Bethlehem Lutheran Church

E19675 State Road 27

Fall Creek, WI 54742

**JANUARY 2018 HIGHLIGHTS**

 **Worship Services are held Sunday at 9am @ Zion, & 10:30am @ Bethlehem**

 **Communion is offered on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month**

 **Sunday School 9:00am @ Bethlehem (also Adult Bible Study) and 10:15am @ Zion**

 **Every Wednesday – Confirmation @ 5pm @ Bethlehem**

 January 3rd  Zion’s Ladies Aid @ noon; No Confirmation today

 January 4th Council Meetings @ Zion

 January 7th Sunday School resumes at both churches

 January 9th Winkle Meeting @ Bethlehem

 January 11th Bethlehem Ladies Aid @ noon – turn in Mite Box savings

 January 13th Remove Christmas decorations at Bethlehem

 January 15, 22, and 29th Quilting @ Bethlehem

 January 18th Bible Study @ Fall Creek Commons

 January 21st Voters Meeting @ Bethlehem

 January 25th Sunday School Teachers Meeting

 January 28th Voters Meeting @ Zion

Zion Lutheran Church

1286 S 150th Ave.

Fall Creek, WI 54742

**JANUARY 2018 HIGHLIGHTS**

 **Worship Services are held Sunday at 9am @ Zion, & 10:30am @ Bethlehem**

 **Communion is offered on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month**

 **Sunday School 9:00am @ Bethlehem (also Adult Bible Study) and 10:15am @ Zion**

 **Every Wednesday – Confirmation @ 5pm @ Bethlehem**

 January 3rd  Zion’s Ladies Aid @ noon; No Confirmation today

 January 4th Council Meetings @ Zion

 January 7th Sunday School resumes at both churches

 January 9th Winkle Meeting @ Bethlehem

 January 11th Bethlehem Ladies Aid @ noon, turn in Mite box savngs

 January 13th Remove Christmas decorations at Bethlehem

 January 15, 22, and 29th Quilting @ Bethlehem

 January 18th Bible Study @ Fall Creek Commons

 January 21st Voters Meeting @ Bethlehem

 January 25th Sunday School Teachers Meeting

 January 28th Voters Meeting @ Zion

HAS GOD FORGOTTEN US?

Well, we made it through another year and Jesus has not returned. It’s been 1900 years. Has God forgotten His promise to return? How reliable is this promise recorded in Revelation 22:12 -

“I am coming soon and My reward is with me”.

When the time is right God will return. Peter tells us in 2 Peter 3:9 “The Lord is not slow in keeping His promises, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”

 In this new year, as we look back, we say thank you to God for all His goodness shown to us.

 As we ponder this new year, not knowing what lies ahead, we do know one thing for sure. We have a faithful God who cares for us so much that He sent His son, Jesus, to rescue us from the clutches of the devil. In Jesus we are safe and secure and heaven is our home.

 God bless you all as you walk with the Lord in 2018.

Pastor Norton

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

 Website: zion-bethlehem.org

 Facebook Address: Zion-Bethlehem Lutheran Church

 Office Telephone (715)877-3249 Karon’s cell (715)577-3603

Address: E19675 State Road 27, Fall Creek, WI 54742

 Great news! The new addition basement walls have been poured. The basement has been capped! Construction will begin after the new year. This is the first step with new bathrooms. Once this phase is completed the interior narthex remodeling will begin.

 Thank you for the blessing of your donations and prayers.

  

 A desk calendar will be placed on the Sunday School desk, across from Pastor’s office. It is for dates to be posted by groups and committees for events they have scheduled. This will help with communication between various groups in our church. All events should first be discussed with Pastor. Hopefully this will alleviate conflicts in scheduling.

 Also, please let the secretary know about your event at least a week ahead of time so that it can be put in the bulletin. Events that you would like to go into the newsletter need to be turned in by the 20th of each month. (It may be helpful to appoint one person in your group to record events on the calendar and to get them turned in for the bulletin and newsletter.)

**Youth Group –** Your next meeting is Sunday January 14th @ 6:30.

**BETHLEHEM LADIES AID:**

Our Christmas party on December 14th, was well attended. We enjoyed a ham prepared by Joan Boyea, and many other delicious foods. The theme of our program was centered around gifts. Pastor Norton discussed the wonderful gift of rest, so important at this stressful time of the year. Sharon Tumm read an LWML play that we had used before in 1995. Other games and activities were rewarded with small gifts as prizes. Then, everyone that came received a gift. We also enjoyed a gift exchange, and cards and personal gifts, from friends which were under the Christmas tree. In closing, we were reminded of God’s greatest gift to us. “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16.

 Our next meeting is January 11th at noon. We will quilt on Mondays again, starting on January 15, 22, and 29. Reminder, January is mite box month.

****

**Sunday Morning Bible Study** – Begins again on January 7th and is every Sunday @ 9:00am @ Bethlehem. Come join us!

 We will meet again on January 7th @ 9:00am. Students will study the Visit of the Wisemen, from Matthew 2. Bible verse is “I was glad when they said to me, Let us go to the house of the lord.” Ps 122:1.

