

# The Messenger

## DECEMBER 2018

### Advent Midweek Services

The weeks leading up to Christmas are full of hustle and bustle. Our Advent services offer additional space for reflection and worship that helps to keep us focused on Christ's coming. You are invited to join us for Advent Evening Worship on Dec. 5, 12, and 19 at 7pm. For the weeks of Advent, our Wednesday evening service will be different than Sunday, allowing for people to worship twice each week if they choose.

### Fa-la-la-la-la-la-la-la

Join us for an evening of singing and merriment at Bethany's Caroling Party on Wednesday, December 12 following worship. This is an opportunity for us to celebrate the season together. Festive attire and ugly Christmas sweaters are welcome. Bring your own beverage. Cookies will be served. In preparation for the party, please submit your Christmas song requests in the basket in the sanctuary or by emailing Pr. Elaina.



### A Charlie Brown Christmas

Our Sunday School students and teachers have been working hard on this year's Children's Program "A Charlie Brown Christmas." Join us in worship on Sunday, December 9 to hear and see the children bring the Christmas story to life.



### Service of Longest Night—Friday, December 21 at 7pm

In a season "Merry and Bright," our losses and grief can feel even more painful. The sting of broken or challenging relationships are acutely felt. Other losses—such as in our health or job status-- change the season for us. We especially remember those who have died and no longer join us around the table. Our sorrows remain even as we hear "Merry Christmas." The Service of Longest Night gives space for us to honor our grief and remember our losses while hearing words of promise in Christ's presence with us. It is a service for everyone and for all our sorrows that lie below the surface. It is a service that honors our stories and the challenges of life. All are welcome. Please extend the invitation to those outside of our faith community as well.

### Holiday Giving Tree

River Valley School does a massive Christmas present give-away for families in need in our community. Help us stuff their stockings! We will be collecting gift cards (\$20-25 value) for area restaurants: Turnabout, Jimbo's, Jimmy Johns, AMC Movie Theaters, Subway, Rosati's, McDonalds, El Burrito, Burger King and Lemon Tree. Gift cards need to be turned in by December 12th.

### Swedish Potato Sausage Sale

sponsored by the Men of Bethany will be held December 16th. The sausage is \$4.50 per pound and orders will be taken through December 12<sup>th</sup>. You can order your Potato Sausage online by clicking below. Men are requested to be in the Church Parlor on December 16<sup>th</sup> at 6AM with a potato peeler in hand.

[Click here to order.](#)





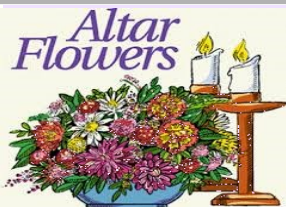
Some elves were busy making Christmas cookies for Caroling Night and our homebound members.

Thanks to Glenda Anderson, Dorothy Freehauf, Mary Staudt and Bev Wilson for their baking skills!

Remember that we have registered with AmazonSmile to receive 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. You must log onto [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and select our church then proceed to make your purchases.



Our dodgeball tournament players were ready for battle . After going over the rules, a great time was had by players and spectators all while raising money for Hope & Friendship Foundation.



**THE 2018 ALTAR FLOWER CHART**

is posted in the Narthex. Please fill in your name for the date you would like and complete a green card next to the chart with your special intention. Cards may be placed in the offering plate or brought to the church office. Arrangements are \$25.00 and payment is due to Bethany when your flowers adorn the altar.

**CALENDAR**

Sunday, December 9  
 Wednesday, December 12  
 Sunday, December 16  
 Wednesday, December 19  
 Friday, December 21  
 Sunday, December 23  
 Monday, December 24  
 Wednesday, December 26  
 Sunday, December 30

Children’s Christmas Program, 10:30AM  
 Advent Worship, 7PM, Caroling Party, 7:30ish  
 Potato Sausage Sale, Worship, 10:30AM  
 Advent Worship, 7PM  
 Service of Longest Night, 7PM  
 Worship, 10:30AM  
 Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship, 5PM  
 Wednesday Evening Worship, 7PM  
 Worship, 10:30AM

**2018 CHRISTMAS  
MEMORIAL FORM**



I would like to give a **MEMORIAL** or a **GIFT**:

A Memorial/Gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

directed to the \_\_\_\_\_ Fund

In loving memory/or in honor of

given by \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE DROP THE FORM IN THE OFFERING PLATE OR THE CHURCH OFFICE, 257-7953 BY  
DECEMBER 12TH

## THANK YOU

- Shawn Salmon and Doug Freehauf for providing music in worship on November 27
- Sandy Doebert for providing special music at our Thanksgiving Service
- David Bergmark for snow removal
- Kealy Schroeder for creating the Year in Review slide show for the Annual Meeting and leading the meeting
- Pam Laasch for end of the fiscal year bookkeeping
- Nominating Committee—Don Garling, John Howell and Kelly Jaje
- Auditing Committee—Marlene Ahlberg, Erin Kissick and Kim Kujawa
- Pam Laasch, Nancy Mason, Gary Gray for preparing a budget for the coming year
- Gary Gray for researching cost effective insurance plans
- Food pantry volunteers for putting in extra hours to sort through the abundance of food pantry donations
- Marica Hueneke for hosting Trivia Night
- Sandy Doebert and Gary Gray for their service on the Church Council as their terms end
- Glenda Anderson, Dorothy Freehauf, Mary Staudt and Bev Wilson for making cookies for the Caroling Party
- Dorothy Freehauf and Mary Staudt for decorating the bulletin board
- Mary Staudt, Bev Wilson, and Dorothy Freehauf for assembling our Advent Devotional Rings
- Bob Hoster for the wreath given in loving memory of Virginia Hoster
- Marlene Ahlberg, Sharon Ahlberg, Dorothy Freehauf, Pam Laasch, Mary Staudt, Ardy Wakefield, Bev Wilson, and David Bergmark for preparing the sanctuary for Advent
- Heather Nilles and Erin Kissick for their preparation and direction of the children's Christmas program
- Jodi and Bruce Taylor for providing lunch at the children's program rehearsal



