



**Bethel  
Lutheran  
Church**

*Making Disciples!*

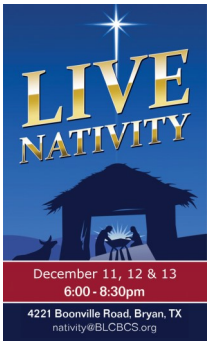
December 3—17, 2020

# E-Memo



# To the Saints

✠ Bd of Witness/Outreach



**LIVE NATIVITY—Dec. 11,12,13 SIGN  
UP to Volunteer TODAY!!**

The time for our annual Live Nativity event is almost upon us and we need your help! **We'll need actors, and volunteers galore. Sign-Up sheets are posted in the Narthex.**

In addition to the normal sign-ups, we're also asking for some help in other areas:

- **Posters, flyers, cards are out in the Narthex for you** to take and hand out to your neighbors and friends.
- **This year we would like to display nativity scenes**

from around the world again. A volunteer will monitor the display table during the event. If you have a unique or special nativity set and would like to display it, this will be a great opportunity to do just that!

- **Do you speak a second language fluently?** The **Live Nativity Committee** is updating our materials and we are looking to offer the Christmas story in multiple languages. If you can speak fluently and would be willing to be recorded please contact Josh Addison, Melissa McIlhane or Connie Bard. [nativity@blcbcs.org](mailto:nativity@blcbcs.org)

If you have any questions or would like to help in any of the ways mentioned, please contact Connie Bard. 822-2742 or [connie@blcbcs.org](mailto:connie@blcbcs.org)

## We Begin a New Church Year with the ADVENT SEASON

In the world the “Christmas season” starts right after Thanksgiving. But in the Church we start the “Advent Season”. Advent begins the church year as we anticipate the coming of the Savior born into the world in Bethlehem. We’ll celebrate His birth on December 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, but now we are preparing our hearts to meet and greet Him aright. Take time for that preparation and take time out for it too. Don’t rush to Christmas. Stop and smell Advent. Come to worship on Sundays and Wednesdays. ADVENT starts Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup>. **Our Advent Wednesday Devotions will be at Noon and 6:45 pm on Wednesdays, Dec. 2, 9, 16. With Child Care at the 6:45. Please note will not have meals this year due to covid.** Read carefully your Advent devotions. Slow down your life, your heart, your mind and get yourself ready – the Savior is coming!



**ADVENT  
Devotions from Lutheran Hour  
Ministries—**

## *God With Us!*

Once again, our Board of Witness & Outreach is providing the Lutheran Hour Ministries Advent devotional booklets to help you and your family focus on the true meaning of the coming gift of Jesus' birth.

*God with Us*

What better news is there than to know that God is always by our side! In *God with Us*, we learn again what God the Father has done—He has kept His promise. In so doing, He has announced that grace and forgiveness are available to all, freely given in the birth of Jesus: God’s Son, our Savior. He is Immanuel, “God with us.”

The story of God coming to earth as a human child is a profound one. In *God with Us*, we find no aloof divinity who

is unconcerned and remote somewhere in the cosmos. Rather, He is deeply involved in all our affairs—our joys as well as our heartaches. He *knows* us for He became one of us. At Christmastime, we celebrate the birth of Jesus, Lord of the universe, Savior of the world, Shepherd of our lives.

**There are two ways to receive the daily devotional reading:** The easiest way is to subscribe to the devotion series online at <http://www.lhm.org/advent>. You can choose to receive the devotion in either email or podcast format. Arriving daily to your computer, it will serve as a reminder to spend some time in meditation each day during this busy season. As in the past, there will also be print copies (regular and large print) of *God With Us* available at the Ushers' table in the Narthex. We pray that you and your family will find these devotions helpful as you prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus!



**ORDER YOUR POINSETTIA!** Sign up sheets are on the bulletin board by the elevator and in the narthex. Or you may email the church office, [office@BLCbcs.org](mailto:office@BLCbcs.org). Cost is \$15.00 each. **The dead-line to order is December 16th.** Make your check payable to Bethel and write Christmas flower on the memo line. You may designate who they are in memory of or in honor of. Please indicate if you will take your plant or leave it for us to deliver to a homebound member.

