesus, there would also be many who would reject Him. It would be a mistake to think that this disposition towards Christ would only happen in Israel. Instead, Simeon says this to show that if Jesus' own chosen people would receive Him in such a way, how much more would this be true among others? And so it is. While many people around the world enjoy Christmas, for most, their celebrations really have nothing to do with God taking upon our human nature. Even among those who profess their belief that Jesus is God, the idea of God humbly appearing as a mortal child can be offensive, or at least something to quickly move past and on to the Jesus who affirms whatever choices we make and helps us keep our New Year's resolutions. God appearing in glory and splendor might have made more people pause at His coming, but Simeon was right. God appearing as a child would cause many to fall.

However, let's not deceive ourselves and think that such attitudes are only found in others. As always, we need to look into our own hearts with the lenses of God's Word and past experience. Doing so, we'll surely see that we have not always been quick to embrace our Lord and His humble ways. When faced with the problems of this life, we long to see God's deliverance with power and might. And yet at Christmas we find God lying

humbly in a manger. How often have we chased after or trusted in anything but Jesus at the exact times when we needed Him the most? But our human nature finds it hard to fear, love and trust in a God that had to be cared for by a carpenter and a young virgin. Let alone One who died on a cross.

So why did Jesus come to us in such a way if He knew that such humility would be an offense to our reason and our hearts? Why not come in such a way that everyone would say "Yes" to His call, and "Amen" to the Good News? Why not come how we would expect a King to come and rule how we want? The answer is that if God is to help us, He had to send a Savior that would be offensive to our reason and that would not delight in our desires. For as we all know, too often our hearts are filled with pride, desires of the flesh, and wisdom and virtue that are foreign to our Holy God. Simply put, we're sinners. And to save us from our sin, our Savior will be confusing and offensive to our sinful nature. For some, this will cause them to fall. But by God's grace, others will hear the Good News of our humble Jesus, believe in Him, and be raised into eternal life.

And so, as we begin another year together as God's people at Bethany, (one that we have all have been looking forward to for quite some time), let us not be too quick to move on from Christmas and Jesus' humble arrival in Bethlehem. For while there are surely many things for us to do and to look forward to so that we might have a blessed 2021, Simeon's words from long ago are as true today as they ever been – all people will fall or rise based on their relationship with Jesus. And so, let us stay with Him and His humble ways, so that we might not only have a happy new year, but also a blessed eternity as His forgiven people.

In Christ's Service,
✠ Pastor Erickson

Thanksgiving:

New Year

Illness, injuries, health issues:

Robert (father of *Chris Knudson)- Hospitalization
 Andrew (grandson of *Schumacher)- Recovering after surgery
 Jane (daughter of *Bonnie Bubke)- Recovering after surgery
 Hazel (granddaughter of *Kim Neuhaus)- health issues
 Gene (husband of *Nancy Owens)- Recovering after surgery
 Wilson (infant son of Luke Viertel)- health issues
 Donald (brother of *Carol Edwards)- recovering after COVID-19
 Rev. Dr. Brian Saunders (IDE President)- health issues
 Those affected by COVID-19 and the derecho storm
 Nancy (mother of Carolyn Sternowski)- recovering after broken hip
 Alyse (granddaughter of *Janelle Dunbar)- brain tumor
 Judy (niece of *Bonnie Bubke)- Recovering after surgery
 Ron (brother of *Gloria Schumacher)- Health issues
 Joe (relative of *Bonnie Bubke)- Medical issues
 LoAnn (relative of *Bonnie Bubke)- Recovering after broken leg
 Agnes (friend of *Siebenmanns)- Health issues
 Gene (husband of *K. Schmidt)- Recovering after surgery
 Andrew (relative of *B Heims)- Recovering after surgery
 Mary Lou (mother of *Becky Thur)- Recovering after surgery
 Carolyn (mother of Mary Vezina)- Recovering from shingles
 Jennifer (daughter of *Pat Krekeler)- Life challenges
 Jeff Mellgren (former member)- Recovering after stroke
 Hayden (relative of *Bonnie Bubke)- Brain disorder
 Gwendolyn- (friend of *Karen Swanson)- Terminal illness
 Pastor Renfro (Trinity)- Health issues
 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

Safety:

Tailor & Charlie (grandsons of *Kim Neuhaus)- Deployed

Homebound members of Bethany:

*Wayne Schilling- at home
 Candi Engel- at Garnett Place
 *Nadine Wax- at home
 *Ann Meyer- Terrace Glen, Marion
 *Del Block- Summit Pointe, Marion
 *Larry & *Sharon Easler- Summit Pointe, Marion
 *Dee Rose- hospice care at Meth-Wick
 *Darlene Eckert- recovering after broken leg

