

WELCOME TO BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcome

In the name of Jesus Christ, we welcome you as we gather to hear God's holy Word and celebrate the meal of Holy Communion. We are blessed by your presence. As God welcomes all people through the saving grace of Jesus, so do we seek to welcome all God's people to be together in Christ – to love, to grow, and to serve.

Should you have no church home, you are invited to consider Bethany. If you have questions for the pastor or church office, please call at 630.879.3444 or visit our website at www.bethanybatavia.org. Welcome!

Children's Resources

Children's worship bulletins are available in the narthex and from the ushers.

Nursery

While not yet staffed, the nursery is open for parents who may find it helpful. The nursery is located on the sanctuary level, where you will find a changing table, rocking chair and some toys. You can still hear the worship service through a speaker in the room. Ask an usher if you need assistance.

Cell Phones and Pagers

Please silence all cell phones and pagers. Thank you.

Flowers

Today's Altar Flowers are given by Katie and Mike Carter in celebration of Ellie Carter's 16th Birthday. The rose on the Altar is in celebration of the birth of Emilia Autumn, parents are Michael & Brittany Boland, Grandmother is Karen Boland, Big Brother is Luca and Big Sister is Ilaria.

Holy Communion

In Holy Communion the crucified and risen Christ is present, giving his true body and blood as food and drink. All baptized Christians are invited to the table where Christ himself is host. If you desire to be baptized, or to learn more about Holy Baptism, please speak to the pastor.

As We Gather:

Questions riddle through our Gospel today, from both John the Baptist and Jesus himself. This questioning follows a theme of expectation: is this who we expected to see? Expectations abound during Advent. Kids expect a grand Christmas morning, and adults expect to make it so. We expect the best from people, yet often find everyone stressed out. We expect to feel different; it's Christmas, after all! We expect Jesus, but we may not readily see him anywhere. The answers to the questions in our Gospel lead us out of our expectations to focus on what is actually in front of us. John the Baptist isn't some powerful and influential leader the people may have expected; he is a rather strange prophet with a message of preparation for new life in the Messiah. Jesus isn't doing what John expected, so Jesus points out what's really going on: the blind see, the deaf hear, the lame walk, the dead are raised. This is what Jesus was doing and promises still to do. This is what the Messiah comes to reveal to the world—that right in front of us, the gifts of mercy, love, and light are found. Right in front of us, our expectations meet the holy reality of God's plan to save us from our sin and ourselves.

+ GATHERING +

PRELUDE: Variations on "On Jordan's Bank"

Arr. Hopson

We stand.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- P God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone.

 Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C Amen.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

- P Gracious God,
- We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin.

 We are truly sorry and humbly repent.

 In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do.

 Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- P God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace we have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.

 Almighty God strengthen us with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in our hearts through faith.
- C Amen.

Amen.



Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen
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APOSTOLIC GREETING

- P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C And also with you.

KYRIE



LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. Your prophets spoke of a day when the desert would blossom and waters would break forth in the wilderness.

 Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath.

 Strengthen our hearts as we prepare for the coming of the Lord.

 May he give water to all who thirst, for he is our light and our salvation.

 Blessed be God forever.

C Amen.

We sit.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING SONG: Go Light Your World

Chris Rice

There is a candle in ev'ry soul; some brightly burning, and some dark and cold. And there is a Spirit Who brings a fire, ignites a candle and makes His home. Carry your candle, run to the darkness, seek out the helpless, confused and torn. And hold out your candle for all to see it. Take your candle and go light your world. Take your candle and go light your world.

+ WORD +

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1–10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

³Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,

with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." ⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; 6then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert: 7the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. ⁹No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness,

and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

- L Word of God, word of life.
- C Thanks be to God.

THE MAGNIFICAT: Tell Out My Soul

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord! Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice; Tender to me the promise of his word; In God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his Name! Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done; His mercy sure, from age to age the same; His holy Name, the Lord, the Mighty One.

Walter Greatorex

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.
Proud hearts and stubborn will are put to flight,
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
To children's children and forevermore!

