



Bethany Beacon

December 2023



Dear Bethany Members and Friends,

Our choir accompanist, Irene Eckert, found a beautiful Advent candle lighting liturgy for the (very short) Advent season called, "Jesus, the Light of the World". We will be using this liturgy each Sunday morning in Advent while we light the candles in the Advent wreath. The music has a gospel swing to it and the words sum up the Advent experience of waiting for the light and hope of the Divine through whatever darkness or struggle we may be enduring now. A big thank you to Irene and to all the musicians and choir/bell choir participants who are working hard to bring us the gift of music this holiday season.

Also, a big thank you to the team of decorators (Sheila Rae Maki, Beth Thompson, Janet Christensen, Amy Carter, Jeannine Jensen and Sue Harris) who will be bringing some Christmas light and sparkle into the church. Paula Shaw is in charge of Altar Guild for December and continues to make sure everything is ready and festive. Thank you all!

As you are making plans for Christmas Eve, please remember that we will not be having a Sunday morning service that day (24th) but only a Candlelight service at 5:00pm. Please invite any friends or family to the service as we always try to make the bulletin and service

extra welcoming for any guests – a great way to share the light of Christ.

I know this will be the first Christmas without loved ones for many of you. It has been a rough year for many families and I hope that experiencing the season of Advent as a congregation gives you the reassurance of solidarity in waiting and in grief. Perhaps Jesus' title as the "prince of peace" will take on new meaning for you this Christmas.

And finally as we close out 2023, I want to thank you for giving of yourselves to this community. It is difficult and not exactly popular to commit to much these days, so following the call to be an active part of community life is a true blessing to all of us. I know my kids certainly enjoy high-fiving you and checking in and digging into your delicious treats after worship on Sundays – I'll take whatever motivation it takes! We have many special people at Bethany who live their faith out in the community, workplace and home and I continue to feel very fortunate to be part of such a ministry with you.

Blessings to you and yours this Advent season,

Pastor Lisa

Advent and Christmas at Bethany

- Dec. 3 **Advent Begins!**
Annual Congregational Meeting,
10:30am
- Dec. 10 **Christmas Program, 9:30am**
- Dec. 24 **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service,**
5pm (*note: no Sunday morning*
worship)

WINTERFEST Saturday, December 2nd

Dash into the holiday spirit by experiencing "WinterFest" in downtown Deer River on Saturday, Dec. 2nd. Events for kids begin at 10am at King Elementary. At 4:45pm, there will be a tree lightening ceremony for all ages in front of Cenex to kick off the evening. If you would like to be part of the caroling group, please let Pastor Lisa know. The rest of the evening will have firepits, s'more-making, free hot beverages, craft-making for kids, hayrides, SANTA!, a medallion hunt presented by the DR Lion's Club and a chili cook-off with festive drinks at the Vet's Club from 5-8pm. More information can be found on the flyer in the narthex or on the DR Chamber of Commerce's Facebook page.

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, Dec. 3rd is set for Bethany's Annual Congregational Meeting where we do "the business of the church", or more so, the prayerful work of how to move forward with faithful intention into 2024. There are no new council elections, but there will be elections for the Nominating Committee and for two individuals to represent Bethany at the Synod Assembly in May.

We are still looking for two assembly volunteers, so please be willing to volunteer at the annual meeting! The proposed budget for 2024 and reports for 2023 can be found in the annual meeting booklet in the narthex.

Join the meeting online via Zoom through our website homepage at bethanydr.com

Harvest Brunch a Festive Delight

A big thank you to Janet Christensen for the design and decorating work to make Nov. 19's Harvest Brunch so visually captivating. A very big thank you to everyone who brought delicious bakes and fruit and juice. Most conversations had to do with the delight of having so many good cooks in the congregation. We all experienced a harvest feast and give thanks to God for such good food, friends and faith.

Grand Rapids Male Chorus Christmas Concert- December 3rd

December 3, 2023, at 2:30pm. St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, 501 NW 16th St., Grand Rapids, MN

Grace House Benefit Dinner- Dec 7th

Thursday, December 7th TimberLake Lodge – 5:00 to 10:00pm
Tickets \$65

Join us for an evening of dining, fun and auctions at the 17th annual GRACE House fundraiser event. You'll enjoy a Prime Rib Buffet and Dinner music featuring the Northern Lights Trio. There will be an opportunity to bid on a wide array of silent auction baskets and live auction items. Bring your spouse, a friend or neighbor and enjoy a fun evening!! Tickets go on sale November 1st at GRACE House, Timberlake Lodge and GR Super One Stores. Please call the GRACE House office at 326-2790 for more information or questions.



