

The Mustard Seed

December 2017

Volume 12, issue 11

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Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

...God had entered the world as a baby... Divinity entered the world on the floor of a stable, through the womb of a teenager and in the presence of a carpenter.

...Meanwhile, the city hummed. The merchants were unaware that God had visited their planet. And the people would scoff at anyone who told them the Messiah lay in the arms of a teenager in the outskirts of their village. They were all too busy to consider the possibility.

...Those who missed His Majesty's arrival that night missed it not because of evil acts or malice; no, they missed it because they simply weren't looking Max Lucado

We have the benefit of knowing the abiding story of Jesus the Christ. Since his humble birth so long-ago Jesus has never left us. We celebrate his birth as our lives hum along just as the city hummed on that first Christmas night. May God keep our eyes and hearts open to his presence. We don't want to miss seeing him because we simply aren't looking.

May you have a Blessed Christmas filled with many "sightings" of the Messiah!

Pastor John and Judy

REJOICE & PRAISE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3rd

Join us for beautiful music from the Bethany Rejoice & Praise Team
Bring neighbors, friends and grandchildren. ALL are welcome!

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP!!

Join us for Christmas Eve worship at 4pm!



HELPERS FOR DECEMBER 2017

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

December 3
 (Servers) Council
 (Set-up/ Clean-up) Velma Jones
December 10
 (Servers) Council
 (Set-up/ Clean-up) Ed & Shirley Stukey
December 24 - Christmas Eve 4pm
 (Servers) Council
 (Set-up/ Clean-up) Judy Lundberg
January 7
 (Servers) Council
 (Set-up/ Clean-up) Craig & Judy Hagman

USHERS

December 3
 Andy & Norma Holen & Judy Waytashek
December 10
 Craig & Judy Hagman & Marian Veasen
December 17
 Jim & Joani Ellingson & Norma Thompson
December 24 - Christmas Eve
 Ray & Sandy Kephart & Judy Waytashek
December 31
 Gordy & Maverine Anderson & Chuck Anderson
January 7
 Arden & Patti Virnig & Marian Veasen

OFFERING COUNTERS

December 3
 Sandy Kephart & Marian Veasen
December 10
 Craig Hagman & Ed Stukey
December 17
 Dixie Peterson & Charleen Dahlgren
December 24 - Christmas Eve
 Bruce Peterson & Sandy Kephart
December 31
 Eileen Hastings & Marian Veasen
January 7
 Ed Stukey & Judy Hagman

LECTORS

December 3
 Sandy Kephart
December 10
 Arden Virnig
December 17
 Joani Ellingson
December 24 - Christmas Eve
 Judy Waytashek
December 17
 Judy Lundberg
January 1
 Dixie Peterson

PIANISTS

December 3 Brienna Kightlinger
December 10 Barb Bendson
December 17 Barb Bendson
December 24 Barb Bendson
December 31 Barb Bendson
January 1 Barb Bendson

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

December 3
December 10
December 17 Hillman Group
December 24
December 31
January 1

If you can help out in providing treats for fellowship after worship, please call the church office to be put on the list. THANK YOU!



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

DECEMBER

December 3rd	Jim & Velma Jones' Anniversary
December 4th	Gordy Anderson's Birthday
December 7th	Edna Hohn's Birthday
December 12th	Carolyn Swanson's Birthday
December 18th	Jim & Joani Ellingson's Anniversary
December 18th	Quentin & Carol Kottsick's Anniversary
December 18th	Carol Kottsick's Birthday
December 20th	Kristi Dahlgren's Birthday
December 21st	Judy Waytashek's Birthday
December 27th	Gerald Vogtlin's Birthday

Pastor John is in the office on Tuesdays.
 Please stop in or call for an appointment.
 Pastor John's phone: 320.676.3130

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
 Monday through Friday 9am-3pm

HOMEBOUND OR RELOCATED?

If a family member or friend has become homebound or has been moved into Assisted Living or the Nursing Home, please share that information with the church office. THANK YOU!!

DEADLINE for the January 2018 Mustard Seed will be **NO LATER THAN** Sunday, December 24th.
 Please have all items in to Darcy by this date. Thank You!

