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Consider the following story by James Massey in light of God’s gift of Jesus to us.

“I was browsing in a book department while waiting in a shopping center for my wife to complete her shopping. I happened to overhear a young wife pleading with her husband: "Here is something you could give to your dad for Christmas." Her tone sounded final and weary, as if the couple had been searching for some time. I turned, somewhat casually, and took a sidelong glance. The husband drew near and examined the object she lifted to his view, an excellently crafted model ship done in hand-carved wood.

The young man grabbed for the price tag, then acted stunned as he blurted out, "Ugh! Thirty-five dollars!" Then with a scowl, he snapped, "He's not worth that much." I shuddered, wondering what the father had done to spoil the son's regard for him.

How much is a father worth? How much is a son or a daughter worth? This son was hurting inside from something his father had or had not done toward him. Now, in his search for a cheap gift, he was betraying his own cheap view of his father's worth. That son did not feel valued, so he was unwilling to confer value.

If only that young man had known his worth in the sight of God! If only he could have forgiven his father! If he could find release from his feelings, he could be an agent of love to make his father sense his worth.

How much are you worth? Perhaps you don’t feel worth much. Maybe you feel that way because of life’s failures, or a poor job performance, or a person of influence in your life that has said you don’t amount to much of anything. Well, hear these words:

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord!" Luke 2:11

Those words say to you and me, “You are worth much to me. I love you.” That is the message you and I and the rest of the world need to hear this Christmas. When God went shopping he picked out exactly what we needed—Himself! Jesus is God’s gift to us; to be our Savior from sin; to give new life and purpose for living. And have us understand that in God’s eyes, we are priceless.

Rejoicing in God’s Gift with you,
Pastor Russ
Greetings from Bethany Council

“Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9  We can be courageous in all we do with God on our side!

Bethany Senior Pastor: On Nov 17, Bethany congregation called Pastor Andrew Roettjer. Call documents were sent. Pray for Pastor Roettjer, his family, & his congregation as they consider the call. Thanks to Pastor Russ Hess for intentional interim ministry (Typical office hours: Monday & Wednesday)

Outreach: Bethany schools reach families with Jesus love in the classroom and in Chapel: K-8: 108, PS: 73. Watch for future Bible studies: Fearless, parenting, personal finance. Your personal invitation can help friends & school families learn about Jesus love for them. Thanks to Kevin Shaw leading Bethany youth: details in weekly bulletins & Breeze. Thanks to Regina Brown for teaching Bethany Sunday School. Thanks to Janine Browne working with Life Touch on Bethany directory. Talk to Janine to include your photo in case you missed the sessions. Talk to Hew Hesterman to help with outreach.

Property Planning: Vacaville approved conditions of approval for new Ulatis PS building. Terra Realty Advisors (TRA), Bethany property planning, MADI architects, Swank Construction, IC Engineering Geotech, Phillippi Structural, & Clabaugh Landscape Design work to prepare complete permit drawings. Construction cost estimate: ~$3.4MM. Bethany may construct in affordable phases (1 to 3 buildings in phase 1) depending on insurance $ & fund raising efforts. Council is working with RealtyOneGroup to determine how best to market 2 Orchard houses that could be sold or leased to help fund new PS building (existing condition value ~$600K-700K depending on buyers).

Orchard Preschool building fire restoration progress: Church Mutual Insurance rejected Bethany’s latest claim. Council contacted Bethany insurance broker who reopened discussion with Church Mutual. Insurance payout is insufficient to rebuild due to contractors unwilling to accept the liability to build on existing foundation or join new roof with the existing north classroom roof (as the insurance payout stipulates). Estimates are higher to remove all & build from scratch. Meanwhile, council is obtaining demolition cost estimates. Contractors suggest: demolish the burned building, leave slab in place (maintains area impervious), & move data connection weather head to the roof of a new water proof shed mounted on the slab over the existing electrical room for data, electrical, & sprinkler service.

Stewardship: God works in amazing ways to bless Bethany congregation & keep His work going forward. A Bethany member who provided $10K: $3K for 100% match from the established $3K matching fund & $7K for new matching fund! Read GoBethany.com, Sunday bulletins, Breeze, & Eagle to learn what’s happening in Bethany Ministries & to plan your participation. Thanks for putting the work of Christ first in your plans. Thanks to Michelle Aas (bookkeeper), Curt Johnston, & Ron Shively, for sending required quarterly financials to US Bank. Talk to Curt Johnston to help with Bethany stewardship efforts.

