

Parish Newsletter

January 2026



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

There's nothing like Christmas and New Year's to give us a fresh start. This is the beginning of Jesus' life with us, of a new calendar year, and a new year in our lives. We may look back and think of the past year as a good one or as one that we are glad is over. No matter the joys or sorrows, the triumphs or defeats, we know we didn't go through them alone. God is there to talk things over with, to walk beside us, and to give us strength and courage. God has journeyed with us through weddings, new babies, baptisms, confirmation, moving, new jobs, illness, accidents, and death. God has made a promise to each one of us to be with us always. No matter what the situation is, no matter what predicaments we have gotten ourselves into – the good and the bad, God is with us.

Now we have a new year full of opportunities - a new year that offers us adventure and challenges; one that might require our courage and strength; and one that will certainly require our faith. There are lots of things we can look forward to. You may already be planning something that will change your life forever – going to college, starting a new job, retiring, moving to a new place, getting married, having a baby. There are many changes that we anticipate throughout our lifetimes. Not one year goes by when we don't need the comfort and peace of our Lord. There will be things that we dread or that catch us unaware, and that will challenge every fiber of our being. Through all these things God is with us and promises to stay beside us to shout out with joy or to cry with us in sorrow. May this year be full of new exciting challenges, contentment, and peace for you all.

Rejoice! For unto us a child is born, and his name is Immanuel – God with us!

Blessings,
Pastor Bonnie

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JANUARY READINGS

Date	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
January 4	Isaiah 60:1-6	Ps 72:1-7,10-14	Eph 3:1-12	Matthew 2:1-12
January 11	Isaiah 42:1-9	Ps 29	Acts 10:34-43	Matt 3:13-17
January 18	Isaiah 49:1-7	Ps 40:1-11	1 Cor 1:1-9	John 1:29-42
January 25	Isaiah 9:1-4	Ps 27:1, 4-9	1 Cor 1:10-18	Matt 4:12-23

JOINT WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The committee will meet at 7:00 pm at Bethany Lutheran on 1/8/2026. Ask Pastor Bonnie for the Zoom login if you can't attend in person.

NEWSLETTER

Newsletter items can be sent to Tracy Foss at Tracy.L.Foss@gmail.com Newsletter deadline is usually the Tuesday before the last Sunday of the month. February newsletter deadline is 1-27-2026.

Mayville Congregational-UCC News

SCRIPTURE READERS JANUARY

TBD

Bethany News

JAUNARY READERS

January 4 - Brian Rice

January 11 - Karen Osland

January 18 - Karen Naastad

January 25 - Crystal Holweger

SUNDAY JANUARY 4TH

The Christmas tree will be taken down on Sunday January 4th. We would appreciate help from all who are available and we thank you in advance!

QUILTING

Quilting will be starting Wednesday, January 7th, and also Friday, January 9th. We will begin at 9:00 AM. Hope to see you all there!

BETHANY CIRCLE

Circle will meet at 2:00 on Wednesday, January 14 at the church.

BETHANY COUNCIL

The Bethany Council will meet at the church Wednesday, January 21 at 5:00.

THANK YOU

Thank you to Karen Naastad and the Bethany kids for sharing the story of the birth of Jesus. The congregation enjoyed the story as well as the music and readings by the Sunday School.

Also, a thank you to Ray and Lorrie for providing and passing out candy bags to everyone. It's a time-honored tradition and we appreciate that you are continuing it.

A huge thank you to everyone who participated in filling the CVIC basket. It was beyond full and once again, many were blessed by your generosity.

LIVING LUTHERAN MAGAZINE

Living Lutheran, the magazine of the ELCA, is offering members of congregations free digital/online memberships. Visit livinglutheran.org/subscribe to sign up. Look for the free digital membership or pay to subscribe to the paper copy.

BISHOP ELECTION

At our Annual Meeting on February 15 we'll be nominating up to three people for Bishop of the Eastern North Dakota Synod of the ELCA. Nominees need to be ministers of Word and Sacrament (pastors). Open forums to meet the final nominees will be held in May. The Bishop election will take place at the Synod Assembly June 5-7.

YOUTH TRIP

The Eastern North Dakota Campus Ministries are organizing a week of fun, faith, and fellowship in Winston Salem, NC for youth in grades 8-12 for the 2025-2026 academic year. This road trip, completely organized and led by campus ministry staff, offers high schoolers a chance to grow spiritually, build friendships, and serve alongside The Dwelling, a ministry dedicated to loving and learning from neighbors experiencing homelessness. Learn more and register [at this link](#) or [download this flyer](#) to learn more.

Questions? Contact Pr. Kim Adams at kim@lcmndsu.org or Pr. Aaron Bye at aaron@christus-rex.org.

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 Loaamold@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 or Tracy Foss at Tracy.L.Foss@gmail.com Newsletter deadline is usually the Tuesday before the last Sunday of the month. February newsletter deadline is 1-27-2026.