

BELLA VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH

1990 Forest Hills Blvd.
FAX: 479-876-6097

Dec. 27-January 2, 2021
WEBSITE: www.bvlutheran.com

PHONE: 479-855-0272
E-MAIL: office@bvlutheran.com

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The Gospel for the First Sunday after Christmas takes us to the temple in Jerusalem, where Jesus is brought by Mary and Joseph. In presenting Him there, they are affirming that He is dedicated to God as a firstborn son. But He is much more than a son—He is THE Son. He is also the promised Messiah for whom the world had been waiting.

One of those waiting for the Messiah was Simeon who had been promised that he would behold the Lord's Christ before his death. Finally, in this divinely appointed meeting Simeon's waiting is over. His song is a sigh of relief that his waiting is done. You and I have been waiting with joyful anticipation for the celebration of the Christ Child once again this year. Perhaps during this pandemic the anticipation of peace has taken on a new meaning? But now our waiting is over. The celebration has ended. We too breathe a sigh of relief. We have received His peace. And He will sustain that peace in us no matter what life throws at us until we are finally and completely at peace with Him in eternity!

In Him, Pastor Gorshe

PRAYER CONCERNS

Please call the church office at 855-0272 with information for the Prayer Chain.

Prayers, please include:

Our Members: Marcella and Carroll Casey, Shirley Peshek, Neil Vanderbush, Verna McCaffrey, Chuck and Katie Scherz, Jan Poe, Doug Petersan, Jessica Anderson, Barbara Hartwig, Jim Breen, Stan Isaacson, Arlo Miesbach, Harlene & Richard Meyer, Glenn Wickboldt, Wes Pulst, Bill Stuckenbroker, Vicki Hoskins, Pat & Bob Eckart, Bettye Deppeler, Katy Krause, Nancy Larson, Howard & Barb Harlson, Kristin Irwin, Sally Pfluger, Faye Miskimen, Phyllis Munster, Dave & Lorie Jensen, Marie Parvi, Claryce Thomas

Missions: Pastor J.P. Cima—Cambodia; Pastor JD Zischke—Restoration Church—Fayetteville; Lutheran Campus Ministry; Heritage Baptist Church of Bella Vista; Grace Lutheran, Eureka Springs

LUTHERAN HOUR

Listen to the Lutheran Hour each Sunday over radio station KURM-FM (100.3) or KURM-AM (790) at 12:30 p.m. Today's program is "Welcome to the Family" with guest speaker Rev. Dr. Anthony Cook. The book of Galatians gives us a glimpse inside the family of God. It describes the Christian family as one that stands firm in Christ's freedom, walks united in the spirit, and bears one another's burdens in love. (Galatians 4:4-7)

OFFERING ENVELOPES

The 2021 offering envelopes are on a table near the Fellowship Hall entrance. Please be sure to pick up your envelopes for next year.

EDUCATION HOUR SCHEDULE

Fellowship Hall—120 Bible Stories series led by Pastor Gorshe

Library—Christianity 1001—Pastor Hass leads this class which will discuss what we believe, teach and confess as Lutherans, and especially how this congregation seeks to be a missionary enterprise in northwest Arkansas.

All children and teen youth will have Sunday School Classes downstairs in their appropriate classroom.

THE SHEPHERD'S FOOD PANTRY

Merry Christmas!

We sincerely thank you for all your support given to the pantry. We have truly been blessed to have the help of our congregation and community, thus making us a blessing to those who come to us in need. In these uncertain times, so many have stepped up, showing their love and giving unselfishly. We couldn't be there for others if it weren't for our giving and sharing friends. We and you are *The Shepherd's* instruments.

Christmas Blessings, The Shepherd's Food Pantry

Luke 2:11 (KJV) For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour which is Christ the Lord.

THANK YOU

Dear BVLC Church family & friends,

We want to thank you for all the prayers, cards and phone calls we received while dealing with Covid-19. We are doing fine now. Please continue to pray for all our BVLC family & friends who are now dealing with Covid-19. Prayers do work!

Stan & Sharon Crandall

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE



Thank you for the great support given to our Christmas Stocking Fund!! A total of \$864 was donated so the six top vote getters will each receive a check for \$144. Those charities are: Saving Grace, NW AR Children's Shelter, Loving Choices, Sheep Dog, Concordia Seminary Student Food Bank and Children's Advocacy Center.

THE LORD'S WEEK
December 27-January 2, 2021

Sunday

8:30 a.m. Divine Worship Service
9:30 a.m. Fellowship
9:45 a.m. Christian Education Hour
10:45 a.m. Blended Worship w/communion
12:30 p.m. Lutheran Hour KURM-FM
(100.3) or KURM-AM (790)

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

6:00 p.m. New Year's Eve Service

Friday

OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday

NEXT SUNDAY January 3, 2021

8:30 a.m. Divine Worship Service w/communion
9:30 a.m. Fellowship
9:45 a.m. Christian Education Hour
10:45 a.m. Blended Worship
12:30 p.m. Lutheran Hour KURM-FM
(100.3) or KURM-AM (790)

LESSONS FOR SUNDAY—January 3, 2021

1 Kings 3:4-15
Ephesians 1:3-14
Luke 2:40-52

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

I'm confident that I speak for everyone who watched this year's production of our Children's Christmas presentation when I offer kudos to all involved. It took a lot of thought, planning, concentration of detail, coordination and vision. Chuck, Elena, Sol, all the actors, EVERY-ONE involved, *congratulations!* Great work telling the story of our Savior's birth.

*Merry Christmas
and
God's Peace to You and Yours
in Jesus Christ!*

THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Stewardship Luke 2:39—"And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord..." The Law of God is good. Of course, it always shows us our sins, but that is good, too! We need to be driven back to the forgiveness of Christ. And the Law also shows us the truly blessed way to live. As Mary and Joseph found their joy in a godly life, so should we see the Law as a guide for Christian living and the road map for saying thank you to the Lord for all His grace and mercy to us.



**CONFIDENTIAL CAREGIVING
PRAYER TIME**



The *Prayer Time* prayer requests are in the card holders on the backs of the pews. Completed prayer requests can be placed in the marked prayer boxes at the back of the church or at the Welcome Center. The requests are collected after the service, and Confidential Caregivers pray and then shred the requests immediately after the prayer. All requests are kept confidential. You can be as general or as specific as you want. God knows the needs before we even ask.

If you have any questions about Confidential Caregiving, please contact a leader, Jack Grober, Pastor Gorshe or Marie Parvi.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

This is notice of a single agenda item Congregational Meeting on January 10, 2021, regarding the potential of delaying the 2022 Synodical Convention to 2023.

As a Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod moves into 2021, it is normal in this year of our regular triennium to conduct a District Convention in each one of the synods 35 Districts. Due to the pandemic, there are several states, in the northeast and on the west coast of our country, that do not at present have the legal opportunity to schedule any large public gatherings in 2021. Since the business conducted at District conventions precedes the Synodical Convention, the Board of Directors for the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod has asked congregations to consider the question of moving the date of the next convention from 2022 to 2023.

BVLC will hold a Congregational Meeting, to discuss and resolve this question the morning of January 10, 2021, in our Fellowship Hall between Services.

If you wish to know more, please visit the Synodical website: <https://blogs.lcms.org/2020/council-of-presidents-encourages-harrison-to-invite-congregational-vote-on-convention-delay/>