The lessons in the rest of January are:

God sent His Holy Spirit to His church – Acts 2:1-21

The Lame Beggar–Acts 3 (God bestows on us the forgiveness of sins.)

 The story of Stephan, the first martyr – Acts 6-7



\*\*\*January 13th 9:00am. All are invited to come and help take down the Christmas decorations and the tree. Your kind help would be greatly appreciated!



***Sincere thanks to all of the church officers, board members, and committee members, who served our church in 2017. January 21st is our annual voters meeting. If you would be willing to serve the Lord as an officer or in another position, please let us know. - Most importantly we are in need of a volunteer treasurer. This position pays the bills and keeps track of our bank accounts.***

***Dorothy Luedtke has faithfully been our treasurer for many years, and she is retiring. Many thanks to Dorothy for her years of help. - Please prayerfully consider serving the Lord by volunteering to help in needed positions.***

Monthly Council Meeting Minutes Summary – December 7th, 2017

 Treasurer’s report for November is posted on the bulletin board. Sunday School Christmas program and practices are scheduled. Pastor is contacting members that have moved away, to help them continue to receive pastoral care. Carpet replacement in offices and hallway will happen in January. Remodel update given. There was a miscommunication in the use of the Fellowship Hall one Sunday and we are working to eleviate future problems. Meeting adjourned. Next meeting is January 4th at Zion.



Zion Lutheran Church 

Zion Lutheran Church seeks to preach and teach God’s Word to all people of all ages, and to show God’s love through our witness, fellowship, and service.

**January 2018 Newsletter**

Joint Council Meeting is at Zion, January 4, beginning at 7:00, followed by each congregation’s council meetings, and then the Elder’s meeting,



***Lunch is served at Zion each Sunday, following the worship service:***

***First Sunday is hosted by the Sunday School. Second Sunday is hosted by the Church Council. Third Sunday is hosted by the Mission Board. Fourth Sunday is hosted by the Ladies Aid. All are invited to join us for good food and fellowship.***



Are you on Facebook? If you have not already, please check out and “like” our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/Zion-Bethlehem Lutheran Church). You will find information about what is happening at our church, as well as encouragement and inspiration. Also be sure to check us out on the web (www.zion-bethlehem.org).



**Zion Ladies Aide and Bible Study –**will have their meeting on January 3 at noon, with a potluck lunch. Everyone is welcome to come. All ladies of the congregation are welcome. There is no membership to sign, and you can come any time after lunch, too. We have a Bible study right after lunch, led by Pastor Norton. We conclude with a business meeting. Come and enjoy the fellowship with other ladies of the congregation.

**Be sure to check the Bulletin Boards for community events and opportunities.**

****

**Zion Council Meeting Highlights December 7, 2017**

**Secretary’s Report:** The minutes from the November 2, 2017 meeting were read, and accepted

**Treasure’s Report:** The treasurer’s report was read and accepted.

**Elder’s Report:** Average attendance for November was 43 adults, 4 children, and 36 for communion.

**Trustee’s Report:** Nativity scene is up. 3 bales of straw would be provided by Earl. Door seals were put in both front and back doors. AED is up and D.V.D. is available for those who want to watch it. Lock and chain over septic have been installed. Jackets were taken to Goodwill. Snow poles are in. Door closures are starting to leak.

**Mission Board:** Dessert at Bethlehem made roughly $300.00. Nothing until February when we serve soup.

**Old Business:** Speed of Sound said mics were bad. Dave will pick up 3 mics. Organist - Linda would like to do it. She is learning how to prerecord the music for the choir so they can perform during service.

**New Business:** Calendars were ordered and each family will receive one.

Another year is dawning:

Dear Father, let it be,

In working or in waiting,

Another year with Thee;

Another year of progress,

Another year of praise,

Another year of proving

Thy presence all the days.

Zion’s Annual Meeting is January 21. Please have your reports to Sue no later than January 14, so they can be put in the annual report.



 This January:

 1/3 Wendy Frank, Lexis Hermann, Branson Jaenke, Gavin McCann

 1/5 Aaralyn Sachsenmaier 1/6 Kayla Huth, Brian McCann

 1/8 Marcus Boyea 1/9 James Stephan, Sr

 1/12 Joshua Wangen 1/13 Andrew Hermann

 1/14 Sara Luedtke 1/15 Delores Starck, Don Schuknecht

 1/17 Matthew Grunewald

 1/22 Kathy Berlin, Sharon Tumm, Karon Davidson

 1/23 Christina Hausmann 1/24 Beverly Curler

 1/28 Irene Schiefelbein 1/30 Marilyn Norton

 1/31 Edward Raether, Diane Woodford

*JANUARY BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS* 

 1/1 Brynda Raether 1/5 Keith Hermann

 1/6 Josephine Sperber, Justin Sperber

 1/7 Kasey Maland 1/13 Maxtyn Glenz

 1/15 Randy Luedtke, Travis McCann

 1/20 Marvin Sperber, Virgil Hermann, Jeremy Jaenke

 1/21 Bradley Grunewald 1/26 Colleen McCann

 1/27 Susan Luedtke, Sally Weggen, Kimberly Ruff

 1/31 Terisa Glenz

\*\*\*There are no wedding anniversaries this month.