

BETHANY NEWS
Bethany English Lutheran Church
15460 Triskett Road
Cleveland, OH 44111-3022
Return Service Requested

Non-Profit
Organization
US postage
PAID
Cleveland, OH
Permit No. 4385



DECEMBER & JANUARY

REQUESTED DELIVERY BY DECEMBER 1ST

Church Office & 24 hr. voice mail

Telephone: 216.941.7880

Fax: 216.941.4922

E-mail: bethanyenglish@sbcglobal.net

Website: <http://www.bethanyenglish.org>

Sunday Morning Worship
8:30am & 11:00am

German Worship
December 10th – 2:00pm
January 14th – 2:00pm

Advent Vespers
December 13th – 7:00pm

Christmas Eve Worship
December 24th
10:00am, 7:00pm, 10:00pm

New Year's Eve
December 31st – 10:00am

Robert Ferro, Senior Pastor

Melissa Todd, Director of Christian Education and Youth Ministries & Church Secretary

Jesse Lange, Director of Music

Celina Kobetitsch, Organist

To discontinue receipt of this publication please contact us by phone or e-mail. Your call saves postage and printing.

BELIEVE! ENGAGE! LEARN! CARE!

PASTOR'S PAGE

Celebrating the "Perfect" Christmas

And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:7

Christmas can be a hard time for people. The expectations for the holiday season are so high. We all have a fantasy image of Christmas that's been shaped by advertising, television and movies, our childhood memories, and our wishes and dreams. We want our homes, food, decorations, gifts, families, and worship to reflect the images that we carry around in our heads. We strive to celebrate the "perfect" Christmas.

But the first Christmas was not like that. Mary was not Martha Stewart and Joseph was not Jimmy Stewart. They were a poor couple, away from home, who had to use a manger as a crib, because there was no room for them in the inn. The first Christmas was not "perfect", but messy.

God does not ask us to celebrate the "perfect" Christmas. God freely gives us the real Christmas. The good news of Christmas is that God comes to us in the messiness of life. God comes to us in the pains, frustrations, and disappointments of real life. God comes to us in the joys, hopes, and goodness of real life. The real glory of Christmas is not some illusion of the "perfect" Christmas, but the wonderful gift of God's own Son who comes to us in the midst of real life bringing us His love and grace.

In His Love,

Pastor Ferro

Christmas Open House

Pastor and Linda Ferro invite everyone to a Christmas Open House on Sunday, December 31 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. If you like, you may bring a plate of cookies, finger bakery, or hors d'oeuvres to share, but most of all, bring yourself. The Ferros live at 19601 Marwood Avenue, Cleveland, off of W. 194 St., north of Puritas Avenue. Directions are available at the church. All are welcome to come and share some Christmas cheer with your Bethany friends

HOLIDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

Advent Vespers Service

Are you getting ready for Christmas? While preparing your home for Christmas, do not forget to also prepare your spirit for the season. Join us at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 13, for an Advent Vespers Service of Lessons and Carols with beautiful music by the Chancel Choir. This is a wonderful way during this busy time of the year to take some time and reflect on the real meaning of Christmas.

Christmas Eve Worship Services

December 24th 7:00pm & 10:00pm

Join us for Christmas Eve Worship on Sunday, December 24 at 7:00pm or 10:00pm.

Both services will be candlelight services with the choir and special music!

Christmas Eve Morning & New Year's Eve Morning

Both Christmas and New Year's Eve fall on Sundays this year. We will have one morning worship service at 10:00am on both the 24th and 31st.

GERMAN WORSHIP

Deutscher Gottesdienst -- German Worship Services

Sunday –December 11th & January 8th – 2:00pm

Please join us Sunday, December 10th and January 7th for the monthly German Language worship service led by Pastor Carter.

Weihnachtsfeier

Following the December 10th German Worship service we will have a German Christmas gathering. Everyone is invited to join us for Christmas treats and carols – whether you attend the German Language worship or not!

Christmas Day Worship – December 25th 11:00am

We will have a worship service Christmas Morning at 11:00am. All are welcome.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday School Christmas Program

December 17th during the 11am service.

