

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD – JANUARY 6, 2019 – 8:30 & 11:00 A.M.

*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

Gathering Hymn: *"Light Shone in Darkness"* ELW 307

First Reading Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 Read responsively by whole verse

Second Reading Ephesians 3:1-12

Gospel Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon Rev. Deb Mechler

Hymn of the Day: *"O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!"* ELW 308 (Verses 1-3)

Offering

Communion Hymn: *"This Little Light of Mine"* ELW 677 (8:30 only)

Sending Hymn: *"As with Gladness Men of Old"* ELW 302

Postlude

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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 the day of Epiphany is white. White symbolizes purity, holiness, respect and reverence. White is also used for the seasons of Christmas and Easter. The season of Epiphany focuses on the life and ministry of Jesus of Nazareth --- the incarnate God-made-human. This season is ushered in by the commemoration of the visitors from the east ("the wise Men") who came to pay homage to the baby.

A special thank you to Pastor Deb Mechler for leading our worship services today and to Ann Johnke for providing our worship music. Many thanks to our worship volunteers helping with services today: **8:30am:** Greeters: Francis & Judy Hiemstra; Reader: Don Moore; Acolyte: Jerra Merchant, Zoey Metcalf; Communion servers: Twila Henning, Onalee Wright, Marla Woelber; Ushers: Gary Halverson, Bruce Klenken; Recorder: Matt Burns; Projector: Tim Youngdahl; **11:00am:** Greeter: Jill Meyer; Reader: Katie Hare; Communion server: Kristin Bensen; Projector: Tim Youngdahl;

PRAYER CONCERNS & REQUESTS

Health Concerns: Jo Beving, Don Cowell, Steve DePauw, John Fogarty, Mary Rose Hemme, Pastor Jen Henry, 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*);
The family of Maurice Lykke (*Mark Lykke's father*)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BETWEEN SERVICES All are welcome for fellowship in the parlor after worship. Stop by for coffee, goodies and lively conversation. Today is our "Winter Rally" as Sunday school classes resume after the Christmas break. Everyone is invited to join the festivities between services in the Dining Room downstairs.

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 weekly 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 at the Welcome Center.** Cost for the participants' book is \$23. Contact Deb if you have any questions at dsmechler@gmail.com or 260-3286.

LOVING SPENCER JANUARY Across the country on January 9, citizens take the lead on National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day. On this day, we have an opportunity to thank them for their service and offer a token of respect. How can I do this? Some suggested ways include: show support on social media through your profile picture or by sharing a positive story, wearing blue clothing, sending a card to the local police department or state agency, having children write letters of support, participation in Project Blue Light (display a blue light at your home). 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.

YOUTH MINISTRY On Wednesday, January 9 at 4:45 pm there will be a special meeting for any and all who are interested in Youth Ministry here at Bethany. We'll be talking about how to get involved with our Bethany Youth. Please contact Jane Youngdahl or Katie Hare for more information. We'd love to have everyone attend!

BAPTISM MILESTONE Next Sunday, January 13 we'll be celebrating the Anniversary of Baptism milestone for the children of God that were baptized at Bethany in 2018. Celebration will be at the 8:30 AM service. Please join us as we recognize our newly baptized.

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! *(A complete list of those who gave is on the bulletin board in the Narthex.)* REMINDER: Please take your plants home today!

PASTORAL CARE THRU JAN 8 Pastor Jen is recovering from her second eye surgery. During this time, if you are in need of pastoral care, please call the church office during regular business hours. If after hours, please call our Council President, Gary Halverson (712-262-1067) who will contact the pastor on call. Pastor John Syvertson, Pastor Deb Mechler or Onalee Wright will be available for prayers and assistance.

ANNUAL MEETING The third Sunday of January is when Bethany holds its annual meeting of the congregation. January 20 this year. There will be one service that day at 10am, followed by the annual meeting and a potluck lunch. All confirmed members of Bethany are encouraged to attend this meeting and be involved in electing the governance of this church. REMEMBER -- this is your church – be involved – attend this meeting!

SEEKING OFFICE VOLUNTEERS We are in need of volunteers to help in the office on Tuesday afternoons during our staff meeting – usually about an hour. Please look for a schedule at the Welcome Center and sign up to help if you are able. Thanks!

FUN & FELLOWSHIP is a time to tie and sew quilts and to pack kits for Lutheran World Relief. Would you like to join in this mission? Come on Thursday, Jan 10. We start at 9am in the church dining hall working 'til about noon and then share a potluck lunch together. All are welcome!

THE GATHERING COMMUNITY MEAL Our next meal will be served on Thursday, January 10 from 5-6pm. We are pleased to be able to offer this free community outreach meal. If you would like to help, we're seeking volunteers to provide a pan of bars (*your choice*). Look for a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center. Or, if you would like to help with meal prep, serving or clean up give a call to Sandi Witt at 580-9593. There is a place for you at "The Gathering"!

JANUARY FOOD DRIVE Next Sunday kicks off our food drive week for Upper Des Moines Pantry (January 13-20). Some items most needed at this time include: spaghetti sauce and noodles, hamburger helper, canned fruit, any type of soup and toilet paper. Please bring donations and leave in the marked baskets at the Welcome Center. We will deliver them to Upper Des Moines. Thanks for your support!