Property maintenance: Volunteers donate materials, work hard & are appreciated. Ulatis: HVAC filters replaced by Mike McCall. Doug Connor, Mike, Darrol Wilson & Hew Hesterman moved an empty shed form Orchard to Ulatis & stored extra desks & chairs out of the weather. Orchard: Thanks to Hew Hesterman, Mike McCall, Darrol Wilson, Doug Connor, & Ron Shively for removing debris from yards, roofs, rain gutters, & downspouts. Thanks to Mike & Ron for chalking, sealing, & painting external church beams, repair of fire charred fascia on fellowship hall, sealing rain gutters, & painting fascia. Contact Mike McCall to help with maintenance & projects.

Business Manager: Council is composing a business manager job description. In the meantime, council is managing work flow & records retention: special thanks to Natalie Hart, Michelle Aas, Diane Irby, Curt Johnston, & Ron Shively.

Reporting for your church council,
Ron Shively – President, Shawn Sanborn – Vice President, Carole Wilson - Secretary
As we start a new church year, the first season we observe is the season of Advent. The word Advent is a noun and is a version of the Latin word meaning coming. The coming arrival of a notable person, thing or event.

For Christians, the coming event we anticipate is twofold. The first coming is the commemoration of our Lord and Savior’s birth over 2000 years ago. The second coming we anticipate is Christ’s second coming on the last day.

We use the four weeks of Advent to prepare for the celebration of Christ’s birth and to prepare our hearts for His second coming.

For the people in the Old Testament, there were many verses in scripture that pointed to or helped prepare the people to recognize the coming Messiah. Unfortunately, many of the people did not recognize Jesus as the Messiah. Even though they had the Word of God in Scripture, they were not prepared for His coming. They were looking for a Messiah who would come as an earthly king who would free them from their Roman occupiers.

In the New Testament, many verses are recorded where Jesus speaks about his second coming at the end times. He warns his followers and us to be prepared for His return as we know not the hour or the day.

As we prepare to celebrate Jesus’s birth, it is easy to get caught up in the secular aspects of the celebration and forget that Jesus is the reason for the season. We also need to take some time and make sure we are prepared if God calls us home thru our death, or if He comes back to earth at His second coming as He has promised on Judgement day.

We encourage everyone to take some extra time this Advent season in preparation by taking advantage of the following: pick up an Advent devotional and spend a small portion of your day reading the devotion for the day, attend the weekly Wednesday Advent services at noon or 6:30pm on December 4th, 11th or 18th, and as always attending Sunday worship services is critical for our walk of faith.

May God richly bless your preparation this Advent season.
Your Bethany Elders
Capturing Joy in a Crowded Season…doesn’t that sound like the impossible dream during Christmas? Look around us, we are already crowded.

Holiday magazines call us to cook special holiday foods, decorate our tables and our homes.
TV – Christmas programs that promise to be the “best one” ever, you can’t miss it!
Stores – bursting with sales, rebates, merchandise that you need to buy for all those on your “list.” Lists – how long are your lists? How many lists do you have” How many times have you lost your lists?
Gifts – how are you doing on that list? Have you figured out the perfect gift for each person? Christmas card list? Did you write a special note in each one or include a family newsletter?

Are you overwhelmed yet? And we haven’t even talked about your grocery list yet! It is a crowded season, especially for us women. There are other things that crowd our season, also.
Things like:
Tension…Painful relationships…Discord in the family…Separation between family members.
Fear…Loss of a job…Loss of income…Trying to sell a house.
Health issues overwhelming you, yours or someone close to you.
Memories of past Christmases…either good or bad.

This is a crowded season…for all of us.

Jesus was born into a crowded world…There were so many people, that Caesar Augustus wanted to count them. Imagine the traffic on the roads, with everyone trying to get “home” for the census. Picture the lines that they had to stand in to fill out the forms. Where would they get food or clothes or a doctor?
When you see pictures of people sleeping in the airports during the holidays, the immense number of travelers, think of the world Christ was born into. A world crowded with people. There were too many people in Bethlehem…too many for Mary and Joseph to find a hotel. The inn had too many people. It was too crowded to give them a room. Yet, into this crowded space and time, Jesus comes and is born. His birth brings “great joy for all people!”

