



sharing the bread of life with the hungry world

bethlehem lutheran church *newsletter*

Volume 37, Issue 12 • DECEMBER 2016



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Chris sits alone. Chris had another enormous fight with mom and dad, which ended when Chris got up and shot out of the room and out of the house. Now Chris is perched on a boulder in the yard of the neighbor across the street. Chris had told mom and dad not to follow or try to pretend that they loved Chris. Now, Chris worried that maybe they would believe that Chris really meant that. It was getting cold and the loneliness was turning into a self-imposed abandonment.

Then the door opens and dad and mom slowly come out of the house. They start walking over to the boulder. Chris spins around on the rock so that all they see is a defiant back; and so they cannot see a face that is everything except defiant. Please, keep coming, Chris thinks. And they do. They come and gather Chris into their arms, enduring the initial stiffening in order to receive the melting into their arms. Reconciliation begins.

Christmas is when Jesus comes to a world that has rejected God. Oh, sometimes there is a hope that God will seek us out, but sometimes we are utterly convinced that we get along better without God. God just isn't relevant. So, Jesus takes on flesh and blood and shows us what it would be like to live in the presence of a loving God whose purpose is, not to be served, but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many. When we see God in Jesus, we melt into those gracious and forgiving arms. This is Christmas - God coming to where God isn't welcome but who brings welcome that opens us to God in Jesus.

This is why we celebrate. This is why we sing. We hope you will join us at one of our Christmas Eve worship services. We worship at 4:00, 7:00, and 11:00 on December 24. Holy Communion and Candle lighting are at all services. On Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25 we will have one worship service at 10:00am, with Holy Communion.

Pastor Lay

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

EVERYONE is invited to the Hedding's, 2812 Abraham Dr., Cedar Falls, on Sunday, December 11, 2:00-6:00pm, for refreshments and visiting. We will have our front room set up with toys and videos for children, and a couple of our young folks will be assigned to watch over the little ones and serve as greeters. So please, parents, feel free to bring your young ones. They are welcome!



CHRISTMAS EVE POINSETTIAS

In keeping with tradition, we will again be decorating the church with poinsettias on Christmas Eve. If you would like to purchase a plant, please use the provided envelopes on the Welcome Table. Include your name and the name of person/s to be honored or remembered and drop the envelope in the clear locked box. Cost for each plant is \$12. If paying by check, make check payable to Bethlehem with "poinsettias" in the memo line. **The deadline to order is Sunday, December 19.**

QUILT 'N CRAFT



Thursday, December 8, 7:00pm, at the home of Donna Hansen, 3110 Alameda, Cedar Falls, 290-4486. Bring your own craft or learn a new one. All are welcome!

SERVICE COUNCIL SERVICE PROJECT

The stars will be up in the Fellowship Hall on November 22, for our annual Christmas gift project. With our help, local families will receive three gifts for each child in their family and a gift card for the parents. We will also be distributing a food box for each family. Please consider taking a star or two, or giving a monetary donation and we will do the shopping. Make checks out to Bethlehem with "Christmas Project" in the memo. **Wrapped gifts are due December 4.** Thank you for your help. - Council on Service.



CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Join us Sunday, December 18, 3:00-5:00pm, as we visit Bethlehem members who have a hard time getting out. Meet at church to carpool. A soup potluck and fellowship will follow.

Advent Soup Suppers

The Wednesday night meals in December will be Advent soup suppers. If you would like to serve a soup supper, please sign up on the Welcome Table or contact Heather at heather@bethlehemcfc.net.

If you would like to serve a Wednesday night meal in coming months of 2017, please contact Heather at heather@bethlehemcfc.net.

