

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

The Bethlehem Record

The Official Newsletter of Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Email: bethlehem@wtciweb.com

Phone: 785-526-7152

www.BethlehemSylvanGrove.org

The Pastor Page

**. Happy New Year! Merry Christmas! Happy Epiphany!
Happy all the Holidays!**

Or are you holidayed out yet? If you are, that's okay. At this point, the season of advent has come to its annual culmination. The twelve days of Christmas, including Epiphany and the New Year are behind us. So now, we can all just relax for a bit, and take a deep breath, before preparing ourselves for lent and the triduum. Which is just the fancy word for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sun

One of the blessed truths that we as Christians live with, is recognizing that we don't always need to sustain the highs of this life. That its okay to not always be excited, happy and energetic like we are expected to be around the holidays. That sometimes, its okay for a day to just be a day. It's even okay to have bad days where you're feeling down, tired or even just bored.

Our feelings aren't what make the holidays, or any other day important to us. Now may make no mistake, feelings are an important part of being a person. They can have an intense effect on us, but unfortunately, we tend to focus on them to the exclusion of reality

But you don't have to. You as a Christian are free to recognize, that even if your Christmas was depressing, or stressful, or exhausting, that it was still Christmas. And perhaps even more importantly than that, that what we celebrate at Christmas, already happened. It happens even if you had a bad day on the day that we're supposed to celebrate it.

Christ has come. The Son of God came down and became incarnate for us. Became one of us. He did this to save us, which is what we will celebrate in just a few months. But it has already happened as well. Our salvation is reality now. A reality that cannot be changed by how you are feeling or the kind of day you are having. A reality that is as firm and established as the God who made it happen.

So, if you had the best Christmas ever and can't wait for the next season of holidays, awesome! Remember the salvation that you're celebrating! If your holiday season was just kind of meh, that's alright. Remember the salvation that is the reason for the season. If this was the worst Christmas in your life, I'm sorry. Remember the salvation that is yours anyways. You are always free to remember that salvation, because that salvation is always there

May God bless you all,

Pastor Chris Craig

January 2020

Inside this Issue:

1	Pastor's Page
2	Stewardship Newsletter
3	BOCL Baptismal Birthdays Acolyte Schedule
4	Christmas 2020
5-6	Christmas Eve 2020
7	New Years Eve 2020
8	Letter for District President
9	Notes from Bethlehem Chairman & Financial Sec
10-11	Need a Prayer/ Emails



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 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Newsletter Article – January 2020

Our God is a God who works through means. He can and has worked immediately without agency, as the Bible testifies, but primarily, on the whole and for the most part, our God works through means. He does this not only for all of our earthly needs but also for all of our spiritual needs. And He does this for our benefit.

He provides for all our needs of this body and life through means. He gives us fathers and mothers to care for us when we are young. Through them, God provides house and home, food and clothing, education and training in the arts and work of this world.

He gives us good government to protect us from harm and danger; He gives us faithful neighbors and good friends to help in times of need and lack. He gives us employers who trade our work for income so that we may acquire the needs of the body. He gives us brains and brawn so that we will have something to trade with those employers for that needed income. This work, which we are able to do only because of what God has provided to us, redounds to the benefit of others. And so, the cycle of God giving through means continues.

He provides for all our needs of our souls. He sent His Son into the flesh to be our Savior. In that body, our Lord Jesus Christ lived the life that God demands of us all – a life we have failed to live because of our sins – and, in that body, He made payment for those sins on the cross, once and for all.

God delivers this forgiveness through the means of His Word and Sacraments. He calls pastors to proclaim, in His stead and by His command, that our sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake. Through these same pastors, God Himself claims us as His own in Holy Baptism, placing His own name on us in water and Word, igniting faith by the gift of the Holy Spirit. And He gives us His life-giving body and blood to nourish us in this same faith until the end. Our God is a God who works through means.

This is true also of stewardship. This is what St. Paul wrote in Philippians:

“I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 4:18–19).

The gift St. Paul received from the Philippian church is a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. They gave to God. God provided for St. Paul through the Philippians. And the God who loves both Paul and the Philippians will supply their every need according to the riches in Christ Jesus. Our God is a God who works through means.