Cancer:

Noelle (relative of *Larsons)- cancer
 Darrel (father of *Janet Hoech)- cancer treatment
 Marcia (relative of *Brenda Heims)- cancer
 Oz (father of *Dathan Hinrichs & *Josie Hester)- cancer treatment
 Pat (niece of *Bonnie Bubke)- cancer
 Jerry (father of Missy Gingrich)- cancer treatment
 Glen (brother of *Rob Sieck)- cancer
 Jim (friend of *Sheryl Knutson)- cancer surgery
 Tony (friend of *Mike Thomas)- cancer
 David (relative of *Hasses)- cancer
 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:

Bud (father of *Leisa Knudson)- Died 12/17
 *Dee Block (wife of *Del Block)- Died 12/16
 Doug friend of *Linda Patten)- Died 12/11
 Janet (sister-in-law of *Ronda Anderson)- Died 12/11
 *Bernie Rehnstrom- Died 11/25
 Ray (uncle of *Karen Pfeffer)- Died 11/7

Local/National/World:

Local, state, and national leaders
 Victims of floods, hurricanes, fires and disasters

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 prayer list, the email prayer chain, or both. Call 364-6026 or email requests to nurse.bethanycr@gmail.com.

Sunday, January 3

1:00 pm Communion

Monday, January 4

6:00 pm Trustees Meeting - Zoom

Tuesday, January 5

6:00 pm Evangelism Committee - Zoom

6:30 pm Handbell Practice

Wednesday, January 6

6:00 am Men's Bible Study - Zoom

6:00 pm Confirmation - FLC

7:00 pm Confirmation - FLC

Thursday, January 7

6:00 pm Human Care Meeting - Zoom

Tuesday, January 12

6:30 pm Handbell Practice

7:00 pm Council Meeting - Zoom

Wednesday, January 13

6:00 am Men's Bible Study - Zoom

6:00 pm Confirmation - FLC

7:00 pm Confirmation - FLC

Monday, January 18

10:00 am Women's Group - Zoom & FLC

Wednesday, January 20

6:00 am Men's Bible Study - Zoom

6:00 pm Confirmation - FLC

7:00 pm Confirmation - FLC

Sunday, January 24

12:15 pm Annual Meeting

Monday, January 25

10:00 am Women's Group - Zoom & FLC

Tuesday, January 26

6:30 pm Handbell Practice

Wednesday, January 27

6:00 am Men's Bible Study - Zoom

6:00 pm Confirmation - FLC

7:00 pm Confirmation - FLC

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1/1 Julie Gutman

1/4 Janelle Dunbar

Darren Scott

1/5 Nate Smith

1/8 Hudson Freese

1/9 Phil Hoppe

Archer Milbach

1/10 Sebastian Foreman

Jeffrey Jasper

Lissa Novitch

1/11 Kellen Volden

Everly Zimmerman

1/13 Mary Nanke

1/13 Thomas Stock

1/15 Kathryn Deetz

1/16 Shirley Hoppe

Stephanie Macke

Duane Pfeiffer

1/17 Kelly Johnson

Diana Long

1/18 Tami Vande Weerd

1/19 Pastor Erickson

Caleb Strait

1/20 Jake Vande Weerd

1/21 Sarah Kaufman

1/22 Tyler Hedtke

1/22 Kris Larson

1/23 Stephanie Chittick

Elizabeth Corey

Tyler Gates

1/26 Candi Engel

Tina Freese

1/27 Amy Smith

1/28 Elianna Novitch

1/29 Laurie Jasper

1/30 Clark Anderson

Laura Holt

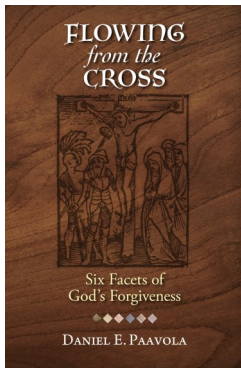
Lynn Kellogg

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

1/3 Pete and Kris Larson

1/4 Ken and Elaine Cook

1/6 Mindy and Pat Thies



Women's Small Group

New book starting January 18

The Monday morning women's group will start a new study on January 18. The group will read the book "Flowing from the Cross" by Daniel Paavola. Discussions of the book will take place on Mondays at 10:00 a.m. in a hybrid format (you may choose to join in-person at Bethany or online via Zoom). Please contact Nurse Ronda if you would like to join this group.

Installation of Officers

The following people were voted into their positions at our November voters' meeting, and will be installed during both services on Sunday, January 10. After the election, Melinda Crow was appointed to fill the position of recording secretary at the December 2020 council meeting. Thank you for serving in these positions!

