



## **THE BANNER**

**December 2021**

### Our Hope In This Season of Joy Is In Christ Alone

The NALC has at the top of our Core Values is Christ-centered church. Everything that happens whether it be in worship, fellowship, outreach, teaching, and even meetings, our focus is on Christ, our crucified and risen savior. His presence is affirmed in all the above-mentioned activities. Christ has promised to be with us where two or three are gathered (Matthew 18:20) and also “to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:20).

We are now in the Advent season, that season of hope, anticipation, and preparation. We especially focus on Christ’s promised second coming to bring fulfillment to God’s plan for His creation. When this occurs will be the end of disease, tears, and death. Our preparations also center on the celebration of Christ’s birth on Christmas to accomplish God’s plan.

Christmas will come like it does every year on December 25th. Already Christmas music is played over the speakers with the song, "It's The Most Wonderful Time of The Year." It may be the most wonderful time of the year for many as they gather with family, friends, and co-workers to celebrate. Many experience the joy as they go about their preparations.

Then my thoughts turn to those who feel it is not the most wonderful time of the year. They are the ones who feel the pressure of trying to get everything done by December 25th in this over commercialized culture along with the financial stress. Then I think of those going through grief because the of the loss of loved ones during the past year. Many are battling depression or battling certain illnesses in their lives during this time of the year. With all this it easy to lose joy and become hopeless.

No matter these life situations the Church proclaims the reason for the season. It all has to do with Jesus and why God sent Him into this world; that was reconcile the world back to God. It is about God giving us the gift of salvation and eternal life. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:16, ESV). The manger where the Christ Child lays is always in the shadow of the cross. This is Jesus' goal as He gives His life so that we might be reconciled to God, have forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life. This is the foundation of all our gift giving during this time of the year.

Finally, I encourage you to stay connected with your church family. Share in the fellowship of brothers and sisters in Christ. It is here at worship that the cross of Christ will be front, and center and Christ alone will be proclaimed and lifted up. Whether life is filled with joy or challenges remember you are the reason for Jesus' birth and His life-giving sacrifice. Now that should move everyone to celebration and praise to God singing all the Advent and Christmas carols and to share the Christmas Story with wonder.

May this Advent and Christmastide be transformed into a most Holy season for you and your family.

Pastor David Klappenbach

Bethany Lutheran Church, Laurens, Iowa

## Bible Reading Plan for the Disciples of Bethany

...standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel... Philippians 1:27b

Wednesday, December 1	Amos 3:12-4:5 Matthew 21:23-32
Thursday, December 2	Amos 4:6-13 Matthew 21:33-46
Friday, December 3	Amos 5:1-17 Jude 1:16
Saturday, December 4	Amos 5:18-27 Jude 1:17-25
Sunday, December 5	Amos 6:1-14 Luke 1:57-68
Monday, December 6	Amos 7:1-9 Matthew 22:23-33
Tuesday, December 7	Amos 7:10-17 Matthew 22:34-46
Wednesday, December 8	Amos 8:1-14 Matthew 23:1-12
Thursday, December 9	Amos 9:1-10 Matthew 23:13-26
Friday, December 10	Haggai 1:1-15 Matthew 23:27-39
Saturday, December 11	Haggai 2:1-49 Matthew 24:1-14
Sunday, December 12	Amos 9:11-15 John 5:30-47
Monday, December 13	Zechariah 1:7-17 Matthew 24:15-31
Tuesday, December 14	Zechariah 2:1-13 Matthew 24:45-21
Wednesday, December 15	Zechariah 3:1-10 Matthew 24:45-51

Thursday, December 16	Zechariah 4:1-14 Matthew 25:1-13
Friday, December 17	Zechariah 7:8-8:8 Matthew 25:14-30
Saturday, December 18	Zechariah 8:9-17 Matthew 24:1-14
Sunday, December 19	Genesis 3:8-15 John 3:16-21
Monday, December 20	Zephaniah 3:14-20 Luke 1:1-25
Tuesday, December 21	Habakkuk 2:1-4 John 20:24-29
Wednesday, December 22	2 Samuel 2:1b-10 Luke 1:26-56
Thursday, December 23	2 Samuel 7:1-29 Luke 1:26-56
Friday, December 24	Jeremiah 31:10-14 Luke 1:67-80
Saturday, December 25	Micah 4:1-5:5:2-4 John 3:31-46
Sunday, December 26	1 Samuel 1:1-2, 7b-28 Luke 2:22-40
Monday, December 27	Genesis 1:1-5, 26-31 John 13:20-35;21:20-25
Tuesday, December 28	Jeremiah 31:15-17 Matthew 2:13-18
Wednesday, December 29	2 Samuel 23:13-17b John 2:1-11
Thursday, December 30	1 Kings 17:17-24 John 4:46-54
Friday, December 31	1 Kings 3:5-14 John 5:1-15

Laurens Community Youth Group

Board Meeting Agenda

11/14/21

4:00 PM Laurens United Methodist Church

Present: Pastor Klappenbach, Pastor Deb, Angie, Tammy, Linda, Thaine, Kelly, & Sharon.

