



The Bethlehem Record

The Official Newsletter of Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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***A family of God sharing Jesus
and serving Him faithfully***

January 2018

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Our Mission Statement

As members of Bethlehem Lutheran Church who have been granted eternal life through Jesus Christ's death and resurrection, we worship Him as our Lord and seek to further His work of salvation through word and sacrament ministry in our community and world toward the goal of creating and strengthening personal faith in Him

The Pastor's Page

I hope that you all had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! I saw an interesting post on facebook a couple of days ago. It had two pictures. The first was a picture of a man out in the yard with Santa Claus up above him and cheerful Christmas lights all around. It was captioned with something like this, "December: Season of festive joy." The second picture was the same man, gray and drab leaning on headless snowman with no lights and looking rather frosty. It was captioned something like, "January: Season of cold anxiety."

Now make no mistake about it, December certainly has its fair share of stressors and sources of anxiety. However, what may be true for you, is that January doesn't really have that same sense of holiday cheer that December does. And while Epiphany certainly can bring the same joy as Christmas, it is usually so closely associated with Christmas that people don't make a distinction.

Here at the beginning of a new year, maybe you are anxious about this year. Maybe you wonder how things are going to go. Maybe you've got some major changes coming up and you're not sure how you're going to deal with them. All of that reminds me of one of Jesus' teachings found in the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 6:

"Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds

of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more cloth you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble." (Matthew 6:25-34)

God will provide for you one way or another. You are free to not worry about tomorrow because God is caring for you and will be with you tomorrow, even as He is as he cares for you and is with you now.

May God bless you all,

Pastor Christopher Craig

Stewardship Newsletter- January 2018 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

It's a new year. It's a time when we take stock of the year past in order to improve the year to come. It's a time when we sit down to plan and implement what we want to accomplish and even change. Part of that is planning our stewardship for the coming year.

Often we find this difficult and daunting and even joyless. But it doesn't have to be. In fact, it is really quite simple and full of joy. So here are some tips to make that planning less stressful. You begin by answering these three questions: Who are you? To whom do I give? And how much?

So, who are you? The Table of Duties in the Small Catechism informs us. Are you a hearer of God's Word? Are you a citizen of society? Are you a member of a family? Stewardship covers these three estates: church, society, family. We don't particularly struggle to give to society or family. Our struggles, our difficulties and our questions arise in giving to the church.

So, what is our duty as members of the church with regard to giving? The Table of Duties, again, gives us a guide. If you are a hearer, a member of the church who receives instruction, St. Paul taught: "Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor" (Gal. 6:6). This means the local congregation is primary.

Your pastor is the one called to preach the Gospel to you and administer the Lord's blessed sacraments to you. Your congregation is the place where those things happen. Thus, when God calls us to give to the church, He has the local congregation in mind. For "the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel" (1 Cor. 9:14).

How much do we give to the local congregation? Our only instructions are these: to give regularly (1 Cor. 6:1-2), proportionally (1 Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 8:12), and generously (2 Cor. 8:20) of our first fruits (Gen. 4:4; Prov. 3:9; Lev. 27:30) with a spirit of eagerness (2 Cor. 9:2), earnestness (2 Cor. 8:7),

cheerfulness (2 Cor. 9:7), and love (2 Cor. 8:23).

In other words, giving to the church is not to be an afterthought, given after everything else is spent. In this way, it is deliberate. We give regularly – weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, quarterly, or yearly – keeping in mind our own strengths, weaknesses, and limitations. We set it aside beforehand – before anything else is spent.

From those first fruits, we set aside a proportionate and generous amount. Ten percent was the standard for the Israelites. This was a command for the ancient Israelites. We can give as much as we want, but ask yourself: do we really want to be less generous than was commanded of the Israelites? Is the job of the New Testament Church bigger or smaller than the job given to Israel?

And how are we to give it? We give it with eagerness and earnestness. We give it cheerfully and with love, not out of compulsion. For through the preaching of the gospel and the administration of the sacraments, God has made us His children, forgiven us all our sins, given us grace upon grace, promised us life everlasting with Him in His kingdom, and filled us with His own Spirit, the Holy Spirit. This makes giving a joy, as Jesus said, "it is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

It's that easy. And it is joyful. For in stewardship, our gracious and giving Lord invites us to take part in the work that He accomplishes here on earth, providing for the ongoing preaching of the gospel as well as those who are in need. Taking part in that makes all our work holy – work that is done in service to the Lord as priestly members of His kingdom.

All members & friends in the community are invited to Pastor Craig's informal Wednesday Worship Service starting at 6:30 p.m., lasting about 30 min. Any questions contact Pastor Craig.

Acolyte Schedule

*Communion service

January

- Jan 7 Aubrelle Hurlbut
- Jan 14* Eli Schultz
- Jan 21 Issac Schultz
- Jan 28* Kale Sorensen



LWML Flower Committee 2018
January
Lorelei Dohl & Sophia Scofield

Baptismal Birthdays in January

God's blessings to you for all His gifts of grace that you have received, and we pray for many more blessings for Jesus' sake!



