

This is Kristin's January Update that was not added to the January Newsletter (Secretary's fault)



What an awesome, fulfilling season. The month was full of caroling, Christmas parties, Sunday school program, Mime drama and the bonding and growth over fellowship with one another. On behalf of the mission trip youth we want to thank you for your support during the mime drama and bake sale.

As we start the new year, ask God to open your eyes, ears, and heart to what he wants to reveal to you this year. God shows us so many things but we often are too busy to recognize them. Take the time to "Be still and know that He is God." He is pursuing you with open arms. Are you pursuing Him? January:

7th: *Sunday School Resumes Outreach at Okoboji, Gargoyles, 5-8pm, 6th -12th graders, \$3 per person*

10th: *Youth group resumes*

14th: *Noisy Offering to CBM.* CBM is an international Christian development organization, committed to improving the quality of life of people with disabilities in the poorest communities of the world.

17th: *Adult Bible Study resumes* at 5:30, potluck as we dive into Psalm 119

21st: *Sunday School Youth* will sing in church, Annual Meeting-youth can join Kristin downstairs during the meeting "*Beyond the Snowman*" Canvas Painting Class from 2-4pm, \$30 per person (which includes all materials and snacks), fill out a registration form in back of sanctuary or online at bethanylutheranemmettsburg.com This is a fundraiser for the mission trip.

31st: *No Apologies in Spencer, Meet* at church at 5pm (supper provided), all 6th through 12th graders. sign up in back for those not in confirmation (confirmation youth are expected to go), any parents willing to drive please let me know.

Near the end of the month, we will take orders for Sub Sandwiches for pickup to be Feb 3rd. This is a fundraiser for the mission trip.

Thanks
In Christ, Kristin

Bethany Lutheran Church
703 Broadway- Emmetsburg, IA
Worship 10:30 AM
Sunday School resumes 01/2018
Pastor F. Peter Morlock & Vicar Sarah Schilcher

Lost Island Lutheran Church
3797-310th St. - Ruthven, IA
Worship 8:45 AM
Sunday School 10:15 AM

We welcome you to worship today
December 31, 2017
First Sunday of Christmas

In the psalm all the natural world praises God, including all humanity, male and female, young and old. The voices of Simeon and 84-year-old Anna join the chorus today, recognizing what God is doing in Jesus. Simeon's song is often sung after communion, for we have seen God's salvation in the assembled community and have held Jesus in our hands in the bread. Then, like the prophet Anna, we speak of Jesus to all who look for the healing of the world.

ORGAN PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS/ SIGNING OF FRIENDSHIP SHEETS

We invite everyone to please sign the attendance sheets in the black notebook located at the end of pew. If you are a visitor, we would like to get to know you better, please include your address and phone number. We welcome you to come again.

ORDER OF SERVICE: SERVICE OF THE WORD/HEALING SERVICE

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:** LBW Pg. 77

*Please stand if you are able

***GATHERING HYMN:** LBW #184, *In His Temple Now Behold Him*

***DIALOG:** LBW pg. 126 Read responsively

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe,

for in your wisdom you have formed us.

You feed the hungry and clothe the naked.

We bless you and praise your name forever.

You set free those who are bound.

We bless you and praise your name forever.

You raise up those whose courage falters.

We bless you and praise your name forever.

You provide for our every need.

Accept our grateful praises.

You have called us from all peoples.

We rejoice and bless your name forever.

You bless your people with peace.

We bless you and praise your loving grace.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe,

For in your wisdom you have formed us.

***SALUTATION:** L: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY:** Let us pray together.

Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 61:10--62:3

To the people who returned to Jerusalem after the exile, the prophet proclaims that the Lord's salvation will fully come to pass. Jerusalem will become a shining light to the nations and righteousness and praise will spring up as surely as the earth puts forth vegetation.

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

^{62:1}For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her Vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. ²The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. ³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Psalm 148 *Please read responsively*

The splendor of the LORD is over earth and heaven. (Ps. 148:13)

¹Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise God in the heights.

²**Praise the LORD, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

Thank you for sharing poinsettias:



- * In loving memory of my husbands—*Lyle Schipull* and *Wayne Warmbier* from Evelyn Warmbier
- * In memory of my parents, *Helen & Lawrence Sidles* from David & Elaine Sidles
- ◆ In memory of my father, *Lyle Schipull* and step-father, *Wayne Warmbier*, from Elaine & David Sidles
- ◆ In Memory of *Estelle Campbell* from Kim, BriAna & Phoenix Campbell, Brian & Janis Campbell
- ◆ In Memory of *Carol Andersen* from Bob Andersen and Family
- ◆ In Memory of *Martha & Richard Miller, Mary & Ron Chapman and Brother Ron Miller* from Ron and Sandi Chapman
- ◆ In loving Memory of *Carroll & Wilma Olson* and *Mark & Pete Steger*, from Diane Clasing-Steger and Bob Steger and their families.
- ◆ In loving Memory of *Marge & Al Trelstad* from their children.
- ◆ Shared by Bill and Jacki Ellingrod
- ◆ Shared by Pat and Kathy Mehan and their families
- ◆ Shared by Dawn Freeman
- ◆ Shared by Linda Gjerde

You may take your poinsettias home and enjoy them in your own surroundings after today's service. Thank you again for making our Church absolutely beautiful this Christmas Season!