The Youth Group is hard at work writing this year's Christmas Program – "Good Morning Bethlehem". All Sunday School grades will participate. There will be no Sunday School on December 24th or December 31st.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

The Wednesday Morning Bible Study continues our study of the Book of Psalms. This book of prayers and songs is the center of the Bible both physically and spiritually. All are invited to join us on Wednesday mornings from 10:00am to 11:30am in the Church Library for a lively time of learning and fellowship as we grow in our faith. We will not be meeting on December 27 nor January 3. Come and find out how much fun it can be to study the Bible.

Confirmation Classes - The Bible

Thursdays at 7:30pm

The Confirmation class continues to meet on Thursday evenings from 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Confirmation is a time for our young people to learn and grow while having fun. This year the class is studying the Bible. Don't forget to work on your sermon notes. **No Confirmation class on Thursdays, December 21st, 28th and January 4th**

Adult Forum

The Reformation

2017 is the 500th Anniversary of the start of the Protestant Reformation. Join us for the Adult Forum in the Assembly Hall at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings as we conclude our study of this momentous period of time that set the stage for the Modern world. The discussion is always lively and the fellowship is uplifting. The following classes are scheduled:

November 26	The Empire Strikes Back: The Counter-Reformation – 1550-1650
December 3	Reason, Revival, and Revolution – 1650-1800 – Part 1
December 10	Reason, Revival, and Revolution – 1650-1800 – Part 2
December 17	The Reformation's Enduring Legacy

Building Hope in the City – January 21

On January 21, a representative from Building Hope in the City will be here to share with us some of the good work that their organization is doing in our community. Join us on Sunday, January 21 at 10am in the Assembly Hall for an informative and encouraging message from those who are making a difference for good in the city of Cleveland.

FINANCE

There is still time to turn in your 2018 pledge card. Not sure where your 2017 pledge stands? Email Sarah and ask for an up-to-date statement. Sarahtodd19@yahoo.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bethany Women

Our January meeting will take place on Wednesday January 17th at 7PM. Bring your suggestions for Saturday social events. May 5th Women's Retreat 9AM until 3PM at the Lakewood Women's Pavilion in Lakewood Park. \$30.00 per person.

Boosters

Rummage Sale Update

Thank you to everyone who worked, donated, and shopped at the Rummage Sale. We made \$757 to provide tuition assistance to students at Lutheran West. Special thanks to Audrey Goebel for organizing.

Christmas Baskets

There are still several weeks to purchase Basket Raffle tickets. The drawing will be December 10th

Altar Guild

Poinsettia Orders

The deadline for ordering Poinsettias is December 3rd. If you would like to place an order please call the office.

Christmas Decorating – December 9th 9:30am

Help the Altar Guild get our Sanctuary and church building ready for the Christmas season! What goes up, must come down. We will put away the Christmas decoration on January 13th at 9:30am.

Ladies Annual Christmas Tea

December 3rd 2pm-4pm

The Women's Christmas Tea will be held on Sunday December 3rd from 2-4 PM. Instead of a gift exchange, cash donations will be collected for Lutheran Disaster Relief. Come to enjoy great tea, sing Christmas Carols, and fellowship. All women of Bethany and guests are invited to join us for our 11th annual Christmas Tea.

Fellowship

Godspell – Saturday, February 3rd

Mark your calendars! The Fellowship Committee is reserving a block of tickets for the Saturday, February 3rd performance of *Godspell* at the Clauge Playhouse. Tickets are \$14 for adults and \$10 for students.

Watch the Sunday bulletins for more information.

Advent Coin Folder Reminder

A wonderful way to help you and your family prepare for Christmas is by using the daily Bible readings, prayer, and gifts of the Advent Coin folders. Additional coin folders are available in the office. The money you give through the folders will support the charitable ministries of Bethany. You may return your folders at the Christmas Eve worship services.