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith

SECOND READING: James 5:7–10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

- L Word of God, word of life.
- C Thanks be to God.

We stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW #168

The choir sings the Alleluia the first time, congregation repeats



- L Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.
- C Repeat Alleluia

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2–11

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.
- C Glory to you, O Lord.

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

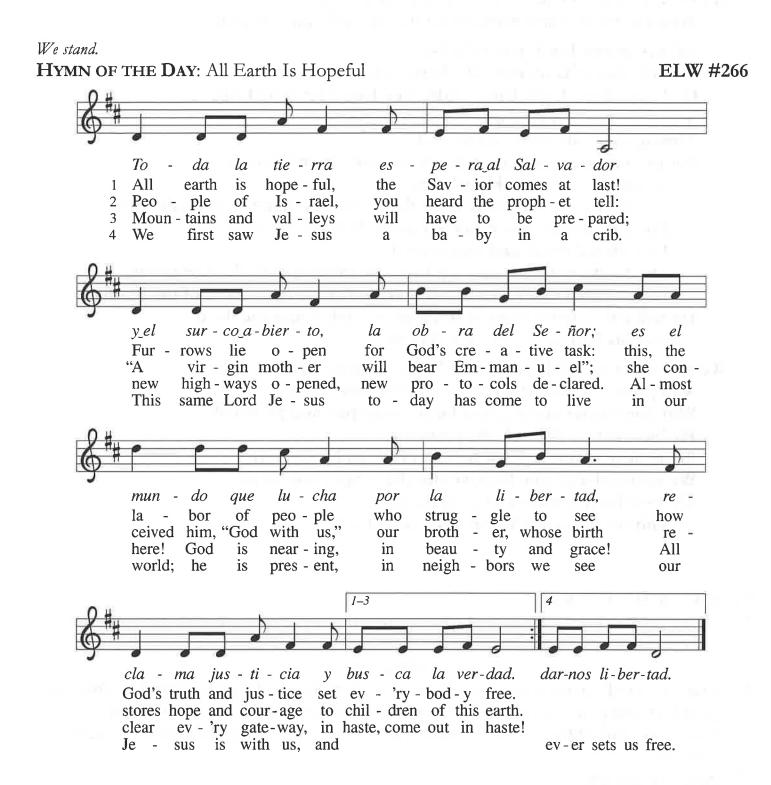
⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,

who will prepare your way before you.'

¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

- P The Gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to you, O Christ.



NICENE CREED

- P Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:
- C We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;

by the power of the Holy Spirit

he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

A brief silence.

- A Gracious God, we rejoice in the gifts of your Spirit. Equip the global church to magnify your love and peace in every land. We pray for the work of the Lutheran World Federation and ELCA Global Mission, and all other missions of the church. God, in your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.

- A Abundant God, we rejoice in your creation. Revive lands we have squandered and depleted. Make gardens flourish in cities and neighborhoods. Cleanse polluted air and water so living things may breathe, drink, and praise you. God, in your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- A Righteous God, we rejoice in your justice. End racism and oppression. Deliver all who are unjustly imprisoned or persecuted. Reconcile nations and peoples in conflict (regions in turmoil may be named). Help us to pray for our enemies. God, in your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- A Healing God, we rejoice in your compassion. Comfort any in distress because of worry, illness, or loss. Strengthen and protect health care workers, rescue teams, crisis counselors, and all who risk themselves to keep others safe. God, in your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- A Abiding God, we rejoice in your company. Give us calm and patient hearts as we gather with family and friends. Keep us mindful of those for whom this season is not happy. Console the grieving and surround them with loving support. God, in your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- A Faithful God, we rejoice with Mary, Mother of our Lord, and with all the saints, that your mercy endures for all generations. Look with favor on those who have died, especially Richard Franzen and David Smith, and lead us to joyfully sing of your everlasting promises. God, in your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

- P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, Trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C Amen.

+ MEAL +

We sit.