The 2018 Offering envelopes are ready and on the table in the Overflow Room. Please help yourself.

VOLUNTEERS –BETHANY

Organist	Janis Campbell
Altar Guild—December	Kathy Mehan
Altar Guild—January	Pam & Mike Hermansen
TODAY, December 31	NEXT SUNDAY, January 7
Lector: Sherri Ort	Angie Hetrick
Greeters: Doug & Sherri Ort Family	Pat Vician
*	*Kent & Belinda Davidson
Communion Asst:	Joe & Terry Neary, Bob Andersen
Usher: David Sidles, Lonnie Naig	Michael Jacobson
Asst. Ushers : Dale Evans, Zach Foxhoven	Joe , Ryerson & Jameson Boevers
Acolytes: Emma Foxhoven, Riley Schmeling	Ryerson & Jameson Boevers

TODAY, December 31	LOST ISLAND	NEXT SUNDAY, January 7
Organist: Tim Nielsen		Tim Nielsen
Altar Guild for December		Lenora Kropf, Alaire Nielsen
Altar Guild for January		Linda Pitt, Pat Henningsen
Reader: Alaire Nielsen		Troy Leininger
Communion Asst:		Alaire Nielsen
Acolytes: Olivia Sorenson		Kate Sorenson

OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday, December 31	3:30 pm Lakeside Vespers
Monday, January 1	HAPPY NEW YEAR—2018!! 6:00 pm Night Quilters
Sunday, January 7	8:45 am Lost Island Worship, Holy Communion 9:30 am Bethany SS Resumes 10:15 am Lost Island Sunday School 10:30 am Bethany Worship, Holy Communion 5:00 pm Outreach to Okoboji

Please be sure to check out Bethany's and Lost Island's Websites. It includes all the Youth's activities and other information that is going on with Bethany's church family. They are: www.bethanylutheranemmetsburg.com and www.lostislandlutheranchurch.com

Psalm 148 (cont'd.)

³Praise the LORD, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.
⁴**Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.**
⁵Let them praise the name of the LORD, who commanded, and they were created,
⁶**who made them stand fast forever and ever, giving them a law that shall not pass away.**
⁷Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;
⁸**fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**
⁹mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;
¹⁰**wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;**
¹¹sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;
¹²**young men and maidens, old and young together.**
¹³Let them praise the name of the LORD, whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.
¹⁴**The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near he LORD. Hallelujah**

Second Reading: Galatians 4:4-7

Paul seeks to show the Galatians that the purpose of Christ's birth was to liberate us from the law's condemnation so that we would be fully adopted into God's family as sons and daughters.

⁴When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"
⁷So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Here ends the reading. Please stand for the Alleluia response.

***RESPONSE:** LBW Pg 62 **Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia**

***GOSPEL: Matthew 25:31-46**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ³¹"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world;

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 25, 31-46 (cont'd.)

³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink?' ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family you did it to me.' ⁴¹Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴²for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' ⁴⁴Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' ⁴⁵Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' ⁴⁶And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

*GOSPEL RESPONSE: Praise to you, O Christ. (spoken)

CHILDRENS MESSAGE

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY: LBW #62 *The Bells of Christmas*

*THE APOSTLES' CREED: LBW pg. 85

*THE PRAYERS-respond with "hear our prayer"

*SHARING OF THE PEACE

Please be seated while the offering is received

*OFFERING/OFFERTORY: WOV #642 *I Wonder As I Wander*

*OFFERTORY PRAYER: LBW Pg. 67

Merciful Father, **we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us-ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

LAYING ON OF HANDS AND ANOINTING

Those who wish to receive laying on of hands and anointing come to the altar and if able kneel.

O God, the giver of health and salvation: As the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ, at his command, anointed many that were sick and healed them, send now your Holy Spirit, that anointed with this oil, we may in repentance and faith be made whole; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.**

During laying on of hands congregation sing:

LBW #40, *What Child Is This*

LBW #56, *The First Noel*

WOV #730, *My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness*

After all have returned to their places:

The almighty Lord—a strong tower to all who put their trust in him to whom all things in heaven, on earth, and under the earth bow and whom they obey—be now and evermore your defense, and make you know and feel that the only name under heaven given for health and salvation is the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. **C: Amen.**

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

*BENEDICTION

*SENDING HYMN: LBW #54, *It Came Upon The Midnight Clear*

*DISMISSAL: P: Go in peace to love & serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

ORGAN POSTLUDE



IN OUR PRAYERS:

We remember those in special need of God's love and care including:



Shirley Gentry, Lois Jurries, Bill Ellingrod, Deb Zanfes, Wilma Nielsen, Owen Finer, Rhonda Bakken, Bonnie Anderson, Dennis Mandsager, Margaret Sloan, Kort Freeman, Heide Rienhardt, Garwin Anderson, Lois Quam, Pastor Trudy Peterson, Karyn Davis, Fern Schmidt, Rod Snavely, Bob & Janet Mortenson, Lucille Anderson, Norm Larson, Richard Omundson and those we name in our hearts.

*Our missionary: Courtney Davis in Papua New Guinea (now on furlough)

*Our companion synods: The Southern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania-Yakobi Parish, companion with Lost Island and the Evangelical Lutheran Church Laz-Paz Parish in Chile, companion with Bethany .