Shepherd of Souls

Saturday, December 17

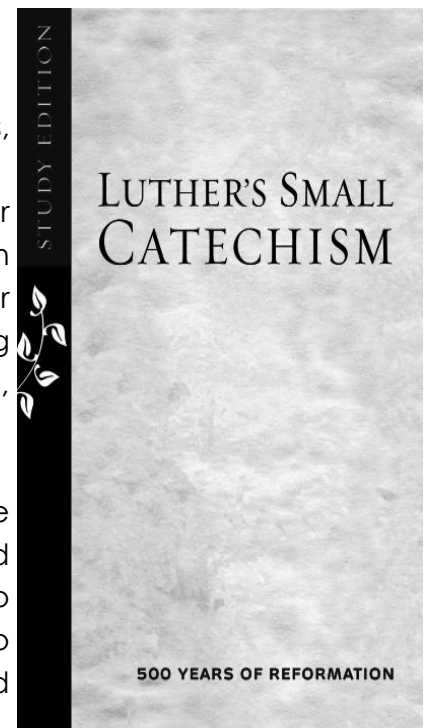
9:15-10:00am Bethlehem Church Library

For parents, grandparents, god parents, friends, aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, and nephews.

An introduction to Luther's Small Catechism - "a rich treasure for communicating the faith from generation to generation. The 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017 is an opportunity to join your sisters and brothers in the ELCA in a year-long emphasis on reading and studying the Small Catechism together. I invite you to open, rediscover, and be renewed by this treasure again."

— Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop of the ELCA

During our time together we will crack open the fresh binding of the new Study Edition of Luther's Small Catechism. We will explore and discuss parts of the Handbook for the Household and practice how to begin using this historic resource anew. How are we shepherding? To whom are we shepherding? When have we experienced shepherding? How does one start being a shepherd of souls?



December



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Coffee Fellowship: Youth & Family				1	2	3
4 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8:30am-Traditional Worship 9:30am-Coffee Fellowship 9:45am-Sunday School 10:00am-Adult Education 11:00am-Contemporary Worship 12:00pm-BLC Monthly Potluck 5:00pm-Lego League	5 6:30pm-Service 7:00pm-Congregation Home	6 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 8:30am-BLC Staff Mtg. 6:00pm-Faith & Learning 7:00pm-Pints of Grace @ Pepper's	7 1:30pm-Study Group 5:30pm-Worship 6:00pm-Soup Supper *Wednesday Night Activities	8 9:30am-Bethlehem Fellowship 6:30pm-GS Leaders 7:00pm-Quilt 'n Craft	9	10
11 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8:30am-Traditional Worship 9:30am-Coffee Fellowship 9:45am-Sunday School 10:00am-Adult Education 11:00am-Contemporary Worship 2:00pm-6:00pm-Heading's Open House 5:00pm-Lego League 7:00pm-Finance	12 12:00pm-PEO Meeting	13 NEWSLETTER MAILED OUT 8:30am-BLC Staff Mtg. 9:00am-Do Day 7:00pm-LaLeche 7:00pm-Pints of Grace @Pepper's	14 5:30pm-Worship 6:00pm-Soup Supper 6:00pm-Altar Guild *Wednesday Night Activities	15 ANNUAL REPORTS DUE	16	17 7:30am-Men's Bible Study 9:00am-Sunday School Christmas Program Practice 9:15am-Shepherd of Souls 1:00pm-Service Council Christmas Pick up
18 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8:30am-Traditional Worship 9:30am-Coffee Fellowship 9:45am-Sunday School 10:00am-Dancing Around the Tree 10:00am-Adult Education 11:00am-Christmas Program Worship 3:00pm-Caroling	19 6:00pm-Y & F 7:00pm-Congregational Council	20 8:30am-BLC Staff Mtg. 4:30pm-Community Meals 7:00pm-Spiritual Renewal 7:00pm-Pints of Grace @Pepper's	21 9:30am-Joyful Times 5:30pm-Worship 6:00pm-Soup Supper *Wednesday Night Activities 8:00pm-Worship Council	22	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 4:00pm-Worship 7:00pm-Worship 11:00pm-Worship
25 10:00am-Worship Merry Christmas	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27 8:30am-BLC Staff Mtg.	28	29	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE
		<div>Current calendar may be found at bethlehemcfc.org/#/calendar.</div>		<div>*Wednesday Night Activities 6:15pm-Celestial Choir 6:30pm-Cherub Choir 6:30pm-Confirmation 7pm-Chancel Choir 8:30pm-Worship@LSC </div>		



