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 Spencer, IA
 Permit No. 150
 Bethany Lutheran Church

Bethany Lutheran Church
 15 W 14th St
 Spencer, IA 51301

Return Service Requested

CALENDAR

Saturday, December 5

- 7:30 am Men's Breakfast Bible Study
- 5:30 pm Worship with Communion

Sunday, December 6

- 8:30 am Worship with Communion
- 9:30 am St. Luke Round-up
- 9:45 am Christian Ed Hour
- 11:00 am Worship with Communion
- 4:15 pm Okoboji Outreach
- 7:00 pm The Messiah at Sacred Heart

Monday, December 7

- 6:00 pm Grand Meander
 Bethany Youth @ Kari's
- 7:00 pm Evangelism Visits (TB)

Tuesday, December 8

- 9:00 am Staff Meeting (CS)
- 3:30 pm Girl Scout Troop 281 Meeting
- 7:00 pm Committee Meetings
- 8:00 pm Planning Council Meeting

Wednesday, December 9

- 9:30 am Bible Study & Prayer Group
- 4:00 pm Children's Choir
- 6:00 pm Advent Supper= Youth Group
 (ham, potatoes, salads, desserts)
- 6:00 pm Choir
- 7:00 pm Midweek Advent Service
- 7:30 pm Men of Bethany Bible Study
- 7:30 pm Confirmation (Servant Event)
- 7:30 pm High School Bible Study
- 7:30 pm Bell Choir

Saturday, December 12

- 7:30 am Men's Breakfast Bible Study
- 11:00 am Christmas at Bethany
- 5:30 pm Worship

Sunday, December 13

- 8:30 am Worship
- 9:45 am Christian Education Hour
 SS Christmas Program Practice
- 11:00 am Worship
- 5:00 pm SS Christmas Program with a
 Ham Supper in Dining Room
 following the program
- 7:00 pm HS Youth Group



The Bethany Herald

December 3, 2009



Invite People to Experience the Grace of God through Jesus Christ and be Transformed

Volume 4209

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Worship: Saturday, 5:30 p.m. and Sunday, 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

Christian Education Hour: Sunday, 9:45 a.m.

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This Sunday, December 6 at 7:00 p.m. enjoy the beautiful sounds of the Christmas season at a performance of Handel's Messiah, directed by Michael Palm, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. It will include orchestra featuring the Sioux City Silverstrings Quartet.

Christmas at Bethany

Only one week until Christmas at Bethany on Saturday, December 12, 11:00a.m. - 3:00p.m. We hope you are all busy like we are getting things ready for the Scandinavian Smorgasbord, Bake Sale, Demonstrations and Crafts, Antiques, Collectibles & Book Sale. The church will be busy with set-up on Thursday and Friday. Drinks and a light snack will be available for workers during break times on Saturday. Funds raised from this project will be divided between Bethany's parlor remodel, Upper Des Moines' Crisis Fund and the Tanzanian Well Project. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will be contributing to this project. See you there!!!! Let this be a start to a MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!

Sunday School Christmas Program

The Sunday School Christmas Program, *Proclaim Messiah's Birth*, is Sunday, December 13 at 5:00 p.m. Supper will be served in the dining room after the program. The menu includes: ham, baked potatoes with butter & sour cream, corn, roll with butter and beverage. A free-will offering will be taken. Everyone is welcome! We hope you will join us!



Scott Meier, Pastor -- Dan Taylor, Pastor -- Jan Palm, Music Director
 Cheryl Stueven, Parish Education Director -- Lizz Buchan, Youth Director
 Karol Gafkjen, Parish Nurse -- Lois Becker, Custodian -- Mary Ann Quail, Parish Secretary
 15 W. 14th St. - Spencer, Iowa 51301 - 712-262-2327 - Email: Bethany@bethluthspencer.com



Prayer Concerns

Keith Orr and Richard Riedemann recovering at home; Jan Hopkins recovering from surgery at St. Mary's, Rochester

Jean & Brad Hoffman on the birth of a baby boy, Garret Alan, 12/

Braden James Severson, son of Chris & Mara Severson, baptized 11/28

Advent Devotionals

A variety of Advent devotional booklets are available in the narthex for you and your family. Please find something to take home and use as you prepare for Christmas.

Holiday Happenings

Advent and Christmas at Bethany bring a host of opportunities for you to enjoy during the season of hope & expectation in the days leading up to the joy and celebration of Christ's birth.