OFFERING MUSIC: Be Thou My Vision

Arr. Hopson

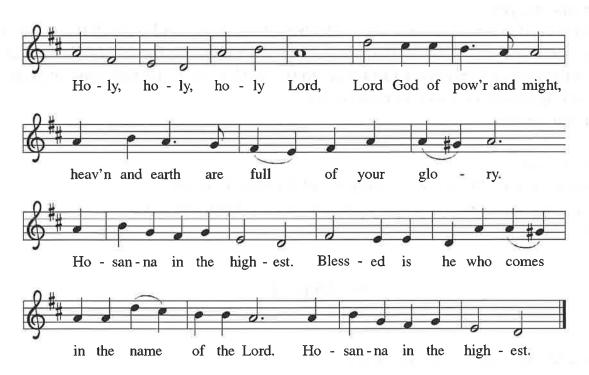
We stand.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

- A Let us pray. God of abundance,
- C we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Lift up your hearts.
- C We lift them to the Lord.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C It is right to give God thanks and praise.
- P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever-living God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



P Holy God, the Creator who has chosen to live amongst His created, we praise you for creating the universe and all its wonder.

In our moments of both cruelty and despair, you have always remained by our side.

And at this end of all the ages,

your Son Jesus came to show us your love in living flesh.

On the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await his coming again in righteousness and peace.

Send your Spirit on us and on this bread and wine that we share: strengthen our faith, increase our hope, and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

- C Amen.
- P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:
- C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

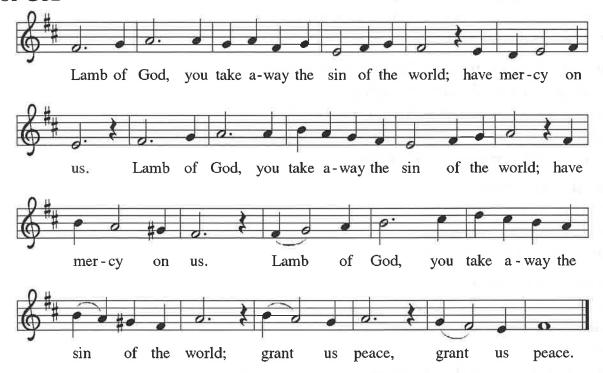
Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

- P These are the gifts of God for the people of God.
- C Thanks be to God.
- P All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Come, for all is now ready.

LAMB OF GOD



COMMUNION

Our Lord Jesus Christ welcomes you to this meal of the baptized. The crucified and risen Christ is present in the Lord's Supper, giving us his true body and blood as food and drink.

Gluten-FREE rice wafers are available upon request and for those desiring it, non-alcoholic wine cups are in the center of the tray.

MUSIC FOR THE COMMUNION

HYMN: He Comes to Us as One Unknown

ELW #737



- si lence lie He comes when souls in and thoughts of
- sound of seas, the o - cean's fume and He comes to us in
- once he came by flesh and blood and He love comes in as
- is grown; be lieved, o beved, a -He truth when faith comes in



heard; as though with - in a heart of stone, or part; half - seen up - on the in - ward eye, small and still foam; yet up - on the breeze, a birth; to bear with - in our mor - tal frame a dored; the Christ in all scrip - tures shown, as the

shriv-eled seed in fall - ing star a wind that stirs the life, a death, a un - seen, but yet



pulse of be - ing stirred, a pulse of be-ing stirred. dark-ness sown, a night with-in the heart, of night with-in the heart. cross the sky of tops of trees, a voice to call us home, a voice to call us home. earth, for ev - 'ry child of earth. say - ing name, for ev - 'ry child of not un-known, our Sav-ior and our Lord, our Sav-ior and our Lord.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926 Music: REPTON, C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918 Text © 1984 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

HYMN: He Came Down ELW #253



1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;

- 2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
- 3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
- 4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;

he came down that we may have light;

he came down that we may have peace;

he came down that we may have joy;

hal-le-lu-jah for-ev-er-more.

Text: Cameroon traditional

Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional

We stand.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER

- P May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in his grace.
- C Amen.
- A Let us pray. God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C Amen.