Minutes for November 14, 2017 Council Meeting

These minutes will not be approved until the Dec. 19, 2017 meeting at which time they will be approved as is or with any additions or corrections.

Members present: P. Hook, V. Jones, R. Kephart, P. Olson, D. Peterson

Members absent : N. Holen and Pastor John

Consent Agenda was approved.

Old Business: A. Church Furnace: This project is completed. Thank you to Tim Stout. B. Tiles in the basement: Memorial money has been designated for this project. (Nasby \$1,000, Betty Renstrom \$1,250 and Quilters CD \$1,270.36) Basement rooms will need to be cleared out and ready to be tiled the 2nd week of December. C. Thanksgiving Meal-Meals will be served from 11:00-1:00. Thank you to all who are helping with this annual event.

New Business: A. Christmas Eve service- The council approved having one service on Sunday, December 24 at 4:00 pm. B. Lenten Services- The council read a letter from Susan Bracken and Colleen Kightlinger regarding this years Lenten services. They also included a survey to given out to acquire input from the congregation. The council made some minor revisions to the survey and plans to send out the survey in the very near future to get feedback and input about past and future Lenten plans. Decisions about the Lenten services will be made at the January council meeting.

Project updates: A. Alliance youth update. It seems to be going fine. A sign up sheet for treats will be made available to the congregation. B. Patti informed the council about a banner project. The council will be revisiting this item.

Other items: A. Darcy's review was completed by Susan Bracken and Pam Olson. Her annual review will be done every October. B. The council spent time discussing Pastor John's new contract. The executive committee will meet with Pastor John on Tuesday, November 28 at 7:00 pm.

Next month's council meeting will be Tuesday, December 19, 2017 at 7:00 pm.

Meeting was adjourned.

Dixie Peterson, council secretary

**POINSETTIAS**

Poinsettias may be ordered through Darcy and MUST be paid for when ordering. Cost is \$14 each and the order will be placed on Dec. 15th. You are also welcome to bring your own poinsettia beginning Nov. 30th.

GROUPS, MEETINGS, ETC.

Prayer Shawl - Dec. 5th at 4pm.

Quilting - December 19th from 9am-3pm.

SENIOR COMPANIONS Meet at Bethany on the second Tuesday of each month from 9-11:30am.

Council meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, Dec. 19th at 5:30pm.**

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS AND INFORMATION

ADVENT BEGINS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3rd! We will be decorating our sanctuary and tree with STARS. Everyone is invited to bring a star ornament for our tree. We will bring the stars forward during the opening song each Sunday of Advent. Silver, gold, white, yellow and blue stars are preferred, but all colors will be welcome and appreciated! Stars will be kept on the tree until Lent. If you want your star back after Christmas season please put your name on the back of it.

"SECOND SUNDAY SOUP SUPPERS"

You are invited to "Second Sunday Soup Suppers" on Sunday Jan. 14th and Feb. 11th from 5-7 p.m. at Susan and Tom Bracken's home (306 Birch St., N., Onamia). "SSSS" will be hosted by Dale and Colleen Kightlinger, Tim and Darcy DeBoer, and Tom and Susan Bracken. We hope that these events will be a chance for fellowship, fun, and a light but hearty supper together. Feel free to invite friends--ALL are welcome! For more information talk to any of the hosts.

ANGELS ANONYMOUS

It is again time to think about the Holidays. We are directed by God to care for our fellow man. At this time the Angels Anonymous team approaches the congregation for assistance. During the past year we have seen many in our community struggling. We were able to help a number of families with fuel expense, winter clothing and food. The following might help remind you of our purpose.

WHO: The members of Angels Anonymous are Bethany members who are able to reach out to members of the community.

WHAT: This is an informal organization made up of congregational coordinators who collect cash donations from Bethany congregation for the purpose of helping others.

WHY: Many families in our communities find themselves unable to afford anything but the basic necessities at Christmas. As Christians we realize the role we should be playing in making the Holidays something special. This does not necessarily mean toys but it can mean helping someone through a crisis.

WHEN: This year our drive will be from November 24—December 15. (This allows time to purchase gift certificates and see that they get to those in need.) We work with the social worker in the schools for the names of those who need it most. She also distributes the money. If there is a couple in need who have no children in school this will be done through the local pastors.