“For all the promises of God find their Yes in [Jesus Christ],” St. Paul tells us in 2 Cor. 1:20. This is true also of you. Trust in the God who provides for all that we need in body and soul through means. And not only will you find His “yes” to you, but others will find it, too, through you. “But as you excel in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you – see that you excel in this act of grace also” (2 Cor. 8:7).

**Country Christmas Wreath
South Door of Church
Given to the Church In
Loving Memory of
Jai Beth Frederking
from Karen Dumber**



BOCL

BOCL met on Tuesday December 3 at 7:00 p.m. Members present were Lloyd Gier, Tyler Gier, Cory Hirsch, Brock Mueller, Ruth Mueller, and Pastor Craig. Also present was Colleen Ancell. Pastor led with a prayer.

Minutes were read with one correction, Pastor's Christian program is aimed at the parents of the younger children, instead of the younger children themselves.

The board has decided to have a cookie reception after the Christmas Eve Service. An announcement in the bulletin and a reminder on the church website will be posted for donations of cookies.

Shelby Craig has graciously volunteered to be a substitute teacher for Lorelei Dohl while she is dealing with health concerns.

Money has been raised through poinsetta sales for the youth to attend Higher Things.

It has been decided by the board to have a New Years gathering like we did last year. Anyone and everyone is invited. Ruth will email St. Paul's to invite them also. We ask that all who attend would please bring their favorite snack to share. Also if you have any games bring them too.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 7 at 7:00 p.m. Pastor closed with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted
Ruth Mueller

Baptismal Birthdays in January 2020



*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*

Kenneth Becker	Willis Becker
Tyler Gier	Barbara Groth
Clarence Thrun	Jolene Janssen
Lyle Wohler	Douglas Princ
James Thaemert	Jessie Schulteis
Teri Hiitter	Jodi Nelson
	Evan Lamb

January Acolyte

Na

*Communion



Flower Committee

NA



February 2, 2020

Youth Group Sub Sandwich

February 9, 2020

Pancake Day

Christmas 2019



Photos from Shelly Keller & Shirley Small

Christmas Eve Children Program 2019

Photos by Emile Wacker, Cheryl Gier





Thank you, thank you, thank you! Thanks to everyone who helped with the Children's Christmas Eve program "Light a Candle". Thank you to Annie, Marmie, Serena, and Dena for assisting with the children's parts and costumes. Thank you to Dena for helping with the breakfast on rehearsal morning. Thank you to the BOCL for the cookie reception after the program. Thank you to Lois for the organ music and to Pastor for his message. A special thank you to all the parents who let me work with their children the last couple months to learn the songs and the program. And most of all, thank you to all the kids who participated in the program – all of them are awesome and I am so proud of all of them – they were a joy to work with and sing with, and shared the message on Christmas Eve so wonderfully. I look forward to sharing Jesus with all of them again in future programs and singing in church. Blessings to all in the New Year! Shelly Keller

Happy New Year

Fun and Games at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church New Year's Party





LCMS KANSAS DISTRICT

NEWS UPDATE

**A Message from Kansas District
President Rev. Justin Panzer**

Dear Friends,


Grace and peace to you in this Advent season!

Since I assumed the office of district president last summer, I've been splitting my time between the district office and Faith, Abilene, where I serve as pastor. After much prayerful consideration and counsel with my family and the district staff, I've decided it would be best if I served as Kansas District president in a full-time capacity. The duties and responsibilities of this office demand my full-time attention and devotion. I am anticipating my final Sunday at Faith, Abilene to be January 12, 2020. I have striven over these past 4+ months to serve both the Kansas District and Faith well. It's time for both me and my family to begin a new chapter in our lives and for the wonderful saints of God at Faith, whom I have had the privilege to serve for the past 16+ years, to begin the process of calling a new shepherd whom God Himself already knows. My prayers are that He will grant them a faithful shepherd soon! As a lifelong Kansan, I want to see the LCMS Kansas District do well. After all, we have the truth of Jesus Christ to proclaim (2 Corinthians 5:20), to teach (John 14:6), and to share (1 Peter 2:9)! I look forward to giving my full attention and effort to the mission we all share in the LCMS Kansas District. Please know that my prayers are with you in your everyday vocations as the baptized children of God. Thank you also for your continued prayers for me, for my family, and for our district staff in our common work together (Philippians 1:5). I leave you with these words of St. Paul from 1 Corinthians 15:58, "Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain." In Christ,

Rev. Justin Panzer President,
LCMS Kansas District
Office Phone: 785-357-4441

In preparation for the Annual Voter's Meeting on January 19th, Church council will meet January 8th at 7 pm to consider the 2020 budget. Regular Church council meeting will be January 15th at 7pm. Please note that elections will be held, as always, at the voter's meeting so if you are willing to serve in some capacity, please speak with Pastor Craig or Dell Gier. More about the positions that will be open to follow.