+ SENDING +

BENEDICTION

- P Almighty God: Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever.
- C Amen.



Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965 Music: BESANÇON, French carol

Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates.

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Share the Good News! Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: "Wachet Auf"

Arr. Walther

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Jeffrey Mikyska, Presiding Minister Mark Waldron, Assisting Minister Alan Spear, Organist Leonard Wray, Reader Fred Holch, Todd Toles, A/V Carol Thomassen, Norma Pieratt, Altar Guild Laina Ariola, Nora Storaasli, Acolytes Ralph Beck, Jon Habegger, Ushers Mark Waldron, Andrea Gustafson, Doug Boehm, Comm Asst's Festival Choir

STAFF

Jeffrey Mikyska, Senior Pastor
Mark Waldron, Director of Music
Alan Spear, Organist
Steven Ritter, Visitation Pastor
Darlene Hutchens, Church Administrator
Susan Jarocki, Administrative Assistant
Ed McQuillan, Financial Secretary
Emma Hess, Youth Director

YOUR CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

Todd Toles, President Alan Spear, Vice President Doug Boehm, Secretary Steve Mickelson, Treasurer Karol Clark Aidan Garrity Brad Hirt Pastor Jeff Mikyska Jackie Page Kathy Richmond Mia Rusev Ed Schalk Marsha Schuster

If you have questions or concerns for members of the Church Council you're invited to speak with them personally or via email to council@bethanybatavia.org.

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LET US PRAY...

Lynne Morrow

We pray for all who are hospitalized in our greater community and for those who are serving them.

Please pray for those who are part of the life of Bethany who struggle with illness and other concerns: Mary Bradtmueller, Robert Granquist, Deb Hruby, Anna Jackson, Karin Johnston, Luke & Diane Land, Bill

Lechnick, Bob Novy, Louise Pruitt, JoAnn Sargent, Val Schalk, George & Shirley Striedl, Pat Sullivan

Please pray for those who are homebound and those in a care facility:

Mark Anderson Silverado Memory Care, St Charles

Lois Elfstrom Aurora, IL
Bill Keele Heritage Woods
Pam Klingberg Heritage Woods

Wanda Krentz Harry J. Ekstam, Holmstad Mildred Miller Reserve of Geneva, Geneva

Joan Olson Michaelsen Health Center, Holmstad

Pat Quast Asbury Gardens

Jay & Carol Wierz Harry J. Ekstam, Holmstad

Please pray for all those serving in the military, especially those who are connected to our congregation.

Please pray for our family and friends:

Jeffrey CampbellNephew of Nan PhillipsKate and FamilyFriend of John & Karol ClarkDamon SchultzSon-in-Law of Shyla Carbone

Sue S.

Sue S.

Son-in-Law of Shyla Carbon
Friend of Bob & Sue Novy
Nicole

Friend of Linda Sullivan

Alice Hendrikson Friend of Lynn & Bill Dreymiller

Bigby Suddarth Friend of Allie Mikyska

Mary Rasori Sister-in-Law of Brian & Tara Shannon
Maureen Scollon Friend of Lois Benson & Dottie White

Lauren HansonSupervisor of Janice ReynoldsJaylene LumppAcquaintance of Janice ReynoldsPam PaszottaSister of Tom & Dee SchumanSenaida StaffordNiece of Tom & Dee SchumanEmilyFriend of Tom & Dee Schuman

Chris Sidler Friend of Luke & Diane Land

Tina Motter Sister of Jackie Page
Derek McGrath Friend of Sue & Bob Novy
Lisa Friend of Beth Richard

John Son of Jan Bristow

Lynn Krambeer Stoddard Cousin of Pastor Jeff & Gail Mikyska

HeatherFriend of Schuman FamilyGretchen VanKempemaDaughter of Ann HolchLoy WilliamsFriend of Ann & Fred HolchRyan AndersonSon of Aaron Anderson

Linda Raish Friend of Kathy Richmond & Sandy Conn

Vic and Anne Lee Friends of Debbie Garrison

Friend and Colleague of Pastor Jeff & Gail

Kenzie

Rebecca and family

Josh Braun

Kate

Floyd Anderson Barbara Garrison

Paul Mazen

Ed Bonnes

Bonnie Palshis

Heather Staudacher, Dr. Mark Staudacher & family,

Phil

Kathy Dee's Family Mary Jo Benstein's Family

Susan Sheley Bonnie Carole W.

