

WORSHIP BULLETIN
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – DECEMBER 17, 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: *"I Could Sing of Your Love Forever"* - Larry Dalton

Canticle of Praise: *"My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness"* ELW 251

First Reading Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Psalm 126 chanted responsively (Tone 8)

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Gospel John 1:6-8, 19-28

Sermon Pastor Jen Henry

Hymn of the Day: *"Rejoice, Rejoice Believers"* ELW 244

Offering: *"When He Comes"* - Lloyd Larson (Choir 8:30)
"Rock of Ages" - Lee Evans (11:00)

Communion Hymn: *"Lost in the Night"* ELW 243

Sending Hymn: *"Blessing the Blankets for Foster Care Kids"*

Postlude: *"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"*

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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: George & Carolyn Kruger; Read: Mary Marske; Acolyte: Jacob Blume, Cole DeVlaeminck; Communion servers: Mary Marske, Susan Rohan, Marla Woelber; Usher: Roger Clarke, Dick & Betty Schmidt, Marla Woelber; Record: Dale & Sandi Witt; Project: Matt Kuehler; **11:00:** Greet: Liz Vulk; Read: Emily Baker; Communion server: Teresa Martindale; Projector: Mary Ann Quail;

Are you able to help as a worship volunteer? Readers, greeters, and Communion servers are needed. Please consider helping! The January-February sign-up forms are at the Welcome Center. Please look them over and sign up to help. On-line sign up is available, too. Log on to this address: <http://signup.com/login/entry/10064285800109>. Also, a sign-up schedule for our extra Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services is at: <http://signup.com/login/entry/116989910792304020>.

Thank you for helping as a worship volunteer at Bethany!

PRAYER CONCERNS

Health Concerns

Doris Andersen, Lane Frederick, Mary Grover, Ben Heien, Jamie Huber, Elsie Mae Jones, Linda Kunzmann, Sandy Manwarren, Bill McCune, Isabel Perez, Sally Peterson; Barbara Wood (*Betty Lee's sister*); Darla Larsen (*Doug Bjorklund's sister*); Evelyn Winterboer (*Denny Winterboer's mother*); Elsie Anderson (*Val Van Ampting, Laurie Conlon & Mary Ann Quail's mother*); Kevin Vaudt (*Steve & Rhonda Salts' son-in-law*)

Those who mourn

Family of Josh Jacobson (*Joe Dardar's brother*)

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, available at the Welcome Center.

FOOD DRIVE FOR UDMO Many thanks to everyone who donated food and hygiene items for our December food drive. We will deliver them to the Upper Des Moines pantry. Thank you all for your continued support of this mission!

ADVENT IS HERE! Midweek services and suppers are happening on the Wednesdays of Advent. Supper is served at 6pm and worship follows at 7pm. Middle & High School youth activities will continue on Wednesday evenings – just after the worship service. We encourage you to look over the Advent devotionals and resources in the Narthex and find something to use in preparation for Christmas.

BOARD REPORTS DUE Ministry Team chairs are reminded that reports for the 2017 annual report were due on Friday, December 15. If you haven't turned yours in yet, please email a digital formattable copy (*no .pdf files, please*) of your board's report to: bethany@bethluthspencer.com as soon as possible.

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTIES Junior High and Senior High youth will enjoy food, fun and fellowship at their upcoming Christmas Party celebrations on Wednesday, December 20. Grades 6-8 will gather from 6-7pm (students are welcome to come to the Advent supper prior to the party). and grades 9-12 from 7:45-9:15pm. Both groups will have a White Elephant gift exchange (\$10 limit). Kids should please RSVP to Katie by December 19. Thanks!

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.

SOUND/VIDEO VOLUNTEERS NEEDED Video recorder and projector operators are needed to run the system in our new sound booth for worship services. If you would like to be a part of this team, please sign up at the Welcome Center. We will contact you so set up training times. Thanks!

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. Cancellations will be announced on the KICD radio stations (AM 1240, FM 98.3, FM 104.9, FM 107.7), posted on Bethany's social media sites & the Bethany website: www.bethluthspencer.com.

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!

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED We are in need of volunteers in the office to answer the telephone on Tuesday afternoons during our staff meeting. The meeting begins at 2pm and would last about an hour. If you are able to help with this, look for a schedule and please sign up at the Welcome Center. Also, our Parish Secretary, Mary Ann, is hoping to take some vacation time between Christmas and New Year and again at the end of January. This would involve some computer and office-related duties. If you are able to serve in this capacity, see the schedule of dates and sign up, also located at the Welcome Center.

BETHANY CONSTITUTION CHANGING A final draft of the proposed new Bethany constitution is available. Copies are located at the Welcome Center. We encourage you to pick one up and look it over, as this will be voted on at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation. The annual meeting will be held on Sunday, January 21. A presentation on the proposed constitution along with a time for questions and answers will be offered at two times --- between services on Sunday, January 7 and again on Sunday, January 14. Plan to attend one of these sessions.



Holiday Schedule

CLIP & SAVE THIS SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING SERVICES & EVENTS

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

- **Fourth Sunday of Advent Service**, Sunday, December 24, 10:00am
- **Christmas Eve Candlelight Services**, Sunday, December 24, 4:30pm & 6:00pm
- **Christmas Day Service**: Monday, December 25, 10:00am
- *(The church office will be closed on Tuesday, December 26)*
- **New Year's Eve Day**: Sunday, December 31, one morning service at 10:00am (*note change*)

CALENDAR

Sunday, December 17

8:30 am Worship – Blessing of Blankets

9:45 am Fellowship, Sunday School

11:00 am Worship – Blessing of Blankets

Monday, December 18

1:30 pm Stone Croft Bible Study

Tuesday, December 19

9:30 am Priscilla Circle

2:00 pm Staff Meeting

5:00pm Weeknight Music 2 (Gr 5-6)

6:00 pm Weeknight Music 1 (Gr K-4)

7:00 pm Weeknight Music 3 (Gr 7-8)

Wednesday, December 20

December Herald news deadline

10:00 am Bible Study & Prayer Group

5:45 pm Jr. High Christmas Party

6:00 pm Bells/Weeknight Music 2

6:00 pm Advent Supper

7:00 pm Advent Worship

7:35 pm Confirmation

7:45 pm Senior High Christmas Party

Thursday, December 21

1:30 pm Miriam Circle

Friday, December 22

5:00 pm Hemme/Rezac Wedding

Saturday, December 23

7:30 am Men of Bethany Bible Study

Sunday, December 24

10:00 am Worship

4:30 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

6:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Monday, December 25

10:00 am Christmas Day Worship

Tuesday, December 26

Church/Church office closed