Positions that will need to be filled by election at the annual voter's meeting on January 19th are President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Elder, Trustee and 5 Board of Church Life positions. If you are willing to serve or be re-elected , please speak with Pastor Craig or any Council Member as they serve as the nominating committee. Please note that Emilie Wacker will be in the last year of her second term in 2020 and we'll need some someone to fill that position in 2021.



BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
308 N Indiana Ave, Sylvan Grove, KS 67481
785-526-7152 www.bethlehemsylvangrove.org

Date _____

☐ Member/Envelope # _____

☐ Visitor

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Fund Offering (General Fund) \$ _____

KS District Offering (Missions) \$ _____

Other \$ _____

"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7 (ESV)

Above is an example of Bethlehem's new envelopes.

1. The New Envelopes are **NOT DATED OR NUMBERED**, as in the past, which means every envelope can be used.
 2. Last year we experimented with a few boxes of **NUMBERED BUT NOT DATED** envelopes for members usually giving monthly. This seemed to be successful. Those members have a number 41 AND LARGER printed on their envelopes and should continue to use all in their box.
- Members that normally use a weekly envelope (numbered with a number LESS THAN 40) or are new to Bethlehem have a set of 52 envelopes in their church mailbox. A number has been given to each set.
- **If you do not wish to use the envelopes, please place them in the Financial Secretary large mailbox on the right-hand side of the mailboxes so they can be saved for in the future.**
- Also, for convenience and visitors, a few envelopes have been placed in the plastic holders in the pews and at the back of the church. Let's be good stewards and not use them for scratch paper. Thanks.
- If there are questions, please contact Emilie, Bethlehem's Financial Secretary



(Anyone who needs Prayers Please contact Lois Walter lloiswalter@wtciweb.com or bethlehem@wtciweb.com She will get it on LWML E-Mail prayer List)

Email from December 28, 2019

We have another prayer request for Tawnya (Becker) Campos. Her dad, Kenneth Becker, called yesterday, and said Tawnya had another biopsy day before yesterday and they did not have good news. The Drs. found a malignant cancer also in one of her lungs (and her breast). So we don't know what treatment they are starting with. Tawnya, Arturo, Savannah & Colton, and also Kenneth, need our many prayers for Tawnya. I'm sure they are all devastated!

Our Prayer: Dear Lord Jesus, You are the healer & Great Physician of both body and soul. Be with those who are suffering from sickness, especially today, we're praying for Tawnya. Guide those who care for her, including doctors, nurses, aides, family, and friends. May medications and treatments be used wisely. If it is Your will, grant patience, comfort, healing, and strength to Tawnya & her family, and grace and hope in You to accept the outcome You have ordained. And, if it is Your will, grant healing and returned strength to Tawnya's body. You have already granted healing to her soul through Your death and resurrection. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Now, get those prayers ascending to God in heaven, and keep them going for Tawnya. Thanks so much! Lois

Email from December 13, 2019

Hi! So I was wondering you could put a "thank you" in the Sunday bulletin from me to everyone at the church? I haven't been back to Sylvan Grove in a while, but back in 2007/008 I got a scholarship from the church. I wanted to reach out to everyone at the church and basically express my gratitude to everyone. I worked really hard to get my bachelors and masters degrees. And even though I still had to work a lot during college, and I have a lot of student debt, that scholarship helped me out. And the little goodie boxes that Ramie sent me when I lived in the dorms were such happy surprises. And it has all paid off. I recently just accepted a job as a NASA contractor at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, TX. So while I may be far away, I wanted everyone to know that I still think about them and keep them in my thoughts and prayers.

Also, side note, my mother, Mary Powell is doing well. She is settling in well with my Grandmother Shirley. I think she told some people, but we lost my grandfather in a car accident last Thanksgiving, and Mary has moved back to Longton, KS to help my Grandma out.

