

[www.bethlehemvinton.org](http://www.bethlehemvinton.org)

Facebook page: "Bethlehem Lutheran Vinton"

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### Youth Ministry

On November 12th, the Sunday school and Middle School students took a field trip to the Benton County food pantry to deliver all the food the Sunday school and Team Life had collected over the past month. Lisa Vermedahl did a great job showing the kids around the pantry and discussing different aspects of how the food is collected and given out. The kids weighed their bags of food and then put them on the shelves. The kids delivered 151 items of food.



The Sunday school also collected hats and mittens in November. 43 items were collected and given to Benton Community Schools, Center Point –Urbana Elementary, Shellsburg Elementary, and Tilford Elementary.

Families – pick up an Advent calendar on the table in Augustana Hall provided by Christian Faith.

LIGHTS (ages Preschool – 5th) will meet on December 6th. We will use that time to rehearse for the Christmas play – see details below. Our next meeting will be January 3rd from 5:30 – 6:30 in the preschool room.

Sunday school Christmas Program is Wednesday, December 20th at 6:30. Cookies to follow! We have rehearsals on November 26th, December 3rd, and December 10th during the

Sunday school hour. We will also rehearse on Wednesday December 6th.

Sunday school teachers are providing the cookies for the program. Please bring a couple dozen cookies. Thanks!!!!

December 24th is a group Sunday school for the Sunday school kids and December 31st is a Service Sunday.

LYO will meet on Wednesday December 6th, 13th, and 20th. Join us for a meal, a service activity, a discussion or something fun!

Follow our Pinterest page or look at [www.whychristmas.com](http://www.whychristmas.com) for ideas on celebrating the holidays together!

### Christian Life

First of all, a big thanks to Dell and Mona Hanson for their contribution of Thrivent Funds to purchase coats and snow pants for 5 community children in need. Several local churches participate in the annual "Coats for Kids" program. This year we met the needs of five children with the financial donation given by the Hanson family. Thank you!

On Sunday, December 10th, Bethlehem members and any friends you want to invite will be Christmas caroling at the homes of shut ins. We will gather at 4 p.m. and go caroling as a group and then return to church for refreshments. If you know of someone we need to put on our list to visit, please let the church office know. We will also be delivering the fruit baskets to the shut ins at that time. Come and join in with a joyful heart and song.

On Wednesday, December 13th, Bethlehem's Team Christian Life is hosting an Advent Mid-week Gathering at 2 - 3:30 p.m. for anyone who

wishes to attend. Please join us for Christmas cookies, Christmas music and good fellowship. Just be ready to share the Christmas spirit. Bring a friend. Need a ride? Call the church office and we will make arrangements to pick you up and take you home. A great time to gather to warm our hearts in anticipation of the Christmas season and the good news it means for all of us.

Again this year Bethlehem will participate in the ELCA Good Gifts project. Beginning on Sunday, November 19th, thru Sunday, December 31st there will be a Advent/Christmas tree in Augustana Hall decorated with ornaments. You will have the opportunity to buy one of many ornaments by making a donation that is printed on the ornament. Such things as honeybees, tree seedlings, chicks, pigs, goats, and many other items will be available at varying donation amounts. Money is then sent to the ELCA and they purchase and distribute the items all over the world where most needed. Please consider this project as a possible option for your Advent/Christmas generous giving. Donate individually or pair up with a friend or other family members if you wish to donate for one of the larger items such as "\$100 to feed 50 at a soup kitchen" or "\$50 for a goat" or "\$500 for a cow". But you can also donate "\$10 to purchase school supplies for a child" or "\$12 to purchase Bibles for the Global Church". Many possibilities for many different levels of giving. When you donate you then get to take home the ornament to place on your Christmas tree as a reminder of your spreading your Christian love around the world.

Thank you to those who volunteered as bell ringers for the Salvation Army Campaign.

Team Christian Life members wish each of you a Blessed Holiday Season!

