

# Parish Newsletter

November 2025



## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

As we wait and prepare during the season of Advent we are looking towards Christmas day and the birth of Christ.

There are often complaints about the word “Xmas”. People exclaim, “They’ve taken Christ out of Christmas.” Christ may have been replaced by commercialism in the celebration of this Festival season, but that isn’t where the “X” comes from.



The word “Christ” in Greek looks like this: ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ (pronounced “kris-tos”). The first letter looks like an “X,” but it isn’t an “x” as in our alphabet, but a “chi” (pronounced “ki”) in the Greek alphabet. This letter has the “ch” sound like in the word “Christ”.

While the second letter looks like a P, in Greek it is a Rho (pronounced “roh”) and sounds like the English “R”. The “chi rho” is a common Christian symbol that uses the first two letters from ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ. Because of the shape of the letters, the symbol is often mistaken for a “PX”, but it is actually “XP”. A chi-rho symbol is one of the oldest Christian symbols. Is there one in your church?

Spelling the holiday “Xmas” doesn’t necessarily take Christ out of the holiday, it is merely using the first initial of the name of Christ; but then, neither does spelling-out the word “Christmas” put Christ into the holiday. (*excerpt from Brian Stoffregen, CrossMarks*)

Happy Advent and Merry  mas!

May Christ be part of your Advent and Christmas!

Pastor Bonnie

## **Parish News**

## DECEMBER READINGS

Date	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
December 7	Isa 11:1-10	Ps 72:1-7, 18-19	Rom 15:4-13	Matt 3:1-12
December 14	Isa 35:1-10	Ps 146:5-10	James 5:7-10	Matt 11:2-11
December 21	Isa 7:10-16	Ps 80:1-7, 17-19	Rom 1:1-7	Matt 1:18-25
December 24	Isa 9:2-7	Ps 96	Titus 2:11-14	Luke 2:1-14[15-20]
December 25	Isa 62:6-12	Ps 97	Titus 3:4-7	Luke 2:[1-7]8-20
December 28	Isa 63:7-9	Ps 148	Heb 2:10-18	Matt 2:13-23

## LUTHER MEMORIAL HOME CHRISTMAS SERVICE

The Luther Memorial Home Christmas Service will be at 10:30 am on Christmas Day, December 25, 2025.

## **NEWSLETTER**

Newsletter items can be sent to Tracy Foss at [Tracy.L.Foss@gmail.com](mailto:Tracy.L.Foss@gmail.com) Newsletter deadline is usually the Tuesday before the last Sunday of the month. January newsletter deadline is 12-23-2025.

# **Mayville Congregational-UCC News**

## **SCRIPTURE READERS DECEMBER**

December 7 – Hanging of the Greens Service

December 14 – Jackee Lerol

December 21 – Tami Woxland

December 24 – Christmas Eve Service

December 28 – No Church Service

## **SHARED MEAL**

Gran Lutheran Church is having a Drive Thru dinner at Mayville Lutheran Church on Sunday, December 7 from 11:30am-1:00pm. The freewill offering meal is ham, corn, scalloped potatoes, and dessert. After church we'll send some drivers over to pickup meals for anyone who would like to stay for food and good conversation.

## **CHRISTMAS EVE CHURCH SERVICE**

Join us at 5:30 pm for a service of candlelight, celebrating the birth of Christ.

## ***Bethany News***

## **DECEMBER READERS**

December 7 – Sunday School Students

December 14 – Judy Stensland

December 21 – Justin Foss

December 28 – No Service

## **DECEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup> SERVICE**

The service on December 7<sup>th</sup> will be led by the Sunday School students. It will include communion and a Sunday School Program.

## **CHRISTMAS EVE CHURCH SERVICE**

Join us at 4:00 pm to celebrate the birth of Christ with communion and candlelight.

## **BETHANY COUNCIL**

The Bethany Council met on November 17 at the church. The ramp in the front of the church is done. Painting the outside of the church will resume in the spring. West side pine tree will need to be removed. Pastor Bonnie will be updating and maintaining our Facebook page. Our annual meeting will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in February. A new microphone will be purchased for the podium. There will be no council meeting in December.

## **BETHANY CIRCLE**

Bethany Circle will meet at Eileen Holt's at 2:00 pm Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>.

## **BETHANY WELCA**

All Bethany women who hold an office or any type of position for WELCA will be left in that position for the coming year. If you do not want to continue in that position, let Eileen Holt or Charlotte Lee know.

## **THANK YOU**

Thank you to the congregation for pitching in and decorating the church! It was all done beautifully and in such a short time. We are very fortunate that everyone is always willing to help with any and all things that need to be done!

A special thank you to Christine for the plentiful and delicious brunch! You spoil us, Christy!

Thank you to the congregation for your generosity in giving during the month-long food drive for the Hatton and May-Port food pantries. It was a huge success! We were able to give each pantry over 450 pounds of groceries. They were very thankful and amazed at the large amount they received.

## **GIFTS FOR CVIC**

There is a basket in the church basement in which to place items you would like to donate to CVIC (Community Violence Intervention Center). They are in need of personal items. There is a list of what they need on the basket. Loretta will be picking up the basket on December 22 and delivering it to CVIC.

## **BAKE SALE**

WELCA members will be having a bake sale at the Mayville Armory during the May-Port Winterfest on Friday, December 5 and Saturday, December 6. Please have any items for the sale at the armory by 3 PM on Friday, or by 8 AM Saturday. Price your own items. A price list and stickers are available in church. Thank you for any and all donations. This is a big fund raiser to use for our annual end of year benevolent slate.

## **2026 WELCA TRIENNIAL GATHERING**

The Triennial Gathering will take place in Des Moines, Iowa July 16-19, 2026. Registration before January 5th will be \$475 and after January 5th will be \$525. Find more information about the gathering at <https://womenoftheelca.org/new-triennial-event-page>

### **T-SHIRTS, SWEATSHIRTS, AND KNIT SHEETS NEEDED**

If you have any t-shirts, sweatshirts, or knit sheets that you are getting rid of please give them to Linda Stromstad. They will be given to St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Crookston. They use them to make diapers which are given to 3rd world countries.

### **PRISON MINISTRY**

The James River Regional Correctional Facility is still collecting yarn. They have also added a new project which is a knitted/crocheted heart pillow. So, in addition to the yarn, they are asking for donations of polyester fiber-fill to help them with this project. You can bring the yarn and fiber-fill to church and leave it in the basement.

### **COFFEE AFTER CHURCH**

If you have a certain Sunday sometime this year you would like to bring something to have with coffee after Church - please put your name on the list on the bulletin board in the entry.

### **YARN DONATIONS**

If anyone has yarn, any type, that you want to get rid of, bring it to church, we will send it to the EaNDSWO convention in September, and from there it goes to prisons of ND, where they knit things to give or send away.

### **WEB PAGE**

*BethanyRuralHatton.com If you have anything you would like to put on the website contact Mark Aamold.*

### **BULLETIN**

*Bulletin announcements can be sent to Lorrie Aamold [LorrieAamold@hotmail.com](mailto:LorrieAamold@hotmail.com) or by leaving a message at 543-3806. Deadline for the bulletin is Thursdays.*

### **BETHANY NEWS**

*News items can be sent to Charlotte Lee at [CharlotteLee7@icloud.com](mailto:CharlotteLee7@icloud.com) or Tracy Foss at [Tracy.L.Foss@gmail.com](mailto:Tracy.L.Foss@gmail.com) Newsletter deadline is usually the Tuesday before the last Sunday of the month. January newsletter deadline is 12-23-2025.*