### Give the gifts of Food, Faith, Hope and Love!

Don't know what to buy for that special someone for Christmas? Everyone has that one person to buy for that seems to have everything! What about those gifts to a special teacher, bus driver, neighbor or friend? It's simple! Stop by the church office with your donation of \$5.00 or more for the Bethany Lutheran Church Food Pantry and receive a beautiful 5 x 7 gift giving card complete with a bow. It is the perfect gift to give or even place under the Christmas tree!

For more information contact the church office at 630-257-7953.

**GIFTS TO BETHANY**

A gift to the Open Pantry in loving memory of James Volk by Keith & Lori Olkiewicz  
 A gift to the Open Pantry in loving memory of Eugene Gutowski on the anniversary of his birth on December 15th by Dolores Gutowski

A gift to the General Fund in loving memory of Eleanor Anderson by Michael & Linda Naus  
 A gift to the General Fund from Michael & Leslie Hall

**IN OUR PRAYERS****Bethany Members**

Ginny Connelly	Peyton Kirk
Nancy Iwan	Frank Iwan
Theora Kujawa	Ben Sabourin
Vivian Gunsaulus	Marie Heeren
Leona Nelson	Norma Johnson
Vivian Tiemeier	

**Friends and Relatives of Bethany Members**

Joanne Bauer—friend of Jim & Ginny Connelly	Gary Cobbett—friend of the Bergmarks
Gene Sobba—uncle of Carole & Jim Ross	Will Pukula—friend of the Olkiewicz Family
Terry Wilder—friend of Glenda Anderson	MaryAnn Olkiewicz—mother of Keith Olkiewicz
Bernie Schroeder—father of Cheryl Hagedorn	Finley Engnell—friend of the Olkiewicz Family
Monica Johnson—friend of Beth Howell	Jim Driscoll—friend of Gary Gray
Stella Slowik—friend of Kim Stowe	Sue Bea Wright—friend of Sue & Gary Gray
Nancy Ludwig—friend of Dave Staudt & Floyd Kujawa	Kyle Williams—friend of Sue Gray
Jim McKeever—colleague of Kris Falese	Anita Bromberek—friend of Sharon Ahlberg
Sean Clark—friend of Kelsey Schroeder	Frank Roy—friend of Barb & Michael Woods
Rudy Cozzi—friend of Glenda & Ed Anderson	Maria Railey—friend of Lori Olkiewicz
The Halama Family—friends of the Iwans	Kevin Ray—friend of Ed & Glenda Anderson
John Shea—brother-in-law of Heather & Mike Nilles	Janice Johnson—relative of Pat Engwall
Sue Lucheon—friend of Ginny Connelly	Mike Hoffman—friend of Kerri & Corey Schroeder
Pastor Melissa Kuemmerle —friend of the Bergmarks	Brenda Short—friend of Kealy Schroeder
Marianne Carlson—friend of Ginny Connelly & Karen Rae	Ranada Rymkus—friend of Don Garling
Justin & Stephanie Wormsley—friends of Jodi & Bruce Taylor	Beau Dowling—friend of Kris Falese
Bob Meisenheimer—friend of Dave Staudt	Rev. Glenn Bergmark
Tim & Virginia Schroeder—relatives of Jim & Carole Ross	Sherri Vick—cousin of Gary & Sue Gray
David Gray—brother of Gary Gray	Dennis Murphy—friend of the Andersons
Zane Diaga—friend of Mary Staudt	Patrick Cronin—friend of the Staudt Family
Yvonne Borkhuis—sister of Rev. Glenn Bergmark	

*If you would like to add anyone to the Bethany Prayer List, call or email the church office OR drop a note in the offering plate—be sure to include your name.*

*Conversely, if anyone listed is no longer in need of our prayers, please notify us as well.*

**MONETARY DONATIONS TO THE BETHANY OPEN PANTRY WERE GIVEN BY**

Chuck & Jean Martinkus  
 Elsie Schultz  
 Vacys & Viktoria Saulys  
 Lois Miller  
 T.O.P.S Chapter #2196  
 White Eagle Social Club  
 Lemont Lions Club  
 Lemont Park District  
 Matthew & Elizabeth Clarage

Don & Bernadette Turner  
 Cathy Litoborski  
 Terry Graham  
 John & Jennifer Davis  
 Maureen & Mark Skowronski  
 George & Geraldine Boyle  
 Don & Patty Krengiel  
 Lemont Canal Girls Red Hat Group

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO DONATED FOOD STAPLES TO THE BETHANY OPEN PANTRY**

St. Patrick Church  
 Linda Czuchra  
 Jurgis Matulaitis Mission  
 Lemont Garden Club  
 Dan Boland  
 Citgo Petroleum Corp.  
 St. Alphonsus Church  
 The Learning Experience  
 Lemont Park District

St. Matthew Church  
 Forzley Eye Clinic  
 T.O.P.S Chapter #2196  
 Glen Eagles Mens Club  
 Emmanuel Baptist Church  
 Lemont Lions Club  
 Ryan Statkus  
 The Salmon Family  
 The Mason Family

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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