



Bethany Lutheran Church

December 2018 Newsletter

1315 6th St NE, Red Lake Falls, MN 56750 (218) 253-2589
www.bethanylutheranrlf.com bethanylutheranrlf@gmail.com

Pastor:
Rev. Gary Graff

Church Secretary:
Destiny Kuznia

Office Hours
Thursdays
1:00pm – 5:00pm

Worship Times
Sundays 10:00am
Wednesdays 6:30pm

Sunday School
9:00am Sept-May

Church Web Site Director
Dr. Owen Nelson
onelson@mncable.net

Contact Us
(218) 253-2589
Additional contact info at the top of this newsletter



Soon time to get out the decorations for Christmas!

Maybe you've got an old shoe box full of homemade decorations the kids made when they were little. To tell the truth, they are my favorites! Just a little sentimental here! But now think of the meaning of those decorations.

The tree reminds us of the “tree” (cross) Jesus died on to save us from our sins. It's an “ever-green” tree that reminds us of the gift of “ever lasting life”, that he bestows on us through his sacrifice on that “tree”.

And what of the gold and silver tinsel now adorning the tree? Here we have a reminder of Jesus' royal kingship. Jesus is a powerful king! Yet, his power consists not in power over us, but power to serve us. Jesus is the “King of Love”.

The candy cane reminds us of Jesus who is at once both the good shepherd (shepherd's crook) and the sacrificial lamb. Like the white candy cane he is pure and sinless, but also saves us through the power of his blood shed on the cross.

Lastly we have the angel at the tree top. The angel with her harp or trumpet, heralded Christ's birth on Christmas morn. Like the angel we too are called to be heralds of the good news of Jesus to all the world.

Enjoy the decorating! And enjoy the story the decorations tell!

Pastor Gary



Christmas Schedule

Dec. 24th 5:30 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.

Here's An Idea!

One of the problems with Christmas is that the Christmas story about Jesus is often overshadowed by the Christmas story about Santa and the toys. Kids grow up learning more about the North Pole than Bethlehem! Here's an idea. What if we were to have a movie night featuring a children's movie about the baby Jesus. We could have treats, popcorn, maybe some fun games and crafts that would help kids remember the true story about Christmas. I know this is late in planning, but anyone interested? Let me know. Pastor Gary



Dec. 23rd and 30th No Sunday School

Dec. 26th No Confirmation,

No Women's Bible Study

Dec. 27th No Men's Bible Study

Jan. 2nd No Confirmation



Christmas Gift for Pastor

If you would like to contribute to the Christmas gift for Pastor Gary and Linda, please get your submissions to Allen Bertilrud by December 16th.



“I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.”

John 12:46



The women of Bethany Christmas party will be December 16th at Alison and Mike Lacina's house! The gathering will start at 2:00 pm. So mark your calendars and join us!



Walk Through Bethlehem

Dust off your Nativity figures! We will be having a "Walk Through Bethlehem" open house fundraiser Sunday, December 9th, at Bethany! Our "Walk Through Bethlehem" will be from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Nativities to view! Dessert! Music? More information will be coming soon!



Christmas Program and Meal Dec. 16th

The Sunday School will put on its Christmas program on Dec. 16th at 10:00 am in place of worship. Following the program the Youth Group will serve a meal.



Offering Envelopes

Please pick up your 2019 offering envelopes in the parish hall starting December 1st. They are arranged alphabetically by last name. If you cannot find your name, please take a blank one and notify pastor so this can be corrected on our end.



Help provide a special Christmas to those in need in our community. Take a tag off the Giving Tree, purchase a gift of about \$20 (or cash), wrap it, and return it under the tree by Dec. 16th.

Extra-Benevolence

Sometimes we forget to count all the extra ways Bethany gives to mission besides its regular commitment to benevolence giving (giving to mission and outreach). This year, we've managed to give away close to \$3000 for Keith and Linda Axvig and their Sonshine Ministry (that aids in the building of houses and churches in Mexico), and \$450 to the Gideon's for the distribution of Bibles throughout the world. That's \$3400 to mission beyond our own walls in just one month! Sometimes we struggle to meet our benevolence goals, and yet manage to give to other causes in quite substantial ways, without even realizing it!



Worldwide Candle Lighting

In remembrance, please come light a candle for children who have died. Join us for a heartfelt ceremony December 9th at 7:00 pm at St. Joseph Church Parish Center. You are welcome to bring a picture to display. All friends and family are welcome. Candles and refreshments will be provided. Hosted by the Compassionate Friends.

New Council Members Needed

Church council is looking for 5 or more volunteers to fill positions on our church board. Call President Allen Bertilrud at 253-4236 or Pastor Gary Graff if interested in serving.