Our joy does not come from the absence of a crowded season! We will not be insulated from the crowded, frantic Christmas season, we will live in the middle of it.

Capturing Christmas Joy…Read the book of Luke. If you read one chapter each day, beginning on December 1st, you will finish on Christmas Eve. Just in time to make room for the Baby Jesus! Merry CHRISTmas to all!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Christmas Meeting – December 7th – We will be meeting at 10:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. We will be filling the CMF Children’s toy bags, holding our cookie exchange, filling cookie boxes for the shut-ins and in case we need to fit in more, we will have lunch too! Please mark your calendars and join us for a busy, but fun day!

MONDAY NIGHT WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY – “Balance, Christ Filled Living.” Terri Denton hosts the study in her home at 521 Walnut Avenue, Vacaville. This is a great time to get to know other ladies while learning God’s word. Please join us!

MITE CHALLENGE – April 2018-March 2020 - Our district list of mission grants for 2018-2020 totals 100,000. Bethany’s mite challenge is $3,100. We are over halfway through the two-year challenge and Bethany is on target to meet our goal! The progress board is posted in the Narthex and the grants are on the LWML bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. The first 13 grants have been paid! Please fill those Mite Boxes and continue God’s wondrous work! Keep up the great work!!
Praise God daily and encourage a fellow sister in Christ through the spoken word, cards, emails and prayers!

Carole Wilson – LWML President
December 1, 2019
Advent 1 SA
Isaiah 2:1-5
Romans 13:11-14
Matthew 24:36-44

“The Best Kind of Insomnia”

Many of us suffering from insomnia. Whether it’s biological, emotional, psychological, or whatever—we find ourselves tossing and turning almost every night. What do you do to try to sleep? In this context we can be challenged by Jesus’ words to “stay awake.” But, Lord we want to get some sleep. How can we develop the best kind of insomnia—the kind that eagerly waits for Him?

December 8, 2019
Advent 2 SA
Isaiah 11:1-10
Romans 15:4-13
Matthew 3:1-12

“Prepare the Way”

How do people get your attention? A pat on the shoulder? A loud “ahem!” An “excused me...” How does God get our attention? John the Baptist was able to grab people’s attention. Was it his camel hair outfit or diet of grasshoppers, or was it his message. Advent 2 brings his message we all need to hear as we await the coming of Christ.

December 15, 2019
Advent 3
Isaiah 35:1-10
James 5:7-11
Matthew 11:2-15

“How Much Longer, Dad?”

Remember those cross country trips you took as a kid? After backing out of the driveway and barely going a few miles you would ask impatiently from the back seat, “how much longer, Dad?” We can ask a question like that to God. How much longer God will I have to wait---for Christ to return, for this problem to go away, for this trial to stop. Our beautiful passage from Isaiah 35 assures us our King is coming with his grace and presence.
December 22, 2019
Advent 4 SA
Isaiah 7:10-17
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-25

“Your Dreams Have Come True!”

What was your dream for your life as a child/young adult? Maybe it came to fruition, maybe not. Today we celebrate the dream that Joseph had. His dreams seemed to be shattered. But then he had a dream that better than one can imagine!

December 24, 2019
Christmas Eve
Christmas Story Scriptures

“This Baby Changes Everything”

First time parents can attest to the reality of experiencing a newborn and how that, with joy and challenge, can change everyday life. How about the baby Jesus? How can and how does He change our everyday lives knowing Him as Immanuel, God with us.

December 25, 2019
Christmas Day
Assorted Christmas Scriptures

“Distances”

Perhaps you had some friends and relatives travel many miles to come to be with you this Christmas season. Just traveling that long way says to you that you are loved and wanted. How about the distance Jesus traveled? Was it in miles? Or how much distance did He have to travel to be our Savior?
Preschool Praises

December

Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:11

Preschool is buzzing with activity!

December 4th, Bethany Preschool will participate once again in the Children's Craft Corner at the Festival of the Trees at the Vacaville Ice Skating Center from 3:30-5:00. Come by and get your Reindeer food.

