

BELLA VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 20-26, 2015

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Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In this 4th Sunday in Advent we are fast approaching Christmas. This week we share the anticipation and the celebration of Jesus' coming, in the interchange between Mary and Elizabeth over two thousand years ago as recorded in the Gospel of Luke, Chapter 1.

Elizabeth declared Mary blessed among women, meaning that she had received a blessing. Also, Elizabeth says, "Blessed is she who believed."

In contrast to Elizabeth and Mary, we will not have physically see our Savior in His First Advent when He came as a baby to dwell among us. Yet, in this lifetime we may be privileged to see Him at His Second Advent, the Last Day. But Mary, Elizabeth, you, me and the entirety of humanity for all generations do share the blessings of His coming.

We also share a new life with the people of God through the gift of faith that comes by the Holy Spirit. Please, as you are able, share that gift with those around you in need of comfort and encouragement. You, like Elizabeth, can encourage those around you to see serving our Lord as joy!

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, Marie Herr, Marlys Rembold, Al Gruenewald, John Brack, Ron Fant, Gary Nelson, Buz Moxon, Betty Long, Deb Roesener, Gary Hartwig, Gary Aaron, George Albers, Ken Meyer, Bev Hess, John Moldenhauer

Missions: Pastor J. P. Cima—Viet Nam; Salem Lutheran—Springdale; Judson American Baptist; Hispanic Ministry

THANK YOU

I would like to thank everyone for all the cards, e-mails, phone calls, and "Mom" hugs. My dad was a very special man and will be missed. Your prayers have been a comfort to me and my family. I am blessed to be a member of such a caring congregation. Thank you!
In Him, Dale Wandrie

Many grateful thanks for the prayers regarding my eye surgery on 12-10. All went very well and with thanks to friends like the Knafle's for transportation and taking me home as I needed help following surgery. God is so good and now I see.

Ken Meyer

Dear Bella Vista Lutheran Church: We would like to thank you for your support to our mission to Lima, Peru. It is so wonderful to have mission partners joining with us in mission to share the gospel message in Peru. Thank you so very much!

In Christ, Eddie, Melissa, Lexi & Joe Hosch

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.

THE SHEPHERD'S FOOD PANTRY

Each One – Bring One wishes to thank all the generous "elves" who contributed to our Christmas food collection. Our clients received a very substantial amount of food for the holiday, but they will be unable to come back until January 8, 2016 as the food pantry will be closed for Christmas and New Years. That is why we are requesting robust food such as packages of soup mix and chili mix which the folks can stretch out with the chicken and ground meat they will be receiving. Winter is on its way!

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)*

If you would like to reach out and make a difference in a person's life this Christmas Season by helping with an urgent need, contact Kay Gaudian for more information 855-0384.

SINGLES CHRISTMAS PARTY

December 27th, 2:30-5:00 p.m.

Shirley Swenson's home
1 Brims Ness Lane

If convenient, bring a treat and a gift for our exchange.

Hostesses: Margaret Kuehn—644-7120
Shirley Swenson—855-4975

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE



CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS

It's Christmas Stocking time again. Each year our LWML selects a number of charities, mostly local, with whom to share our blessings. You will find a ballot in your mailbox with the charities listed. This is your opportunity to choose the ten charities you would prefer to help. Place your gift in the big stocking by December 20. The big Christmas stocking for your donations is near the mailboxes.

THE LORD'S WEEK
December 20-26, 2015

Sunday

8:30 a.m. **Divine Worship w/communion**
9:30 a.m. Fellowship
10:45 a.m. **Blended Worship**
4:00 p.m. TLC—Highlands West—Garry & Deb Raymond

Monday

9:00 a.m. JOY I—No meeting
1:00 p.m. JOY IIB—No meeting
1:30 p.m. JOY IIA—No meeting
JOY IIC—No Meeting

Tuesday

8:30 a.m. JOY IIIA—No Meeting
9:30 a.m. JOY IIIC—No Meeting
11:00 a.m. United Way SFP Delivery
1:30 a.m. JOY IV—No Meeting

Wednesday

1:00 p.m. JOY VB—Classroom 3 —No Meeting
JOY VA—Library—No Meeting

Thursday

6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service w/communion

Friday

10:00 a.m. Christmas Day Service
Office Closed

Saturday

NEXT SUNDAY—December 27, 2015

8:30 a.m. **Divine Worship**
9:30 a.m. Fellowship
10:45 a.m. **Blended Worship w/communion**
2:30-5:00 p.m. **Singles Christmas Party**

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.

Check out the new shipment of **all occasion and Christmas Cards with Scripture Verses!** 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**.

Stewardship

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT



“And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.” (Luke 1:45 ESV) The Lord always fulfills what He promises. We can be certain of that, and He has proven it over and over again. This faith in the Lord's own faithfulness is what gives us the courage to follow the Lord's commands in the face of the world's anger and resistance: just as it gave Mary the courage to carry on in her seemingly embarrassed circumstances.

BELLA VISTA LUTHERAN GOLF

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



STEPHEN MINISTRY

A SECOND CHANCE!

Everyone likes a second chance and now you have it! We were unable to provide Stephen Ministry training this fall so we are offering it again in January! Classes will begin the first week in January but we need to order supplies in December. We are in great need of Stephen Ministers but we need enough participants to have a training session. If you are considering the call into this ministry, or if you have questions, please contact Pam Benson (855-5853) or Peggy Nelson (855-7911) as soon as possible. You will most certainly be blessed!

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS BOOKS

Children's Christmas books are now available in the library. Please take time to look over these Christmas books and take them home to read during the Christmas Season. These books do not need to be 'checked out'. When returning the books, please put in the book basket.

Be sure to pick up a **“Keep Christ in Christmas”** yard sign if you need one to place in your yard. They are located by the Welcome Center.