Anyways.. I know that was very lengthy, so you can paraphrase if you need/want.
Thanks ~Ashton Archer Mechanical Engineer

Email from December 29, 2019

Hello Lois, I thought I better send an update as this last year has been a whirlwind. I am still trying to get things sorted out with dad's belongings and of course all his sermons that are hand written are going to have to eventually be transcribed into the computer. He wanted me to put all his sermons into a book after he was gone. Over thirty years of notes is going to take a while. Hope you had a blessed Christmas.

Howdy from Elk County!

Well it is hard to believe it has been a little over a year since I abruptly relocated. I am happy to say that Mom is doing well, other than an ear infection she picked up while we were living in a camper, while her old mobile home was being moved out of the way for her new one. I moved her into her room on the 26th. I am still in the camper and plan to be in it for some time as I want to get all Mom's stuff in the new house before I drag my stuff into my new room. It is very odd moving into a brand new home as I have always lived in older houses and bunkhouses.

My border collie dogs are adjusting to living in the camper with me. I am down to four from the six I had earlier this year and those of you who had met my old freckled faced dog that smiles, I want you to know that I had to put her down in September due to health issues and she was 13. Mom had an old dog that we had to put down as well and two weeks after that, a short haired collie showed up. He is about 5 years old and won't leave Mom's side. I had been concerned about her not having a dog for protection while I was on the road but God provided the dog and Mom and he are quite a pair. Buddy is his name and during the day, he makes it his job to keep Mom's ducks in the pond and nowhere else

Most of my goat herd is up at the farm near Hunter, for the winter. I have ten goats here and my four horses. Some of you may have seen the goats and me on television this past year. We were on KAKE and then on KPTS Positively Kansas program in November. Everyone seems to love my goaties. My business is growing and I have more people starting their own businesses to help me keep up with the work, so I can do long term jobs and stay closer to home in case Mom needs me.

We finally received a letter from my youngest brother, Gerald, who we have not heard from in over 3 years. He just found out about the accident and said he would come home as soon as he could and was able. He has been out of country for about 8 years now.

Ashton and her husband George moved from Milwaukee Wisconsin to Houston Texas, the first of December. Ashton has taken a job with a NASA contractor and will be working part of the time at the Johnson Space center on a type of rover for the moon. She is very excited as she has always wanted to work for NASA in hopes of becoming an astronaut. George is still working on his Phd in Sociology and will have to put the last two semesters on hold as he is an officer in the army reserves and his unit has been called to active duty starting January 1st. They will train for six months and then deploy to Afghanistan sometime in July of 2020. Please keep George in your prayers as he is in command of an artillery unit and will probably be in the middle of things. So Ashton and George will only have a month together in their new apartment before George is off to the army.

I am pretty busy down here. After I get the rest of Mom's things moved into the new mobile home, I have to start putting up new fence on the property and cutting down trees that are in the existing fence. I don't get bored. Maybe, if my brother Gerald comes home to stay, that will give me some time to come up to Sylvan Grove for a week or so visit.

That is about all I can think of for now. God Bless you all in 2020,

Mary Powell

Coming Events at Bethlehem

Also available online at www.BethlehemSylvanGrove.org

10a.m. – Sunday School

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

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

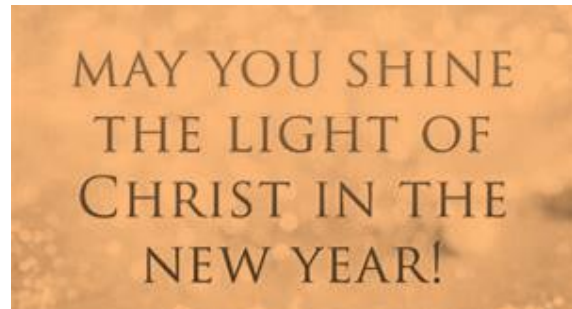
3:45 p.m.-- Wednesday's Midweek

6:00 p.m. - Wednesday's Worship Service

January 8 --7 p.m. Budget meeting

January 15-- 7 p.m. Church Council Meeting

January 19-- Annual Voters/Election Meeting



Bethlehem Lutheran Church
308 N Indiana Ave
Sylvan Grove, KS 67481-8835

Apply
postage
here