



## Bethany Lutheran Church

### Mission Statement

Reaching out in Worship, Fellowship, Learning, and  
Love - We Are God's People.

## Christmas 2023

Check out what is happening this December at Bethany!

### Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:15a.m.

Stay after worship this Sunday and help decorate the church for the Christmas season!

### Christmas Eve-Candlelight Service

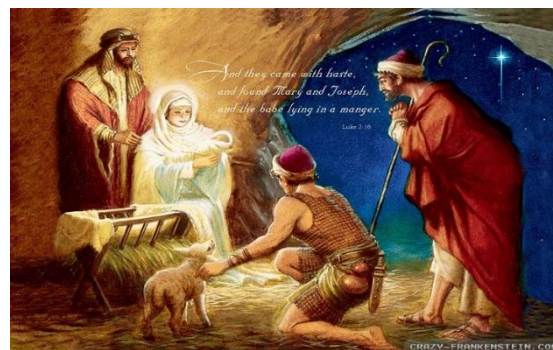
Sunday, December 24 at 7:00p.m.

We will have our traditional Candlelight service here at Bethany, starting at 7:00p.m. Our morning service will be the usual Advent service.

### Shared Worship – New Year's Eve

Sunday, December 31 @ 9:00 a.m.

We will be having a shared worship at Faith/Trinity Lutheran Church on this Sunday morning.



#### Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church

2515 Madison Ave.

Burlington, Iowa

Phone: (319) 752-3621

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

Pastor Pete: 319-470-9057

Email: [petemdiv@gmail.com](mailto:petemdiv@gmail.com)

#### Our Staff

Rev. Pete Hagglund, Interim Pastor

Cory Byrne, Choir Director/Organist

Kim Engle, Stephen Ministry Coordinator

Wendy Bell, Office Administrator

Michelle Huppenbauer, Temporary Financial Secretary

Pam Crable, Custodian

# The Chimes



## **Merry Christmas from LSI!**

At LSI, we recognize that the holiday season can be a challenging time for many, especially for the populations we serve throughout the year.

We know parents who feel hopeless, with few resources to raise their young children. We know adults with disabilities who feel voiceless, with no support system or connection to their community. We know immigrants and refugees working to become U.S. citizens, with little community support or help along the way. We know teens who are aging out of foster care, fearing they will never have a forever home.

In the spirit of giving, the spirit of love, and the spirit of working together, let us stand with them and lift them up this Christmas season.

As we reflect on the past year, we thank you — our generous supporters and community partners — for stepping up to give and help the people LSI is privileged to serve. We are grateful for your contribution in bringing the light of Christ to your neighbors who rely on these essential services.

LSI wishes you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

LSI's annual matching gift campaign is currently active, and those making a new or increased financial gift can double their impact through the end of the year. If you would like to learn more about how you can support Iowa children and families, contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Senior Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at [Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org](mailto:Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org) or 563-676-2065.

*Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at [LSIowa.org](http://LSIowa.org) and [Facebook.com/LSI.Iowa](https://Facebook.com/LSI.Iowa).*





Dear Friends in Christ,

As I've mentioned in worship recently, 1 Thessalonians is almost certainly the youngest "book" (it's actually a *letter*) of the New Testament, and that, as such, its contents heavily reflect the earliest church's concern—and assumption—regarding the imminent Second Coming of Christ. According to the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, even *Jesus* assumed that His coming would be within the mortal lifetimes of some of the people listening to Him talk about it (Mt. 16:27-28, Luke 9:26-27)! The fact that even *Jesus* was wrong is the best illustration I can think of for something else He said regarding the Second Coming: "...about that day or hour, no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father." (Mark 13:32). I would further suggest to you that *this*, along with the frequent warnings to be ready for it, are the *only* statements in the Bible regarding the Second Coming that we need to pay strict attention to. As I say that, keep in mind that it's nothing short of amazing how much of the New Testament is occupied with content about this event—it was a big, big deal! Various NT writers give their take on the details of what to expect, details that often don't match up well with one another; because of that, I would strongly advise my fellow Christians not to invest much—if any—time and energy on the endless speculating that has gone on from one generation to another about what all these details might mean for the present day or the near-future.

I personally *love* the Books of Daniel and Revelation; I've studied them much and taught classes on them often, and I can tell you with complete confidence that there is very little in them that cannot be understood by learning *why* they were written and *to whom*. And, it's precisely in knowing as much as possible about *those* things that will give us a powerful and enduring message for the present day – a message much clearer and substantial than any amount of guesswork about the future could ever provide!

