



The

# Parish Visitor

A Publication of Bethlehem Lutheran Church • Askov, Minnesota

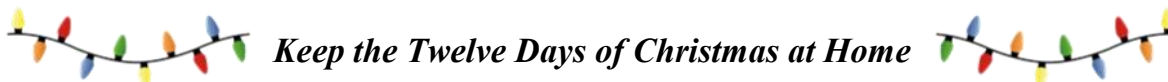
December 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## A Message From Our SAM

Relax.... Yes, we are just weeks away from Christmas Day but remember there is still twelve days that we get to celebrate! Those twelve days are for you to gather with friends and family – those twelve days are to sing Praises and Christmas songs – those twelve days are to send out greetings to others – those twelve days are to keep making heartfelt memories! Relax..... Enjoy each moment of this Blessed Christmas Season.



- Clara



### Keep the Twelve Days of Christmas at Home

**Christmas isn't just one day, but a whole season!** It lasts twelve days, from Christmas Day to Epiphany (January 6). Keep celebrating! Gather with friends and family, eat cookies, enjoy your Christmas decorations, watch Christmas movies, and sing all your favorite Christmas songs. Song suggestions for each day follow, but sing whichever ones your family likes best.

#### Wednesday, December 26

Sing "Joy to the world" (ELW 267). Bundle up and go outside to sing. Join your voices with the fields, rocks, hills, and all the earth! Jesus is born, and this is good news for creation. Notice the ways that the world outside is "singing" its praise: listen for birds singing, the sound of the wind through tree branches, and other nature sounds.

#### Thursday, December 27

Sing "Go tell it on the mountain" (ELW 290). Today the church remembers St. John, Apostle and Evangelist. John's gospel describes Christ as the Word-made-flesh who came to live among us. In Jesus, God comes to us in person to bring us love and light. With John and all messengers of good tidings, we shout from the mountaintop the joyful news that Jesus is born!

#### Friday, December 28

Sing "O little town of Bethlehem" (ELW 279). Build a fort out of chairs, couches, pillows, and blankets. Make sure there is plenty of room in the inn—fill your fort with stuffed animals, family members, and pets. Light a flashlight, lantern, or battery-powered candle inside your fort and think about Jesus being born among the animals in that little town called Bethlehem.

#### Saturday, December 29

Sing "O come, all ye faithful" (ELW 283).

Jesus is born, and it is a happy morning! Cook breakfast together with your family—something delicious like pancakes or waffles. While you are cooking and eating, talk about your favorite parts of the Christmas season so far.

#### Sunday, December 30

Sing "Love has come" (ELW 292). Celebrate love today. Call, text, FaceTime, or Skype family and friends who live far away and tell them you love them. At bedtime, bless one another by tracing the sign of the cross on each other's foreheads and saying, "Jesus loves you and so do I!"

#### Monday, December 31

Sing "It came upon the midnight clear" (ELW 282). At Christmas midnight, the angels welcomed Jesus. At midnight tonight, we welcome a new year. Say a special prayer together tonight. Thank God for the blessings of this past year. Ask God for hope and protection in the new year. Pray for peace and healing for all people, nations, and creation.

#### Tuesday, January 1

Sing "What child is this" (ELW 296). The church observes this day as "Name of Jesus," because according to Jewish tradition, baby boys received their names on the eighth day of life. Do you know what your name means? Were you named after someone? Do you have a nickname? Remember today that in baptism, you were also given the name "Child of God."

#### Wednesday, January 2

Sing "Away in a manger" (ELW 277/278). While baby Jesus slept in the manger, his parents, the animals, and even the stars watched him and protected him. Tonight, hang stars above your bed and put some stuffed animals near you to watch you sleep. Remember that Jesus loves you and

promises to guard you, sleeping or waking.

#### Thursday, January 3

Sing "Silent night, holy night!" (ELW 281). Tonight, gather and light as many candles as you can find in your home. Turn off the lights. Notice how the candle-light bounces and flickers around the room. Have a leader say, "Jesus Christ is the light of the world." Everybody else responds, "The light no darkness can overcome." Take turns being the leader.

#### Friday, January 4

Sing "Angels, from the realms of glory" (ELW 275). Have the magi from your nativity set been waiting to come to the manger? Move them somewhere a little closer to the nativity scene, then go outside and look for the brightest star you can see in the sky.