### Choir

#### **Sunday School/YoungStars Choir**

Rehearse: 6:30 pm December 6

Sing in worship w/ 8:25 warm-up: December 10

#### **Chapel Choir**

Rehearsals on Wed. at 7:00 pm: December 6, 13

Sing in worship w/ 8:15 warm-up: December 3, 17

### Food for Thought Small Group

Food for Thought Small Group meets monthly, on the third Thursday evening of the month. The members may carpool from the church or meet at the assigned restaurant. Fellowship and informal book discussion begins at 6:30 p.m. and continues during the meal. This activity is open to anyone wishing to join the fun.



Our schedule for the upcoming months:

**December 14, 2017** (*note date moved up 1 week earlier in December than usual*)

*A Red Bird Christmas* by Fanny Flagg

Potluck at the Bethlehem Inn in Vinton

We would love to have new members join us. If you have questions call Linda Wallace (472-5638).

### Women's Evening Bible Study

We are having a meeting, Sunday, December 10th directly after the service in Augustana Hall to determine the direction that the bible study wants to go in 2018. What topics do we want to study? Do we want to continue to have the meetings on Monday evenings? Do we even want to continue the bible study at all?

If you really want to be a part of the bible study but can't meet on Monday nights, now would be the time to join us to let your voice be heard. If you can't attend on December 10th, please contact me before then to let your wants and needs be known.

I look forward to seeing you there,

Marta Bauer  
Facilitator

### **Upcoming Events:**

Dave and Lisa Vermedahl will be celebrating their 50th Anniversary on December 29th with a gathering of family and friends here in Augustana Hall, 4 to 6 p.m. Please feel free to come and wish them a Happy Anniversary.

Yearly Reports are due December 14<sup>th</sup> so the annual report can be compiled and distributed in January. If you lead a group, committee, project or any other activity please submit a report on the activities. If you have any questions, please see JJ or Pastor.

**Thank You Received:**

Lee Corbet has moved to be closer to her family. She extends her thanks to all for your words of comfort and sympathy. Her new address is: Lee Corbett; 708 5th Street, Grundy Center, IA 50638, 319-389-3928, olcorb@aol.com

**Prayers:**

*for health & healing:* Larry Lorenz (Lorretta Simnacher's brother), Randy Ohrt, John Eden, Jim Nottger, Jackie Behounek, Mary & Duane Kruse (Ellen Olson's parents), Lois Selken, Marlyn Jorgensen; *for sympathy and condolences:* Myron Dell Hanson, Jr.'s family; *for blessings on the birth of a child:* Mitchell and Erin Heims on the birth of a son, Rowan Heims and George and Marta Bauer on the birth of a grandson, Jakob Alan Bauer; *for thanks and safety:* all persons serving in the military especially Darin Humiston, Chris Jorgensen, Stoner Nudd, Matt Uthoff; *for easy travels and safety:* family, friends and loved ones who are traveling during the holiday season; *for support and comfort:* all those who may be celebrating the holidays alone; *for guidance and joy:* Pastor Dr. Lynn Banderob as begins her ministry at "Unity of the Cross" Peace Lutheran Church in Ryan and St. John Lutheran Church in Dundee; *for leadership as they begin their service:* Tina Eden, Bill Martin and Debbie Sampson – Congregation Council; Ron Bland, Tom Hanson, Becky Williams and Loretta Simnacher – Nominating Committee.

**Servers in December:**

**Council Lock up:** Pastor

December 3<sup>rd</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>

**Acolytes:** Cole Overton & Maren Redlinger

**Assisting Minister:** George Bauer

**Altar Guild:** Kelli McClintock & Brenda Sutton

**Communion Server:** Lisa Vermedahl

**Tape Ministry:** Mona Hanson

**Lector:** Doug Sutton

**Greeters:** Ellen Olson & Sheila Stickels

**Ushers:** Jim Dahl, Tom & Dana Hanson, John or Ben Olson

**Counters** (3<sup>rd</sup>): Mike Crane, Will Calderwood

**Counters** (10<sup>th</sup>): Will Calderwood, Sue Mangold

December 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>:

**Acolytes:** Cole Overton (17/31) & Maren Redlinger

Trent Sivola (24<sup>th</sup> only)