## Christmas Eve at Bethel



**Christmas Eve weekend:** While it is still a little early to be thinking about the “whats” and “whens” of your Christmas Eve, the Board of Elders wanted to let the congregation know that because of Covid, we have made significant changes to the Christmas Eve and Christmas weekend schedule. Here are some highlights...

**First, on Christmas Eve, we are going to offer two hours of “drive up” Holy Communion. Times will be 9:30 to 11:30 am,** and slots will be very limited, but this will allow those who are not comfortable in worship to have the Sacrament on Christmas Eve. **If you are interested, please contact Pastor Eden by phone (822-2742) or at [PastorTim@blcbcs.org](mailto:PastorTim@blcbcs.org) and he will sign you up for the next available time, or answer any questions you have.**

**Next, at noon on Christmas Eve, we will be offering a “limited singing, masks required” service.** We understand that there are some who feel very strongly about masks, and in an effort to serve this part of our congregation on Christmas Eve, we will offer a service with only two congregational songs, and the expectation that all who attend will wear their masks throughout the entire service.

**At 2 pm on Christmas Eve, we will offer a Christmas Eve service with full congregational singing.** This is simply an added service in hopes of better distributing our normal crowd that day.

**At 4:30 pm on Christmas Eve we will offer another Christmas Eve service, but our professionally staffed nursery will be available and it will be the only service with “Children’s Time.”** This is normally a very “young family heavy” service and so we want to offer a service specifically directed toward our kids that day.

**At 7 pm on Christmas Eve we will offer our last worship service of the day.** We are hoping that all our musicians will come out to help us celebrate. There will be a staffed nursery as well available at 7 pm.

**All Christmas Eve services will be identical, and will utilize our “socially distanced” seating pattern. All the services will offer the Lord’s Supper and all will end with candlelight with the singing of Silent Night.**

We will publish many more details about these and our other service offerings Christmas weekend, but we wanted you to know that our Board of Elders are attempting to serve ALL of Bethel during this holy season!

## Christmas Angel Tree—Still Some Angels Available on the Tree!

**CHECK OUT The Christmas Angel Tree** with Bryan ISD and Still Creek Ranch Christmas Angels. It is up in the narthex. We strive to keep the children’s request under \$100. If that is too much for your budget we have had families share an Angel. We ask that you find the child’s name on the list and give us your contact information. Please pick up an Angel or two, purchase the gifts, wrap them, mark each gift with the child’s name and **return** to the Narthex no later than Monday, **December 14<sup>th</sup>**. We will make sure everything gets delivered to each precious Angel!

**If you are not worshipping in person yet** and would like to sponsor an Angel, just call the church office and we can help you pick one. 822-2742.

**ALSO, this year we are asking families to donate an Angel Christmas ornament** to place on the tree after the paper Angels have been removed. The Christmas tree does end up looking bare in the Narthex with all the angels gone. So we are asking for paper, crocheted, beaded, pipe cleaners, any version of an Angel to put on the Christmas tree to decorate it. Be creative. Make it a family project. We will place the Angels in a tote and use them year after year. As you make, create or purchase your Angel for the tree pray for all our “Adopted Angels” this year. Pray for these children’s spiritual, physical and emotional needs. As you pray, consider the many blessings in your life. Reflect on how richly and graciously you have been loved by our Savior Jesus Christ.



**Deadline for your child's  
Entries is December 6th.  
THIS SUNDAY!!**

## **Online Children's Christmas Program**

Christmas Program deadline is  
this weekend December 6<sup>th</sup>. If

you have a video or a coloring page you want submitted for  
the Children's Christmas program please get the  
information to DCE Jeff by this weekend.  
dcejf@blcbcs.org



Christmas Program

**No Sunday School** – We will not have Sunday  
School on December 20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> or January 3<sup>rd</sup>. We will start  
back all regular Sunday School class on Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>.

**However**, we will be providing some in person self-  
directed discussion groups. If you are here in person and  
would like to participate join us in the fellowship hall.

## **Tuesday Ladies Bible Study Meets at**

**10AM in Room 232**, studying the book of John, led by  
Pastor Bard. Child Care is Provided. **We WILL meet on  
Dec. 8 & 15. Then we will break for Christmas. We  
will start back on Tuesday, Jan. 19th.**

**Wednesday Night Youth Crossroads.** We will be  
having Wednesday Youth Night on December 30<sup>th</sup>, January  
6<sup>th</sup> and January 13<sup>th</sup> from 6:30pm to 7:45pm. Come for  
devotion and hangout. I look forward to seeing you there.

