

BELLA VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 13-19, 2015

WEB SITE: www.bvlutheran.com

1990 Forest Hills Blvd.
FAX: 479-876-6097

PHONE: 479-855-0272
E-MAIL: office@bvlutheran.com

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The historic name for this day in the Church Year is *Gaudete*, which is Latin for "Rejoice," the first word in today's Epistle.

In this season of Advent, all the hectic preparations that society and our own families might expect can stress us out and make rejoicing seem impossible. Nevertheless, Zephaniah reminds us that we rejoice because our Lord Jesus came and is in our midst.

The prophet also promises that God "will rejoice over you with gladness." Our heavenly Father does that when He calls us His sons and daughters. Every time we receive Holy Communion we have even more reason to rejoice and celebrate. There our Lord again comes, even present physically, in our midst.

Today, we echo Paul's words: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice!" In Him, *Pastor Hass*

PRAYER CONCERNS

Please call Ula Biesterfeld at 855-6840 or the church office at 855-0272 with information for the Prayer Chain.

Prayers, please include:

Our Members: Marcella Casey, Fran Bloomer, Marv Henning, Marie Herr, Marlys Rembold, Al Gruenewald, John Brack, Ron Fant, Gary Nelson, Doreen Lubeck, Buz Moxon, Betty Long, Deb Roesener, Gary Hartwig, Gary Aaron, George Albers, Stan Isaacson, Ken Meyer

Missions: Pastor J. P. Cima—Viet Nam; Peace Lutheran — Prairie Grove; Heritage Baptist Church of Bella Vista; Quilting Outreach

THANK YOU

With our sincere thanks for all of your prayers, good thoughts, and kindness shown to us recently. We feel so blessed that God placed us amid a congregation of folks that continually show God's love and genuine concern for our welfare in so many ways. Thank you one and all. Mike & Mary Loveless

Many 'thanks' to the small groups that put a 'smile' on a CASA child's face this Christmas. Pat Eckart

To BVLC: Thank you once again for your hospitality towards Cooper Elementary! You are such a blessing to us each year.

Thank you for attending our 4th graders singing for you, and a special thank you for feeding us once again!

Singing for you is one of our favorite events! God bless you all. Merry Christmas Gary Leslie— Cooper Music

A big "thank you" members for the cards expressing your prayer support and encouragement following my total hip replacement, also the beautiful prayer shawl. My rehab and 'home therapists' all are very positive with my progress. We thank God for the dedicated surgeon, nurses and therapists. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.

Doreen Lubeck

SUNDAY CHRISTIAN EDUCATION HOUR at 9:45 a.m. TODAY, DECEMBER 13, 2015

PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND THE **CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM** RIGHT AFTER THE FIRST SERVICE IN THE SANCTUARY.

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL FOLLOWING THE PROGRAM.

PLEASE JOIN IN SINGING CHRISTMAS CAROLS BEFORE AND AFTER THE CHILDREN'S PROGRAM.

ALL CHILDREN AND YOUTH WILL MEET IN THE LOWER LEVEL OF THE NEW BUILDING AND THEN MOVE UP TO THE SANCTUARY FOR THE PROGRAM.

THE SHEPHERD'S FOOD PANTRY

Each One – Bring One—This is the last week for distributing Christmas food bags containing *au gratin* or *scalloped* potatoes, fruit cocktail, gelatin, and dessert as part of the holiday meal. Guests will receive their regular groceries in addition to the Christmas bags of ham, potatoes (as listed), fruit cocktail, sugar free gelatin, and cake & frosting or fruit pie filling & crust.

Luke 2:10 And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."

If you would like to reach out and make a difference in a person's life this Christmas Season by helping with an urgent need, contact Kay Gaudian for more information 855-0384.

PARENT'S NIGHT OUT

December 16, 2015

5:30-8:00 p.m.

Friendly meal, games, crafts & music

Children ages 3-12

The Family Life Ministry Team is again collecting **CAPS AND MITTENS** for the Gravette School children. The collection box will be in the narthex through December 13, 2015. Purchased items are always welcome.

