

WORSHIP BULLETIN

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – DECEMBER 3, 2017

Please take this bulletin home with you ... as a reference for this week's calendar of events, a reminder of Bethany family and friends to keep in your prayers and other useful information.

Prelude: *"Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"* Evan Storley, 8:30
"By Adam's Fall Were We Condemned" - J.S. Bach (11:00)

Gathering Hymn:
"Prepare a Way for the Lord!" - Michael Bedford Weeknight Music I, (8:30)
"The King Shall Come" ELW 260 (11:00)

First Reading Isaiah 64:1-9

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19 Chanted responsively

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Gospel Acclamation: *"Hallelujah!"* ELW 171, Weeknight Music & Choir

Gospel Mark 13:24-37

Sermon: *"The Ballad of the Coming-Down God"* Pastor Jen Henry

Hymn of the Day: *"He Came Down"* ELW 253, vv. 1-4, choir; vv. 1-4, congregation

Children's Message Pastor Jen

Offering: *"My Lord, What a Morning!"* - Spiritual Choir, (8:30)
"Savior of the Nations, Come!" - J.S. Bach (11:00)

Communion Hymns: *"Lamb of God"* ELW p. 191
"Unexpected and Mysterious" ELW 258

Sending Hymn: *"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"* ELW 254

Postlude: *"The Hawkeyes Shall Live By Faith"* - – Allen Borton

WORSHIP NOTES

Welcome everyone to worship at Bethany Lutheran Church! It is our hope that you experience the love of Christ this morning and His presence during our worship service. If you are visiting today, please sign the guest book in the narthex. Everyone please sign the fellowship pad in your pew. The pads have a space for our record of communion. Please be sure to mark this if you partake in Holy Communion. Thank you for completing this information. Please note, assistive hearing devices and large print bulletins are available if needed – ask an usher.

The liturgical color for Advent is blue. Because Royal Blue is the color of royalty to welcome the coming of a King, it is increasingly used for Advent to distinguish it from Lent. Royal Blue can also symbolize the night sky in which the star appeared to announce the birth of Jesus.

Many thanks to our worship volunteers helping with services today:

8:30: Greet: Emily Baker; Read: Judy Hiemstra; Acolyte: Kendel Schmidt-Loehr, Hallie Rusk; Communion servers: Mary Marske, Donna Jones, Francis Hiemstra; Usher: Gary Halverson, Bruce Klenken, Francis Hiemstra; Record: Bill Hemme; Project: Denise Tolzmann;

11:00: Greet: Emily Baker, Liz Vulk; Read: Emily Baker; Communion server: Teresa Martindale; Projector: Susan Rohan

PRAYER CONCERNS

Health Concerns:

Jo Beving, Cecelia Burns, Lane Frederick, Mary Grover, Ben Heien, Jamie Huber, Linda Kunzmann, Sandy Manwarren, Bill McCune, Isabel Perez;

Barbara Wood (*Betty Lee's sister*)

Darla Larsen (*Doug Bjorklund's sister*);

Evelyn Winterboer (*Denny Winterboer's mother*);

Those who mourn:

Family of Jo Merrill (*Jim Rusk's sister*)

ANNOUNCEMENTS & CALENDAR

FELLOWSHIP & SUNDAY SCHOOL There are opportunities for fellowship and learning between worship services. Stop by the church parlor (*end of hallway in east wing*) for coffee/lemonade, cookies or donuts & lively conversation. All are welcome! Children ages 3 years – grade 8 are encouraged to attend Sunday School. Classes run from 9:45-10:45am. Preschoolers 3-4 years gather in their room upstairs (Room 9). Kinder-kids – grade 6 gather for fellowship in the dining room on the lower level. Students in grades 7-8 meet in their room in the east wing downstairs.

PLEASE USE A NAMETAG We would like all members to have a permanent nametag (kids, too!). If you are in need of a nametag or have misplaced yours we will make one for you. Look for the “Need a Name Tag” sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center. Visitors are encouraged to use adhesive nametags (at the Welcome Center) or sign up for a name tag if attending regularly.