DeAnne & Gary

Rabbi Margaret Frisch Klein

Brad Blue

Megan Campbell

Diane Ekstam Johnson Tammy English

Jerry Martin Teri Prokes

Tony Prokes Kelli Robertson

Wolfgang Smailus

Ed Stahl

Friend of Katie Robertson

God-Daughter of Beth Lawniczak

Nephew of Pastor Jeff & Gail

Friend of Karol Clark Beth Richard's Father Bill Garrison's mother

Cousin of John & Karol Clark Sister-in-Law of Doug Boehm

y, Friend/Coworker of Beth Richard

Lynn Dreymiller's brother

Teri Figura Teri Figura

Daughter of Louise Pruitt Friend of Pastor Jeff

Friend of Ann & Fred Holch Niece & Nephew of Shirley Grant

Friend of Pastor Jeff Friend of Lois Benson

Granddaughter of Scotty & Maureen Scollon

Mother of Mary Helen Ekstam Daughter of Shirley Streidl Father of Nicki McVey Sister of Sue & Bob Novy

Brother-in-law of Bob & Sue Novy

Daughter of Diane Schalk

Brother-in-law of Marty Offutt Gruber

Father of Dan Stahl

Please pray for those who mourn the passing of:

Sharyn Collins John McKinnis Mike Harland Richard Franzen David Smith

Dorothy Carlson

Cousin of Rick & Wendy McKinnis Cousin of Rick & Wendy McKinnis Co-Worker of Rick McKinnis

Bethany Lutheran Church, 8 S. Lincoln St., Batavia, IL
Ph. 630-879-3444 office@bethanybatavia.org www.bethanybatavia.org

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

Sunday, December 11		
9am	Worship	Sanctuary
10am	Coffee Hour	Fellowship Hall
10:30am	Sunday School	Ministry Center, 2 nd Floor
2pm	Orchestra Recital	Sanctuary
3pm	Memorial – David Smith	Moss Funeral Home
Monday, December 12		
8:30am	Bethany Walking Group	Ministry Center Gym
9am	Counters	Conference Room
12pm	Hope Circle	Adult Lounge/Library
1pm	Organ Tuner	Sanctuary
7pm	Marketing Team/Zoom Meeting	Fellowship Hall via Zoom
Tuesday, December 13		
8:30am	Bethany Walking Group	Ministry Center Gym
9am	Quilters	Fellowship Hall
6:30pm	Girls BSA Troop 6	Ministry Center Gym
7pm	Fox River Radio League	Fellowship Hall
Wednesday, December 14		
	Bethany Walking Group	,
10am	Senior Advocacy Group	Fellowship Hall/Library
10:30am	Senior Christmas Luncheon/Sing-Along	Fellowship Hall
6pm	Youth Bells	Balcony
6:30pm	High School Youth Group	Youth Room/Ministry Ctr
6:30pm	Confirmation	Fellowship Hall
Thursday, December 15		
	Bethany Walking Group	
	Bell Choir	
	Boy Scout Troop 6	
1	Festival Choir	•
7:30pm	BSA – Order of the Arrow	Fellowship Hall
Friday, December 16		
	Bethany Walking Group	•
9am	Viljan Lodge Meeting	Library
Saturday, December 17	M 1 D 1 1 1	
	Men's Basketball	,
	Altar Guild	1
	Fox Valley Court Watch	
	Al-Anon	The state of the s
	Al-Ateen	
8pm	AA	Fellowship Hall
Sunday, December 18	397 1' D	
	Worship - Baptisms	
	Coffee Hour – Hosted by the Balsan's	
	Sunday School	
5pm	Blue Christmas Service	Chapel

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