December 6th, from 6:00-7:00pm, we will join with the Ulatis campus for milk and cookies with Santa. Jammies optional! I received word from Santa that his reindeer are ready to make the journey from the North Pole. We will also travel to Bethlehem December 18 & 19 during our regular school day to visit the manger and celebrate Jesus' birthday. December 19th, we will have our Christmas program at the Orchard Campus.

Rejoicing with you in the miracle of Christmas!

Chapel with Pastor Russ is always fun! He can do magic too!!!
Thanksgiving Feast Fun! We sang songs, went on a parade, and ate Chicken Nuggets, Mac-n-Cheese, and apple slices with caramel dip!
November was an exciting month for Bethany Youth Ministry! Let's go through everything we did. We wrapped up the Wreath Fundraiser and on December 8th we will be distributing them all to everyone. If you have not yet purchased your wreath we will have extra ones for sale. The money we raised from them will continue to help the youth ministry and we are purchasing some microphone headsets for the puppet plays.

On November 2nd we participated in the LWML Craft Fair and put on some puppet plays for the kids and helped with the craft fair. The kids loved the plays and we got in some good practice and helped out eh LWML. Speaking of puppets...In December the Puppets will be back during the December 15th Christmas Sermon and on Christmas Eve there will be a special performance of them. Don’t miss the Puppets!!

On November 6th and 20th we started our Middle School Youth Group at Bethany Lutheran School. We had between 6–10 kids show up! We started to learn all about Youth Group and about each other. We played some games, ate some yummy snacks and learned more about God and ourselves. A thank you goes out to Devon Duncan, Paden Duncan and Barbara Herman who are doing a terrific job in running the group. If you know of any middle school kids, please let them know about our new youth group. You do not have to go to Bethany to attend.

Our Monthly Youth Group event was on November 10th where we helped out the Bethany Lutheran School in making two four square courts. We learned that we can actually use math and the Pythagorean Theorem in real life! We measured a few times to make sure the court was square. We spent a lot of time making sure everything was straight and then we painted the lines. It took a while but it turned out really nice. The kids now have two courts that they can play four square on. We also did some yard clean-up in raking up some of the leaves around the school. Dr. Smith was really appreciative in what we did. That is what it is all about, giving back to the community in honor of god!

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**Bethany Youth Ministry Event Calendar**

Bible Study - Every Sunday Morning from 9:00 am

Middle School Youth Group December 4th and 18th from 3:00 pm – 4:30 PM Bethany School

December 8th – Honor God Event – Volley Ball / Games at Fellowship hall w/ another Youth Group 1 pm – 5 pm

December 15th – Children’s Sermon – Puppets

January 19th – Honor God Event -Locked-In 6:00 pm – 2:00 am
**Bethany Lutheran School’s New Four Square Courts**

Thank you SO MUCH to the Bethany Youth Group for giving us our wonderful 4 Square Courts! The kids love using them!!!!
Order your Christmas Poinsettias today!
Order forms are in the Narthex with the flower sign ups!
$10 per plant. Please make sure to mark if you want to pick up your plant or gift to a shut in.

2020 Alter Flower Sign Ups are now in the Narthex! Get your special dates today! $25 is due at the time of signing up please for each date chosen.
# Worship Assistant Schedule December 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday Services</th>
<th>12/1/2019 10:00 AM</th>
<th>12/8/2019 10:00 AM</th>
<th>12/15/2019 10:00 AM</th>
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<tr>
<td>Elder Worship Assistant</td>
<td>Don Henrich, Rich Dabbert-assist</td>
<td>Rick Martinez</td>
<td>Jerry Miller, Bob Johnston-assist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ushers</td>
<td>Doug Conner, Marv Braa, Spencer Anthony and Devon Duncan</td>
<td>Allen Owens, Carol Ruiz, James Quashnick and Paden Duncan</td>
<td>Sandy Anderson, Kevin Shaw, Keith and Rose Kondo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lay Reader</td>
<td>Carol Schmidt</td>
<td>Theo Browne</td>
<td>Howard Scully</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greeters</td>
<td>Wingard’s</td>
<td>Libby Skinner</td>
<td>Kaye Grundmann</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acolyte</td>
<td>Rachael Nichols and Dani Johnson</td>
<td>Rick Martinez</td>
<td>Veronica Shaw and Tyler Simmons</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prayer Team</td>
<td>Sue Henrich</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Shively’s</td>
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<tr>
<td>A/V Team</td>
<td>Celi’s</td>
<td>Duncan’s</td>
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<th>Sunday Services</th>
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<td>Jim Witt, Lance Langhorst-assist</td>
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<td>Allen Owens, James Quashnick, Barbara Herman and Leland Hesterman</td>
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<td>Lay Reader</td>
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<td>Nigel Browne</td>
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<td>Betty Olson</td>
<td>Barbara Herman</td>
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<td>Acolyte</td>
<td>Don Fortin</td>
<td>Veronica Shaw and Dani Johnson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prayer Team</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Martinez’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A/V TEAM</td>
<td>Browne’s</td>
<td>Duncan’s</td>
</tr>
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O Tannenbaum
Mid-Week Advent Worship