**Confirmation, Adult Bible Class and Senior High  
Youth** will begin meeting regularly again starting  
January 13<sup>th</sup>. Our next break from regular scheduled  
Wednesday Night Activities will be for Lent. Ash  
Wednesday is February 17<sup>th</sup>. Make sure to mark your  
Calendar.

## **Calling All Youth! To a Camp Lone Star Retreat!**

All youth in seventh grade through twelfth grade are  
encouraged to sign up. This is an overnight event  
over Valentine's day weekend. (You are welcome  
parents!) The event will include leaving on Friday  
evening, February 12<sup>th</sup> and returning on Sunday  
afternoon February 14<sup>th</sup>. The cost of the event will be  
\$90 per student. Please know that scholarship is  
available for this trip. Paperwork required for the  
event is Bethel's Medical Release and Liability  
waiver and Camp Lone Star's Liability Waiver  
form. Registration or paperwork will be due by  
January 10<sup>th</sup> and Money will be due by January  
31<sup>st</sup>. Please Contact DCE Jeff if you would like to  
attend this event.



**LWML**

**Lutheran Women in Mission  
December Bible Study**

**December 7, 2020 at 6:30 pm**

Zoom or In Person (Room 240).

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82616287557>

Meeting ID: 826 1628 7557

One tap mobile

+13462487799,,82616287557# US (Houston)

## **Living with Grief**

We would like to see if there is any interest in  
participating in a "Living with Grief" class that  
would start Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup>. This is a 13-week  
face-to-face Bible study that includes helpful video  
testimonies from those who have suffered loss and  
how they were able to deal with their life changes.

Pat Wallace will be the host for this series and can relate to those facing  
grief after loss of his wife of 43-years. We learn what the Bible says  
about grief and from shared experiences.

If interested, contact the church office to be included. The decision to  
offer this program for a spring class will be made mid December based  
on the number of interested parties.





## THE BEE COMMUNITY

is a GOD-CENTERED, post-secondary, vocational program that provides a place of BELONGING, MEANINGFUL WORK, AND LIFELONG LEARNING for adults with disabilities.

The BEE Community is a place for people WITH AND WITHOUT DISABILITIES to enter into AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIPS. We want people of all abilities and talents to use their gifting for the glory of God and good of others.

Happy Thanksgiving, friends!

We are overflowing with gratitude for YOU this Thanksgiving! We simply want to say THANK YOU for your continued support of our mission. Truly, because of you, we are growing our mission of providing meaningful work and a place of belonging for people of ALL abilities! You have buoyed us through this unique and challenging year- thank you.

Because of your support, we have a few VERY exciting pieces of news to share with you!

Drum roll please.... we are MOVING!!!!!!!!!! We are doing cartwheels and having dance parties to celebrate that we have found a new home for our growing community! Beginning in 2021, we will move to 3829 Old

College Rd in Bryan- just a mile north of the Texas A&M campus. This is all still unfolding so we will have more information to come, but we wanted to share this exciting news with you- our partners- as soon as we could! Thank you for your financial contributions and prayers to make this dream a reality for us. We are ever grateful for our first home- Grace Bible Church Southwood Campus- that has graciously housed us from our humble beginnings to us now busting at the seams! Secondly, our fudge enterprise is now available for local pick-up! You can order online at [thebeecommunity.com/store/fudge](http://thebeecommunity.com/store/fudge). Orders placed before Thursday at 2pm will be available for local pick-up the following Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday. Or, if you know a BEE Artisan, you can place an order through them personally. We hope you enjoy this sweet treat for the holiday season.

**Starting in January**, The Lutheran Witness magazine will no longer be delivered to your residence in the mail. It will be available for you to pickup here at Bethel in the narthex.



## Bethel's Preschool News

The preschool children are having a fun and busy time as we prepare for Christmas! Our last day of preschool for this semester will be December 18 and the first day of class for the second semester will be Wednesday, January 6. Our Christmas holiday is Dec. 21 through January 5.