Jesus made it clear to us how to be ready to meet Him, whenever and however it happens: live one day at a time in the way God wants us to live—something relatively easy to *understand*, but devilishly difficult to *do*. I use that word "devilishly" quite intentionally. C.S. Lewis wrote a book called "The Screwtape Letters", in which he presents the work of temptation from the devil's and demons' point of view. At one point the demon Screwtape counsels his protégé, Wormwood, to be patient with his "patient", saying that "(We) have time itself as our ally...you see, it is so hard for these creatures (human beings) to persevere..."

Besides being a season of preparation for *Christmas*, Advent is not unlike the season of Lent; that is, it is set aside as a time for spiritual renewal and strengthening, a time for helping ourselves and each other "persevere" in our distinctively Christian living. *Lent* helps us prepare to most properly experience the joy of Easter; *Advent* helps us to most properly experience the joy of either Christmas, or Christ's Second Coming—whichever comes first. Come, Lord Jesus!

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Pete

***1 Thessalonians 5:23***



# *You are all invited to Faith Lutheran Church for Advent Services*

## **Midweek Advent Services:**

We will gather for midweek Advent services at 6:30 pm on the Wednesdays of Advent (12/6, 12/13, 12/20). As usual, we will use Holden Evening Prayer for our vesper service. Holden is a unique and beautiful service. It only takes about 30 mins. So we should be done by 7 pm. Messiah and Bethany have also been invited so we can all worship together.

Please let Pr. Ryan know if you are interested in helping lead the service. Thank you!

## **Advent Book Group:**

We will read W. H. Auden's long poem, "For the Time Being; a Christmas Oratorio" during Advent. We will meet before the vesper service on Wednesday evenings at 5:30 pm. Contact the office or Pr. Ryan if you are interested in participating.

## **Faith-Trinity Lutheran Church-Office Contact**

Web: Visit us online: [www.trinity-burlington.org](http://www.trinity-burlington.org)

Phone: 319-752-0687

Address: 3109 Sunnyside Ave. Burlington, IA. 52601

# Meetings

The meetings for December, 2023 that have been scheduled as of the publishing of this newsletter are listed below. Watch your bulletins for any date and time changes, or additional meetings that may be scheduled.

Finance Committee  
Saturday, December 2 @ 6:30 p.m.

Church Life Committee  
Sunday, December 10 @ 10:15 a.m.

Property Committee  
Monday, December 11 @ 6:30 p.m.

Church Council  
Wednesday, December 20 @ 6:30 p.m.

Men's Breakfast  
Saturday, December 16 @ 8:00 a.m.

Church Outreach  
Tuesday, December 12 @ 5:30 p.m.

Executive Committee  
Wednesday, December 6 @ 6:30 p.m.

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

### November ATTENDANCE

November 5	57
November 12	60
November 19	52
November 26	106

### November GIVING

November 5	\$5,003.05
November 12	\$2,332.00
November 19	\$3,027.30
November 26	<u>\$2,680.50</u>
Total	\$13,042.85

October VANCO total: \$1,675.00



### PLEASE NOTE

Please be sure to update your address and/or phone number with the office. A new church directory will be published soon, and we'd like to have current information.

### ALSO!

Because of Federal Privacy laws, if you or a member of your family are hospitalized and would like the Pastor to visit, you must contact the church and let us know.

## **LIVING LUTHERAN**

You may have read in the March issue of Living Lutheran, the magazine will cease its print publication with the November/December 2023 issue. You can still read the magazine at the online platform [LivingLutheran.org](https://LivingLutheran.org), where you'll experience enhanced content through videos and audio stories. Check it out!

# LAY LEADERS

## December 2023

December Usher: Susan Swanson

### Communion Assistants

3 - Steve & Sue Rogers  
10 - Mark Rosenberg; Rachel Lindeen  
17 - Teresa Morehead; Bill Mundt  
24 - Mike Hopp; Julie Wischmeier  
31 - Steve & Sue Rogers

### Lector

3 - Todd Chelf  
10 - Pam Taylor  
17 - Bill Mundt  
24 - Michelle Huppenbauer  
31 - Jessica King



### Greeters

3 - Sharon Martindale  
10 - Lynda Johnson  
17 - Dan & Ruth Harken  
24 - Vicki Stoller  
31 - Sharon Martindale

### Flowers

3 - Jim & Sharon Martindale  
10 - Michelle & Tiffany Huppenbauer - Anniversary  
17 - Lynda Johnson  
24 - Poinsettias  
31 - Poinsettias

### Missionary Support

3 - Open  
10 - Open  
17 - Open  
24 - Open  
31 - Open

### Altar Guild

Lynda Johnson  
Kim Engle





### *December Anniversaries*

13 – Tiffany & Michelle  
Huppenbauer

21 – William & Dee Dee  
McAlister



### **A note from your Office Administrator**

As some of you already know, The Living Lutheran will cease printing after the December issue. This last issue is here and will be out on the table in front of the sanctuary as usual.