Cookie Sale -December 8th

hosted by DRHC Volunteers. Friday, December 8, 9:00 am – until cookies are gone. Located inside Essentia Health – Deer River lobby.

Lights of Love-December 8th

hosted by DRHC Volunteers. Friday, December 8, 3:30 pm in the Essentia Health - Deer River lobby. 218-246-4387

Christmas Market- December 9th

Enjoy some last-minute shopping at Our Redeemer Lutheran in Cohasset from 9am-1pm. Cookie walk, Jelly quilts, runners, hand towels, purses, stocking stuffers, candies and more. Carmel rolls & coffee—\$3

Ugly Sweater Dart Tournament

hosted by Blueberry Bowl. Saturday, December 16, 8:00 pm at Blueberry Bowl.

Fire and Ice Gala

hosted by Forward Health Foundation. Saturday, April 20, 4:30 pm at Morse Town Hall. Tickets go on sale January 1. Visit the event web page for sponsorship opportunities and more information: <https://forwardhealthfoundation.org/upcoming-events/>

Designer Purse Bingo

hosted by Forward Health Foundation. Friday, May 10, 5:00 pm at Cohasset Community Center. Tickets go on sale February 1. Visit the event web page for sponsorship opportunities and more information <https://forwardhealthfoundation.org/upcoming-events/>

Minutes

Bethany Church Council Meeting Wednesday, October 25, 2023 4:15 p.m.

- I. The meeting was called to order by Marty Christensen. Jody Anderson, Marty Christensen, Jennifer Drotts, Christopher Vogl, and Pastor Lisa Buchanan were in attendance.
- II. The meeting began with a prayer by Pastor Lisa.
- III. No additions to agenda.

- IV. Minutes from the September meeting were approved.
- V. Old Business
 - a. Pollinator Project- an anonymous gift of \$4000 was received to assist with the project development
 - b. Night to Shine- not approved and will not take place
 - c. Fall programming- Harvest Brunch (11/19) and Candlelight Christmas (12/24)
- VI. New Business
 - a. Jensen Statement Follow-up- discussion on how to proceed as a church community. The Synod has guidelines in place for such situations. The Council will develop guidelines that are suitable for the situation at Bethany. A covenant will be created and shared with Steve.
 - b. Confirmation Guidelines- Tabled until next meeting
 - c. Preparation for Annual Meeting- Packet of information with the proposed budget will be distributed on November 19th. Information due to Pastor Lisa by November 13th.
 - d. Brass for Christmas Eve- The person contacted to lead the brass can't help us out. We are still open to ideas for having brass as part of our worship experience.
- VII. Financial Statement- the financial statement was provided by Jen Drotts. Next month Jen will report on the Mission Investment Fund.
- VIII. Next meeting date- **Wednesday, November 8th, the Council will meet 4:15.**
- IX. A motion was made to close meeting.
- X. The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Jody Anderson
Secretary



Sunday Service Schedule



Date	Greeters/ Ushers	Reader	Fellowship	Communion
12/3/23	Andy & Paula Shaw	Chris Vinson	Chris Vinson Liz & Chuck Elton	Robbie Osse
12/10/23	Darin & Cindy Shevich	Cindy Shevich	Jody Anderson Amy & Jeff Carter	
12/17/23	Larry & Shirley Nixon	Larry Nixon	Carol Bean Beth & Phil Thompson	Greg Shaw
12/24/23	Ron Drake Rich Anderson	Chuck Elton		
12/31/23	Jeff & Amy Carter	Jeff Carter	Robbie & Don Osse Nikki Osse	



Volunteers appreciated! If you would like to take a turn serving coffee for fellowship, greeting, ushering, reading or assisting with communion, please let Diane Nelson know so you can be added to the list

December Birthday Wishes!

1 - Lillian Schumacher
 2 - Jeff Carter
 3 - Lanieka Jensen
 6 - Drew Kuschel
 10 - Sandra Wick
 11 - Liz Sprague

13 - Beck Storlie
 16 - Beth Anderson
 19 - Ross Amy
 23 - Myron Hahn
 28 - Mary Jo Swanson
 31 - Sharon Serfling



Anniversary Wishes

26 - Ron & Shirley Olesen
 Jerry Kaczor & Jody Anderson
 31 - Jim & Linda Peterson

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