#### Saturday, January 5

Sing "Your little ones, dear Lord" (ELW 286). Collect all the stars you can find in your home—the stars you hung over your bed, star ornaments from the Christmas tree—and place them around your nativity scene. Hang the biggest one over the manger. Now your magi figures will know where Jesus is!

#### Sunday, January 6

Sing "The first Noel" (ELW 300). Have a home blessing. Notice what you are thankful for in each room of your home, and ask for God's blessing ("God, bless our kitchen and the conversations we have there"). Continue the celebration with other Epiphany traditions, like burning pine branches or eating king cake.

Adapted from *Families Celebrate Advent & Christmas 2018–2019* (Augsburg Fortress, 2018)  
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# Bethlehem Lutheran Church Annual

# Christmas Craft Fair!

**Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup>  
9 am to 2 pm**

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Askov**

**Craft & Bake Sale • Coffee & Lunch Served**

**Your wearing of face masks is greatly appreciated while attending!**



**Bakers and craft makers are wanted for the BLC Christmas Craft Fair on December 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Contact anyone on Circle of Faith to donate your items!**

**The BLC quarterly congregational meeting has been re-scheduled for December 12, 2021 following the morning worship service**

## Can you fill this seat?



We are currently looking for someone who can play the piano that would like to help fill in during Sunday morning worship services. Even one Sunday a month would be helpful—more would be great!

Position pays \$75 per service. Please contact the church office at [blcaskov@gmail.com](mailto:blcaskov@gmail.com) or 838-3191 if interested.

## December Worship Schedule



December 5<sup>th</sup>      Rev. Cindy Gray      Worship 10 am  
Sunday Worship

December 12<sup>th</sup>      Clara Edin, SAM      Worship 10 am  
• *Worship with Holy Communion*

December 19<sup>th</sup>      Rev. Cindy Gray      Worship 10 am  
Sunday Worship

December 24<sup>th</sup>      Clara Edin, SAM      Worship 4 pm  
• *Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion*

December 26<sup>th</sup>      Clara Edin, SAM      Worship 10 am  
• *Worship with Holy Communion*



On Christ the King Sunday we had a double Baptism done by our Minister Clara Edin, SAM. We welcome her two grand babies into our Bethlehem family – Naevia Mae (parents Greg & Jennifer Roth) and Abram Colt (parents Colt & Stacey Edin).

**2021 Church Council Members**



Marilyn Krogh  
*President*



Chuck Moon  
*Vice Pres.*



Bill Jansen  
*Secretary*



Denny Birkholm



Linda Jensen



Heidi Moon



Position Vacant



**November 10, 2021  
Unapproved Minutes**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Clara Edin, Chuck Moon, Heidi Moon, Bill Jansen, Denny Birkholm; absent Marilyn Krogh and Linda Jensen.

**CHECK-INS, DEVOTION AND OPENING PRAYER:**

Devotion provided by Clara.

Linda Hurtley, Event Planner for Region 7E Adult Mental Health Initiative attended the meeting and explained her request for facility usage. She responded to questions by the council.

**ACCEPT MINUTES OF OCTOBER 2021 MEETING:**

Motion by Denny, second by Heidi, motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Report was reviewed. 2020 audit was completed by Pine Tax and Accounting. Report is on file.

**PASTOR'S REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2021:**

The pastor's report was received by Clara. Clara proposed to have 4 prayer services in 2022, one for each season.

**MINISTRY TEAMS:**

- Property—Steeple job is finished. Denny is researching the cost of cleaning the basement carpet.

- Family Ministry—Is combining with Grace and Emmanuel for children's education on Wednesday evenings at 6:30; our two confirmands meet there at same time. Bill helping with confirmation, Missy and Shawn helping with children's education.
- Music and Worship—Hymns selected for December at the November 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Circle of Faith—A December 4<sup>th</sup> Christmas bazaar is planned.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Clara's December Schedule—12<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, and 26<sup>th</sup>; Cindy Gray for the 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>.
- SAM Contract for 2022 tabled from last month—Motion to approve the SAM contract for 2022 with weekly salary of \$346.87 and \$15.00 monthly stipend for cell phone by Heidi, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bill, motion carried.
- Remote meeting access—Heidi will set up a FreeConferenceCall.com account.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Review attached information and accept or deny Ms. Hurtley's request. Motion to allow the usage per church usage form by Chuck, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Denny, motion carried.
- Set a date for quarterly congregational meeting—December 12, 2021 following the worship service.
- Church usage Kettle River Conference spring meeting—Motion to

approve usage by Denny, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bill, motion carried.