1. Opening Prayer

- Pastor Klappenbach opened the meeting with prayer.

2. Previous Minutes - August 15, 2021

- [Minutes for the August 15, 2021 meeting](#)

3. Treasurer's Report

- Report shared by Thaine. As of today, we have \$22,155.10 in our account.

4. Old Business

a. Urban Air Trip

- i. 8 youth attended the trip to Urban Air on Saturday, August 13.

b. Trunk or Treat

- i. Angie reported they served approximately 130 hotdogs. She's hoping the participation increases next year. The Youth Group will cover the expense of the hotdogs, chips, and water served.

5. New Business

a. Fundraisers

- i. Spaghetti Dinner will be held on February 23, 2022, from 5-7.

b. Mission Trips

- i. Angie would like confirmation on the number of people planning to attend the Red Bird Mission trip from July 30 - August 6. The deposit has been sent.

c. Fun Events

- i. The plan is to take the youth to Kings Pointe on Saturday, February 26 from 1-4. There will also be a Family Game Night on January 16 from 1-4 at the Methodist Church. There will need to be games donated. The Youth Group will provide drinks and snacks.

d. Rotation

- i. The rotation has been set for the next three months:
  1. December: First Christian
  2. January: Bethany Lutheran
  3. February: United Methodist

e. Next Meeting

- i. Next meeting will be Sunday, February 13 at 4:00 at the United Methodist Church.

If you wish to provide altar flowers for church during 2021, please complete this form. Please place it the offering plate or mail it to: Shirley McKiernan, 313 2<sup>nd</sup> St., Laurens, IA 50554 *Thank you.*

Name of person providing flowers: \_\_\_\_\_

Date desired: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you want to provide flowers on this same date from year to year? yes no

Information needed for Sunday bulletin:

Altar Flowers in Loving Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

From: \_\_\_\_\_

Or Altar Flowers

From: \_\_\_\_\_

Please contact Shirley McKiernan, 841-2637, if you have any questions.



In case of emergency contact  
Pastor David Klappenbach  
712-841-2181 (Office)  
712-841-2532 Home)  
419-603-8350 (Cell)

Services are currently being live streamed on Facebook

Visit us @ <https://www.bethanylutheran-laurens.org>

USHERS

December 5-Myles Pedersen

December 19-Dean Armstrong

December 24\_Volunteer

## Alter Guild November- Rich & Marilyn Ehlers

### Coffee Fellowship & Potluck

#### December 5

1. Jean Swanson (CP)
2. Tammy Oxenreider
- 3.

#### December 12

1. Jean Swanson (CP)
2. Tammy Oxenreider
3. Gail Olson

#### December 19 Potluck

1. Myles & Shirley Pedersen (CP)
2. Mark Raasch
- 3.

#### December 26

1. Myles & Shirley Pedersen (CP)
2. Mark Raasch
- 3.

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

Name	Marriage	December	
Hodgell, Jennifer		12-02	
Smith, Darin		12-05	
Olson, Gail		12-05	
Pedersen, Myles & Shirley	12-06		
Akridge, Kane		12-10	
Kemp, Michael		12-11	
Bieri, Case		12-17	
Pedersen, Kenny		12-17	
Pedersen, Bruce		12-22	
Arends, Ataya		12-24	
Hersom, John		12-29	
Julie Dawson		12-30	
Hudson, Curtis		12-31	
Akridge, Ashley		12-31	

The Laurens UMC would like to invite you all following worship on **Sunday, December 7** to join us for walking tacos and ice cream sundaes! Free will donation. Kaye Van Genderen & Connie Dallenbach will be serving. Please add this info. to your church bulletins. Thanks so much!