Anne Dohl	Kenneth Becker
Cindy Frederking	Tyler Gier
David Hurlbut	Willis Becker
Gary Frederking	Barbara Groth
Jerret Kubick	Clarence Thrun
Katie Lyne	Jolene Janssen
Kenneth Small	Lyle Wohler
Kent Rahmeier	Douglas Princ
Marilyn Wenthe	James Thaemert
Ruth Sorensen	Jessie Schulteis
Trey Watson	Teri Hiitter
Pete Falcon	Jodi Nelson
Evan Lamb	



February 4, 2018

BLTeens Super Bowl sub sandwich
 Orders will be taken soon



Coming Event

Annual Pancake Day
 February 11, 2018

Look for more details in the Sunday bulletins



BOCL

BOCL was held on Thur. December 7 at 6:00 p.m. Members present were Lloyd Gier, Brock Mueller, Kylie Ehrlich, Tyler Gier, Dena Sorensen, Pastor Craig, Trey and Ronda Watson, Barb Meitler. Pastor opened with prayer and devotion. Reading of minutes were read and approved.

Pastor Craig is proposing a new Catechesis program to Bethlehem's youth. This program will run in three stages. More information will be submitted by Pastor in the up-coming year.

For the Christmas baskets seven names have been submitted. Dena moved we give \$100 to each family along with a church brochure and a catechism booklet. Trey seconded. motion passed. Pastor Craig will deliver the baskets.

For Christmas Eve program, Brock requested for Shirley to ask congregation to donate cookies for reception afterwards.

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 4 at 7:00 p.m. We closed with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted

Kylie Ehrlich

Christmas 2017 Flowers for Altar

From



In Memory Of

Marmie Schultz	Robt /Leonette Gier Sidney Wacker, Bobby Gier
Shelly & Ray Keller	Rev & Mrs. Peter Ted Walter
Groth Family	Elmer & Margret Groth
Coleen Ancell	Keith Ancell
Shirley Krueger & fam.	Ron Krueger
Emilie Wacker	Sidney Wacker Robt Sr. Sophia Gier August & Amelia Heine
Les & Lois Walter	Parents Rev E. F. & Irene Peter Theodor & Anita Walter
Gary & Ruth Sorensen	Parents Melvin & Luella Reinter Bessie Sorensen Emanuel & Martha Eggers W. L. & Amanda Reinert
Janice Tucker	Cora & Delbert Rahmeier Arlin Rahmeier Minnie & George Rahmeier
Karen Dumber & Brothers (Wreath)	Jai Frederking

Special Notes of Interests

Sign up to donate blood! The Board of Church Life is sponsoring a Red Cross blood drive on January 26. here in the parish hall. Sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex. Smartphone users can download the Red Cross donor app and schedule your appointment, or you can log on to www.redcross.org. Contact Dell Gier for more information or to sign up.

Church Council members – As the Nominating Committee, it is time to consider nominations for the positions whose terms are finishing in January, 2018: Trustee and Elder (3-year terms); Board of Church Life (10 members: (5) 1-year term and (5) 2-year term). If you are moved to serve in one of these positions, please speak to Pastor or a council member.

LUTHERAN Early Response Team Training (LERT) St. John Lutheran Church 512 N Wilhelm Ellinwood Ks 67526 . The LCM Kansas District will be hosting a LERT (Lutheran Early Response Training) on January 27 rom 9am-3pm This is a 6 hour training event will equip attendees to be effective volunteers should a disaster strike our community, state, nation. See front bulletin for more information and registration information.

2017 Children Christmas Program



The Flower Committee would like to thank everyone who has donated Flowers & Wreath For this Christmas season. Your gifts have added to our Christmas Atmosphere and brought many memories of missed friends and loved ones Thank You!

OPERATION BARNABAS



The vision of Operation Barnabas is that every military-connected person lives in the hope and peace of God's love and mercy as revealed in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Our men and women in uniform have answered our nation's call to protect and defend us. In every time and place, they have stood the watch at home and abroad, often far from their families. Both active and reserve members of our military and their families continue to bear the burden of deployments to austere and dangerous locations. We invite you to help us to help them, and while doing so, share the love of Christ.

In 2007, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's Ministry to the Armed Forces launched Operation Barnabas. Through this program — the only one of its kind in the U.S. — together with our congregations, we accomplish three key goals:

1. **Care for** Reserve chaplains and their families and congregations.
2. **Train and assist** local congregations in their care and support of local military members and their families and veterans.
3. **Serve as a resource** to other organizations that provide care to military families and veterans.

CALL TO ACTION!

We encourage congregations who reach out to military families to include the following actions:

- ▶ **PRAY** for our troops.
- ▶ **RECOGNIZE** veterans in your congregation at least once a year.
- ▶ **CELEBRATE** LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces Sunday, and learn more about what we are doing to serve our military families. To learn more, visit lcms.org/armedforcessunday.

In that time, congregations have focused on deployment care — with good reason. We have troops who are "still in the fight," and we continue to offer deployment support to military families.

But we also recognize the immense drawdown our military faces. Over 200,000 military families are leaving the military to return to civilian communities. Our goal is to enable our congregations to lead their communities in welcoming these military families back home. They have borne the weight of repeated deployments, and when they return to our communities, we can prepare to receive them in concert with local chambers of commerce, schools and medical facilities.

Coming Events at Bethlehem

Also available online at www.BethlehemSylvanGrove.org

January 10– Church Council meeting

January 21 – Annual Voters meeting and congregational potluck

January 28 — 6 p.m. Circuit Form St Paul Ellsworth

February 4 – BLTeens Super Bowl Subs

February 11 – Annual Pancake Day

Our Weekly Worship schedule:

9 a.m. – Sunday School and BLTeens Bible study (school)

9 a.m. – Adult Bible study (Parish hall)

10 a.m. – Worship Service (Holy Communion on 2nd and 4th Sundays and some festivals)



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Apply
postage
here

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