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE



CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS

It's Christmas Stocking time again. Each year our LWML selects a number of charities, mostly local, with whom to share our blessings. You will find a ballot in your mailbox with the charities listed. This is your opportunity to choose the ten charities you would prefer to help. Place your gift in the big stocking by December 20. The big Christmas stocking for your donations is near the mailboxes.

THE LORD'S WEEK
December 13-19, 2015

Sunday

8:30 a.m. **Divine Worship**
9:30 a.m. Fellowship
9:45 a.m. **Children's Christmas Program**
10:45 a.m. **Blended Worship w/communion**
3:30 p.m. **"Agnus Dei" Christmas Concert**

Monday

9:00 a.m. JOY I—No meeting
1:00 p.m. JOY IIB—No meeting
1:30 p.m. JOY IIA—Highlands
JOY IIC—Vera Fenner
6:30 p.m. Stephen Ministry—Fellowship Hall

Tuesday

9:30 a.m. JOY IIIC—Bettye Deppeler
11:00 a.m. United Way SFP Delivery
JOY IIIA—Lunch
12:30 P.M. Prayer Shawl Makers
1:30 a.m. JOY IV—Rachel Sanford

Wednesday

8:30 a.m. Quilting
1:00 p.m. JOY VB—Church—Classroom 3
JOY VA—Church—Library - Lesson 6
5:30-8:00 p.m. Parent's Night Out
6:00 p.m. Advent Service
6:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday

9:00 a.m. SonShiners—Chapel
9:30 a.m. Pray—ers
11-12 Noon SFP Harps Delivery
12-1:00 p.m. HOPE/Food Pantry Delivery
12:30 p.m. Ladies Bridge
2:30 p.m. Highland Rehab
7:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study—Fellowship Hall

Friday

10-1:00 p.m. Shepherd's Food Pantry

Saturday

NEXT SUNDAY—December 20, 2015

8:30 a.m. **Divine Worship w/communion**
9:30 a.m. Fellowship
10:45 a.m. **Blended Worship**
4:00 p.m. TLC—Highlands West—Garry & Deb Raymond

Be sure to pick up a **"Keep Christ in Christmas"** yard sign if you need one to place in your yard. They are located by the Welcome Center.

ATTENTION: PRAYER SHAWL MAKERS

December 15th from 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.

Beginners welcome!

Call Elaine Schurman at 531-3395

Stewardship

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT



"The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." (Philippians 4:5—6 ESV).

Wouldn't you like to be free from worry and anxiety? Isn't it worry and anxiety that often keep us from living the generous life God has called us to? St. Paul contrasts anxiety with prayer, supplication, and thanksgiving in making our request known to God. In other words, when you are tempted to anxiety and worry: pray to the Lord with a thankful heart and pour out your supplications before Him.

BELLA VISTA LUTHERAN GOLF



Friday 18 Holes
Singles & Couples
Call Ron Burkett 268-3303

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen Ministry is having Circle of Life Hospice on Dec. 14th at 6:30 p.m. They will share information on the benefits of hospice and their grief support. **Consider this your invitation to attend.**

Hospice care is a team-oriented approach to expert medical care, pain and symptom management, as well as spiritual support. It provides comfort and quality of life for patients and their families during life's final transition, with little to no out-of-pocket expense. Hospice also offers bereavement support for individuals who have experienced the loss of a family member, friend or loved one, regardless of whether they had a hospice experience. Join us as we share about the benefits which have helped so many.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS BOOKS

Children's Christmas books are now available in the library. Please take time to look over these Christmas books and take them home to read during the Christmas Season. These books do not need to be 'checked out'. When returning the books, please put in the book basket.

Check out the new shipment of **all occasion and Christmas Cards with Scripture Verses!** This is an LWML project and all cards are only **\$ 3.00 a box**. **The display is located in the church Library.** Just place the money in the envelope provided and put it in Elaine Schurman's church mailbox. Make checks payable to LWML.