

THE BANNER

December 2020

To the Bethany Church Family,

Grace, peace and mercy from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.

We have just come off of another Thanksgiving feast. Many are beginning to count the days to Christmas. The day will come like it does every year on December 25. Very soon we will hear

Christmas music coming through the radio or store speakers with the song, "It's The Most Wonderful Time of The Year." Yes, it may be the most wonderful time of the year for many as they gather with family, friends, and co-workers for parties. Many experiences the joy that comes at this time of the year as they go about their preparations.

This year my thoughts turn to those who feel it is not the most wonderful time of the year. It has been a year of COVID-19 with shutdowns, face coverings, suspended church service for a while.

Your Thanksgiving Day feast may not have been what it was last year or in the previous years. The family gatherings may have been smaller in comparison. Now many are wondering what Christmas might look like. I suppose Christmas will a little too. Then I think of those with who are experiencing grief because of the loss of loved ones during the past year. And then there are those who are battling depression, or others going through financial distress, or battling certain illnesses in their life during this time of the year. And especially I am thinking of those who are battling the COVID-19 virus as I write this. With all this it easy to lose the joy that comes with the season.

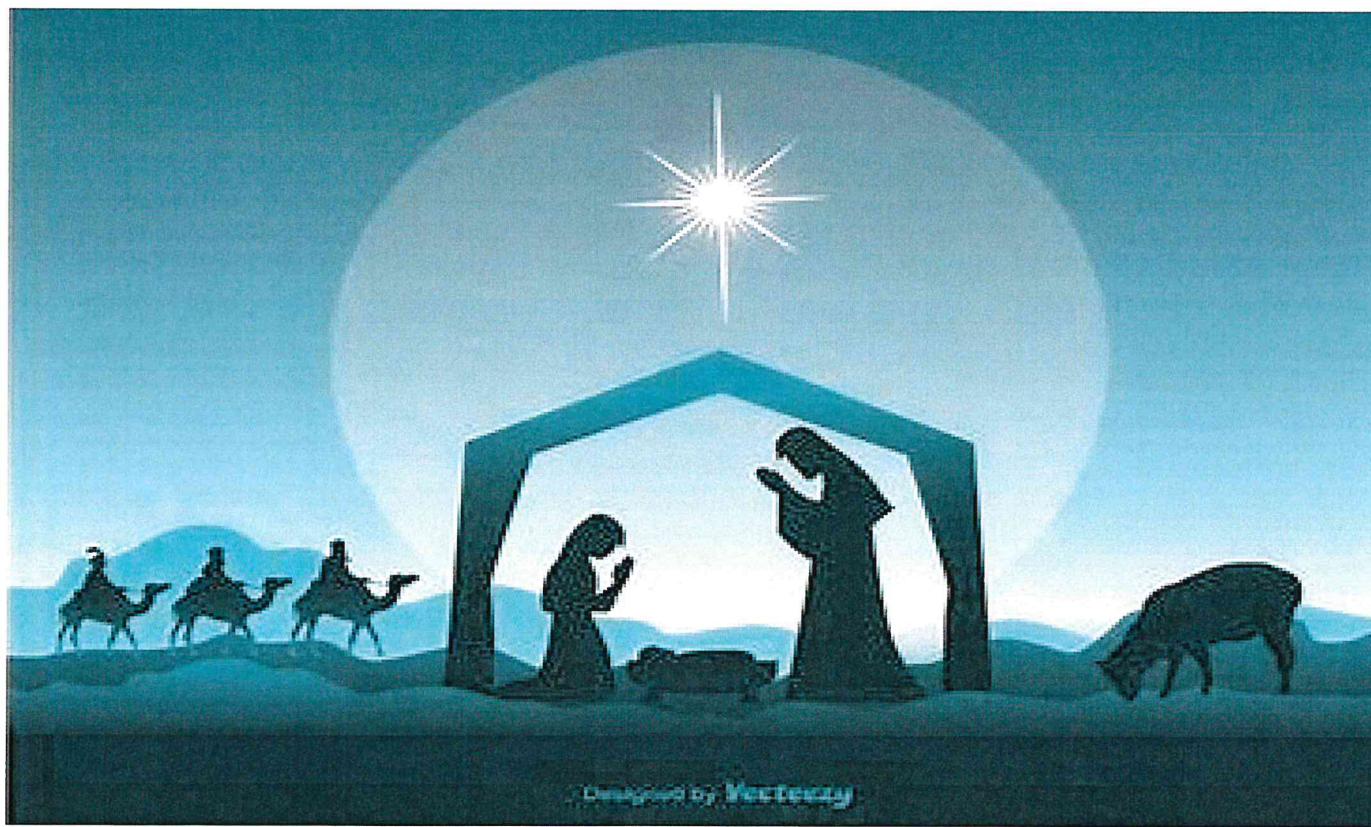
No matter your life situation it is best to remember the reason for the season. It all has to do with Jesus and why God sent Him into this world; that was reconcile the world back to God. It is about God giving us the gift of salvation and eternal life. "For God so loved the world that He gave one and only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:16, NIV). The manger where the Christ Child lays is always in the shadow of the cross. This is Jesus' goal as He gives His life so that we might be reconciled to God, have forgiveness

of sins and the hope of eternal life. This is the foundation of all our gift giving during this time of the year. So, wrap every gift you give with love.