Motion to adjourn by Bill, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Denny; meeting adjourned with The Lord's Prayer. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm.

**Action items:**

- Chuck to update Marilyn about request for church usage.
- Heidi to follow-up with Shawn on KRC church usage.

*Respectfully submitted,  
- Bill Jansen  
Council Secretary*

**Please include the following people in your daily prayers:**

Jan Ecklund, Lois Sahlen, Don & Lorraine Petersen, Buzz & Sally Mortensen, Naevia Roth, Meghan Carlson, Bobby Hansen, Kerri Gortmaker, and their families; also please remember the families of Shirley Lund and Greg McDonald

*If you would like to add someone to the weekly list, please email the church office at [blcaskov@gmail.com](mailto:blcaskov@gmail.com) or let Clara know*



Join Us  
for the



# Annual Free Community Christmas Dinner



Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
in Askov - 6318 Kirke Alle

Noon to 2:00 PM  
Christmas Day,  
December 25<sup>th</sup>

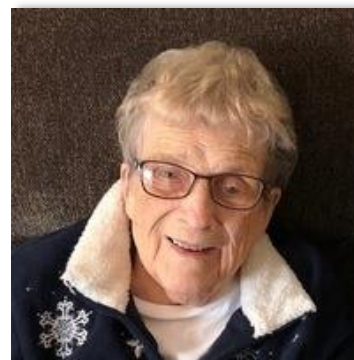
Info: 320-838-3191 (Church)  
218-341-5674 (Tracy)

All Are Welcome!

## DECEMBER Birthdays

Ron Foss—2 <sup>nd</sup>	Lorraine Peterson—15 <sup>th</sup>
Bill Jansen—3 <sup>rd</sup>	Lori Willie—18 <sup>th</sup>
Brenda Lunde—3 <sup>rd</sup>	John Ecklund—19 <sup>th</sup>
John Zinter—10 <sup>th</sup>	Ella Champagne—20 <sup>th</sup>
Brent Jensen—12 <sup>th</sup>	Marilyn Krogh—21 <sup>st</sup>
Barrett Peterson—14 <sup>th</sup>	James Rolston—21 <sup>st</sup>

## In Loving Memory...



**Shirley Mae Lund**

May 14, 1925—November 12, 2021

Funeral Services were held at BLC on November 20, 2021



Circle of Faith met October 16, 2021 at Church. The members in attendance were Tracy Zinter, Cookie Nielsen, Shawn Jansen, and Mary Johnson

Tracy called the meeting to order. Devotion given by Shawn.

**Reports:** Secretary minutes from September meeting were read by Mary. Motion made to approve the minutes by

Cookie, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Shawn. Correction to September's minutes, Carolyn Steele was also in attendance at the meeting.

**Treasurer's report:** \$137.12 in checking and \$561.39 in savings.

**Old business:** Community meal will be meat loaf, potatoes, squash and apple dessert. Fire department members have agreed to serve the meal. Bethlehem Lutheran Church received a mini-grant of \$4,000 from Pine County to be used for food and items for community meals.

**New business:** Community meal will be Wednesday, November 17, 2021 because Thanksgiving falls on the fourth week of

November. Serving Christmas Day dinner, and the Christmas Craft Fair on December 4<sup>th</sup> were discussed. More discussion at the November meeting. Circle of Faith agreed to host the spring meeting for the Kettle River Conference, tentative date will be April 9, 2022. Kettle River planning committee will meet with Circle at their next scheduled meeting November 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am. Circle will start

their meeting at 9 am. \$50 gift card from Chris's purchased for the family of Ann Olson.

Motion to adjourn made by Tracy, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cookie, carried. The meeting adjourned with The Lord's Prayer. Our next meeting will be on Saturday, November 20, 2021 at 9:00 am.

*Respectfully submitted by  
-Mary Johnson  
Secretary*

**YEAR END GIVING**  
Help us finish strong

We are so grateful to all who have continued to give during a very difficult time. If you are considering any additional year-end giving opportunities, as of the end of October, BLC was still coming up short of our income to expenses by \$2,807. If you're able, please help us finish the year strong! Thank you!!