319-266-3541, bethlehemcf.org

CHURCH OFFICE STAFF

Pastor Gary Hedding

pastorgary@bethlehemcf.net

Robin Souhrada - Director of Faith Formation

robin@bethlehemcf.net

Paulette Standing - Office Manager

paulette@bethlehemcf.net

Heather Schneider - Ministry Coordinator

heather@bethlehemcf.net



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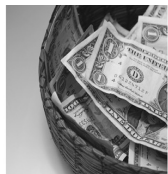
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CONTACT INFORMATION If you are moving, or if you have changed your phone number or email address, please contact the church, 266-3541 or office@bethlehemcf.net, so we can stay in touch with you.

WHEN HOSPITALIZED Please call the church office, 266-3541, if you or a loved one is in the hospital. Due to changes in privacy policies, most hospitals no longer contact a church when a member is hospitalized.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

If you know someone who is going through a difficult time, consider giving them a prayer shawl. The prayer shawls are lovingly knitted by several members of the congregation. If you would like to give a prayer shawl to someone, contact Heather Schneider, heatherheather@bethlehemcf.net or 266-3541.



UNIFIED GIVING THROUGH SEPT 30

Income: \$291,227.70

Mission Plan: \$284,580.00

\$6647.70



DONATE NOW

Use your smartphone to scan the QR code or go to bethlehemcf.org and click on "Give Online" underneath the Worship tab.

Keep in prayer

BLC members:

Chuck Assink
Mary Grosse
Mildred Gutknecht
Reed Hunemuller
Isabel Johnson
Donna Klingfuss

Allan Nielsen
Betty Schmidt
Eldora Sturm
Diane Vajgrt
Adolph Wald

Friends and family of our members:

Craig Arnold
Robin Arnold
Eryn Bauer
Norb Borcharding
Curtis Brown
Denise Cooper
Drew Cranston
Ginny Davis
Deloris Doebrmann
Anne Dotzler
Rhys Fletcher
Eizaya Fuls
Charles Funderburk
Steve Godwin
Mary Griffin
Naomi Hagen
Jim Heiselman
Kim Hermanson
Robert Johnson
Anna Jorgensen
Jill Junk
John Jurris
Jason Luck

Anne Marcie
Finegan O'Keefe
Brent Osantoski
Jill Pechacek
Bob Schmitt
Barb Schroeder
Lawrence Seery
Liz Smith Warriner
Corby Stinnett
Marvilyn Thomas
Robin Vasquez
Minnie Ward
Jeff Webb
Alise Williams
Tony Woodward
Christine
Janeen
Kelly
Krissey
Lynn
Michael

Those serving in the armed forces:

Kyle Dierks
Forrest Maxson

Dan O'Connell
Bailey Smith



If you would like to add or remove someone from the church's prayer chain, please contact Heather Schneider, heather@bethlehemcf.net or 266-3541.

**The Bethlehem Office will be closed
Monday, December 26
Monday, January 2**



Bethlehem Lutheran Youth Ministry Programs & Family Ministry at 4000 Hudson Road www.bethlehemcf.org

Cross-generational Advent Workshop

Sunday, December 4

Following Potluck

It's not "just for kids!" Everyone is invited to help make decorations for the Fellowship Hall Christmas tree and to take home. We have devotions, special music, crafts, and activities planned. You won't want to miss it!

"Bethlehem Family"

family time.

??? Contact Robin Souhrada,
robin@bethlehemcf.net.



Volume 17, Issue 5

December 2016

Upcoming Events

Advent Workshop	Dec. 4
Youth and Family mtg.	Dec. 19
Christmas Eve Worship	Dec. 24
Pints of Grace for Young Adults 7pm	Dec. 6, 13
LSC Worship 8:30pm	Dec. 7, 14
Swimming Event	Jan. 7
Baptismal Anniversary Milestone	Jan. 8



ADVENT

There are a variety of Advent resources available in the church lobby for your personal and family devotions. The Taking Faith Home bulletin insert has many ideas to enrich lives during the Advent season.

Advent and Christmas ideas for the home:

- * Do random acts of kindness for the 12 days of Christmas.
- * Make ornaments.
- * Light an Advent wreath during devotional time.
- * Go Christmas caroling.