Finally, I encourage you to connect with our church family and share in the fellowship of brothers and sisters in Christ. It is here at worship that the cross will be front, and center and Christ will be lifted up and proclaimed. Whatever you may going through this time of year, whether it is filled with joy or hardship and challenge remember you are the reason for Jesus' birth and His life-giving sacrifice. Now that should move everyone to celebration and praise to God singing all the Advent and Christmas carols and to share the Christmas Story with wonder. As always if you are still hesitant attending services you can connect through our Facebook page and church website. We will have the service posted there.

May this Advent and Christmas season be transformed into a most Holy season for you and your family.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,
Pastor David



Bible Reading Plan for the Disciples of Bethany

...standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for faith of the gospel...Philippians 1:27b

Sunday, November 29	Matthew 25:1-13	Sunday, December 20	John 3:16-21
Monday, November 30	Luke 20:1-8, St Andrew, Apostle	Monday, December 21	John 5:30-47, St Thomas Apostle
Tuesday December 1	Luke 20:9-18	Tuesday, December 22	Luke 1:5-25
Wednesday, December 2	1 Thessalonians 2:13-20	Wednesday, December 23	Luke 1:26-38
Thursday, December 3	1 Thessalonians 4:1-12	Thursday, December 24	Luke 2:1-20
Friday, December 4	1 Thessalonians 4:1-12	Friday, December 25	Matthew 1:18-25 Christmas
Saturday, December 5	Luke 21:15-19	Saturday, December 26	Acts 6:1-7, 7:59—8:8, St Stephen, Deacon and Martyr
Sunday, December 6	Luke 7:28-35, St Nicholas, Bishop Myra c.342	Sunday, December 27	John 13:20-35, St John, Apostle and Evangelist
Monday, December 7	Luke 21:20-28	Monday, December 28	Matthew 18:1-14, The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
Tuesday, December 8	Luke 21:29-38	Tuesday December 29	John 7:37-52
Wednesday, December 9	John 7:53—8:11	Wednesday, December 30	John 7:53—8:11
Thursday, December 10	Luke 22:1-13	Thursday. December 31	John 8:12-19
Friday, December 11	Luke 22:14-30	Friday, January 1	Colossians 2:6-12, Name of Jesus
Saturday, December 12	2 Thessalonians 3:6-18		
Sunday, December 13	John 3:22-30		
Monday, December 14	2 Peter 1:1-11		
Tuesday December 15	Luke 22:54-69		
Wednesday, December 16	Mark 1:1-8		
Thursday, December 17	Matthew 3:1-12		
Friday, December 18	Matthew 11:2-15		
Saturday December 19	Jude 17-25		

Provide Altar Flowers for 2020



If you wish to provide altar flowers for church during 2018, please complete this form. Please place it in the offering plate or mail it to: Bertha Olson, 521 E. Main St. #108, Laurens, IA 50554
Thank you.

Name of person providing flowers: _____

Date desired: _____

Do you want to provide flowers on this same date from year to year? yes no

Information needed for Sunday bulletin:

Altar Flowers in Loving Memory of: _____

From: _____

Or Altar Flowers:

From: _____

Please contact Bertha Olson, 841-4394, if you have any questions.



In case of emergency contact
Pastor David Klappenbach
712-841-2181 (Office)
712-841-2532 Home)
419-603-8350 (Cell)

Services are currently being live streamed on Facebook

Visit us @

<https://www.bethanylutheran-laurens.org>

December Birthdays & Anniversaries


Name	Marriage	December	
Hodgell, Jennifer		12-02	
Smith, Darin		12-05	
Olson, Gail		12-05	
Pedersen, Myles & Shirley	12-06		
Akridge, Kane		12-10	
Kemp, Michael		12-11	
Raasch, Mark & Joy	12-14		
Bieri, Case		12-17	
Pedersen, Kenny		12-17	
Pedersen, Bruce		12-22	
Arends, Ataya		12-24	
Hersom, John		12-29	
Hudson, Curtis		12-31	
Akridge, Ashley		12-31	

November Ushers & Greeters

- Dec. 6 Myles & Shirley Pedersen
13 Ron & Jan Hersom
20 Tammy Oxenreider Family
24 Volunteers needed
27 Jim & Denise Hodgell



December 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6 10:30 Worship w/ Holy Communion	7	8 8:30AM Prayer Group 9:30AM Coffee @ BLC	9 7:00PM Council Mtg	10	11	12
13 10:30 Worship Youth SS Program	14	15 8:30AM Prayer Group 9:30AM Coffee @ BLC	16	17 2:00PM Circle Group at BLC	18	19
20 10:30 Worship w/ Holy Communion	21	22 8:30AM Prayer Group 9:30AM Coffee @ BLC	23	24 5:30 Christmas Eve Service w/Holy Communion	25 <i>Merry Christmas</i>	26
27 10:30-Worship	28	29 8:30AM Prayer Group 9:30AM Coffee @ BLC	30	31	<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Bethany Lutheran Church Adult SS- 9:15 Youth SS- 9:30 9:30-Coffee Worship-1030 </div>	