**Assisting Minister:** George Bauer

**Altar Guild:** Kelli McClintock & Brenda Sutton

**Communion Server:** Larry Nudd

**Tape Ministry:** Warren Henkel

**Lector:** Tenny Jertson

**Greeters:** Ron & Evelyn Bland

**Ushers:** Ryan & Kelli McClintock, Doug & Brenda Sutton

**Counters** (17<sup>th</sup>): Sue Mangold, Deb Jertson

**Counters** (24<sup>th</sup>): Deb Jertson, Marta Bauer

**Counters** (31<sup>st</sup>): Marta Bauer, Ryan/Kelli McClintock

**Candlelight Carol Services of Holy Communion:****5:30**

**Acolytes:** Colton & Franki Evans

**Assisting Minister:** George Bauer

**Communion Server:** Marta Bauer

**Lector:** Tenny Jertson

**Ushers:** Doug & Brenda Sutton, Tom & Dana Hanson

**10:30**

**Acolytes:** Maddie & Olivia Erhardt

**Assisting Minister:** Nancy Beckman

**Communion Server:** Lisa Vermedahl

**Lector:** Tenny Jertson

**Ushers:** Doug & Brenda Sutton, Jim Dahl, Tim Jorgensen

**Flowers in December:**

3<sup>rd</sup>: Bauers

10<sup>th</sup>: Krulls

17<sup>th</sup>: Jacobs

24<sup>th</sup>: Poinsettias

31<sup>st</sup>: John & Ellen Olson

**LIGHTING THE CANDLES**

*A Simple Form for Household Prayer in the Seasons of Advent and Christmas*

Make the seasons of Advent and Christmas a meaningful time in your home, using some of the ideas that follow.

- Purchase or make an Advent wreath. Use blue candles for the Sundays and weeks of Advent. Replace the blue candles with new white candles on Christmas Eve. Add white votive candles in the center or around the outside of the wreath during the twelve days of Christmas. Or remove the Advent wreath on Christmas Eve and create a circle of white votive candles, adding one candle each day until Epiphany (January 6). Prayers to accompany the candle lighting are provided on this page.

- Make plans to gather daily, beginning on the first Sunday of Advent, for a time to reflect upon the gift of love God shared with all people. Continue this gathering throughout the twelve days of Christmas.

•Decide what kinds of things your daily gathering will include. Decide on a time, such as morning, evening, or mealtime, to meet. Suggested table prayers are provided here for gatherings that take place at mealtime. Decide who will light and snuff out the candles.

•Daily scripture readings drawn from year B of the Revised Common Lectionary and the Daily Lectionary prepared by the Consultation on Common Texts are listed on the next page. After the reading each day, take time to think about or discuss the passage, as well as any feelings or experiences that relate to the scripture reading. Reflections may also take the form of an art response (drawing, clay, painting) or journaling.

•Sing or read the words to an Advent or Christmas hymn and reflect upon the significance those words have for your life. Some hymns from Evangelical Lutheran Worship are suggested below under the "Hymns" heading.

### **PRAYERS TO ACCOMPANY THE CANDLE LIGHTING**

Week 1

*Lord Jesus, we do not lack any spiritual gift as we wait for your coming. Keep us awake and help us use our gifts to serve those who look for the dawn of your justice and mercy. Amen.*

Week 2

*God our shepherd, gather us as lambs in your arms. Forgive our sins so that we may rejoice in your coming. Amen.*

Week 3

*Lord Jesus, you continue to do great things for us. Give us your gift of peace as we await your coming. Amen.*

Week 4

*God our Savior, nothing is impossible for you. Prepare our hearts to rejoice in your glorious advent. Amen.*

Week 5

*Lord God, may your Word become flesh through our lives so that we may see him in the fullness of his glory. Amen.*

### **TABLE PRAYERS**

Week 1

*Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest; let these gifts to us be blest.*

*Keep us ever in your sight; be our joy, our hearts' delight. Amen.*

Week 2

*Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest; let these gifts to us be blest.*

*May there be a goodly share on every table everywhere. Amen.*

Week 3

*Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest; let these gifts to us be blest.*

*Guide us on the servant's way; lead us to your dawning day. Amen.*

Week 4

*Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest; let these gifts to us be blest.*

*Deep within us come to dwell that we might all your goodness tell. Amen.*

Week 5

*Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest; let these gifts to us be blest.*

