

# BELLA VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 27-January 2, 2016  
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Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Each Christmas, we celebrate the birth of Mary's firstborn Son. This God-man, Jesus the Christ, is both fully human and fully divine, a completely unique person in all of history. While being sent in human flesh He is the only-begotten Son of God. Jesus has two complete natures; one fully human and one fully divine. And yet, those two natures are united in one person in the God-man, Jesus. He is not two persons; He is one person. So, you ask, why is this significant?

It is awe inspiring to know that Jesus' two natures are perfectly united in His one person. Jesus is not divided. He is not two people. He is one person. His two natures are without confusion, without change, without division, and without separation. Jesus is one.

This means Jesus is one focal point for our worship. Because of this one-person union, Jesus Christ holds an unparalleled magnificence. No one person satisfies the complex longings of the human heart like the God-man. God has made the human heart in such a way that it will never be eternally content with that which is only human. We are built to be transcendent, to be eternal. St. Augustine said it so well, "God, You have created us for Yourself, and our heart is not quiet until it rests in You."

And beyond just gazing at the spectacular person of Jesus, there is also the amazing gospel-laced revelation that the reason Jesus became the God-man was *for us*. His fully human nature joined in personal union to His eternally divine nature is permanent proof that Jesus, in perfect harmony with His Father, is absolutely for us. He has demonstrated His love for us in that while we were still sinners, He took our nature to His one person and died for us.

Our Savior came into this world for a purpose: to redeem, buy back, ransom, to take the place of and save everyone. To save you. To save me. And to save those around us that don't yet know about Him. This sacrificial lamb took your place. It is Him alone that we celebrate at Christmas!

In Him, *Pastor Hass*

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## 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, Deb Roesener, Gary Hartwig, Gary Aaron, George Albers, Bev Hess, John Moldenhauer, Kay Gaudian

**Missions:** Pastor J. P. Cima—Viet Nam; Christ Lutheran—Siloam Springs; Bella Vista Presbyterian; NW Arkansas Children's Shelter

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## THANK YOU

Dear Friends: My eye surgery took place on December 16, 2015. Connie and I wish to thank you for the many prayers offered for a successful outcome. The healing process is ongoing and headed in the right direction. We thank God for His mercy. Again, thanks for your prayers.

Mike & Connie Morse

## 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*)

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## SINGLES CHRISTMAS PARTY

**TODAY from 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

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**REMINDER:** This is a reminder that, again this year, all contributions must be in **TODAY** to be counted in your 2015 contributions. The New Year's Eve offering will be counted in January.

## LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE

### LWML REMINDER



Be sure to bring your mites

**NEXT SUNDAY, January 3.**

The Mite Box will be on the kiosk.

**THE LORD'S WEEK**  
December 27--January 2, 2016

**Sunday**

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

**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. New Year's Eve Service w/communion

**Friday**

New Year's Day  
Office closed

**Saturday**

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**NEXT SUNDAY—January 3, 2016**

8:30 a.m. Divine Worship  
9:30 a.m. Fellowship  
10:45 a.m. Blended Worship w/communion  
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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.  
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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.

**Stewardship**

**THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**



“And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of Him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.” (Luke 2:38 (ESV) Notice here how giving thanks to God leads to good works (speaking about Jesus, in this case). Thankfulness toward God for all He has done for us is the foundation of a Christian life lived in godliness. For if we know all that the Lord has done for us, how can we not strive to honor Him with what we think say, and do?”

**BELLA VISTA LUTHERAN GOLF**

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



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**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!

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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.