STEWARDSHIP NOTES Recently we celebrated Thanksgiving and we have so much to be thankful for! I am thankful for Pastor Jen and her dynamic preaching, Stephen and our incredible music, Katie for her leadership of our youth, Mary Ann for her support and efficiency running the church office, Lois for her care of our building and grounds, Onalee for her caring ministry and for all the volunteers that support Bethany's mission with their time and talents. I am thankful for all those who turned in their pledges for 2018. Unfortunately pledges for 2018 are only 77% of what was pledged for 2017 with 50 fewer pledgers. Through October 31, Bethany's 2017 expenses are \$32,444 more than receipts. If you have not returned your pledge card, I urge you to pray about it and drop it in the mail, the church office, or the offering plate so that we may maintain Bethany's mission. As the Apostle Paul writes to the Corinthians, *"You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God."*

2 Corinthians 9:11-12

Mary Marske,
Stewardship Committee Chair

GRAND MEANDER Young and old will have fun taking in the sights and sounds at the annual Grand Meander in downtown Spencer on Monday, December 4 from 5-7pm. While browsing the live window displays look for Bethany members and friends at Midwest Piano (501 Grand Ave), Aventure Staffing (511 Grand Ave, formerly Radio Shack), and at Toad's Roadhouse Coffee (521 Grand Ave).

SS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM Preschool-6th Grade students will present a program of music and scripture readings to tell the Christmas Story on Wednesday, December 6 at 7pm. Rehearsals are happening during the Sunday school hours with a "dress rehearsal" on Sunday, December 3. Bethany Youth will host a supper at 6pm in the dining room, serving chicken noodle soup, chili, and pie for a free-will donation. Everyone is welcome for supper and the program!

ADVENT IS HERE! Midweek services and suppers will be happening on the Wednesdays of Advent. Supper is served at 6pm and worship follows at 7pm. Look for a variety of Advent Devotionals and resources in the Narthex. Find something to use and take it home.

BOARD REPORTS COMING DUE Ministry Team chairs are reminded to email a digital formattable copy (*no .pdf files, please*) of your board's report to: bethany@bethluthspencer.com by Friday, December 15.

BLANKETED IN FAITH Many, many thanks to all of you who have donated fleece for Blanketed in Faith. We will have a “Blanket Tying Social” on Thursday, December 14 in the Dining Room at Bethany starting 6pm. All are welcome to come and work on the blankets. No experience is necessary and it’s very easy to learn! This happens to be the same evening as our community meal, “The Gathering”. If you’d like, come for supper beforehand and join in fellowship. On Sunday, December 17 our worship service will include a special time for blessing the blankets before we send them on their way to be distributed to foster children through Lutheran Services in Iowa.

‘TIS THE SEASON There are many activities celebrating the birth of our Savior happening in the community. Be sure to check the bulletin board for posters and details about events at area churches. The Festival of Lessons and Carols happens this afternoon – 3pm at Sacred Heart Church. Grace United Methodist Church will be having a walk through a live nativity, at Journey to Bethlehem, happening on Saturday and Sunday, December 9 & 10 from 2-5pm. And of course we are having our biennial celebration, Christmas at Bethany... Yesterday & Today on Saturday, December 9 from 11am-3pm. Read on for more details...

CHRISTMAS AT BETHANY We are quickly approaching the big day. The church will be busy Friday, December 8 preparing for Christmas at Bethany. ***Craft items*** can be dropped off at any time that day. If you need to drop off prior please put your items in the quilt room or leave at the Welcome Center. Be sure your items are priced. ***If you signed up to set up a Christmas tree or nativity,*** please set up on Friday, December 8. If you need to come after 5pm let us know so we can be sure there someone is at the church. If you haven’t signed up to share a tree or nativity and would like to, you may still do so. See the sign-up sheet in the Narthex. ***Baked goods for the bake sale or tea room, and salads for the pork luncheon*** can be dropped off anytime on Friday or by 9am at the latest on Saturday morning. We could use some more salads. Look for the sign-up sheet in the Narthex. ***Santa’s Workshop*** could still use a few donations of inexpensive general gifts and gifts geared toward men and children. If able to help, leave items in the collection basket at the Welcome Center. ***A huge thank you to all who helped make lefse*** and to those who provided us with the tools for lefse making day! It was a great time of fun and fellowship. Many of us were newbies at making lefse, we had some great teachers, and made some delicious lefse. Funds raised at Christmas at Bethany will go towards “Room at the Table”, ELCA Disaster Relief Fund and Bethany Parish Education.