Treasurer: Bill Freese

Board of Stewardship Chair: Dave Dohrmann

Board of Human Care Chair: Rita Tiedt

Board of Elders: Mark Holt, Karl Hoech,
Nate Ackerman

Board of Trustees: Mitch Myers, Richard Hass,
Ray McGraw, Aaron Moffett,
Greg Dunn, Troy Donels,
Dathan Hinrichs

Recording Secretary: Melinda Crow

Refreshed Hallways

The Bethany Board of Trustees worked on installing new lighting and ceiling tiles in the upper level hallways. Thank you, trustees!



Bethany Quilters

Even though we can't meet as a group, the ladies are still working on quilts at home. We are in need of sheets for the insides of our quilts. If you have any used sheets you no longer use, please donate them to the LWML. You may drop these off at church.



Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for 2021 are now available to pick up at Bethany. Please find the box for your family, on the table outside the sanctuary.





Opportunities to Give

Thank you to those who participated in a gift-giving opportunity for a Washington High School family. Marcy Roundtree, WHS Community Liaison contacted Nurse Ronda in regard to Bethany “sponsoring” a family that may otherwise not have any gifts for Christmas. We were given a list of gift requests, and 16 Bethany members gave 22 gifts. On behalf of this family- thank you for your generosity!

Thank you also to everyone who participated in the Angel Tree program this year!

Finally, thank you to everyone who has donated household items to our collection. A sack full of items went out to the WHS family as well as nine Angel Tree families.

Sunday Morning Education

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study

On Sundays Pastor Erickson leads Bible study at 9:45 a.m.

There is a link on the email sent to the congregation each Saturday or you can go to the church website under Resources/Bible Study. On Zoom just enter the following ID and passcode:

Meeting ID: 857 1656 9719

Passcode: 660091



Those who wish to attend in-person may join Pastor Erickson in the Family Life Center. If you attend in person, please wear a face mask.



Sunday School

Sunday School has been meeting online via Zoom on Sunday mornings from 10-10:30 am. Sunday school is for preschool through grade 12.

This year Sunday School is doing an overview of the Old Testament.



Communion Schedule

If you would prefer receiving communion in a small group at Bethany, you may sign up to receive communion in the afternoon on the first Sunday of each month. The next one will be on January 3.

Time slots will be limited to one family group at a time. To sign up for a 15-minute slot, call the church office at 364-6026 or use the link sent to your email.

Pastor's Puzzle

Look up the Bible verses from this month's Gospel lessons to find the answers to the questions below. Then, see if you can find the answers in the word search.

1. The king (not Jesus) in Matthew 2:1 (5 letters)
2. What the wise men saw rise in Matthew 2:2 (4 letters)
3. The gifts of the wise men in Matthew 2:11 (3 words - 4, 12, and 5 letters)
4. The river John was baptizing in, in Mark 1:5
5. What the One who comes after John will baptize with in Mark 1:8 (2 words - 4 and 6 letters)
6. What type of Son the voice from heaven said Jesus was in Mark 1:11 (7 letters [ESV])

R	B	E	E	Y	E	B	Z	E	B	E	D	E	E
H	S	F	Y	B	N	T	S	C	R	I	B	E	S
T	H	R	N	G	L	F	H	I	E	R	H	P	S
F	E	A	A	Y	E	I	O	R	E	G	I	U	H
I	R	N	H	N	A	G	L	E	L	L	C	B	L
F	O	K	P	A	N	T	Y	R	I	C	R	R	S
I	D	I	I	D	A	R	S	H	L	A	T	P	T
S	H	N	P	R	H	E	P	M	A	P	R	D	A
H	V	C	E	O	T	E	I	E	G	E	H	S	R
E	S	E	P	J	A	I	R	M	Y	R	R	H	P
R	I	N	B	H	N	I	I	A	G	N	M	P	S
M	E	S	A	R	N	N	T	F	N	A	H	I	I
E	D	E	V	O	L	E	B	V	G	U	R	J	R
N	B	I	D	G	O	L	D	V	P	M	L	N	B

7. Jesus found him in John 1:43 (6 letters)
8. #7's answers found him in John 1:45 (9 letters)
9. What Jesus saw #8's answer sitting under in John 1:48 (2 words - 3 and 4 letters)
10. Jesus came here after John was arrested in Mark 1:14 (7 letters)
11. Simon and Andrew's vocation in Mark 1:16 (plural, 9 letters)
12. James' and John's father in Mark 1:19 (7 letters)
13. Jesus and His disciples went here in Mark 1:21 (9 letters)
14. Jesus did not teach like them in Mark 1:22 (7 letters)
15. Bonus - What festival do Christians celebrate on January 6?

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

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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	www.bethanycr.org
Email	office.bethanycr@gmail.com
Phone	319-364-6026
	facebook.com/bethanycr