- * Keep the Christmas tree up and Nativity out until Epiphany.
- * Volunteer as a family.
- * Say a special prayer before opening gifts.
- * Write nice things about others on note paper and put it in their Christmas stocking.

WHAT'S HAPPENING!

Elementary (Kindergarten-5th grade)

Sunday, December 4, Noon
Advent Workshop

Junior High (6th-8th grade)

Sunday, December 4, Noon
Advent Workshop

Senior High (9th-12th grade)

Sunday, December 4, Noon
Advent Workshop

Young Adult/Campus Ministry

Tuesday, December 6 & 13, 7:00pm
Pints of Grace @ Pepper's, 620 E. 18th St.

Wednesday, December 7 & 14, 8:30pm
Worship @ the LSC

FM 4000

[Family Ministry at 4000 Hudson Road]

Sunday, December 4, Noon
Advent Workshop

Saturday, December 24
Christmas Eve Worship
4:00, 7:00, & 11:00pm



One of Bethlehem's long-standing traditions is giving treats to students at the Lutheran Student Center for finals week. BLC youth, pictured left

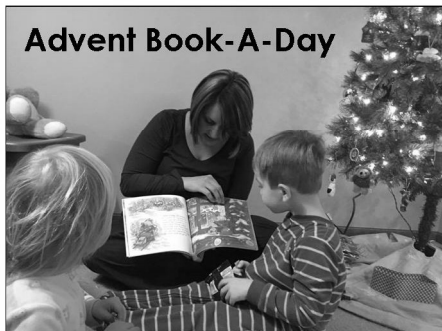
in 2015, prepared baskets to share.

Swimming Event
Saturday, January 7
10:30am-12:15pm
Save the date!



Baptismal Anniversary
Milestone
Sunday, January 8

Advent Book-A-Day



(BLC members Becky, Ethan & Lily)

Looking to **4 Key** your family rituals and traditions. Here's an example for Advent and Christmastime.

Service: Gift wrap Advent and Christmas books from your own collection.

Ritual and Tradition: Let your child(ren) pick a book to unwrap each day in Advent.

Devotions: Read stories of Advent and Christmas each day.

Caring Conversations: Talk about Advent and Christmas from years past and how we celebrate now.

Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles, Godparents can participate, too. Send story books to be used. Read a story to the children using Skype or phone. Supplement with videos, projects or a book-a-week would work, too. Be creative!



Pints of Grace

Tuesday, Dec. 6, 13
7:00pm at Pepper's
620 East 18th, Cedar Falls



Worship at the LSC

Wednesday, Dec. 7, 14
8:30pm
2616 College St.

Pints of Grace is a ministry with young adults, 18-30 years old, for fellowship and conversations of faith. Come relax, enjoy a beer or soda, and gather together as brothers and sisters in Christ.

The LSC is an ELCA partner in ministry with Bethlehem and St. John Lutheran churches.

For more information, contact Jon Fry, lsuni@uni.edu or visit www.lutheranstudentcenter.org.

Faith & Learning Mission Council



DECEMBER 2016



The Light Before Christmas

December 18th
11:00am service



Christmas Program

Dress Rehearsal

Saturday, December 17th

9:00am-11:00am

This rehearsal is mandatory.

Please contact Ellen Hermanson
if your child will **not** be there.



Musicians are still needed for the annual Christmas program on December 18th at the 11:00 service. If you sing or play an instrument you are welcome to participate. Please contact Ellen Hermanson at (319)573-0719 or email at ellenhermanson@cfu.net