Wednesday evening midweek Advent suppers & services (6:00 & 7:00 pm) offer a time for fellowship & reflection.

And don't miss the biennial celebration of our Scandinavian heritage, *Christmas at Bethany* on December 12, 11:00 am-3:00 pm.

The Sunday School Christmas program (Dec. 13, 5:00 pm) will leave your heart filled with joy and wonder & your tummy warm and full (if you stay for supper afterward).

The Bethany Choir will delight your ears as they present "Given For You", a Christmas Cantata at worship services the fourth weekend of Advent, December

Also, at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 20, the Board of Parish Education will host a Christmas Social with cookie decorating, quilt tying, and crafting Chrismons. Everyone is invited to join the fun - bring the whole family!



Update: ELCA Churchwide Issues

In a recent press release, the ELCA News Service announced updates regarding the decisions of the ELCA National Church Council, and how they plan to implement the sexuality resolutions passed last August at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly. In sum, the ministry policy documents of the ELCA will be in a process of revision until March, and the National Church Council will review, and most likely approve these revisions at its next meeting in April. Until that time, the ministry policies that have been in place in the past will continue to be authoritative for the church.

You are encouraged to read the full version of the press release on the bulletin board in the hallway. Also, for more information regarding these matters, our symposium handouts continue to be available in the narthex and online at: www.bethluthspencer.com. (click on the "Ministries" link on the main page and then on "Church-Wide Relations"). Please make it a point to keep informed about these issues, as eventually a congregational vote will be taken.

Bethany Youth News

This Sunday is Outreach Sunday. Please be here at 4:15 p.m. with \$3. Remember, if you are going to participate on 3-on-3 basketball you must have guys & girls on your team.

We are serving the Advent supper on Wednesday. Please be here at 5:00 p.m. to help set up and serve. Bible studies will held at the church through the end of December.

The Grand Meander is Monday, December 7. If you are participating in our display, be at Kari's (in costume) at 5:30 p.m.

Lizz Buchan, Youth Director

Sunday School Corner

Cheryl Stueven (346-8385)



"WHOEVER SERVES ME MUST FOLLOW ME; AND WHERE I AM, MY SERVANT ALSO WILL BE. MY FATHER WILL HONOR THE ONE WHO SERVES ME."

John 12:26

Jenny's little boy died. Knowing his birthday in a few months would be hard, Kari made a point to spend the day with her friend. But what a horrible thing Kari did - or rather didn't do. She didn't tell anyone else what day it was. Others friends and family could have been invited to spend the day with Jenny, but Kari wanted to be the one who remembered.

Good works can be dangerous. They can make us feel prideful, self-righteous and puffed up. The hazard lies in seeking human affirmation instead of being content to be honored by God.

Mother Teresa of India was very good in serving the poor and dying because she was serving Jesus by seeing Him in every soul she met.

- Sunday, Dec. 6: 9:45 a.m. Christmas program practice. Meet your teacher in the sanctuary.
- Wednesday, Dec. 9: 6 p.m. Advent supper hosted by the high school youth.
- Sunday, Dec. 13: 9:45 a.m. Christmas program practice. Meet your teacher in the sanctuary.
- Sunday, Dec. 13: 5 p.m. Sunday School Christmas program followed by supper hosted by the 7th & 8th Confirmation classes.
- Wednesday, Dec. 16: 6 p.m. Advent supper hosted by the Parish Education: Spaghetti with meat sauce, garlic & garlic cheese bread, salad, desert, coffee & milk (earlier for choir members!).

Women of Bethany

Our Fun and Fellowship meeting will not be held in December. Most of you will be busy with home, school and church Christmas preparations. We will meet again for LWR work the second Thursday of January, 2010, to share love, laughter, and lunch. We read in Matthew 25 -

35) I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you received me in your homes,

36) naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you took care of me, in prison and you visited me.

40) Whenever you did this for one of the least important of these brothers (and sisters) of mine, you did it for me!

Good News Bible 1976

**So remember while December
Brings the only Christmas Day,
In the year let there be Christmas
In the things you do and say.
Wouldn't life be worth the living,
Wouldn't dreams be coming true
If we kept the Christmas spirit
All the whole year through?**

Author Unknown

Janet Myers, Mission Action

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**THANK YOU** to all who said "yes" when called and provided cookies for the bloodmobile. May God Bless You.