

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS – DECEMBER 30, 2018

*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: *"Sweet Little Jesus Boy"*-Arr. Edwin McLean,
"Breath of Heaven" - Arr. Kevin Olson

Gathering Hymn: *"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"* ELW 272

First Reading 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Psalm 148 Read responsively by whole verse

Second Reading Colossians 3:12-17

Gospel Luke 2:41-52

Sermon: *"Jesus Grows Up"* Rev. Deb Mechler

Hymn of the Day: *"That Boy-Child of Mary"* ELW 293

Offering: *"Barcarolle"* - Johann Friedrich Burgmüller

Communion Hymn: *"In the Bleak Midwinter"* ELW 294

Sending Hymn: *"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"* ELW 288

Postlude: *"Sonata in D"* - Domenico Cimarosa

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WORSHIP NOTES

Welcome 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. These can help you get to know the others around you. Also, be sure to mark the pad if you partake in Holy Communion. Thank you for taking time to fill out this information!

Large print bulletins and assistive listening devices are available. If you would benefit from either of these, please ask an usher. If you have a prayer concern to share, please use a prayer request card located in the pew racks and place in the offering plate.

The liturgical color for Christmas and the Christmas season is white. White symbolizes purity, holiness, respect and reverence. White is also used for the season of Easter.

A special thanks to Pastor Deb Mechler for leading our worship service today and to John Rahn for providing our worship music.

Many thanks to our worship volunteers helping with services today:

Greeters: Dick & Betty Schmidt; Reader: Mary Marske; Acolyte: MacKenzie Manwarren; Recorder: Sandi Schmidt; Communion servers: Mary Marske, Valorie Van Ampting, Kirby Schmidt; Ushers: Dale Witt, Donna Jones; Projector: Mary Ann Quail;

PRAYER CONCERNS & REQUESTS

Health Concerns: Jo Beving, Don Cowell, Steve DePauw, John Fogarty, Mary Rose Hemme, Jamie Huber, LaVonne Kramer, Linda Kunzmann, Kim McCune, Sandy Manwarren, Bev Quail, Dave Spent, Ida Syvertson, Rev. Tom Van Tassell; Rick Dietrich (*Pam Bjorklund's brother*); Miles Rohan (*Kevin Rohan's father*); Barb Halverson (*Gary Halverson's mother*); Marc Moberg (*Kathie Halverson's brother*); Gene McCarty (*Sue Rieck's brother*); Those who mourn: The family Greg Andersen (*Kirk Andersen's brother*);

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fellowship Time All are welcome for fellowship in the parlor after worship. Stop by for coffee, goodies and lively conversation. Reminder: there is no Sunday School today.

Ooops! Apology for Omission We extend a sincere apology to Dick & Betty Schmidt for accidentally omitting their names from the list of those who shared a poinsettia at Christmas in memory of loved ones. Thank you Dick & Betty!

Thank you for your support! Many thanks to you – the members and friends of Bethany who have continued to be faithful in giving... supporting the general operations of the church, the missions of the church, the capital campaign and in the giving of your time and talents! All gifts received by December 31 will be recorded on your 2018 giving statements unless specified otherwise. For tax purposes gifts must be received in the church office by Dec 31 or postmarked by that date.

Worship Volunteers Needed Each worship service comes together through the work of many people. There are numerous opportunities to assist. Please consider being a worship volunteer. We need readers, greeters, communion servers, recorders and projector operators. See more info and sign-up at the Welcome Center!

BINGO! Surprise! Bethany is scheduled to help with BINGO at St Luke Home on Friday, Jan 4! And, we need to gather prizes (about 200) for the entire month of January!! Can we do it? With your help – yes! See more information at the Welcome Center. Thank you!

Are You Restless to go Deeper in Your Faith? "*Companions in Christ*" is coming! A spiritual formation group will be offered on Monday evenings, Feb 4-Apr 15. This kind of group asks you to focus on questions such as: How is God working in my life? How am I being formed in the likeness of Christ? What practices will open me to God's leading? Deb Mechler will lead sessions each week from 7-9pm. You will have daily work to do between classes using your Bible and a journal or notebook. **Please sign up by January 20 in the church office.** Cost for the participants' book is \$23. Contact Deb if you have any questions at dsmechler@gmail.com or 260-3286.

Annual Meeting Be sure to mark January 20 on your 2019 calendars! The third Sunday of January is when Bethany holds its annual meeting of the congregation. There will be one service that day at 10am, followed by the annual meeting and a potluck lunch. Plan to attend. Budget requests & ministry team reports are due. If you haven't already submitted yours, please do. Thanks!

Seeking Office Volunteers We are in need of volunteers to help in the office on Tuesday afternoons during our staff meeting and also to cover for some upcoming vacation time. Please look at the Welcome Center for a schedule of shifts and sign up to help if you are able. Thanks!

LOVING SPENCER, JANUARY: "LOVE GOD'S SERVANTS"

Law Enforcement Appreciation

John 15:13 *"Greater love has no man than this, that he who lays down his life for his friends."*

Across the country on January 9, citizens take the lead on National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day. Officers of every rank and file have chosen a profession that puts their life on the line every day for their communities, answering a call to public service that is demanding and often unappreciated. On National Law Enforcement Day, we have an opportunity to thank them for their service and offer a token of respect. There are a number of ways to show support and say thank you:

- Show support on social media: change profile picture to support law enforcement or share a positive story
- Wear blue clothing in support of law enforcement
- Send a card of support to local Police Department or state agency
- Ask children to write letters in support of law enforcement
- Participate in Project Blue Light - Proudly display your blue light in support of law enforcement

Most importantly if you see a police officer on January 9, thank them! Let them know how much you value their service and protection of our communities. Show them the LOVE every day in the month of January, or, recognize their bravery, courage, honor and integrity throughout the year.

HOW IT WORKS:

- On January 9, or all month, or the entire year, show support of law enforcement by using the examples above OR your own ideas. Every day can be National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day.
- Encourage family, friends, church, business and schools to show area Law Enforcement LOVE and appreciation.
- PRAY for local, State, and National law enforcement men, women and their families.

LET THE JANUARY KINDNESS EXPLOSION BEGIN!