WEDNESDAY NIGHT Advent ACTIVITIES

Advent Worship 5:30pm

Soup Supper 6:00pm

Celestial Choir 6:15-7pm

Cherub Choir 6:30-7pm

Confirmation Class 6:30-7:30pm

Chancel Choir 7-8pm

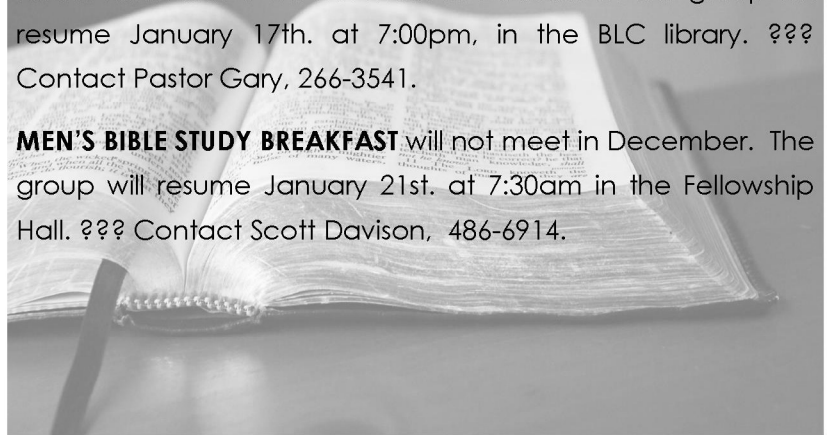
Worship at the LSC 8:30pm

BIBLE STUDIES AND SMALL GROUPS

FRIENDS IN FAITH will not meet in December. The group will resume January 15th. at 6:30pm in the BLC library. All are welcome! Bring a snack to share and your own drink. ??? Contact Linda Hedding, 464-7279.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY will not meet in December. The group will resume January 17th. at 7:00pm, in the BLC library. ??? Contact Pastor Gary, 266-3541.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY BREAKFAST will not meet in December. The group will resume January 21st. at 7:30am in the Fellowship Hall. ??? Contact Scott Davison, 486-6914.



CRADLE ROLL



Bethlehem Cradle Roll is now using Frolic faith formation online resources for families with children, newborn through Sunday School age. If you are currently a Splash user and you want to try out Frolic, or to get started on the Cradle Roll, contact Ellen Hermanson at ellenhermanson@cfu.net

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

Use the acolyte list if your child needs to switch dates or services. Contact the BLC office, 266-3541, with corrections for the bulletin by 9:00am Thursday.

Sunday worship with Holy Communion
 8:30am & 11:00am
 Nursery available 8:15am-11:45am
 Pastor: Rev. Gary Hedding
 Church office phone: 319-266-3541
 Office hours: Monday-Thursday, 8:00am-3:00pm
 Friday 8:00am-12:00pm
 Email: office@bethlehemcf.org
 Website: www.bethlehemcf.org
****Newsletter deadline: December 6****
Bulletin deadline: 9:00am Thursdays

DECEMBER USHERS

8:30 Worship

- 4th** Karl & Nancy Schwaab, Wayne & ElJean Bartelt
11th Karl & Nancy Schwaab, Sally Morrow, Megan Hermanson
18th Karl & Nancy Schwaab, Wayne & ElJean Bartelt

11:00 Worship

- Scott & Kathy Cessna, Robin & Linda Hansen
 Scott & Kathy Cessna, Robin & Linda Hansen
 Kevin & Vicki Newgard, Alex Schmidt,
 Austin Schmidt

- 25th 10:00am Service** - Karl & Nancy Schwaab,
 Stephanie Conway, Austin Schmidt

DECEMBER LECTORS

8:30 Worship

- 4th** McDonough Family
11th Kestner Family
18th Lewis Family
25th

11:00 Worship

- Ruehle Family
 O'Connell Family
 Rea Family

10:00am Service - Linda Hedding

DECEMBER ACOLYTES

8:30 Worship

- 4th** Kade Kuempel
11th Wiley Souhrada
18th Sam Lubs
25th

11:00 Worship

- Ayla Traver
 Olivia Grund
 Isaak Dengler

10:00am Service - Alex Schmidt

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

Ushers

- 4:00:** Scott & Kathy Cessna, Kevin & Vicki Newgard
7:00 Wayne & ElJean Bartelt, Jim & Kathy Timmer
11:00 Kirsten Moore, TBA

Lectors

- 4:00:** Doug and Connie Johnson
7:00: TBA
11:00 TBA

Acolytes

- 4:00:** Jackson Barth
7:00: Lily Hermanson
11:00: Jill Kestner