WHERE: Donations can be brought to church, when you come for worship or they can be left in the church office. Please make checks payable to "Angels Anonymous".

HOW: You may give your cash or check donations to any of the congregational coordinators: Charleen Dahlgren, Ed Stukeby or Judy Waytashek.

After the holidays any money gathered is put in a special bank account to be used for families in crisis during the year. If you have any questions, please call 320-277-3379 or talk to any of the coordinators.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

Christmas Eve Worship will be held at Bethany on **Sunday, December 24th at 4pm.**

UMW COOKIE SALE!! The annual cookie sale will be Fri., Dec. 1st at 3:15pm at Onamia Elementary.
\$5 per pound!

RUBY'S PANTRY

Food Distribution Program. Everyone who gets hungry qualifies! You receive an abundance of grocery items for a \$20 donation. Bring your own baskets or boxes for food. Located at the Lions Community Center, Onamia beginning at **10:30 am the FIRST Monday of the month. Registration begins at 10am.**

Next two dates will be Dec. 4th and TUESDAY, Jan. 2nd

DECEMBER 2017 MUSIC HAPPENINGS

CELEBRATING the Christmas Season!!

December 3rd will be a special Sunday of music and celebrating the Christmas Season
with **REJOICE & PRAISE**

Invite your friends! Spread the Word!!
Rehearsal Sunday, Dec. 3rd at 8:15 a.m.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CHOIR



COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CHOIR CONCERTS
Saturday, Dec. 2nd at Faith Lutheran in Isle
beginning at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 3rd at Holy Cross in Onamia
beginning at 3:00 p.m.
Free will offerings will be given to local area food shelves.
EVERYONE IS WELCOME! PLEASE JOIN US!

REJOICE & PRAISE

REJOICE AND PRAISE SCHEDULE
Rejoice & Praise will help lead worship on Sunday, Dec. 3rd
Rehearsal begins at 8:15 a.m.



YOUTH HAPPENINGS



SUNDAY SCHOOL
Youth are dismissed immediately following the gospel reading during worship on Sunday mornings
There will be **no Sunday School on Sunday, Dec. 3rd and Dec. 24th.**

DECEMBER 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>3 8:15am - Rehearsal 9:30am - Rejoice & Praise w/ Holy Communion</p>	<p>4 10:30am - RUBY'S PANTRY</p>	<p>5 4pm - Prayer Shawl</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>1 3:15pm - UMC Cookie Sale</p>	<p>2 7:30pm - Christmas Choir Concert at Faith Lutheran in Isle</p>
<p>3pm - Christmas Choir Concert at Holy Cross</p>						<p>9 8:30am - Men's Breakfast at UMC</p>
<p>10 9:30am Holy Communion</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>5-7pm - "Second Sunday Soup Supper" at the Bracken's</p>						
<p>17 9:30am Word & Prayer</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 7pm - Council Meeting</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24 4pm - Christmas Eve Worship w/ Holy Communion</p>	<p>25 MERRY CHRISTMAS</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>
<p>31 9:30am Word & Prayer</p>	<p>Jan. 1 HAPPY NEW YEAR!</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>

**BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
500 LINDQUIST ST.
ONAMIA, MN 56359**

320-532-3366

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Council Members:

**President - Pam Olson
Vice President - Velma Jones
Secretary - Dixie Peterson
Treasurer - Ray Kephart
Norma Holen - Patti Hook**

**Music Coordinator - Susan Bracken
Administrative Assistant - Darcy DeBoer**

**RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED**

Address:

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

REJOICE & PRAISE

8:15am - Rehearsal for Worship

9:30am - Rejoice & Praise w/ Holy Communion

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

9:30am - Holy Communion

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

9:30am - Word & Prayer

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE

4pm - Worship w/ Holy Communion

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

9:30am - Word & Prayer

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

9:30am - Holy Communion

ADVENT begins on Sunday, December 3rd!
You are invited to bring a star ornament any Sunday
in Advent to place on our Christmas tree.



CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP!!

Join us for Christmas Eve worship at 4pm!

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CHOIR CONCERTS

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