

Pastor Kris—402-499-4993

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



[Bethlehem Lutheran Church - Davey](https://www.facebook.com/BethlehemLutheranChurch-Davey)

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

### **December Helpers**

Lector—open

Cleaners—Weeks 1/2—Melanie Miller  
Weeks 3/4—Theresa Lackey

Ushers—Jeff Atkinson

Altar—Laurie Atkinson

Communion Assistant—Open

Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
PO Box 96  
Davey, NE 68336

## **Bethlehem Star**



**January 2022**

### **2021 In Review**

## **Pastor's Annual Report**

### **Worship**

#### **Sunday worship**

Like 2020, 2021 was shaped in many ways by Covid. We continued Zoom only worship through February. In March we added short in person services after Zoom worship, alternating between Bethlehem and Zion. On Easter Sunday we held a joint outdoor worship with Zion at the park in Ceresco. From the rest of April on, we resumed our previous schedule of in person worship. By May, Covid numbers were decreasing and a very high vaccination rate in the congregation allowed us to resume normal worship with no masks. In person worship has nearly returned to pre-pandemic levels, but attendance had gradually declined prior to the pandemic.

#### **Online Worship**

We continued Zoom worship from Bethlehem for a few months and have switched to a YouTube livestream. According to YouTube's metrics, we pretty consistently get 8-10 views, and as high as 16-18. The 8-10 has been consistent enough, I think that's probably people who actually watch significant parts of the service, rather than the 3 second views that count as a view on YouTube.

#### **Special Services**

I did a weekly 10 minute Midweek Moment on my own Facebook Live from the beginning of the pandemic to this past summer. Prior to Lent, there would be as many as 120 views. During Lent we did a Zoom midweek service in place of that. It was poorly attended and honestly not very good. And the Midweek Moment views tanked after that. Always something to learn.

Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday were hybrid services with no singing. Because of the importance of singing in our Good Friday service, that one was Zoom only.

In Advent I offered a short evening prayer service on Wednesdays. In person attendance was around 4 or 5 and there were 40 – 60 views on Facebook. This is worth doing again. I used the church's Facebook page to try to better reach the Davey Community than I might using my own page.

Christmas Eve service was well attended both in person and on the livestream.

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## Pastoral Acts

**Baptism** – June 27, Baptism Brinley Taylor

**Funeral** – September 29, Elaine Hansen

**Non-member funeral** – May 14, Roger Dahl

## Service

We had two Lent projects. One was taking financial donations for Lutheran Family Service's Rally 4 Kids. The second was collecting items for Lutheran World Relief hygiene kits. These were shipped during the November Lutheran World Relief Ingathering

We collected household items for Lutheran Family Service for the Afghan refugee families they will be resettling

Several of us participated in the Center for People in Need Toyland and we collected diapers for CPIN's diaper bank.

We have collected money to pay the tuition for two Tanzanian boys to go to school

The Little Free Pantry (built by Larry Pasco) has been kept stocked with food throughout the year. The pantry does get used. We switched from having gift cards in the pantry to having them available on request.

The Potato Bake was not held again this year because of Covid

## Education

This has gotten short-shrift during the pandemic. A colleague and I have been leading an Anti-racist Book group. This is open to anyone but we have had some participants from the congregation. In the coming year, I do plan to get some adult education options going again. I'm not sure yet what topics we'll look at. We had started a Faith and Current Events series before the pandemic, but I'm not sure that's where we'll continue to go. Anything we do will likely be a hybrid format with both in person and Zoom options.

## Accessibility Conversation

On December 12 we had a special meeting to discuss our future. The conversation was triggered by building accessibility concerns, but was placed within a broader conversation about our future and in what way we might better serve the community of Davey.

It was a helpful conversation. It won't be the last one. My sense is that the next step is to assess the needs and wants of the community. There are things happening in Davey that I've not seen in the time I've been here – some good community efforts with the park renovation and a social committee that put together a Christmas event that hosted over 50 kids with their families. What we do with our building will be very different if it's just for us than if we also take into consideration the community's needs. The council and I will discuss this at the January meeting, but I think conversation with some of these community organizers will likely be our next step.

## 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

**January 2** 10:30 am—Worship with Holy Communion.

**January 9** 10:30am—Epiphany Worship at Grace Lutheran Church, Swedeburg  
Potluck to follow

**January 16** **10:45 am**—Worship , Holy Communion—**note late start time for Zion annual meeting**  
Church council following worship

**January 23** 10:30 am—Worship  
Annual meeting after worship

**January 30** 10:30—Worship

## Nebraska Synod News

Many of you may know this, but Nebraska Synod's Bishop Brian Maas is resigning to take a position with the Immanuel Vision Foundation. This means there will be bishop nominations in the months to come and a bishop election at the Synod Assembly, June 2–4, 2022.

The bishop nominating process includes representatives from congregations. It's also an important year to be represented at the Synod Assembly. Please prayerfully consider being a part of this process.