*Every day your praise we sing; help us shine the light you bring. Amen.*

### **DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS 2017–2018**

Week 1

Sunday, December 3: Isaiah 64:1-9

Monday, December 4: Psalm 80:1-7

Tuesday, December 5: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Wednesday, December 6: Mark 13:24-37

Thursday, December 7: Psalm 85:8-13

Friday, December 8: Jeremiah 1:4-10

Saturday, December 9: Ezekiel 36:24-28

Week 2

Sunday, December 10: Mark 1:1-8

Monday, December 11: Isaiah 40:1-11

Tuesday, December 12: Psalm 27

Wednesday, December 13: Luke 1:5-17

Thursday, December 14: Habakkuk 2:1-4

Friday, December 15: Philippians 3:12-16

Saturday, December 16: John 1:6-8, 19-28

Week 3

Sunday, December 17: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Monday, December 18: Psalm 126

Tuesday, December 19: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Wednesday, December 20: Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

Thursday, December 21: Luke 1:26-38

Friday, December 22: Luke 1:39-45

Saturday, December 23: Luke 1:46-55

*Week 4*

Sunday, December 24: Luke 2:1-20  
Monday, December 25: John 1:1-14  
Tuesday, December 26: Psalm 148  
Wednesday, December 27: 1 John 1:1-9  
Thursday, December 28: Jeremiah 31:15-17  
Friday, December 29: Isaiah 49:5-15  
Saturday, December 30: Psalm 148

*Week 5*

Sunday, December 31: Isaiah 61:10—62:3  
Monday, January 1: Galatians 4:4-7  
Tuesday, January 2: Luke 2:22-40  
Wednesday, January 3: Psalm 110  
Thursday, January 4: Isaiah 60:1-6  
Friday, January 5: Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14  
Saturday, January 6: Matthew 2:1-12

**HYMNS**

***Advent***

Come now, O Prince of peace..... ELW 247  
Come, thou long-expected Jesus..... ELW 254  
Hark, the glad sound!..... ELW 239  
He came down..... ELW 253  
Joy to the world..... ELW 267  
Light one candle to watch for Messiah ELW 240  
O come, O come, Emmanuel ..... ELW 257  
Savior of the nations, come..... ELW 263  
Wait for the Lord ..... ELW 262

***Christmas***

Angels we have heard on high ..... ELW 289  
Away in a manger ..... ELW 277/278  
Go tell it on the mountain ..... ELW 290  
Hark! The herald angels sing ..... ELW 270  
Infant holy, infant lowly ..... ELW 276  
Jesus, what a wonderful child ..... ELW 297  
O little town of Bethlehem..... ELW 279  
The first Noel ..... ELW 300  
'Twas in the moon of wintertime ..... ELW 284

**Calendar Observances – Advent 2017**

**Sunday, December 3**

Francis Xavier, missionary to Asia, died 1552; Francis Xavier (SAYV-yehr) was born in the Basque region of northern Spain. Francis's native Basque language is unrelated to any other, and Francis admitted that learning languages was difficult for him. Despite this obstacle he became a missionary to India, Southeast Asia, Japan, and the Philippines. At each point he learned the local language and, like Martin Luther, wrote catechisms for the instruction of new converts. Another obstacle Francis overcame to accomplish his mission

work was a propensity to seasickness. All his travels to the Far East were by boat. Together with Ignatius Loyola and five others, Francis formed the Society of Jesus (Jesuits). Francis spoke out against the Spanish and Portuguese colonists when he discovered their oppression of the indigenous people to whom he was sent as a missionary.

**Monday, December 4**

John of Damascus, theologian and hymnwriter, died around 749; Born to a wealthy family in Damascus and well educated, John left a career in finance and government to become a monk in an abbey near Jerusalem. He wrote many hymns as well as theological works. Foremost among the latter is a work called The Fount of Wisdom, which touches on philosophy, heresy, and the orthodox faith. This summary of patristic theology remained influential for centuries.

**Wednesday, December 6**

Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, died around 342; Though Nicholas is one of the church's most beloved saints, little is known about his life. In the fourth century he was a bishop in what is now Turkey. Legends that surround Nicholas tell of his love for God and neighbor, especially the poor. One famous story tells of Nicholas secretly giving bags of gold to the three daughters of a father who was going to sell them into prostitution because he could not provide dowries for them. Nicholas has become a symbol of anonymous gift giving.