### THANKS AGAIN FOR ALL WHO ORDERED BUTTER BRAIDS!!

Our preschool fund raiser was a huge success and will really help our preschool budget this year. **IF YOU MADE AN ORDER AND HAVE NOT PICKED UP YOUR BUTTER BRAIDS YET, they are available.** Talk to Debbie Sadler or Carolyn Janac in the preschool office (979-446-1578) and we will be happy to help you.

Please keep our preschool in mind when you do your **CHRISTMAS SHOPPING this year.** When you order online through AmazonSmile, a portion of the sale will be sent to the preschool. To shop at AmazonSmile, simply go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) from the browser on your computer or mobile device. On your first visit to AmazonSmile, you will need to select Bethel Lutheran Church to receive the donations for the eligible products. This selection will then be remembered the next time you use smile.amazon.com. The eligible products are marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail page. **It costs you nothing to help out the preschool while getting your shopping done also! Thanks for considering this benefit to the preschool!**

*Also, your prayers for our preschool, staff and families are very much appreciated. We ask that God continue to bless our ministry and pray for good health for the children and staff.*



## End of the Year Reminders from the Church Office

**All 2020 contributions** must be received at Bethel or postmarked by December 31, 2020 to be claimed as a 2020 IRS tax deduction.

**Reimbursement for authorized 2020 receipts** – All requests for authorized 2020 expense reimbursement must be to Kathy Herwald in the church office by Wednesday, December 16th. Please remember that the church does NOT reimburse for tax as we are a tax exempt organization.

**Also, please do not to file your federal income tax return** before receiving your contribution summary from the church. Donors may not be able to deduct individual contributions of \$250 or more if they file a tax return before receiving a qualified contribution receipt from their church.

## Special Staff Offering to be received through the weekend of December 5/6

At the Voter's Meeting on November 15th, the Voter's approved a special offering from the congregation to provide funds for called staff and office staff, in recognition of their outstanding work in serving the congregation during these unprecedented times. Their efforts in providing opportunities to worship remotely, devising methods to offer Holy Communion in a safe manner, staffing an additional service once we returned to Sanctuary in limited ways, keeping our preschool safe, and in so many other ways all demonstrate once again why Bethel Lutheran

Church is such a special place. We are truly blessed to have them, and wish to show our appreciation. There will be no increase in salary this year due to the higher costs of health benefits, and this special one-time offering will be used to help compensate called staff and office staff. When making your gift, please make sure to indicate it is for the special offering in the memo line. The Church Council will have discretion over how to distribute these one-time funds.

God's Blessings, Your Church Council



**LCMS**

**Stewardship**

**Ministry**



Christmas is coming. It is a joyous time of feasting. The Church feasts upon the Word of God in sermon, song, and sacrament.

We hear the proclamation of the message of the angels: "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11). We mingle our voices with theirs as we sing, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased" (Luke 2:14)! We receive the proclaimed Savior, Christ the Lord, not wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in manger but wrapped in bread and wine placed into our mouths for the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. We feast in great joy indeed because of this great blessing from our Lord and God.

God's people in ancient Israel also feasted with great joy. The Lord showered His abundant blessing on His people. And He commanded them to feast upon it (Deuteronomy 16). The people were to go to the place appointed, where the Lord would make His name dwell, and give offerings, each man as he was able, according to the blessing of the Lord that He had given them (Deut. 16:10, 15, 17).

And there the Lord would bless them with joy as they feasted upon what the Lord had provided. They ate of the choice parts of their offerings. They enjoyed the company of all the people of God as they together heard His promises of blessing, sang of His bountiful goodness, and partook of what He gave.

We feast on the Word who became flesh to dwell among us, not just during Christmas but throughout all the year. We feast not just on the salvation He has wrought for us in His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, but we feast also on all the temporal blessings that God gives out of His fatherly divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in us. We enjoy the rich bounty that God provides, not only in Word and Sacrament, but also in house and home, property and income, family and friends.

