



Pastor Kris—402-499-4993

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Church Website—bethlehemdavey.org



Bethlehem Lutheran Church - Davey

Remember to bring cookies for Matt Talbot prior to the second Monday of the month.



January Helpers

Lector—

Communion Assistant—Mary O’Hare

Cleaners Week 1/2—Jerri Daughterty

Week 3/4—Theresa Lackey

Usher—Jeff and Laurie Atkinson

Altar—Laurie Atkinson

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
PO Box 96
Davey, NE 68336

The Year in Review

Pastoral Acts

Funerals/Memorial Services

Mary Grendahl – March 30

John Dahl – November 26

Affirmation of Baptism

Carlos Olson, Connor Nielsen, Jace Licklitter – May 19

Education/Faith Formation

Youth/Children

During the winter 2019, we continued with All-Congregation Sunday school twice monthly under the direction of Annie Mumgaard, Vicki Nielsen and Mary O’Hare.

The confirmation class met with Pr. Kris twice a month and continued participation in All-Congregation Sunday school

With last spring’s Affirmation of Baptism, most of our kids have aged out of our traditional Sunday school age. With only two Sunday school aged kids and waning interest in the cross-generational Sunday school, we have opted to not have Sunday school this program year.

There are some resources for parents of younger kids on our website. I’m also continuing to think about ways to incorporate some cross-generational learning into worship and try to involve the kids more in worship. I’ve not done particularly well at that so far, but will keep working on it in a more intentional way. I’m open to any suggestions, ideas and so forth

This year we have had a youth group for the older kids. We meet monthly for lunch and some type of activity. My biggest goal for that is to get the kids more involved in leadership and structuring it, especially as they get older.

Next year there will again be confirmation class, mostly for the Zion kids but Makenna will be confirmation aged

There was an interactive all-age unrehearsed Christmas program followed by a potluck and gingerbread building project.

Adults

Since I don’t have confirmation this year, I’ve had a bit more time to work on some adult education. We completed a Bible study on Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians. In the winter/spring semester, I plan to have some sessions on faith and current events. There is more information about this elsewhere in the newsletter. I hope to continue at least one session of adult education per year, even when we do have confirmation

Women’s group has continued to meet monthly. We are reading *Traveling Mercies: Thoughts on Faith*, by Anne Lamott

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Lent

During Lent we focused on some spirituality practices using a collection of photographs. The sessions were loosely shaped around resources from the Nebraska Synod for the theme We Are Church Together.

Worship

We have continued using the Narrative Lectionary for worship. Worship remains a vibrant part of our life together

During Advent and at other times, I've incorporated some spirituality practices, mostly through periods of silence and some lectio divina. I plan to continue to have us practice spirituality together as a way to deepen our faith lives.

We have used Holden Evening prayer for Lent worship, in conjunction with a meal and some other learning activities. At the combined council meeting in December, there seemed to be the feeling that it's time to do something different.

Service/Giving

Our first service project of the year began with the process of purging some of the things we no longer use. Some items were sold and many were donated to the annual Saunders Medical Center auction

So far this program year we have collected items for Heroes into Homes, a program to house previously homeless veterans; we collected gifts for the Saunders Care Center "shopping" event; and we collected items for and volunteered at the Center for People in Need Toyland.

We applied for and received a \$1000 Immanuel Vision Foundation Celebration Grant. We used the money to celebrate our 70th year in the village of Davey with a display created for the occasion. We pooled most of the \$1000 with a third of our proceeds from the Potato Bake and donated \$1367 to the Lutheran Center building project on the campus of UN-L.

Leadership

The council and Pastor Kris had a retreat in the early spring. We came up with several challenges and ideas. In reviewing those from the March newsletter, we have accomplished some and not others.

Worship attendance I believe is better and we've had new people/visitors coming.

We have extended our online presence with a podcast for worship. I can usually record it Sunday morning when I practice the sermon for worship, so it's not too time consuming. I also did a podcast of our 1 Corinthians Bible study. That was more time consuming but I think helpful when people had to miss a session. I don't think anyone listened to it otherwise. I won't do a podcast for the Faith and Current events one because that will be mostly discussion. I probably need to advertise the existence of the worship podcast a bit more.

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January Calendar

January 5	10:15 am—Epiphany Worship at Grace Lutheran Church, 827 County Rd. 18, Wahoo Potluck after worship
January 12	9:45 am—youth group planning 10:30 am—Guitar Worship 11:30—Council
January 19	10:45 am —Worship with Holy Communion (note later start time due to Zion's annual meeting)
January 26	10:30 am—Worship 11:30—Annual meeting 1:30—Care Center worship

Looking Ahead

Youth group dates: January 12, February 23, March 29, April 26, June/July/August tbd

Worship at Saunders Care Center

- January 26—because of the annual meeting, we'll keep this one at the 1:30 pm time
- May 10—This is Mother's Day. I'm open to doing it in the morning but we will talk about it as it gets closer
- August 16—this will likely be at 10:30 am
- November 15—likely at 10:30 am

Adult Education dates—see insert for more detailed information

- February 2 and 16
- March 1, 15 and 22
- May 3

Ash Wednesday is February 26

Another thing that came up at the retreat was doing something with the congregation at St. Mary's. This comes up regularly...I just need to talk to the priest and do something with it

Inviting – after the retreat, we challenged everyone to invite someone to worship with us. There's no doubt people who have, at least for special services. But we haven't done very well keeping that challenge in front of people

We talked about doing something related to health either in the church or for the community or something along those lines. We haven't really addressed that yet

Christ's peace,

Pastor Kris

Faith and Current Events

In the person of Jesus, God willingly entered in to the beauty and messiness of our world. Relationships between people and the politics and policies of those relationships matter to God...to God they are all worthy of redemption. As followers of Christ, we are called to look at those policies and politics through the lens of Jesus Christ and his death and resurrection. Politics in our country right now just seem to be stuck. Are there ways we as the church should be looking at the issues facing us that might be a way forward? Join us for several Adult Education sessions, beginning in February, as we begin to discern how we are to think and talk about current issues and events as Christians. This is for anyone who is concerned about the political climate in our country, whether you are conservative, liberal, or somewhere in between.

The first two sessions will be in February:

February 2—Politics and Christian Beliefs: What is our foundation? Was Jesus political? How does the gospel impact how we think about politics? We will also lay down some ground rules for having these sorts of conversations, even when we don't all agree.

February 16—Truth: Extreme polarization in the media and social media, election interference...How do we best discern the truth, especially this election year?

Other topics will likely include immigration, climate change, poverty and economic inequality, including health care, and racism.

Images of the Christmas season



Intergenerational, Interactive No-Rehearse Christmas Program!

Thanks Annie!



Christmas Eve