

## **THE BANNER**

**January 2021**

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:6-7

At our Christmas celebration we the words from Luke's gospel printed above. The gospel writer tells us that Jesus was "her first born." am a first born and I don't really know if that really carries with it many privileges. It seemed I had to set the example for my younger brothers. My brothers even referred to me as perfect David, even though I was not all that perfect. The distinction of being the first born doesn't really carry any weight. Just look at the scriptures.

The very fact that Luke tells us that Mary brought forth he first born tells us what kind of world God in Jesus Christ was moving into. As we look at the sweep of Scripture, we find Cain who murdered his brother Abel was Eve's first born. Ishmael, driven into wilderness by his father Abraham was first born to Abraham and Hagar. Isaac, whom Abraham nearly sacrificed was first born to Sarah. Esau was firstborn to Rebekah, yet he lost his birthright. The angel of death took the firstborn sons of the Egyptians. Bathsheba's firstborn does not even get a name before his life is required of God for King David's sin of adultery and the coverup that followed. What did this little one do? Such is the sorry state of the human sinful condition. And then we have many of the firstborns who sat on the throne in Jerusalem and Samaria who did not amount to much.

Being a firstborn is nothing to brag about in my estimation. However, the firstborn of Mary, Jesus Christ our Lord did not come into this world on the first Christmas for bragging rights. Jesus came to bring God and to show us God's love to this broken human lot. His mark of distinction would be cross and a grave. He would move in to show us how far we had been separated from God and to bring us back to God by defeating sin, death, and the devil. Dorothy Sayers writes the He was "Born in poverty and died in disgrace and thought it all very worthwhile. "

And as an imperfect firstborn myself I find Jesus very worthwhile that we would all be counted as His children by His grace as the first fruit of the resurrection. In baptism Christ has made us His very own. And that is why Jesus came into the world to make us his very own, Children of God.

As we look at today's world rocked by disease, presently a pandemic, -political tension, social ills, nothing has not changed. God presence is still alive. His purpose is still being worked out because of the first-born Son of Mary whom God sent for our salvation. As enter the new year let us be assured of this truth. Come Sunday mornings to hear more about what God in Jesus the Christ has done for you.

Have a Happy Year!

Pastor David

## Bible Reading Plan for the Disciples of Bethany

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

Sunday, December 27	John 13:20-35, St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
Monday, December 28	Matthew 18:1-14, The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
Tuesday, December 29	John 7•.37-52
Wednesday, December 30	John 7..53 _ 8
Thursday, December 31	John 8:12-19
Friday, January 1	Colossians 2:6-12, Name of Jesus
Saturday, January 2	Genesis 12:1-7
Sunday, January 3	Genesis 28:10-22
Monday, January 4	Exodus 3:1-15
Tuesday, January 5	Joshua 1:19
Wednesday, January 6	Matthew 2:1-12, The Epiphany of our Lord
Thursday, January 7	Isaiah 52.3.10
Friday, January 8	Isaiah 59:15-21
Saturday, January 9	Isaiah 63.1.5
Sunday, January 10	John 1:10, 19-20, 35-38, Baptism of the Lord
Monday, January 11	Mark 1:1-14
Tuesday, January 12	Mark 1:15-28
Wednesday, January 13	Mark 1:29-45
Thursday, January 14	Mark 2-1-12
Friday, January 15	Mark 2:13-22
Saturday, January 16	Mark 2:23 -3 .6

Sunday January 17	John 4:27-42
Monday, January 18	Mark 3:7-19
Tuesday, January 19	Mark 3:19-35
Wednesday, January 20	Mark 4:1-20
Thursday, January 21	Mark 4:21-34
Friday, January 22	Mark 4:35-41
Saturday, January 23	Mark 5:1-20
Sunday ,January 21	John 5:2-18
Monday, January 25	Mark :21-43
Tuesday, January 26	Mark 6:1-13
Wednesday, January 27	Mark 6:13-29
Thursday, January 28	Mark 6:30-46
Friday, January 29	Mark 6:47-56
Saturday, January 30	Mark 7:1-23
Sunday, January 31	John 7:14-31

**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. 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: \_\_\_\_\_



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>





Our church offices will be CLOSED

Friday, January 1, 2021.

We wish you all a safe & blessed new year!

**Altar Guild January 2021-Jean Swanson & Tammy Oxenreider**

**Birthdays and Anniversaries**

Name	Marriage	January	
Roberts, Camille		1-01	
Alexander, Pat & Bill	1-02		
Phillips, Colleen		1-06	
Jamison, Caleb		1-07	
Raasch, Joy		1-10	
Hotchkiss, Marlene		1-13	
Roling, Payton		1-19	
Waddell, Nick		1-19	
Pierce, Caleb		1-27	

Poinsettias:


Shirley & Myles Pedersen,

Sheldon & Linda Bieri

In loving memory of Ed & Elizabeth Kemp and Judith Knauber by Michael and Pam Kemp,

Merry Christmas from the Kyle Wenell family

# January 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Bethany Lutheran Church Adult SS- 9:15 Youth SS- 9:30 Worship-1030			1	2
3 10:30 Worship w/ Holy Communion	4	5 8:30AM Prayer Group 9:30AM Coffee @ BLC	6	7	8	9
10 10:30 Worship Baptism of Our Lord Communion	11	12 8:30AM Prayer Group 9:30AM Coffee @ BLC	13 7:00PM Council Mtg	14 2:00PM Circle Group at BLC	15	16
17 10:30 Worship w/ Holy Communion	18	19 8:30AM Prayer Group 9:30AM Coffee @ BLC	20	21	22	23
24 10:30-Worship 31 10:30-Worship	25	26 8:30AM Prayer Group 9:30AM Coffee @ BLC	27	28	29	30