

BELLA VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH

January 3-9, 2016

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Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Most people long to be wanted and chosen. Children get picked for teams in gym class; adults get chosen for promotions at work. Society sometimes revolves around being chosen and wanted.

Today, we are assured that God has chosen each of us, that we may all receive the greatest gift in the Savior Jesus Christ, adoption as God's own children.

Through Christ, God now sees us as His adopted people. Through the Holy Spirit working in us, we are able to know the **"guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of His glory," Ephesians 1:14.**

The book of Exodus tells the story of a Hebrew woman who bore a son during a time when Pharaoh had ordered all Hebrew male infants to be put to death ([Exodus 1:15-22](#)). This mother took a basket, waterproofed it, and sent the baby down the river in the basket. One of Pharaoh's daughters spotted the basket and retrieved the child. She eventually adopted him into the royal family and gave him the name Moses. He went on to become a faithful and blessed servant of God.

In the book of Esther, a beautiful girl for which this book of the Bible is named, was adopted by her cousin after her parents' death, became a queen, and God used her to bring deliverance to the Jewish people.

In the New Testament, Jesus Christ was conceived through the Holy Spirit. He was "adopted" and raised by His mother's husband, Joseph, who took Jesus as his own child.

Once we are brought into God's family through baptism we believe and trust in Him alone for salvation. This is how God makes us part of His family, not through the natural process of human conception, but through adoption. In Romans 8:15 we read, **"For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, 'Abba! Father!'"**

Clearly adoption, both in the physical sense and in the spiritual sense, is shown in a favorable light in Scripture. Both those who adopt and those who are adopted are receiving a tremendous blessing, a privilege mirroring our adoption into God's family. In Him, *Pastor Hass*

PRAYER CONCERNS

Please call Ula Biesterfeld at 855-6840 or the church office at 855-0272 with information for the Prayer Chain.

Prayers, please include:

Our Members: Marcella Casey, Fran Bloomer, Marv Henning, Marlys Rembold, Al Gruenewald, John Brack, Gary Nelson, Buz Moxon, Deb Roesener, Gary Hartwig, Gary Aaron, George Albers, Bev Hess, John Moldenhauer, Kay Gaudian, Helen Hise, Elise McCall

Missions: Pastor J. P. Cima—Viet Nam; Faith-Bentonville; Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church; Hanna House

THANKS

Chuck Merriman and family would like to thank everyone for the Christmas gifts. We are happy to be part of the ministry at Bella Vista Lutheran Church.

SUNDAY CHRISTIAN EDUCATION HOUR at 9:45 a.m.

Adult Bible Study

- Fellowship Hall: "Digging Deeper" with today's scripture lessons will be led by Pastor Hass.
- Choir Room: The study, "Christian Life today: Health and Well Being" is led by Dick Munster.

Sunday School

All children and youth Sunday School classes will meet in the lower level of the new building.

POINSETTIAS

The poinsettias can be taken home after the **SECOND** service today. Any remaining poinsettias not picked up today will be placed in the narthex for pick up at your convenience.

THE SHEPHERD'S FOOD PANTRY

Each One – Bring One continues to request hearty food to distribute to the pantry clients. Our shelves are just about empty at this point, and we plan to purchase more stock from the food bank for when we resume operation January 8th. We are fortunate to be supported by the congregation and other area churches and groups (i.e., The Lyons Club, Harps and Allen's Food). It is exciting to check out the donations in our food bench collection area. Thank you all.

2 Corinthians 9:7 Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (*ESV*)

FELLOWSHIP RAZORBACK BASKETBALL GAME & FELLOWSHIP DINNER

We will be going to a Razorback Women's Basketball Game on Sunday, January 31. They will be playing Mississippi State at 2:00 p.m. Carpool from either Highlands Arvest Bank or Allen's at 12:15 p.m. Tickets are \$2.00. We will also be having dinner as a private party at Papa Mike's at 4:45 p.m. Cost is \$12 for adults and \$6 for children. Sign up at the kiosk no later than Sunday, January 24 for either or both Fellowship events. For basketball tickets, place money in Lear's mailbox. Pay for dinner at Papa Mikes. Questions? Please call John or June Lear at 876-6923.

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE



THE LWML MITE BOX

IS ON THE KIOSK TODAY

THE LORD'S WEEK
January 3-9, 2016

Sunday

8:30 a.m. **Divine Worship w/communion**
9:30 a.m. Fellowship
10:45 a.m. **Blended Worship**
7:00 p.m. SAC I—Vern Gruhn

Monday

9:00 a.m. JOY I—Library
Backpacks—Chapel
11:00 a.m. SFP Delivery
1:00 p.m. JOY IIB—
Silver Needle Quilters
1:30 p.m. JOY IIA—Highlands
JOY IIC—

Tuesday

8:30 a.m. JOY IIIA—Vicki Dehnert
9:30 a.m. JOY IIIC—
1:30 a.m. JOY IV—

Wednesday

9:30-3:00 p.m. S.W.A.P.—Multi Purpose Room
9:30 a.m. LWML Quarterly, Concordia
1:00 p.m. JOY VB— No Meeting
JOY VA—Library
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday

9:30 a.m. Pray—ers

Friday

10—1:00 p.m. Shepherd's Food Pantry

Saturday

NEXT SUNDAY—January 10, 2016

8:30 a.m. **Divine Worship**
9:30 a.m. Fellowship
10:45 a.m. **Blended Worship w/communion**
1:30 p.m. TLC Highlands West—Mark & Barb Ostermeier

The Communion & Lunch Service which is on the first Tuesday of the month **WILL NOT BE HELD ON JANUARY 5th.** This service will resume on February 2nd.

Stewardship

THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS



“Luke 2:40 “And the Child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon Him.” At Christmas God became man. And as a man, Jesus grew up and increased in strength and wisdom. We are called to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, to grow in His image. The power for this growth comes from receiving the grace of Jesus in His Word and Sacraments. How is the Lord calling you to grow this year?”

BELLA VISTA LUTHERAN GOLF

Friday 18 Holes
Singles & Couples
Call Ron Burkett 268-3303



Check out the new shipment of **all occasion cards!** This is an LWML project and all cards are only **\$ 3.00 a box.** **The display is located in the church Library.** Just place the money in the envelope provided and put it in Elaine Schurman's church mailbox. Make checks payable to **LWML.**

The **2016 FLOWER CHART** is on the bulletin board in the narthex. The price will remain at \$45.00 for 2016. Please sign up at your convenience.

BACKPACKERS

will meet **TOMORROW**

January 4th at 9:00 a.m.

in the Chapel (former Fellowship Hall.)

Come & join us!

JOY 6 LWML QUARTERLY

Joy 6 (LWML Quarterly) meets the first Wednesday of every month at Concordia. You are invited to join us, Wednesday, January 6 at 9:30 a.m., as we study the first Bible study in the latest Lutheran Woman's Quarterly (pages 16 & 17) located in the LWML box by the mailboxes. Join us for these uplifting Bible studies. Contact Diane Howard (855-4195).