In Our Prayers

Many of our members and their family and friends have been in our prayers. May God's loving and healing hand continue to bless and keep all who call upon Him, especially Barb Stockhaus, Pat Lusardo, Nicholas Leschinger, Ingeborg Stamper, Steve Blake, John Gaul, Dave Kohl, Brianna Smith, Sue, Mary Lou Mayes, John Wennemian. The family and friends of John Blake.

Thank you

Dear Friends,

Thank you for all your get well wishes, prayers, phone calls and visits over the past two months. My family and especially I appreciate it very much. Every day brings a new and special message. I read them every day and treasure every happy thought.

Love, Barb Stockhaus

Congratulations

Congratulations and God's blessings to Jesse Hockey and Christine Opsitnick who will be married at Bethany on December 16th. Please keep this couple in your prayers.

December Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 8:30am Worship 9:45am Education 11:00am Worship 2:00pm Ladies Christmas Tea	4 7:00pm Bethel AA Assembly Hall	5	6 10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm JMAA	7 6:30pm Bells 7:00pm Quilters 7:30 Chancel Choir Confirmation	8	9 9:30am Christmas Decorating 9:30pm NA Meeting
10 8:30am Worship 9:45am Education 11:00am Worship 2:00pm German Worship Christmas Tea	11 7:00pm Bethel AA Assembly Hall	12 7:00pm Committee Meetings	13 10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm Advent Vespers	14 6:30pm Bells 7:00pm Quilters 7:30pm Chancel Choir Confirmation	15 6:00pm Hockey/Opsitnick Rehearsal	16 2:30pm Hockey/Opsitnick Wedding 9:30pm NA Meeting
17 8:30am Worship 9:45am Education 11:00am Worship Sunday School Christmas Program	18 7:00pm Bethel AA Assembly Hall	19 7:00pm Council Meeting	20 10:00am Bible Study	21 6:30 Bells 7:00pm Quilters 7:30pm Chancel Choir	22	23 9:30pm NA Meeting
24 Christmas Eve 10:00am Worship 7:00pm Worship 10:00pm Worship	25 Merry Christmas 11:00am German Worship	26 Office Closed	27	28	29	30 9:30pm NA Meeting
31 New Year's Eve 10:00am Worship						

January Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Happy New Year Office Closed	2	3 7:00pm JMAA	4	5	6 9:30pm NA Meeting
7 8:30am Worship 9:45am Education 11:00am Worship	8 7:00pm Bethel AA Assembly Hall	9 7:00pm Committee Meetings	10 10:00am Bible Study	11 6:30pm Bells 7:00pm Quilters 7:30 Chancel Choir Confirmation	12	13 9:30am Church Undecorating 9:30pm NA Meeting
14 8:30am Worship 9:45am Education 11:00am Worship 2:00pm German Worship	15 7:00pm Bethel AA Assembly Hall	16 7:00pm Council Meeting	17 10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm Bethany Women	18 6:30pm Bells 7:00pm Quilters 7:30pm Chancel Choir Confirmation	19	20 9:30pm NA Meeting
21 8:30am Worship 9:45am Education 11:00am Worship	22 7:00pm Bethel AA Assembly Hall	23	24 10:00am Bible Study	25 6:30pm Bells 7:00pm Quilters 7:30 Chancel Choir Confirmation	26	27 9:30pm NA Meeting
28 8:30am Worship 9:45am Education 11:00am Worship	29 7:00pm Bethel AA Assembly Hall	30	31 10:00am Bible Study	28 6:30pm Bells 7:00pm Quilters 7:30 Chancel Choir Confirmation	29	30 9:30pm NA Meeting