# Happy Birthday!! December

## To Our Bethel Family

Gladys Byer	2	Don Hackney	8	Scott Goodenow	17	Tim Pannkuk	24
Sydney Schautschick	2	Christi Everett	10	Nathan Markert	17	Crystal Drager	25
Jacob Spence	2	Pat Wallace	10	Emery Nored	17	Aiden Samford	26
Sherry Schulenberg	3	Helen Grimes	12	Matthew Hagemann	19	Andra Stalling	26
Fritz Deike	4	Brandon Smith	12	Philipp Hoffzimmer	19	Larry Thomas, Sr.	26
Roy Schoenfeld	4	Sandra Wedemeier	12	Holly Cheshire	20	Stacey Donathen	27
Bridget West	4	Monica Criswell	13	Amelia Hammond	20	Philip Eden	27
John Meckel	5	Esther Synatschk	13	Scott Schautschick	20	Donna Boyd	28
Emma Duncan	6	Gene Garrison	14	Aaron Scheffler	20	Artie Brocksmith	28
Wren Sisco	6	Heather Goodenow	15	Kinsey Johnson	21	LaRue Welch	28
Virginia McPhail	7	MJ Botanero	16	Sally Wedemeier	22	Jarvis Lehmann	30
Ron Chase	8	Martha Dobrovolsky	16	Taylor Anderson	23	Jane Dill	31
		James Fleeher	16	Lexie Black	23	Terressa Douget	31
		Tyce Johnson	16	Brianna Groves	23	Taylor Kouba	31
		Kay Thigpin	16	Frances Matcek	23		

### THE LUTHERAN HOUR

is on KAGC, 1510 AM on Sundays at 12:30 p.m. sponsored by Bethel. If you would like, you can sponsor a week's broadcast for \$25 or a month for \$100.

Thank you to all who have given to this ministry.

**The Lutheran Hour** for the month of December is sponsored to the glory of God  
by **David & Rita Baumann**  
To God Be All Glory!

## Time & Talent Surveys

Bethel's Board of Stewardship is launching a new Time and Talent Survey. Our Church and congregation have had many changes over the years. The new Time and Talent Survey will help focus our congregation's talents into service and stewardship areas for the Church. Since this survey will replace the existing survey, we encourage everyone to complete the new Time and Talent Survey to have up-to-date information for all our members. Here is a link to take you to the survey

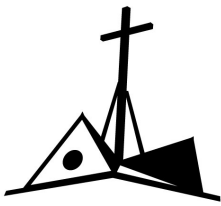
<https://ncv.microsoft.com/QvX8tPJaqE>

and here is the QR Code to use with your cell phone. A paper survey will also be available to complete if you cannot use the QR code or use the online process.

Volunteers are essential in supporting the Church's work. We could not do all that we do without your help.

*"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."* (1 Peter 4:10).





# Bethel Lutheran Church

4221 Boonville Rd, Bryan, Texas 77802  
Phone: (979) 822-2742 | FAX: (979) 822-4082  
[www.BLCbcs.org](http://www.BLCbcs.org) | [office@BLCbcs.org](mailto:office@BLCbcs.org)  
Preschool phone: 485-9835 or cell: 446-1578

## Staff:

**Rev. Randall Bard**, Senior Pastor, (979) 422-0046

**Rev. Tim Eden**, Associate Pastor

**Mr. Jeff Bellach**, Director of Christian Education

**Mrs. Debbie Sadler**, Dir., Bethel Lutheran Preschool

**Mrs. Katie Bentley**, Director of Operations

**Mrs. Kathy Herwald**, Finance Director

**Mrs. Ruthann Stroud**, Church Secretary

**Mrs. Connie Bard**, Children's Ministry Coordinator

**Mr. Jeremy Shilling**, *His Praise* Band Leader

**Rev. K. Lynn Stroud**, Pastor Emeritus

**Mr. Randall Moerbe**, DCE Emeritus

## December 3—17, 2020



### Join us for .....

**Saturday - Worship at 4pm**  
**Bible Class at 5pm**

### Sunday Mornings

8:30 AM Onsite Divine Service (Traditional)  
Also Live Streamed  
10:00 AM Onsite Sunday School  
& Bible Class (Also Online)  
11:15 AM Onsite Divine Service (Contemporary)  
Also Live Streamed

**Advent Wednesday Devotions at Noon and 6:45 pm**

**Go to [www.blebcs.org](http://www.blebcs.org) for more information**

### Church Office Hours

Mondays—Thursdays	9am - 5pm
Fridays	9am—3pm