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Church Website—[bethlehemdavey.org](http://bethlehemdavey.org)



[Bethlehem Lutheran Church - Davey](http://Bethlehem Lutheran Church - Davey)

Council president—Jeff Atkinson—402-432-6212  
Council members—Mike Unverferth, Judy Hornung,  
Jerri Daugherty, Curtis Olson, Gabe Allen

### **December Helpers**

Lector—Patty/Corey Carlson

Cleaners—Weeks 1/2—Becky Teti

Weeks 3/4—Dave and Vicki Nielsen

Ushers—Larry Pasco/Charlie Brown

Altar—Karen Brown/Ladonna Pasco

Communion Assistant—Open

Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
PO Box 96  
Davey, NE 68336

## **Bethlehem Star**



**December 2021**

### ***Advent: An Ancient Season of Hope***

Advent is an ancient Christian season. It is however younger than Easter, Pentecost, and Epiphany. Christmas was not celebrated in the early Christian church until about the mid-4<sup>th</sup> Century, whereas the others were in the second century.

The word Advent means coming. It's not a purely religious word – we might speak of the Advent of the Atomic Age, or something like that. But in the church, the coming is that of Jesus. Oh right, thinks everyone – Jesus' birth. But that's only one aspect. Jesus' birth already happened, so we're not waiting for that, although we do anticipate the celebration of it.

The other two aspects of “coming” are more important. The second coming is historically actually the most significant. Advent is a time devoted to waiting and preparing for Christ's return. The third coming may be the most important to us in the everyday – the coming of Christ into our hearts, which happens over and over again.

At one time, Advent was considered a penitential season – like Lent. It was a time for repentance, prayer, confession, and in the early church, a time of preparation for baptism.

In more recent years, the idea of waiting and preparation is still important, but it's waiting in hope. Advent is a season of hope. And don't we need that now!

This year, our Advent observation will include all of that. On Sunday mornings, we'll give a nod to the ancient church. The liturgy will include some ancient prayers and hymns. Mostly we'll listen to the ancient hymns rather than trying to sing them.

The Sunday morning scripture and messages will focus on hope. These are the scripture and message themes:

Isaiah 9:1-7 – Hope for the Future

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14 – Hope in the Moment

Ezekiel 37:1-14 – Hope When There is None

Isaiah 55:1-3 and John 1:1-18 – Hope in the Word

Wednesday evenings will be a time to turn to quiet prayer and meditation. I will also provide a link to an Advent devotional. I can provide a printed copy to anyone who wants one. There will also be some Advent calendars from Lutheran World relief available.

Whatever your December is like, I hope you will set aside time to join us as we observe this ancient season of hope.

Christ' peace,

*Pastor Kris*

## ***The Future—December 12 meeting***

After worship on December 12, we will have a special meeting. We have some different options to make the building more accessible, but we need to have a bigger conversation than that. What is our future? What do we see as our purpose in Davey?

The purpose of the meeting on the 12th won't be to make any decisions. We'll begin with something of a thought experiment—if money were no object and we could start over, what kind of building do we want? Who do we want to reach? What do we need, if anything, to make worship better? Are there other ministries we might like to offer and what would our space need to look like to do so? Then we'll look at the different options to mull over.

## ***Opportunity to Give***



This is Gedalia and Gilgaly Massawe. They are the sons of Pastor Gladness Nyange in Tanzania. Several of us from the Nebraska Synod have met Pastor Gladness in our travels to Tanzania.

Although the educational system in Tanzania has improved over the last few years, it still isn't very consistent and in some places it seems parents are still responsible for the tuition for their children to go to school.

Last year, after a plea from Pastor Gladness and communication with the head of Bethel Middle English School in Moshi, Daryl and I wired tuition money for her boys to Pr. Gladness. This was in July and the boys hadn't been able to go to school since January. This picture is of them heading off to their school after tuition was paid. (Most Tanzanian schools are boarding schools.)

She has again asked for help with next year's tuition. I'm asking those of you who might be interested for us to take this up as a project and pitch in to help. At this writing I'm waiting to hear from Pastor Gladness how much she and the boys' father will be able to help. The tuition for both boys combined is 3,000,000 Tanzanian shillings. Current exchange rate puts it at about \$1300. There will be more information forthcoming, but meanwhile please prayerfully consider this.

## ***Calendar***

Worship is also available on YouTube Live. Check the worship page on our website for the links to YouTube and to the bulletin: <http://bethlehemdavey.org/>

### **December**

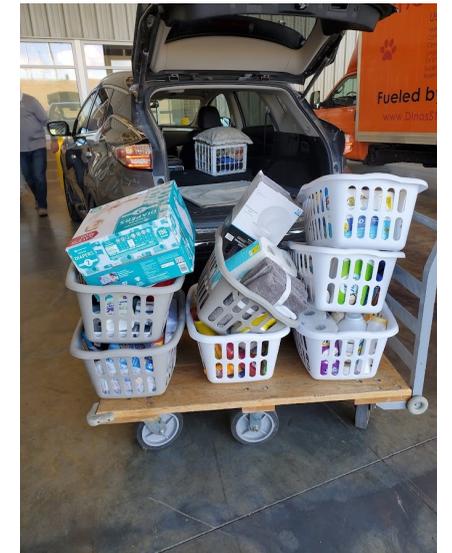
- November 28** 10:30 am—Worship—First Sunday in Advent  
**December 1** 6:00 pm—Advent Prayer service. In person and streamed on Facebook—Bethlehem Lutheran Church—Davey  
**December 5** 10:30 am—Worship with Holy Communion.  
12:00 noon—Bethlehem-Zion combined council  
**December 8** 6:00 pm—Advent Evening Prayer  
**December 12** 10:30am—Worship  
After worship—Special Congregational Meeting  
**December 15** 6:00 pm—Advent Evening Prayer  
**December 19** 10:30 am—Worship with Holy Communion  
**December 22** 6:00 pm—Advent Evening Prayer  
**December 24** 9:00 pm—Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols with Communion  
**December 26** 10:30 am—Worship

## ***Service***

Here's what Bethlehem and Zion collected for Lutheran World Relief (Lent personal hygiene kit project) and Lutheran Family Service for new refugees.



LFS and LWR collections



Delivery to Lutheran Family Svc.