December 4, 11, and 18th
Noon (with Luncheon) and 6:30pm

Beautiful advent hymns, biblical prophecies, dramatic dialogues, special advent prayers, and illustrations that connect with our lives, will make these services especially meaningful this year.

Take a break out of this busy season to rejoice in our coming savior and join others in worship and praise to our Advent King Jesus.

The service themes are: “How Eagerly We Await You”; “You Lift Our Eyes to Heaven”; and, “How Fragrant Green Your Branches.”

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2019 Statistical Report
November 3, 2019 to November 24, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week #</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Worship Attendance</th>
<th>Communion</th>
<th>Weekly Totals—Adult Bible Class</th>
<th>Weekly Giving (General Offering)</th>
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<td>11/3</td>
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<td>136</td>
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<td>11/24</td>
<td>123</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>$</td>
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</table>

Average Weekly Worship Attendance for Current Calendar Year: 135
God’s Blessings On You!

Birthday Bunch Lunch at BJ’s Restaurant 12/10 at 11:30am
Please RSVP to Shirley Helmich by Monday 12/9

Alexis Martinez
Charles Rice
Eric Helton
Douglas Conner
Roger Mathews
Gunnar Unverferth
Sherry Campbell
Sophia Ruiz
Audrey Penny
Sarah Machetta
Renee Chervinskas
Kenneth Celli
DeBrina Sanchez
William Nichols
Bentley Kibler
John Orcher
Rosemary Quinn
Trevor Unverferth
Victoria Nichols
Rachael Nichols
Diane Nunes
Amelia Weiss
Lindsey Cole
Jordyn Jamison
Tara Strickland
Jonathan Schupp
Meleah Fields
Annelise Tarango
Jenna Goodson
Paul Kibler
Edward McPadden
Frederick Lally

December 02
December 03
December 06
December 08
December 08
December 08
December 09
December 10
December 11
December 12
December 15
December 16
December 16
December 17
December 18
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December 20
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December 21
December 23
December 23
December 24
December 25
December 25
December 26
December 27
December 27
December 31
Bethany Lutheran Church

Church Council Meeting ........................................................................... Dec. 2nd
Advent Service at 12pm & 6:30pm .............................................................. Dec. 4th
All Schools Christmas Tree Lighting @ BLS 6-7pm ............................... Dec. 6th
LWML Christmas Luncheon ................................................................. Dec. 7th
LWML meeting ...................................................................................... Dec. 8th
ELDER meeting ...................................................................................... Dec. 8th
The Birthday Bunch @ BJs ........................................................................ Dec. 10th
Advent Service at 12pm & 6:30pm .............................................................. Dec. 11th
BLS Christmas Program 6pm @ VPAT .................................................. Dec. 16th
Advent Service at 12pm & 6:30pm .............................................................. Dec. 18th
Preschool Christmas Programs 6pm & 7pm ........................................... Dec. 19th
Christmas Eve Service 7 pm ............................................................... Dec. 24th
Christmas Day Service 10am ................................................................. Dec. 25th

Church Services at Bethany Lutheran Church

Sunday Services: 10 am Variety of Traditional and Contemporary (Communion 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays)

Bible Studies at Bethany

Sunday 9:00 am Sunday School—Classes for Everyone
Adult Bible Studies Facilitated by Pastor Hess
Monday 7:00 pm Women’s Bible Study - Denton Home
Wednesday 9:30 am Bible Study “Psalms” - Narthex
5:00 pm “Ephesians” by Pastor Rittenbach