Just as a reminder that if you would like to add any articles/photos/events/anything at all to the Chimes newsletter, please let Wendy know by the 21st of the month. This is to allow time for formatting everything and to get the newsletter out on time. Also, as a reminder that the Annual Report submissions are due in the office by December 20<sup>th</sup>! Thank you for your cooperation!

Sincerely,

Wendy Bell



### *December BIRTHDAYS*

2 – Annette Peterson

5 – Scott Creighton; Nancy  
House; Megan Rogers; Becky  
Ward

7 – Matt Morris

9 – Savanna Evans

11 – Shayla McIntyre

14 – Samantha Gerdes;  
Patricia Milton; Holly  
Williamson

18 – Adam Cox; Betty Stanley;  
Chris Wallace

21 – Jaelyn Adam; Bev  
Felland

23 – Bob Hoxie

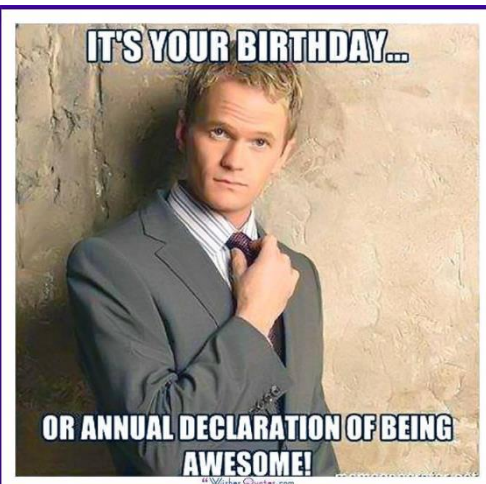
26 – Nathaniel Johnson

27 – Linda Hermann

29 – Kandace Durbin

30 – Jackie Shofe; Julia  
Wischmeier


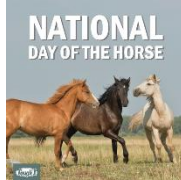


31 – Benjamin Chelf;  
Jonathan Chelf





# December 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Paraments:</b> <b>Blue: 3, 10, 17,</b> <b>morning 24</b> <b>White: Evening 24</b>					<b>1 9:30 a.m.</b> <b>Retired Nurses</b>	<b>2</b> <b>9:00 a.m. Finance</b> <b>Committee</b> <b>Meeting</b>
<b>3 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of</b> <b>Advent</b> 9:00a.m. Worship <b>Hanging of the Greens</b> 10:55 a.m. Hope Service	<b>4 9:00 a.m.</b> <b>Property Work</b> <b>Day</b>  <b>noon Retired</b> <b>Teachers Luncheon</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 9:30 am Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Exec. Committee	<b>7</b>  <i>Pearl Harbor</i> <small>REMEMBRANCE DAY</small>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<i>Pastor Pete returns to the area</i>						
<b>10 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of</b> <b>Advent</b> 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:55 a.m. Hope Service	<b>11</b> 6:30 pm Property Committee	<b>12</b> 5:30pm Church Outreach	<b>13</b>  <b>NATIONAL</b> <small>DAY OF THE HORSE</small>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 8:00am Men's Breakfast
<b>17 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of</b> <b>Advent</b> 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:55 a.m. Hope Service	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20 9:30 am Bible Study</b> 6:30 p.m. Council Meets <b>Deadline for Annual</b> <b>Report Submissions</b> <b>Due</b>	<b>21 Deadline for</b> <b>Chimes</b> <b>submissions</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<i>Pastor Pete returns to the area</i>						
<b>24 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of</b> <b>Advent</b> 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:55 a.m. Hope Service 7:00 p.m. Candlelight Service	<b>25</b> 	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28 National</b> <b>Chocolate Candy</b> <b>Day</b> 	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31 Worship at</b> <b>Faith/Trinity</b> <b>Lutheran</b>						