- 1 – Dennis Haglund
Jill Magnell
- 2 – Erin Matzke
- 3 – Wanda Olson
- 6 – Terry Rewertz
- 8 – Bailey Miller
Vaida Pletschett
Wren Pletschett
- 9 – David Miller
- 10 – Maureen Hams
- 11 – Olivia Bulger
Gary Halvorson
- 12 – Faye Klipping
- 13 – Eunice Hams
- 14 – Theodore Tydlacka
- 15 – Gerald Bjorgan
Logan Turner
- 16 – Murray Turner
Bonnie Tydlacka
- 19 – Lynelle Doyle
- 21 – Wyatt Sauve
- 22 – Lynn Seeger
- 23 – Logan Hovland
Shirley Thompson
- 24 – Cristin Gums
- 25 – Jesus of Nazareth
Keaton Hansen
- 26 – Amanda Myhre
- 27 – Nathan Hofstad
Gabriela Jorissen
- 28 – Jonah Lee
- 30 – Sheri Lallier
Aubree Largis
- 31 – Zack Landman



- 7 – Jesse & Dianne Casavan
- 11 – Owen & Dianna Nelson
Dennis & Debra Piche
- 28 – Harvey & Nina Bakke
- 29 – Maurice & Diane Bjorgan
- 31 – Jeff & Shari Baird
Paul & Rachel Klein

What a joyful event!

I had the opportunity to deliver almost 60 Christmas Shoeboxes to Hope Evangelical Church in Grand Forks this morning. A multitude of young kids thronged my car to help transport them inside. Others were busy packing them in larger boxes ready for shipment to the distribution center for final inspection before they traveled many many miles to the excited children who may be receiving the only gift they have ever received. But, the most precious thing was the young boy who gathered everyone around the boxes and prayed not only for the recipients of the boxes, but also all the generous hands that donated them. Thank you to everyone who filled a box or donated cash, may you be forever blessed.

Chris Van Emmerik

Byglund Church Christmas Dinner

Byglund Lutheran Church “Christmas in the Country” Lutefisk and Meatball Dinner, Bazaar and Bake Sale is Sunday, December 2nd. Located 8 miles south of East Grand Forks on Highway 220. Serving from 11:30 am until 1:30 pm. Cost is \$15 for adults, \$5 for children 5-12.

Benevolence 2018

- January - \$500 to Fosston Christian Radio, \$500 to “Sat 7” a Middle East radio station
- February - \$1000 to Care and Share Shelter
- March - \$1000 to Bethany Youth Group, National ELCA Gathering Trip
- April - \$1000 to Lutheran Disaster Relief, aid for Syria
- May - \$1000 to Northwest Minnesota Synod
- June - \$500 to Seminary Scholarship; \$500 to National ELCA Youth Gathering Special Offering
- Further benevolence commitments are on hold until we catch up on our budget.



Bethany Prayer Chain

If you wish to request prayers for yourself or a loved one, contact Pastor Gary, Marion Bjorgan, or Linda Hoffman. We'll send your request on to a team of 26 individuals who have committed themselves to praying for your need.

Pastor Gary – 253-2589 or 253-4195

(bethanylutheranrlf@gmail.com)

Marion Bjorgan – 253-2710

(gjorgan@gvtel.com)

Linda Hoffman – 253-2256

(lhoffman@gvtel.com)

Electronic Newsletter

Want this newsletter sent to you via email? Zap us an email stating so at bethanylutheranrlf@gmail.com. Also, please include the above address in your email address book or your spam filter (especially the Garden Valley one) will automatically “bump” our mailings into your garbage folder. Thanks!

Puzzle!

Enjoy solving this Christmas crossword.

CLUES

- 1. He has a red nose
- 2. Red plants
- 3. A nova
- 4. (across) The Anointed One
- 4. (down) Crib
- 5. Keeper of sheep
- 6. Season that means “coming”
- 7. He was a carpenter
- 8. 12th month (abbr.)
- 9. Northern little helpers
- 10. Enfleshed
- 11. Messiah composer
- 12. Of Ephrathah
- 13. Gabriel came to her
- 14. A form of holly
- 15. B&B
- 16. Wise men
- 17. Tree decorations
- 18. Patron saint of children (2 words)
- 19. Red-suited man
- 20. Heavenly singers
- 21. Christmas song
- 22. Home for Mary
- 23. He ordered the Slaughter of the Innocents
- 24. Messiah
- 25. Presents
- 26. A gift of the wise men
- 27. Author of the most famous account of Jesus’ birth