# December 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Bethany Lutheran Church Fellowship/Coffee- 9:30 Adult SS- 9:15 Youth SS- 9:30 Worship-10:30	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	
<b>5</b> 10:30-Worship w/Communion <i>Advent Reading</i>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 7:30AM Prayer Meeting 9:30-Morning Coffee	<b>8</b> 7:00PM- Council mtg	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 10:30-Worship <i>Adent Reading</i> 5-6:30PM Youth Group @ FCC	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 7:30AM Prayer Meeting 9:30-Morning Coffee	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 10:30-Worship w/Communion <i>Advent Reading</i> <i>SS Christmas</i> <i>Program</i>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 7:30AM Prayer Meeting 9:30-Morning Coffee	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <i>5:30-Christmas</i> <i>Eve Service</i> <i>Nativity of Our</i> <i>Lord</i>	<b>25</b> <i>Nativity of</i> <i>Our Lord</i>
<b>26</b> 10:30-Worship	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 7:30AM Prayer Meeting 9:30-Morning Coffee	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	

Council Meeting  
Bethany Lutheran Church  
October 13, 2021  
7:00 PM

Present:	Absent
Dean Armstrong	Mark Raasch
Rich Ehlers	John Runneberg
Jim Hodgell	Julie Dawson
Pastor Klappenbach	
Myles Pedersen	
Jean Swanson	
Linda Galbraith	

Others: Marilyn Ehlers, Shirley Pedersen

Rich Ehlers noted that we had a quorum and called the meeting to order.

Pastor Klappenbach provided an opening devotion from Psalm 46 and prayer.

After a review of the minutes, Jim Hodgell moved to approve the minutes  
Pastor Klappenbach provided the second. Motion carried.

Shirley Pedersen reported that the first half of the farm rent was paid and for both the library and Bethany they gave an additional \$720.00.

Marilyn Ehlers reported that as of the end of September we had (-2390.00) and as of today's meeting \$4445.96. The Potluck account had \$1280.45.

Jim Hodgell moved to accept the Financial Reports, a second was made by Dean Armstrong. Motion carried.,

Pastor Klappenbach reported that in August he drove 106 miles, he did the following visitations 7 home, 4 nursing home, 1 office, 1 community and 2 phone for a total of 15 visitations for the month, he also did the service at the Laurens Care Center on September 16<sup>th</sup>.

Pastor Klappenbach presided over the Violet Lovig funeral.

He attended the Iowa Mission District Convocation in Emmons, Mn.

Jim Hodgell moved to accept the Pastors Report. Second made by Dean Armstrong. Motion carried.



**Old Business:** No Old Business to discuss

**New Business:**

1. Jim Hodgell moved that we donate \$100.00 to the Laurens Volunteer Fire Department. Second made by Dean Armstrong. Motion carried.
2. Auditing Committee: Julian Johnsen, Ron Hersom, Sheldon Bieri. Kelly Gordon was discussed as an alternate.
3. Budget Committee: John Runneberg, Shirley Pedersen & Marilyn Ehlers. It was also discussed to use Julie Dawson or Kelly Gordon as alternates.
4. Election Day Soup Supper: Election Day is November 2<sup>nd</sup> and that Bethany will continue doing the Election Day Soup Supper as it has in the past.
5. Endowment Fund: Chris Fuhrman of Edward D Jones presented a plan to set up an Endowment Fund. The congregation needs to approve it so it will be placed on the agenda for the Annual Meeting in January.

**Committee Reports:**

**Christian Education**-Youth Sunday School is going well with an increase in students. There will be a Sunday School Sing on October 17<sup>th</sup>. Elizabeth Klappenbach and Linda Galbraith will have a women's Bible Study every Sunday evening beginning at 6:30pm for all who are interested.

**Growth and Sharing**-October 24<sup>th</sup> is the final Sunday to bring in items for the playpen to be packed in the Samaritans Purse boxes and the Samaritans Purse boxes. Growth and Sharing will meet later to pack the boxes. Blessing the boxes will be Sunday November 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Tech Committee**-No Report

**Stewardship**-Temple talk will be November 14<sup>th</sup>

**Property and Farm**-We have been having problems with the kitchen door lock and a new door lock is on order. Thrashers will be at the Parsonage to

raise the south corner of the driveway. We also need to clean and seal the Parsonage deck.

**Worship and Music**-They had a meeting on October 4<sup>th</sup> and have started to work on Advent.

**Memorial**-No Report

Next Meeting is November 10, 2021.

Jim Hodgell moved to adjourn with prayer and the Lord's Prayer. Second was made by Dean Armstrong. Motion carried.

Dean Armstrong  
Reporting Secretary