**Thursday, December 7**

Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, died 397; Ambrose was a governor of northern Italy and a catechumen when he was elected bishop of Milan. He was baptized, ordained, and consecrated a bishop all on the same day. While bishop he gave away his wealth and lived in simplicity. He was a famous preacher and is largely responsible for the conversion of Augustine. He is also well known for writing hymns. On one occasion, Ambrose led people in a hymn he wrote while the church in which they were secluded was threatened by attack from Gothic soldiers. The soldiers turned away, unwilling to attack a congregation that was singing a hymn. Ambrose is credited with authorship of three hymns in Evangelical Lutheran Worship, including "Savior of the Nations, Come" (ELW 263).

Wednesday, December 13

Lucy, martyr, died 304; Lucy was a young Christian of Sicily who was martyred during the persecutions under Emperor Diocletian. Apparently she had decided to devote her life to God and her possessions to the poor. Beyond that, however, little is known for certain about Lucy. However, her celebration became particularly important in Sweden and Norway, perhaps because the feast of Lucia (the name means "light") originally fell on the shortest day of the year. A tradition arose of a girl in the household, wearing a crown of candles, bringing saffron rolls to her family early in the morning on the day of Lucia.

Thursday, December 14

John of the Cross, renewer of the church, died 1591; John was a monk of the Carmelite religious order who met Teresa of Ávila when she was working to reform the Carmelite Order and return it to a stricter observance of its rules. He followed Teresa's lead and encouraged others to follow her reform. He was imprisoned when

he encountered opposition to the reform. His writings, like Teresa's, reflect a deep interest in mystical thought and meditation. In one of John's poems, "The Spiritual Canticle," he cried, "Oh, that my griefs would end! Come, grant me thy fruition full and free!"

Wednesday, December 20

Katharina von Bora Luther, renewer of the church, died 1552; Born to an impoverished nobleman, Katharina (Katie) was five when her mother died and she was sent to live in a convent. She later took vows as a nun, but at about age twenty-four she and several other nuns who were influenced by the writings of Martin Luther left the convent. Six children were born to Katie and Martin. Though initially Luther felt little affection for Katie, she proved herself a gifted household manager and became a trusted partner. She was so influential that Luther took to calling her "my lord Katie."

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<b>Bethlehem Lutheran Church</b>					
<b>Consolidated Fund Activity Report for October 2017</b>					
<b>Account Name</b>	<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Disbursements</b>	<b>Transfers/ Journal Entries</b>	<b>Ending Balance</b>
Building Fund	48,317.79	1,283.00	0.00	0.00	49,600.79
Cassens Prop Fund	267.53	1,450.00	51.36	0.00	1,666.17
Equip Replace Fd	3,696.16	0.00	0.00	125.00	3,821.16
General Fund B	0.00	3,646.00	0.00	(3,646.00)	0.00
General Fund A	230.01	16,964.86	17,344.63	2,655.00	2,505.24
LYO Fund	3,184.35	0.00	66.34	0.00	3,118.01
Memorial Fund	12,707.81	1,650.00	0.00	0.00	14,357.81
Property Fund	29,246.38	0.00	0.00	500.00	29,746.38
Sun. School Fund	4,220.64	22.75	156.86	0.00	4,086.53

**From the Treasurer...**

The General Fund had a nice gain in the month of October, with an ending balance of \$2,505. Total giving (General Funds A & B) totaled over \$20,000, the largest giving month to date in 2017.

However, year-to-date (as of October) total expenses outpace General Fund A & B giving by \$4,500. Please remain aware and proactive to keep the General Fund in the positive (and perhaps build the balance) as we finish out 2017.

\*\*\*As the Advent season is upon us, let's all keep the stewardship project that the council recently put together in our hearts and minds as we give...not just our gifts of money, but our time and talents as well. Thank you to all that continue to give towards the mission and ministry we have at Bethlehem. As always, please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions, concerns or suggestions!

~Ryan McClintock, Council Treasurer