Worship Assistants Schedule – December

Date	Liturg.Assist.	Com.Assist.	Reader	Altar Guild	Acolytes	Ushers	Counters	Elevator
December 3 8:30am		L Petranek S DeCrane B Levkulich	L Petranek	L Ferro		B Hamed M Hamed G Blakemore E Palm	Stockhaus N Wise S Surber	D Norlin
December 3 11:00am	C Pool	C Pool L L Persinger K Darvas			J Chamot J Penrod	P Goobl D Kobella K Kobella	S Bennett P Lusardo	K Guelker
December 10 8:30am		C Bossart S Todd S Dittmar	S Dittmar	K Lessa L Foland L Neuzil		B Hamed M Hamed G Blakemore E Palm	S DeCrane J Sadlon	N Haug
December 10 11:00am	D Ferro	D Ferro D Nelson S Kopetz		K Lessa L Foland L Neuzil	S Fuchs AKammerman	P Goobl D Kobella K Kobella	G Carte M Carte	 P Goobl
December 13 7:00pm						B Hamed M Hamed G Blakemore E Palm		
December 17 8:30am		B Levkulich S Sadlon C Hoffman	S Sadlon	S Popham A Goobl		T Evans D Evans C Bossart B McElyea	N Haug B Levkulich	N Wise
December 17 11:00am	A Ferro	A Ferro M Kahelin B Kahelin		S Popham A Goobl	A Pool N Persinger	P Goobl D Kobella K Kobella	J Morano TStanton JStanton	R Nelson
December 24 10:00am		S Todd J Zangmeister B Levkulich	S Todd	L Ferro		P Goobl D Kobella K Kobella	H Hasselbrack D Little D Ferro	J Sadlon
December 24 7:00pm			C Hoffman	L Ferro	A Pool J Chamot	C Bossart D Evans T Evans b McElyea		K Guelker
December 24 10:00pm			A Ferro	C Reynolds	N Persinger J Penrod	J Morano J Morano J Canterbury B Kahelin		N Haug
December 31 10:00am		K Darvas R Darvas L L Persinger	K Darvas			B Hamed M Hamed G Blakemore E Palm	S Bennett P Lusardo	R Nelson

Worship Assistants Schedule – January

Date	Liturg.Assist.	Com.Assist.	Reader	Altar Guild	Acolytes	Ushers	Counters	Elevator
January 7 8:30am		S Sadlon S DeCrane B Levkulich	S DeCrane			J Sadlon S Sadlon M Griner S Lessa	S DeCrane J Sadlon	D Norlin
January 7 11:00am	L Little	L Little M Carte J Szustak			R Darvas S Fuchs	N Haug E Jolly R Rogers J Rogers	G Carte M Carte	P Goebel
January 14 8:30am		C Bossart C Hoffman S Dittmar	C Bossart			J Sadlon S Sadlon M Griner S Lessa	N Haug B Levkulich	N Haug
January 14 11:00am	C Pool	C Pool D Nelson S Kopetz			J Chamot J Penrod	N Haug E Jolly R Rogers J Rogers	J Morano T Stanton J Stanton	 F Scheuerman
January 21 8:30am		S Todd B Levkulich J Morano	S Todd			J Sadlon S Sadlon M Griner S Lessa	G Hansen	N Wise
January 21 11:00am		B Kahelin M Kahelin L L Persinger	B Kahelin		A Pool AKammerman	N Haug E Jolly R Rogers J Rogers	H Hasslebrack D Little D Ferro	R Nelson
January 28 8:30am		C Hoffman L Petranek S Sadlon	C Hoffman			J Sadlon S Sadlon M Griner S Lessa	J Sadlon G Hansen	J Sadlon
January 28 11:00am		R Darvas J Zangmeister K Darvas	R Darvas		N Persinger	N Haug E Jolly R Rogers J Rogers	H Hasselbrack D Little D Ferro	K Guelker
February 4 8:30am		S Dittmar S DeCrane J Morano	S Dittmar			C Bossart D Evans T Evans B McElyea	Stockhaus N Wise S Surber	
February 4 11:00am	D Ferro	D Ferro M Carte J Szustak			J Chamot J Penrod	J Morano J Morano J Canterbury B Kahelin	S Bennett P Lusardo	K Guelker

Volunteers Needed

Each Sunday we need a total of 32 worship assistants: 8 ushers, 8 counters, 6 communion assistants, 2 readers, 4 acolytes, 2 elevator operators, and finally at least 2 members of the altar guild! If you would like to volunteer for any of these positions, please let Pastor Ferro or Melissa know. Volunteers are needed for both 8:30 and 11:00am services.