SNOW/WEATHER CANCELLATIONS Bethany has modified its snow and cancellations policy as follows: Regarding weekday activities or meetings, if the Spencer School system cancels classes, all events at the church will be cancelled for that day as well and the church office/building will be closed. Regarding weekend activities, if the weather becomes such that it may be unsafe to travel, activities may be cancelled. If so, cancellations will be announced on the KICD radio stations (AM 1240, FM 98.3, FM 104.9, FM 107.7). It will also be posted on Bethany's social media sites and the Bethany website: www.bethluthspencer.com

“THE GATHERING” CAN USE YOUR HELP Bethany's next community meal “The Gathering” will be held Thursday, December 14. We are serving ham, baked potatoes, green bean casserole and cake. Please help us: make a jello-poke cake (recipe available at Welcome Center). Bring your cake to the kitchen by 4pm on December 14. Thank you for your continued support.

ELCA GOOD GIFTS have the potential to make a lasting impact in the lives of others. During the season of Advent, look for Christmas trees in the Narthex with ornaments depicting some of the popular gifts that can be given. Select a gift and make a donation for that item. As Advent draws to a close, we will place a group order for all of the items purchased. If giving your gift in honor of a loved one, be sure to pick up a card at the church office to announce that an ELCA Good Gift was given in their honor.

DECEMBER LOVING SPENCER PROJECT As the Christmas season approaches, we want our December project to remind us to work hard to help those in need receive some Christmas cheer (also known as the Love of God). No child should be disappointed during the holidays, and with your help we can bring smiles to their faces this year. Consider donating a new toy to be given to a child in need this Christmas. Each toy donation will put a smile on a child's face, encourage their imagination, and help them hope beyond their current circumstances. Each toy donation you make represents a changed life. After all, we are blessed to be a blessing! **HOW IT WORKS:** Purchase a new toy and drop it off in the collection box at Walmart or Bomgaars in Spencer or purchase a new toy and bring it to an organization of your choice *and* pray for the children receiving the toys. Thanks for your support of this mission!

LET THE DECEMBER KINDNESS EXPLOSION BEGIN!!!



Holiday Schedule

CLIP & SAVE THIS SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING SERVICES & EVENTS

Please note the following special events and changes to our regular worship services at Bethany:

- **Sunday School Christmas Program**
Wednesday, December 6 – Supper, 6pm; Program, 7:00pm
- **Christmas at Bethany... Yesterday & Today**
Saturday, December 9, 11am-3pm
- **Fourth Sunday of Advent Service**
Sunday, December 24 at 10:00am (*one morning service only*)
- **Christmas Eve Candlelight Services**
Sunday, December 24 at 4:30pm & 6:00pm
- **Christmas Day Service**
Monday, December 25, 10:00am
- **New Year's Eve Day, First Sunday of Christmas**
Sunday, December 31 at 10:00am

See complete calendar of events for the coming week on the next page.

CALENDAR

Sunday, December 3 – First Sunday of Advent

- 8:30 am Worship
- 9:45 am Fellowship Time, Sunday School
- 11:00 am Worship
- 3:00 pm Festival of Lessons & Carols at Sacred Heart

Monday, December 4

- 1:30 pm Stonecroft Bible Study
- 2:30 pm St Luke Auxiliary Meeting

Tuesday, December 5

- 2:00 pm Staff Meeting
- 5:00 pm Weeknight Music 2
- 6:00 pm Parish Ed Committee Meeting
- 6:00 pm Youth Committee Meeting
- 6:00 pm Weeknight Music 1
- 7:00 pm Weeknight Music

Wednesday, December 6

- 10:00 am Bible Study & Prayer Group
- 6:00 pm Advent Supper, Choir
- 7:00 pm Sunday School Christmas Program

Thursday, December 7

- 9:30 am Spencer Ministerial Mtg. @ GUMC
- 5:30 pm Capital Campaign Committee Meeting

Friday, December 8 : *Christmas at Bethany set-up*

Saturday, December 9

- 7:30 am Men of Bethany Bible Study
- 11:00 am Christmas at Bethany...
- to 3:00 pm Yesterday and Today

Sunday, December 10 : *Food Drive Week for UDMO pantry begins*

- 8:30 am Worship
- 9:45 am Fellowship Time, Sunday School
- 11:00 am Worship